

# Andrew Culver earns MMR 320

Andrew "Jack" Culver became very interested in trains about the age of 11 when his dad, a dentist, revealed his secret life as a boy in Vermont.

Jack's grandfather had been a locomotive engineer for the Central Vermont Railroad, running trains from St. Albans to Montreal, Quebec. The tales went on for years. What could a strapping lad do with these sorts of tales spinning but get involved with trains himself.

This kept Jack busy for the next 15 years, during which time he had discovered live steam models, then O gauge, then HO which was affordable in the 1930s and early 1940s. This all happened on the Main Line of the PRR, west of Philadelphia, PA. With a four-track main line, west to Harrisburg and east to

Philadelphia and New York, there was all sorts of action. There were lots of steam and electrics galore. And so Jack became a devotee of electrics and has remained so. He grew up believing that the Pennsylvania Railroad was the greatest railroad on the planet and was determined to model it with working catenary complete with a GG-1 electric running under the wire, not forgetting the GG-1s that passed through Wayne on the 4-track main line many times during the day.

HO scale was just coming to the fore and was affordable. Most special items had to be scratch built.

In 1936, Jack bought his first piece of Motive Power, a Walthers gas electric kit. He still has it after 68 years. It is on its third motor, has new wheel sets and runs

like the wind.

Jack also believes in catenary. His railroad, The San Juan and Pacific, runs electrics, steam and diesel, with the emphasis on the "juice", not the diesel.

Jack has earned AP certificates in Motive Power, Cars, Scenery, Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Chief Dispatcher and Model Railroad Author.

