NEXT MEETING . . .
SYRACUSE MODEL RAILROAD CLUB
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 27, 2010; 2 PM TO 4 PM

AT THIS MEETING AND IN THIS ISSUE . . .

The Syracuse Model Railroad Club is once again hosting a number of vendors at their annual train show and open house on February 27th. Their show always seems to have a good mix of established vendors with new and used equipment and supplies and folks selling off unused pieces from their collections.

The club’s permanent layout, representing a railroad set in the transition steam/diesel era running from Syracuse, NY to the St. Lawrence River. Parts of the layout have full signaling and automated running under DCC and JMRI. Extensive areas are undergoing a facelift with many scenes getting much needed cleanup.

The original modular HO layout is now permanently setup in the room adjacent to the permanent layout room. The layout now has a swing bridge module so NO MORE CRAWL UNDER to enter the layout.

Both layouts are receiving a number of improvements to make them into an operations oriented layout. The club is focusing on Timetable and Train Order style of operations with a 1950’s theme.

1) SCALE LAYOUT: View the SMRRC layout and the changes they have made since you last saw it.
2) CLINIC: Lenn Amrhien presents his clinic on “Building From Scratch” originally scheduled for January but postponed due to weather. You can also watch train related videos prior to the meeting.
3) TRAIN SHOW & SWAP MEET: Come early and shop for your model railroad supplies at the show and swap meet hosted by the members of the Syracuse Model Railroad Club.
4) 2011 DIVISION ELECTIONS: Time to vote for our 2011 Brass Hats.
5) RAFFLE: There will be no raffle at this meeting so support the vendors at the show.
“Loose Spikes”…
(Notes from the “Ashpit”)

Don’t Get Left at the Station . . .

To stay onboard and keep receiving Red Markers e-mail notices, you need to come to this meeting (or at least every third meeting). If you absolutely can’t attend and want to continue to receive a mailed issue, send $3.00 to Ralph Hodson (see left), make the check payable to “CNY Division, NER”. Of course you are always welcome to pick up the latest issue on-line at www.cnynmra.org.

But money is a poor substitute. Come to the meeting because your check book won’t have half the fun you will!! We continue to grow and plan exciting things. So don’t miss out!! Thanks.

2011 PAYMASTERS REPORT

BALANCE - 2 January, 2011 ....................... $ 2,572.76
RECEIPTS:
RAFFLES ........................................... $ 103.80
TOTAL RECEIPTS ............................... $ 103.80

EXPENDITURES:
JANUARY MEETING SPACE (DONATION) ...... $ 75.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES ........................... $ 75.00

BALANCE, 29 January, 2011 .................... $ 2,601.56
Respectfully Submitted: Charles Albee, Paymaster

Division Name Badges are available from Jim Heidt for $7.00. Price includes postage to mail your badge to you by First Class Mail. No more of this holding onto them or giving them to buddies to pass on. The $7.00 covers all costs.

REMEMBER - Contact John Roland, our Chief Clerk, if you ever have trouble receiving your “Red Markers”. Also, if you need to change your e-mail address or post office address drop John a line. John’s contact information is listed in “The Brass Hats” sidebar to the left.

Here are the Red Markers submission deadlines for 2011. Please have your articles and any items for “Loose Spikes” to us by these dates. Remember, EARLIER IS ALWAYS BETTER! Thanks for your support, Ed & Ed.

3/25/2011
4/29/11, 5/27/11, 8/5/11, 9/2/11, 10/7/11, 11/18/11

(Continued on page 4 - LOOSE SPIKES)
This hobby of Model Railroading we all profess to enjoy has numerous facets to it, enough that we should never become bored with the hobby. For some our layouts may never be finished while others will declare their layouts complete. We all have our threshold for acceptable detail otherwise know as “Good Enough”. Whether your layout is finished or just begun, you may reach a point where you tire of doing the things you have been doing. Face it, we can only spread ground foam and dirt or build so many trees before we need a change. I remember reading that John Allen’s railroad had all sorts of projects in various stages of completion because he found doing the same thing all the time tedious. Thus some sections had scenery complete, but no track laid.

