

Hobby “normalized” Navy life

BEATY EARNS MMR #192

Bob Beaty is Master Model Railroader No. 192 and is a member of the Southeastern Region from Birmingham, Ala. Bob is 50 years old, married to his wife, Carol, for 27 years and has four sons, two in college and two in high school.

Bob began his interest in model railroading with a Christmas Lionel steam engine set in 1946.

Bob had an operating O-gauge layout in his parents' home until he went to college. After graduating from Eckerd College he entered the Navy flight training program and aviation activities became the center of attention.

Model railroading took a back seat until 1968. Bob was stationed in Brunswick, Maine, as a Navy patrol pilot, when his wife gave him another train set for Christmas. At the same time he discovered the Maine two-foot railroads and was hooked again.

After two layouts had to be dismantled due to Navy change of duty orders, Bob began construction on a modular layout that the Navy would move each duty change. He briefly joined the NMRA in 1976, but dropped out due to increased demands by the Navy.

During the following years he continued to perfect his skills and modeling expertise.

Bob has used his hobby to provide a degree of normalcy to the transient life of a military family. Carol provides scenic input and his four sons have all helped in various stages of layout construction including building structures and rolling stock.

Rejoining the NMRA in 1987, he was introduced to the Achievement Program, quickly earning its Golden Spike, cars and motive power certificates. Disenchanted with no longer being allowed to fly, he resigned from the Navy in 1990.

Bob presents clinics at division meets and regional conventions on many varied aspects of the hobby.

As his nomadic life stabilized, his involvement in the NMRA and the SER grew along with his railroad. Bob became the Steel City Division AP chairman, a key member of the annual Steel City Model Train Show Committee and serves as the Southeastern Region contest chairman.

He is also president of the Wrecking Crew Model Railroad Club.

Bob holds certificates in motive power, cars, structures, scenery, civil engineering, association volunteer and author. He has also received numerous awards in both division and region competitions. •

