

# NMRA BULLETIN

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**Region Secretaries: send all  
changes in Region officer infor-  
mation to the NMRA Secretary:  
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2022 NMRA National Convention Dates and National Train Show Reservations:  
St. Louis, Missouri August 7 – 14, 2022  
Train Show Booth Reservations—Jenny Hendricks Registrar - P.O. Box 1328, Soddy Daisy, TN 37384-1328  
423-892-2846 • [ntsreg@nmra.org](mailto:ntsreg@nmra.org)  
• 2023—Dallas, Texas

rev 10/1/21

## ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

### NMRA AP CERTIFICATE REPORT

AUGUST 2021  
GOLDEN SPIKE

#### North Central Region

John Campbell, MD, Traverse City, Michigan

#### Southeastern Region

Gary Fish, Marietta, Georgia  
Edmund Neale, Hendersonville, North Carolina

#### MASTER BUILDER - STRUCTURES Pacific Coast Region

Steve Harvath, Stockton, California

#### MASTER BUILDER - SCENERY Pacific Northwest Region

Steve Hauff, Port Angeles, Washington  
Karl Kleeman, Billingham, Washington

#### MASTER BUILDER - PROTOTYPE MODELS Pacific Northwest Region

Dale Bearden, Sedro Woolley, Washington

#### MODEL RAILROAD ENGINEER - ELECTRICAL

#### North Central Region

Kenneth Scherer, Berkley, Michigan

#### CHIEF DISPATCHER

#### Northeastern Region

John Doehring, Pepperell, Massachusetts

#### ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL

#### Midwest Region

Danny Hinel, Westfield, Indiana

#### ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEER

#### Mid-Continent Region

James Hogben, Cherryvale, Kansas

#### Mid-Eastern Region

Jerry Stanley II, Hume, Virginia

#### Pacific Southwest Region

Leonard Smith, Casa Grande, Arizona

#### MODEL RAILROAD AUTHOR

#### Northeastern Region

John Doehring, Pepperell, Massachusetts

#### Pacific Coast Region

Rich Mossholder, Santa Rosa, California

#### Thousand Lakes Region

W. Kennedy Gauger, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

#### MASTER MODEL RAILROADER®

MMR® #690 Dale Bearden, Sedro Woolley, Washington

AP QUESTIONS: If you have questions about the Achievement Program or requirements, start with your local or Region AP manager. If you still have questions, contact Frank Koch at [fjkoch@hotmail.com](mailto:fjkoch@hotmail.com). If you prefer to write, contact Frank at 4769 Silverwood Drive, Batavia, OH 45103.

## THREE BIG BENEFITS OF NMRA MEMBERSHIP:



Those are the discounts that manufacturers and hobby shops in our Partnership Program are giving us right now. Partners like Micro-Mark®. Model Rectifier Corporation®. Badger Airbrush®. Unreal Details®. Hot Wire Foam Factory®. Logic Rail™ Technologies. And over 30 more companies. It's savings that can actually pay for your membership!

And are you taking advantage of our other big benefits? Like 150+ national convention clinic videos. Or over 15 hours of "how-to" videos produced by the biggest names in model railroading videos. Or our directory of model railroad layouts all over the world that you can visit. The list goes on and on.

If you haven't visited [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org) lately, you're missing out on some really great stuff. Starting with a boatload of discounts!



We make it more fun.

## 2021 MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

The following have been identified by one of the NMRA Departments to receive a Meritorious Service Award (MSA) for their contributions to the NMRA. These recommendations were submitted in late 2020 for consideration for the 2021 Honors.

### ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT

**Lee Stoermer** — 12 Years providing outstanding support to members & staff as NMRA 100% Club Coordinator/Liaison.

**Ben Sevier** — 9 Years providing outstanding Technical Support to members, staff and volunteers as NMRA IT Manager. Countless hours training staff and developing systems for HQ.

**Frank Koch, HLM** — 12 Years providing insight and support for members, staff and volunteers as NMRA CFO, Museum CFO, HQ Advisor & Oversight as well as numerous committee positions over the years.

**Michael Brestel, HLM** — Decades providing support for members, staff and volunteers as Historian, Presidential Advisor, HQ Advisor, Insurance Coordinator, Calendar Coordinator, Museum BOD, & numerous committees, as well as multiple executive positions over the years.

### EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

**Michael Hohn, MMR®** — Valuable Contribution to the Beginners' Guide on the NMRA website. He served as co-editor providing outstanding contributions.

**John Stevens** — 15 Years as NMRA National Scout Coordinator. Responsible for growth and instrumental in helping Scouts earn their Railroading Merit Badge.

**Dave Chance** — AP Committee of the Education Department as the Mid-Eastern Region AP Manager. Outstanding efforts during a very challenging year.

**Gerry Hopkins, MMR®** — AP Committee of the Education Department as the Australasian Region AP Manager. Outstanding efforts during a very challenging year.

**Harley "Skip" Luyk, MMR®** — AP Committee of the Education Department as the North Central Region AP Manager. Outstanding efforts during a very challenging year.

### MARKETING DEPARTMENT

**Pam Simpson-Moleski** — Social Media Management. Instrumental in moderating and maintaining Facebook. Growing and sharing the NMRA, assisting with NMRAX events and graphics creation. Social Media was especially important this past year, and Pam knocked it out of the park.

## 2021 NMRA FELLOW AWARD

The following three individuals have been identified by the Honors Committee to receive the NMRA Fellow Award for their significant and long-term service to the NMRA and the hobby. These recommendations were submitted in late 2020 for consideration for the 2021 Honors.

**Robert Brown, HLM, MMR® & Charles Getz, HLM** — In most current NMRA members' memory, it would be difficult to identify precisely when Charlie Getz came on the leadership scene. Still, none would have any difficulty identifying the lasting impact he has made on the Association. Charlie has served continuously in national leadership since the early 2000s with service as PCR Trustee, At-Large North American Director, and NMRA President. Charlie mentored the Association through the major reorganization in 2006 and was the primary author of the NMRA Regulations and Executive Handbook that has served as the guiding documents for the Association.

Bob Brown's influence has been more in the publishing world of the influential *Narrow Gauge and Shortline Gazette*. Bob has been the most influential person to identify and secure historically significant and important model railroad artifacts for the CSRM exhibit. His aesthetic and literary skills have helped craft a world-class exhibit to showcase the hobby and the NMRA.

Charlie and Bob are the driving force for the Gallery Exhibit at the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento. Through their contacts and relationships, major funding for the project was raised, and agreements with California were reached. Outside the NMRA, Charlie has, for more than forty years, written a continuing column for the *Gazette*. Charlie's reports on innumerable models he has constructed have been a mainstay for *Gazette* readers.

Charlie Getz, HLM and Bob Brown, HLM, MMR®, are the epitome of and deserving of formal recognition as NMRA Fellows.

**Gerry Leone, HLM, MMR®** — Over the past 15 years, virtually every positive outcome of an NMRA program or enhancement to member benefits has had Gerry Leone's name attached to the outcome. He is the originator and continuing editor of *NMRA EBULLETIN*, the single most essential communications advancement for the Association in the last ten years. He is the driving force for the creation and expansion of the NMRA Partnership Program. Gerry was responsible for the efforts that brought a professional marketing consultant to NMRA. Gerry instituted the videotaping of clinics at the National Convention and their posting on the NMRA web site as an educational benefit. Seeing a need for improved public communications, Gerry produced, filmed, and edited the "Welcome to Model Railroading" video that is a mainstay of recruiting and relations today. He then followed up with a multi-part video series about the national convention and the National Train Show to help members decide to attend those

WE CONGRATULATE ALL THE 2021 AWARD RECIPIENTS.

events. Most recently, Gerry has been instrumental in organizing and bringing to life *NMRA TURNTABLE*.

Gerry also found time to be a national association leader, serving as Communication Director and Vice President Special Operations with all those efforts. He has been a mainstay in his home Region and Division. Gerry seems to be everywhere, getting positive results for the membership.

Gerry Leone, MMR, HLM, has undoubtedly earned and is fully deserving recognition as NMRA Fellow.

## 2021 NMRA HONORARY LIFE MEMBER

The following individuals have been identified by the Honors Committee to receive the NMRA Honorary Life Member recognition for their long-standing and consistent service to the NMRA at the highest level and impact. These recommendations were submitted in late 2020 for consideration for the 2021 Honors.

