

Bob Love

MASTER MODEL RAILROADER #135 BOB LOVE

Meet Bob Love, Master Model Railroader #135. Bob is 37 years old and lives in Bethlehem, Pa., with his wife Marilyn and son Dennis. His daughter and her husband live nearby. He has been employed with Kennametal, Inc., for 20 years. He is now District Manager in Pennsylvania and Maryland.

Like many model railroaders, Bob started the hobby with a Lionel set that he received at Christmas when he was seven. He was given the train because his father would not let him play with his O scale trains. He stayed with model railroading until he discovered girls and cars. As Bob states he got back into model railroading when he got married and his wife wouldn't let him have the first and his budget would permit the second.

Bob's biggest interest in the hobby is building locomotives. As a machinist by trade, his real interest is the use of tools in constructing locos. His first achievement certificate was for motive power with locos that were built in an apartment closet when he was first married.

It was a first place win in freight cars in an MER contest that got Bob hooked on entering contests. For ten years he never missed an MER contest. Later he became contest chairman and earned points toward his volunteer. He wrote articles and reviews to earn the Author Certificate.

In building his current layout, he earned Civil and Scenery certificates. It was a move to Pennsylvania 11 years ago that got him, his wife and his son started the On3 layout, the Leadville & Denniston, an imaginary logging and mining road based on California in the late '30s. Bob and his son have put about 1,100 pounds of Hydrocal on the layout and his wife has done about 1000 or more trees. So model railroading is truly a family affair.

Bob states that model railroading is not just a hobby, but a way of life for himself and his family. Many of their friends are model railroaders and often vacations are planned around conventions and rail-related activities. Bob and Dennis have enjoyed the hobby together as they worked on the layout and models. Dennis has earned two certificates toward MMR.

Bob and Marilyn are working with two others to sponsor the Eighth National Narrow Gauge Convention. The earning of the MMR culminates a lifetime devoted to the hobby of model railroading.