When you reach the point where you really don’t want to go down into the layout room to build more trees it is time to take a break. Rather than turning on the “boob tube,” letting the layout (and your interest in the hobby) stall, tackle something new. Pick an area that you would like to learn more about like photography or background painting and try it. Do some research on the web and talk to your friends in the division for guidance and ideas on where to start. Get some materials from your local Michael’s or A.C. Moore and give backdrop painting a go.

If your railroad is populated with plastic kits built to the manufacturer’s instructions, why not dive into kit-bashing, or the dreaded scratch building? There is nothing more satisfying then looking at a new structure on your layout and knowing that you built it yourself from a pile of wood and plastic parts. There are a number of resources available to us with plenty of structure ideas. We need look no farther than the NMRA Magazine for the almost monthly plans drawn up by Pat Harriman for use in a scratch-build or kit-bash project. Another relatively new resource is www.trainlife.com. You will find all of the back issues of RAILMODEL JOURNAL and MODEL RAILROADING available with a searchable database. Back issues of many of the model magazines are again searchable on the MODEL RAILROADER website and include a host of plans, many of which are available from the Division’s Member Aid chair, Jim Heidt. First time scratch-builders might want to try duplicating one of those plastic kits in wood.

Build a diorama to practice new scenery techniques or ideas. Take a look around at everything the hobby has to offer and decide which aspect of it you want to dive into further. You’ll get rid of the “Same old, Same Old” blues while developing new skills.

Enjoy your discoveries!

Ed & Ed
2011 DIVISION OFFICERS NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION

In order to allow any member of the Division in good standing to run for office in 2011 we will be taking nominations from the floor at the February meeting, Sunday February 27, 2011. Anyone wishing to run for office must be present to accept the nomination. If you cannot be present at the meeting and are willing to run for office if nominated, send Ed Olszewski a note indicating your willingness to accept a nomination for specific offices. If you are nominated and are not present to accept and Ed does not have a note from you the nomination WILL NOT be accepted. You may send your note to Ed by e-mail at eolszew1@twcny.rr.com or by US Postal Service at 122 Blackstone Way, Syracuse, NY 13219.

The election will be held at the February meeting, following the close of nominations. Newly elected officers assume their offices and duties immediately following election.

FEBRUARY CLINIC DETAILS

At the next Division meeting, Lenn Amrhein is presenting his newest clinic titled "SCRATCH BUILDING MADE EASY". This is a revision of a clinic he has been doing since 1976 and will be a demonstration clinic. Lenn will go over the following steps:

1. How to scribe all the siding you need using Bristol board or plastic for three dollars.
2. Various ways to build windows.
3. Various ways to build doors.
4. All the shingles you’ll ever need, for about a dime a copy.

Lenn has prepared a new handout of about nine pages and will hand these out at the meeting. The three buildings he built using these techniques will also be on display.

OP-SIG WEEKEND

Re-running this from Dave Martini, Division Asst. Supt. Regarding the Op-Sig weekends

“The first session will be Saturday April 10th 2-4pm and will involve three layouts; Bernie Messenger’s Mohawk Valley Southern, Drew James’ Canada Spokane and Pacific, and Dave Martini’s CSX Northeast. Each layout will be open to Division members on a first come-first served basis to participate in an operating session. These layouts have been tweaked, tuned, adjusted and have developed into GREAT model railroads. Check the layout summaries printed in the January edition of Red Markers, which provide all the details about each layout. Please take a look and see which layout piques your interest and sign up. Sign up and additional details will take place at the Feb. 27th meeting.”

LOCAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

The Binghamton Sertoma Club’s 2nd Annual Model Train (& 29th Antique) Show will take place April 15, 16 & 17, 2011. Entry fees: 3-day pass Fri. $10; $7 Sat. or Sun.

Detailed information at www.binghamontsertoma.com

Note the following:

“The Binghamton Society of Model Engineers is moving to a new location. We lost our fine host of five years and had to move. We are moving to new quarters in the WSKG building on Gates Road, Vestal, NY. I will be happy to forward directions to any one who would care to visit. E mail me at dreining@stny.rr.com.”

The following is from Dick Senges via Don Andrews:

“The January - February issue of the Rochester Model Rails model railroad magazine is out, including a nice write-up and photos from our joint meet in January. The current edition of the magazine, as well as all 70 back-issues can be down-loaded at: www.OilCreekRailroad.com.”

