



**MASTER MODEL  
RAILROADER #124  
JIM PACKER**

Jim Packer is MMR #124. He lives in Bedford, Texas, with his wife, Paula, and two sons, Doug (21) and Mark (18). He also has a daughter, Patti (24). Jim is 49 years old and a Captain for American Airlines on the 727, having flown the 707, DC-9, and DC-10 in the past. He is a graduate of Texas Christian University and a former Air Force fighter pilot. He is also a lifelong enthusiast of crafts and building anything and everything.

As is frequently the case, he owes his interest in the hobby to his kids. Having an AC Gilbert electric train as a boy was fun, but certainly not anything to spend a lifetime working with. But with a three-year-old son in the house, Jim decided it was time to buy another train for Christmas (who for?). From mounting it on a board, to building a special room for it in the attic, to telling Doug to keep his hands off Daddy's train, a hobby in HO railroading was born, not for Doug, but for Daddy.

The birth of the Nevadun Railroad was in a 10' x 13' room built in the attic for Doug's train. Soon Jim had the bug to have more space. To have a basement in Texas meant to build it himself. A new lot and a new house later, Jim began to rebuild the Nevadun in its present 17' x 30' location. He is particularly motivated by the desire to build a realistic,

detailed scene, and he likes to build structures, but he is interested in all phases of the hobby. He presently holds Achievement Certificates in Cars, Motive Power, Structures, Scenery, Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, and Association Volunteer. He has had articles published in RAILROAD MODEL CRAFTSMAN magazine.

Jim became a member of the NMRA and the Lone Star Region when he was told he could not enter a structure in the contest unless he was a member of both. That structure later won Best of Show in the LSR. He has won numerous prizes, mostly for structures, since that first effort. He has served for the last four years as Achievement Program Chairman for the LSR and feels a strong desire to encourage others in the hobby to work for the awards, both for self-fulfillment and for the support of NMRA programs. "Fortunately for all of us," he says, "most of the effort in the Achievement Program is in doing things we already like to do, or else we wouldn't be in this hobby. But the job's not done until the paperwork is completed. Why not finish the job and submit the paperwork?"

When people ask when the layout will be completed, Jim says his railroad is "Neva-dun."