**Ray DeBlieck** — has been a stalwart leader within the NMRA for many years, serving on the BOD through the organization's transition years. He has been the Convention Committee Chair for the National Conventions for more than fifteen years, bringing a vast amount of knowledge and experience in managing the complexity of a National Convention to each new year and its unique set of challenges. In every case, he has brought a positive experience to most of the attendees and helped ensure each convention was successful.

**Fred Headon, MMR®** — It is my honor, privilege, and distinct pleasure to nominate Fred Headon for the award of

Honorary Life Member on the basis of his long-term volunteer and elective service to the NMRA and to the hobby of model railroading.

Currently finishing a tour as Lead Director, Fred will be leaving the Board at the Summer 2020 Director's caucus due to term limits. Appointed to fill an unexpected Board vacancy in 2012, elected to the position and then re-elected, Fred has served on the NMRA Board of Directors for eight years. In 2017 the Board chose him to be the Lead Director, a position he has filled admirably since then.

He has been instrumental in developing a Director's Handbook for new Directors and has mentored several as they joined the NMRA Board. His sage advice and counsel have been invaluable to me over the years.

Fred has been a member of the Thousand Lakes Region since he joined the NMRA in 1975, has served on the TLR Board, several Region and National Convention committees, as a Region and National contest judge for many years, and as an instructor for the highly rated "Modeling With the Masters" programs at many National conventions. He was active in the TLR No.1 Northern Division reorganization in 2008 and is currently active in the Division's Free-Mo modular group.

Fred is the first recipient of the TLR's annual "Stafford Swain Lifetime Achievement Award" for service to his Division, Region and the hobby. I cannot think of a more deserving recipient for an HLM. In addition to the NMRA, his commitment to the Canadian Pacific Railway Historical Association is manifested in his position as editor of their Soo Line section of their "CP Tracks" magazine. He has also been an advisor to various hobby manufacturers seeking to provide accurate CP equipment for the hobby.

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KELLY RUSSELL EARNS  
 MASTER MODEL RAILROADER® #689

As with most model railroaders' life stories, mine started as a young child with a Bachmann HO-scale train set brought by Santa and played with mostly by my dad and grandfather on that first Christmas. Several cars and structures were added in the next few years. Then toys were put aside for friends, school, career, and family.

Fast-forward many (many) years to a family man expecting his first son. "He will need trains," so it was time for a trip to the local hobby shop. My, how the hobby had changed! A LaBelle caboos was chosen — why start easy? I then attended the Greater Houston Train Show, where I met Larry Liggen, a member of the Northwest Crossing Model Railroad Club (NWX). He showed me the HO-scale module building standards and then convinced me to build my first module. "Just do it," he insisted.

After a couple of setups in the local malls, the NWX HO- and N-scale layouts were featured at the AstroRail '89 NMRA National Convention in Houston, Texas. And with a membership to the NMRA, a whole new world opened its doors to me. I was quickly accepted into the San Jacinto Model Railroad Club, where many NMRA members shared their expertise, time, and patience with a new member. A Golden Spike, awarded in 1992, was the first step on my journey to Master Model Railroader®.

Several contest entries and a stint as president of the Texas Gulf Division 8 were integral steps forward. Through my association as NWX President, I coordinated several Texas Gulf Division train shows at local malls. We had more than a dozen modular layouts set up at one point. We also did a joint layout setup with three or four HO-scale clubs in what was, at the time, the largest HO modular railroad display in the world.

Through association with the San Jac Model Railroad Club, my interest in layout operations grew. The hours quickly accumulated toward a Chief Dispatcher certificate during operating sessions at such great layouts like the Great Great Northern (Don Bozman), the Stony Creek & Western (Gil Freitag, MMR®),



The Green Bay Southern (Bill Wright, MMR®), and the West Virginia Western (Peter Bryan).

During this time, Ed Dibble, NWX treasurer, invited me to help him with a home layout he had started: the Midnight & Sometimes Later RR. Our focus switched from modules to something more permanent and operations-oriented. With inspiration from an internet group, Small Layout Design, I built a modest 3x6-foot switching layout: Russell Junction. The Rail Asset Management group at the company where I worked asked me to build a small 4x8 layout, the RAM Railroad, which was to be used as an interactive tool to explain rail operations. With all this layout building, and a bit of hand-laid track, I achieved the Model Railroad Engineer – Civil, Master Builder – Structures, and Master Builder – Scenery certificates.