Gordon Davis sends the following two items:

“Interested in European trains? The February meeting of the Central New York Chapter, European-Train-Enthusiasts will be held on Saturday, February 12th from 11am until? This is our annual lunch meeting (it’s chili this year) so an RSVP is required to gdavis4@twcny.rr.com. There is no formal program, we encourage you to bring something for Show & Tell; your favorite models, books, DVDs photos, whatever. Directions will be provided to those planning on attending.”
Thanks to generous donations of members, The NMRA Online Archives is getting very close to opening for business. Right now it appears that March 1 will be the magic date. With the funds already collected we've been able to scan and post almost 10,000 photos, drawings, and plans, which will be available for download at a discount by NMRA members, and at full price by non-NMRA members. Keep your eyes on NMRA Magazine for the big Grand Opening announcement! Please continue making donations -- the more money they receive, the more photos they'll be able to scan!

The NMRA is planning to help Regions and Divisions promote National Model Railroad Month this November by making available materials that can be downloaded from our website, such as poster and flyer templates, press releases, etc. Watch NMRA Magazine and the InfoNet news for more details sometime this summer.

As part of our National Model Railroad Month promotion, we'll be publishing a special story in NMRA Magazine about how Regions and Divisions celebrate and promote it themselves. If your Division or Region does something special to promote National Model Railroad Month please write a brief 200-word description of your activities and send it to me at this email address before June 1. We'll try to include as many descriptions as we can in our story, which will probably run in the August issue. If you don't do anything for National Model Railroad Month, maybe that story will give your Division or Region some good ideas... and you'll have some time to get ready to implement them!

Last month we reminded everyone to make sure Division Business Car columnist Jim Zinser was regularly receiving your newsletter. But I neglected to mention the biggest reason Jim's column is so important to you: it's one of the best places to see what other Divisions and Regions are doing to promote themselves, to raise money, and to have fun with model railroading. So take a few moments every other month to read Jim's column to see if there are any ideas that your Division or Region could use!

The winter Board Meeting is being held concurrently with the Budget and Operations meetings this year in Las Vegas at the Palace Station Hotel (about 5 miles from the airport). The Budget and Operations meetings, which are by invitation only, begin on Tuesday, February 22 at 9 a.m. The Board Meeting runs from 9 to 5 (or later) on Wednesday, February 23, and 9 to 5 (or later) on Thursday, February 24. All NMRA members are welcome to attend.

Just a reminder that we continue to run a "Help Wanted" ad in NMRA Magazine. We've already filled several positions, thanks to generous volunteers. But we still need help. Remember, we're a volunteer organization and always in need of able bodies to lend a hand. Here are the positions we're looking for -- if your skills fit the qualifications below, please contact NMRA Headquarters!

**Electronics engineers** with experience in setting up control systems needed to take part in discussions and development of NMRANET. Current bus is designed using CAN. Time commitment: several hours per week.

**IT staff volunteer** with experience in Content Management Systems. Able to program in PHP and PostGreSQL/MySQL, and good experience in HTML and CSS. IIS and VB experience a plus. Time commitment: ~3 hours per week.
NEW RED MARKERS REGISTRATION PROCESS
by George “Scooter” Youst

Editors Note: We are running this article again this month because not many of you have signed up on the new e-mail services. Folks, if you don’t sign up soon you will not get e-mail notification of Red Markers after the May 14th meeting.

In an effort to update our e-mail mailing list for the Red Markers we have started an automated online registration process. If you wish to continue to receive the Central New York Division Red Markers Newsletter e-mail notice you will need to visit our website and click on the link at the top of the Newsletter page. You will then be prompted to enter all your information for our mailing list. All information will remain private and confidential and will not be shared or sold to any person and/or company. It will be used exclusively by the CNY Division to send Newsletter notices and other information, like division sponsored bus trips, about the CNY Division and the Northeastern Region NMRA.

After you have filled in your info on the registration page, you will then receive an automated confirmation email at the email address you used for registration. Just click on the link in the email and this will complete your registration process. You can revisit the registration page at any time to unsubscribe from the mailing list or you can even set up a profile so you can log in and update any of your info at any time.

