

**MASTER BUILDER — STRUCTURES**

**Mid-Continent Region**

Kenneth Breher, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

**Mid-Eastern Region**

Mathew Thompson, Gainesville, Virginia

**MASTER BUILDER — SCENERY**

**Pacific Coast Region**

Andrew Merriam, San Luis Obispo, California

**MASTER BUILDER — PROTOTYPE MODELS**

**Northeastern Region**

Paul Allard, Milton, Vermont

**MODEL RAILROAD ENGINEER — CIVIL**

**Pacific Coast Region**

Andrew Merriam, San Luis Obispo, California

**MODEL RAILROAD ENGINEER — ELECTRICAL**

**Northeastern Region**

Andrew Clermont, Albany, New York

**Pacific Coast Region**

Dave Croshere, Sebastopol, California  
Andrew Merriam, San Luis Obispo, California

**CHIEF DISPATCHER**

**Southeastern Region**

David Anderson, Asheville, North Carolina

**ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL**

**Mid-Central Region**

Larry Kline, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
Dennis Lloyd, Painesville, Ohio

**ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEER**

**Mid-Central Region**

Alan Buchner, Madison, Ohio  
Dennis Lloyd, Painesville, Ohio

**Mid-Eastern Region**

Earl Paine, Schwenksville, Pennsylvania

**MMR EARNED**



**CHARLES W. MILLAR EARNs MMR #471**

**T**rains! Trains! Trains! I love trains. Big ones, small ones, all scales, all gauges, it doesn't matter. If it has steel wheels and runs on steel rails, I'm on board. If it were possible, I'd model a layout in every size. But I settled on HO scale.

I was born and raised in Cambridge (Hespeler), Ontario, Canada where Canadian National and Grand River Railways (Canadian Pacific) both ran behind my boyhood home. My mother often said when I was very young, I cried if a train went by unless she picked me up to see the action out of a window.

My first train was "scratchbuilt" by a caring aunt and uncle from orange crate boards, with checkers for wheels and cup hooks for couplers. This memorable pull toy included a steeple cab locomotive, boxcar, cattle car, gondola, tank car, and bright red caboose — all hand-painted and lettered. Unfortunately, over the years it was lost.

The next trains I remember were wind-up "O scale." My first electric train (Marx O-27) served on my first layout, which was constructed with the help of my dad on an old dining room table. Next, I built an American Flyer "S" layout, featuring a smoking, chuffing locomotive, automated accessories, and two-rail track.

My first scale layout, based on the Kalmbach book *The HO Railroad That Grows* - was built during my teenage years. During this time I discovered *Model Trains* and *Model Railroader* magazines. Shortly thereafter, I became an NMRA member.

Work, marriage, and family came next. Human resources management in manufacturing helped pay for the trains, but also required many job relocations in both Canada and the U.S. From Cambridge, we moved to Winnipeg, Manitoba, then back to Ontario, first to Waterloo and later Tillsonburg. In 1979, we moved to Rochester, Michigan, then Beatrice, Nebraska, before settling in Georgia. On a positive note, I gained mod-

eling experience in the NFR, TLR, MCoR, and SER.

All my job relocations played havoc with completing a model railway. In the mid-1980s, we moved to Georgia and construction began on my current Grand River Railway. This sectional railway was built to NMRA modular standards so it could be moved without dismantling all my work.

During this time, I joined the SER and the Piedmont Division. My wife and I opened our layout for Region and Division tours and were honored to be a part of the 1995 Atlanta National Convention.

In 1998, we built a new "basement" and moved the Grand River Railway to a much larger space where an expanded permanent layout could be constructed. After retiring, I finally had time to get serious about the Achievement Program. In 2003, I entered my first model in a contest at the National Convention in Toronto. I was delighted when my Hespeler CNR station model placed second in the structures category. With this favorable experience and the encouragement of my wife, daughter, and the members of the Piedmont Division, I began my journey on the road to becoming an MMR.

When my daughter learned I had achieved MMR, she sent me the following message, "I always remember the stories that Grandma told of a small boy scrambling up on the kitchen table to stare out the window and watch with fascination each time a train would pass by. Who could have known that childhood awe and excitement would turn into a lifelong passion. I have always thought that what you create is magic. It is a collaboration of skill, precision, knowledge, artistry, passion, and vision. I can't begin to tell you how proud I am. You have reached a status that shows just how talented I have always known you are. Congratulations on an achievement so richly deserved." I believe her sentiments apply to all train enthusiasts who aspire to become MMRs through the NMRA AP program.

Many new friendships have been one of the most rewarding aspects of this journey.

Come see our Grand River Railway, on tour during the National Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, in 2013.

*Charles earned the following Certificates, Golden Spike, Volunteer, Scenery, Civil, Electrical, Structures, Cars, and Motive Power.*