Articles in the San Jac club's newsletter, *The Derail*, clinics at their monthly meetings and annual train show, open houses for San Jac Model RR Month Layout tours, coordination committees for the locally sponsored Lone Star Region (LSR) conventions, and articles in the LSR newsletter, *The Marker Lamp*, all provided plenty of opportunities to gain hours toward Association Volunteer and points toward the Model Railroad Author certificate.

Several years passed, and as children's activities grew and work intensified, model railroading was put on the back burner. While attending a Lone Star Region con-

vention several years ago, Chuck Lind and Duane Richardson prompted, "Now that you are retired, when are you going to finish your MMR®?" So, I started looking at car modeling projects where valuable scratchbuilding points could be awarded. Four cars with a merit score are required. I first built a four-compartment tank car, which years earlier actually led me to getting a position in the rail management group. (Ask me about that over a beer sometime.) The second model was an Armour steel-side reefer. The prototype was first spotted being used for storage at the Grapevine Vintage Railroad. There was plenty of access available for numerous photos (the car is now located at the Museum of the American Railroad in Frisco, Texas). My third model was inspired by a car spotted on a local layout during an operating session: the Speedy poultry car. Here is where the Achievement Program shines. Researching this car and learning about livestock and unusual loads brought me to other modelers, interesting clinics, and internet research materials. During one of those long internet surfing sessions, I spotted the last of my four cars: a Denver & Rio Grande Western narrow gauge stock car converted into a railroad excursion car — a passenger car — *perfect!* I scored enough points for a Merit Award on these cars, which led to achieving the Master Builder Cars certificate. By the way, that old LaBelle caboos holds a place of honor in that group of cars commemorating the start of my MMR® journey.

The value of this NMRA Achievement Program is twofold. First, it truly makes you a better modeler. I had never air-brushed before, and hand-laying track really isn't all that hard. The second thing is the friendships and mentors you pick up along the way. Many thanks to the dozens of people who have inspired and helped me with this journey. I certainly could not have done it without all your help and encouragement.

It is now my responsibility, nay, a privilege to act as a mentor, inspiring and encouraging others who are embarking on their adventure to become a Master Model Railroader®.

**Certificates Earned  
Kelly Russell, MMR® 689**

- Chief Dispatcher**
- Association Volunteer**
- Model Railroad Author**
- Master Builder – Structures**
- Model Railroad Engineer – Civil**
- Master Builder – Scenery**
- Master Builder – Cars**

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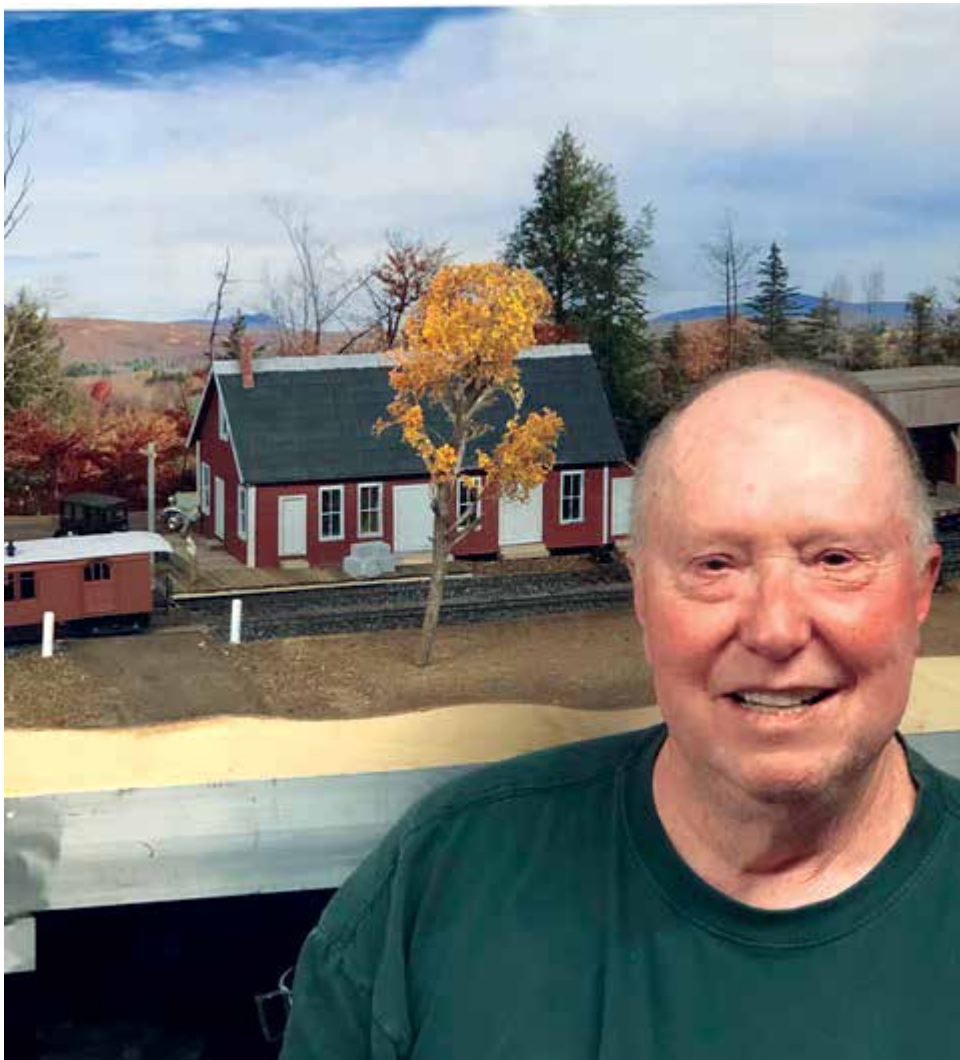
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**MMR EARNED**