We will continue to send notices via the old email list for the next 3 issues of the Red Markers Newsletter, while at the same time we will use the new email list to send the same duplicate notice. So during this overlap time of transition you will be receiving duplicate emails of the notices and info emails after you have signed up on the new list. If you do not sign-up on the new email list you will stop getting emails after the notice for the May 14th meeting.

The registration screen asks for email address, name, postal address, phone and NMRA number if you have one. The only required info needed is your email address. But it sure will make things a lot easier for us on this end if you at least include your name and possibly your phone number.

If you are currently still receiving the Red Markers via U.S. Postal mail, we ask that you please sign-up for the new email list to help us cut costs in this tight economy. Otherwise you need to do nothing and you will still continue to receive the Red Markers via U.S. Postal mail.

You can access the registration page directly at http://cnynmra.org/cgi-bin/mail.cgi if you wish, or just visit our website at http://cnynmra.org and click the Newsletter link in the menu bar at the top of the page.

Have 50 Model Railroading Clinics Right in Your Living Room.

Just because you can’t make it to a national convention doesn’t mean you have to miss out. Right now the NMRA’s Kalmbach Memorial Library has over 50 DVDs of clinics presented at national conventions from 2002 to 2010. Each is available for NMRA members to borrow for the cost of processing and postage.

You can see clinics on everything from decoders to design, tools to techniques, helices to highways, and research to resin casting.

All from the comfort of your very own couch.

Visit www.nmra.org and go to the Kalmbach Memorial Library page for a complete listing. Or call the Library at 423-894-8144.

Then, get that popcorn ready.

www.nmra.org
CNY LARGE-SCALE RWY SOCIETY TO HOLD FAMILY DAY

by Gordon Davis

“One of the regular activities of the Central New York Large-Scale Railway Society is sponsoring Family Train Days (FTD) at Burdick’s Driver’s Village. The next FTD is scheduled for Saturday, February 26, 2011. These events, held throughout the year, are focused on young families with children and represent one of the most satisfying occasions for our membership. The format is quite simple. We operate our multi-track layout with a mix of prototype and whimsical trains, usually with Thomas and Company. Many members bring loops of track and run on the floor for a hands-on experience for our little guests. These range from Brio to ‘N’ to ‘G’ with Standard Gauge as a new-comer. Recently, some of our visitors have brought their trains from home and have joined in the fun. We keep manageable hours; 10AM to 1PM and our rates are most reasonable…..it’s FREE!

You are invited to participate as well. Bring your trains to run. Bring your children, grand-children, neighborhood children, fellow modelers, or whomever for a great Saturday morning. We hope to see you there.

If you want to become a participant, e-mail me at gdavis4@twcny.rr.com and I’ll forward it on to the program coordinator.”
Area Model Railroad Groups:

**The Central New York Model Railroad Club:**
Fri., 8 to 10p at the Hartlot NY railroad station. Operation 1st Fri/month, visitors welcome anytime. Info: Russ Schiller at 315-638-4774

**The Syracuse Model Railroad Club:**
Wed. 7p at the layout in the Eastwood American Legion, James St., Syracuse. One business meeting monthly, others are work sessions. Info: Jim Beach at 315-437-6221.

**Salt City N-Trak, Ltd.:**
Meeting schedule / location t/b/a as the club is no longer located at the Eastwood American Legion. Operating 14’ x 42’ N-Trak modular layout which often tours.
Info: Rich Petitto at 315-437-2037.

**FUNTRAK:**
The Frankfort United N-Trak Model Railroad Club, Inc. meets at members homes, meetings are scheduled and posted in FUNTRAK’s newsletter each month about two months ahead of the actual meeting date. Info: Brian King at 315-292-7066 or Clay Farrall at 315-735-6268.

**Cayuga Valley Model Railroaders:**
Thur. 7:00p and on most Saturdays at 9:00a at the club at 3 East Genesee Street, Auburn, over Speno Music Store. Info: Call Bernard Watkins 315-283-2584, www.angelfire.com/ny5/cayugavalleymodelrr

**Oswego Valley Railroad Association:**
The group operates the Oswego Railroad Museum dedicated to the historic preservation of railroad history in the Oswego County area. Open Memorial Day to Labor Day on Sat, Sun and holidays Noon - 5pm. The museum is located in the city of Oswego at 56 West First St. The Oswego Railroad Museum Offers a 1950’s era 24’ x 36’ operating layout of the southern Oswego County area and an extensive railroad library. Contact Bill Nickolas at 315-342-0028, http://oswegorrmuseum.org

**Central New York Modelers:**
The CNYMOD group has moved to new quarters in the Museum of Science & Technology (The MOST) in Downtown Syracuse. Info: at www.cnymod.com or by calling President Bill Brown at 469-0135.

**Central New York Large-Scale Railway Society:**
Meets at Driver’s Village (the former Penn Can Mall), with a major layout under construction, www.cnylsrs.com. Info: Gordon H. Davis at 315-451-3199 or 492-8000, gdavis4@twcny.rr.com.

**The Bullthistle Model Railroad Society:**
Third Wed. of the month, 7:00 p.m. at their headquarters at 33 Rexford Street, Norwich, NY, and open Saturdays from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. and on special events... all in creating visual and operable multi-scale displays of historic railroading in Chenango County. Info: Elton and Anethma Ireland at (607) 334-4522 or club President, Philip Fairchild at (607) 847-8551, lpfair@frontiernet.net

**CNY NRHS Modular Group**
This group maintains O gauge and HO Scale modular layouts. Currently meeting 7 to 9 PM Thursday evenings at Shopping Town Mall in the Sears wing. NRHS membership is optional. Open to the public Sat. 12-5, Sun. 2-5. Info at http://www.jrjunction.com/cnynrhs or contact Phil Edwards at paedward@twcny.rr.com

**European Train Enthusiasts, CNY Chapter**
Round robin meetings. 'N' scale modular layout. Info: Gordon H. Davis at 315-451-3199 or 492-8000, gdavis4@twcny.rr.com

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### 2011 CNY Division Schedule

**FEBRUARY 27 (2 - 4 PM) - Syracuse Model RR Club Show, Syracuse, NY.**
Come early to the show and stay for the meeting to elect your officers for 2011 and watch train related videos.

**APRIL 10 (2 - 4 PM) - Op-Sig Sunday.**
Be sure to sign up at the Feb. 27 Division Meeting. We will operate on the layouts of Drew James, Dave Martini & Bernie Messenger.

**MAY 21, Bob Vickery, Baldwinsville, NY.**
Details are still being worked out, stay tuned.

**JUNE 12 (2-4 PM) - Railfan Day, Central Tractor Supply, East Syracuse, NY.**
Come enjoy a few hours of prototype train watching.

**AUGUST 20, SATURDAY (12 - 4PM) - Dick Martini, Solvay, NY.**
Our annual picnic and presentation of the 2011 MOW Service Award.

**SEPTEMBER 18 (2 - 4 PM) - Drew James, Baldwinsville, NY.**
Enjoy a nicely detailed layout set in the Pacific Northwest.

**OCTOBER 23 (2 - 4 PM) - Op-Sig Sunday.**
Meeting details are being finalized at this time. We will operate on the layouts of Dick Martini & Bernie Messenger.

**DECEMBER 3, SATURDAY (6 - 10PM) - Holiday Party.**
Details are TBD.
DIRECTIONS*:
• Take RT 690 to the Midler Ave Exit (#15).
• If you are coming from the west turn LEFT onto Midler. If coming from the east turn LEFT onto Burnett Ave then RIGHT onto Midler at the light.
• Turn RIGHT onto James Street then RIGHT onto Nichols Ave. Parking is on the street.

* As always, don’t take our word for it. Verify these directions for yourself.
MOW AWARD

It is that time of year again folks. Time to make your MOW Service Award nominations for a deserving Division member. Nominations are due by March 31, 2011 so don’t delay. Nominations may be made by US Postal mail or by e-mail to a committee member or Brian Curry, the current Division Superintendent. Any Division member in good standing, who has not received the award in the past, is eligible. All nominations are to include your phone number so that the nomination may be validated by the MOW Committee if needed. This year’s committee will be chaired by Martin Collard, the 2010 MOW Service Award recipient. The award will be presented at the 2011 annual Division picnic in August. Go to http://www.cnynmra.org/MOW_Award.html for more information.