**DALE BEARDEN EARNS  
MASTER MODEL RAILROADER® #690**

**Y**ou may find this strange, but I spent most of the 1950s growing up around little airports and little airplanes. My dad's passion was flying, so it shouldn't be too surprising that most of my early memories are of airplanes. I suppose that's an odd way to begin the story of my journey to MMR®, but it's true.

I have a hazy memory of sitting in a highchair in the middle of a sheet of plywood while my dad ran "my" trains around me. At least, I think I have such a memory, but I might just be remembering something I was told.

What I do remember was the Christmas of 1958. My little brother and I fought over who got the Lionel boxcar and who got the other Lionel car. I can't even remember what it was because I wanted the boxcar, and he got it.

During the early 1960s, three of us in the neighborhood (Jerry, Bruce, and I) began pooling our money and building an HO layout. Jerry's dad let us use a little building in the backyard. Even though the ceiling was only six feet high, we had two sheets of plywood and a 4x16-foot layout. I think it was Bruce who had a subscription to *Model Railroader* magazine. One of the high points of those years was getting the new *MR* issue and scanning America's Hobby Center ads.

Living in the country, without easy access to a hobby shop, we met our model railroading needs through mail-order. Funny, but today I still live in the country and continue to count on mail-order. It was a long drive to the Frank the Trainman store in downtown San Diego, California, in the 1960s, and it's a long drive to the hobby shops in Seattle, Washington, today.

Sometimes, when I think back on those years, I laugh at the extremes the

three of us went through to support our hobby: mowing lawns, cleaning horse corals, collecting pop bottles — anything we could do to earn enough to buy that new Athearn locomotive, or whatever. Those days built the foundation of my model railroading. Like my journey to MMR®, model railroading was built on friendship, helping each other, and learning together. Today, two of us are still living and are still model railroaders. We continue to help each other out, even though we live more than 1,000 miles apart.

In the late 1960s, a little distraction called the Vietnam War halted my model railroading. I served as a Huey crew chief in the US Army. Then model railroading receded farther away as job, wife, raising kids — I guess you could just call it “life” — got in the way.

In 1990, I discovered N scale. My first little layout ended up as part of a display at a museum about model trains. I think my layout was an example of what *not* to do, but it ran well, and I felt honored to be part of that summer’s exhibit. By the mid-1990s, I had progressed from a small, portable layout to a two-level, around-the-walls room full of railroad. I hosted a twice-a-month operating session. Eventually, I punched a hole into the garage and added a 15-foot-long staging yard, which created a need for a dispatcher and made room for another operator. The 1996 NMRA National Convention was held in Long Beach, California, and I was invited to include my home layout on the layout tours. I’ve still got the cross-buck that stood in the front yard, telling the bus driver where to stop.

An old high school friend and I nearly collided while at an auto parts store, and an old friendship was rekindled. “You still playing with trains?” he asked. “Yep, how about you?” “Of course,” was his reply. He introduced me to the world of live-steam 7.5-inch gauge railroading, and I was hooked.

Over the years, I had acquired an old Atlas flatbed lathe and Vernon mill and a few rudimentary skills. He was finishing up a Shay locomotive and needed a ride car, so I built a 1½-inch-scale flatcar for him. I eventually built two live steam locomotives, a 1½-inch-scale American and a 2½-inch narrow gauge Forney. I also built a little 0-4-0 steam outline electric locomotive and a couple of ride cars.

When I retired and moved to the Pacific Northwest, a few of us from my church built a 35x60-foot loop of portable track. We took our little train and track to the local Lions Club Train Show every year from 2007 until 2019. We gave rides to kids of all ages. The rides were free, but we accepted donations if offered. We divided the money between the Lions Club and our local food bank. We had a lot of fun, once again establishing that railroading is more fun with friends.

I’ve always had a passion for narrow gauge; I even dabbled in Nn3 in the 1990s. When I discovered On30, I was off and running again. My wife and I met Bruce and his wife in Denver. We attended the Narrow Gauge Convention in 2017. At the convention, I met Charlie Getz and Bob Brown, MMR®, who encouraged me to join the NMRA. I did, and I wished I’d done it years before.

Frank Koch launched me on my MMR® trek several years ago when he promptly answered my questions via email. I contacted Jack Hamilton, MMR®, and my involvement with the Achievement Program officially began. Di Voss, MMR®, made the hour-and-a-half drive to visit my On30 freelanced layout and got me pointed in the right direction.

I was quite nervous about having an MMR® come to inspect my layout, but Di made it a real learning experience. He wasn’t judgmental. He did a little teaching, offering suggestions, and encouraged me to continue with what I was doing. He told me to call Jack when I was ready to have an official visit.

I did, and in June 2018, Jack, Di, Walt Huston, and Ed Liesie arrived to visit my Hardscrabble Railroad. Even though I was very apprehensive about an official visit, it was a remarkable day of learning and laughing. We sat around the table, enjoying the view of the lake and the lunch my wife provided. That day, I was awarded the Golden Spike and four certificates: Electrical, Motive Power, Cars, and Structures. My Civil and Author certificates didn’t come so quickly, but they did eventually. David Yadock, MMR®, and Di Voss visited my Monson Maine Slate Company Railroad in 2021, and I was awarded that elusive seventh certificate: Prototype Models.

There are several people I’d like to acknowledge; I wouldn’t have made it to

MMR® without their help. First, many thanks go to my friend, railroad historian, and author, Dr. Karl Kleeman. He has (and continues) mentoring me as I learn more about prototype modeling. Thanks also to Mike O’Brien for his great scenery clinics; Ted Becker and Al Carter for their dedication to the Mt. Vernon group; Don Jones for DCC clinics; and Cliff Aker for his clinics on structures. In reality, my name may be on the certificate, but those guys led the way.

My hat goes off to all those people who voluntarily serve in the NMRA. For me, where I live makes it nearly impossible for me to volunteer on a large scale. However, I do appreciate the opportunity to give clinics when I’m invited. A big thank you to all who volunteer their service to our organization.

Recently I heard someone say, “I can do all those things that a Master Model Railroader® can do.” I asked him why he didn’t. He said he didn’t like entering contests. I told him that it wasn’t a contest and that no one would judge him. He would have fun and learn a lot. Then I remembered that there was a time I felt the same way.

My achieving MMR® status is proof that you don’t have to have a huge layout or an unlimited budget to become active in the Achievement Program. All you need to do is get involved, and I encourage you to do so. I am humbled and blessed by all the friends I have made during this process. I hope that I am honored with the opportunity to share some of the things I’ve learned with others who are traveling this road.

Never forget, “Model Railroading IS Fun,” especially with friends and the NMRA Achievement Program.

**Certificates Earned  
Dale Bearden, MMR® 690**

**Model Railroad Engineer – Electrical  
Master Builder – Motive Power  
Master Builder – Cars  
Master Builder – Structures  
Model Railroad Engineer – Civil  
Model Railroad Author  
Master Builder – Prototype Models**