VOLUME 42, NUMBER 02 APRIL 2024

RED MARKERS

NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTRAL NEW YORK DIVISION OF THE NORTHEASTERN REGION,
NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION, INC.
SERVING MODEL RAILROADERS IN AND AROUND CENTRAL NEW YORK STATE

NEXT MEETING . . .

SUNDAY APRIL 14, 2024 –
1:30 – 2:30 PM (NOTE EARLIER START TIME!)
DAVE MARTINI, 6943 SHANNON WAY, LIVERPOOL
2:45 – 4:00
DREW JAMES, 4762 LYNNVILLE WAY, CLAY

AT THIS MEETING AND IN THIS ISSUE . . .

HO Model Railroad: It has been quite some time since we last visited the CSX Northeast of Dave Martini. Dave has made a few additions to his plan (see page 6) and has done considerable scenic work since then, so we are looking forward to this visit to catch up. Dave will be open from 1:30 – 2:30 for layout visit.

Featured presentation: Dave doesn't have room for a meeting at his house, so after visiting his layout, we will make a 15 minute drive to **Drew James** garage for our meeting. Drew will present "A Train to the Great White North" about his trip to Moosonee on the Ontario Northland RR. We ran out of time for this in February. **Note: Please bring a chair to the meeting at Drew's.**

Raffle: We will have a raffle at this meeting. If you have unneeded items to donate, bring them as well.

This cold and snowy scene is on the Ontario Northland in Cochrane, Ontario. O&N 1808 is a GP38-2.
(Photo by Drew James)

The "Brass Hats"
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mlwithiam@yahoo.com

- APPOINTED -
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"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 be an NMRA member in good standing. Email notification is sent to all NMRA/NER Members residing in the geographic area of the CNY Division, and to any other members who identify as CNY Division members. If you do not have email or online capacity you may receive a US Mail edition of *Red Markers*.by contacting the Chief Clerk, who's name and address appear in The Brass Hats sidebar on this page.

PAYMASTER'S REPORT

24 January 2024 – 26 March 2024

BANK ACCOUNTS

Checking Balance as of 24 Jan 2024		$4,285.72
Total DEBITS for period	$77.65	
Total CREDITS for period	$450.56	
Checking Balance as of 26 Mar 2024		$4,658.63
Savings Balance as of 24 Jan 2024		$25.11
Total DEBITS for period	$0.00	
Total CREDITS for period	$0.02	
Savings Balance as of 26 Mar 2024		$25.13

EXPENSES

Name Badges	$77.65	
Total EXPENSES for the period		$77.65

INCOME

Raffle/Sales	$158.00	
NMRA/NER Dues Sharing	$52.56	
Ops 'til You Drop Reservations	$240.00	
Savings Interest	$0.02	
Total INCOME for the period		$450.58

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Withiam, Paymaster

Division Name Badges are available at no charge for the initial badge. **Badges are only available to CNY Division Members**. Replacement badges are $15.00. Contact **Andy Slaugh aslaugh1@verizon.net**

REMEMBER - Contact Chief Clerk Tom Lynch if you ever have trouble receiving your "Red Markers." Also, if you need to change your e-mail address or post office address drop the Clerk a line. The Division Chief Clerk's contact information is listed in "The Brass Hats" sidebar to the left.

Please have your articles and any items for "Loose Spikes" to us by the date listed below. Remember, EARLIER IS ALWAYS BETTER! Thanks for your support,

Ed & Ed.

Red Markers Publication Deadline
4/25/24

(Loose Spikes continued on page 4)

FROM THE FREIGHT SHED

DREW JAMES, SUPERINTENDENT

We had an excellent turnout for our annual meeting in February. I was pleased to see many people taking advantage of the swap meet and Ed Olszewski was able to cull the division's library a bit of unneeded material. I found it hard to keep in mind that the incredibly detailed vehicle models presented by Martin Collard were actually in HO scale!

A huge thank you to Charlie Albee and Mark Withiam; Charlie for his many years as service as our Paymaster and Mark for agreeing to take on the position. Charlie has agreed to stay on as Assistant Paymaster for the time being to help Mark transition and ensure that the division has multiple people able to make banking transactions.

We recently responded to a set of questions from the IRS regarding our 501c3 application and are back in wait mode.

I just got back from spending two days operating on several layouts in the Lakeshores Division as part of their "Ops Around the Clock" event. It was great fun and six of our division members participated. Most of the same layouts will be hosting sessions as part of this year's NER convention in Rochester so if you missed out you have another chance this year. Registration for the convention is open and I encourage you to take advantage of having the convention so close to home. So close, that several of our layouts will be open for operations and tours. Early registration puts you at the front of the line for getting your desired tours and op sessions.

Speaking of operations, Bill tells me that our upcoming "Ops 'Till You Drop" weekend is already full. That said, if you are interested in operations, I encourage you to reach out to the layout owners and let them know you are interested. A note to the division's email will also work.

It has been a long time since we last visited Dave Martini's "CSX Northeast" layout. Dave has been making steady progress and has even found a way to add a new switching area to the layout. You do not want to miss seeing this beautiful railroad.

Drew

DIVISION EXHIBIT AT SYRACUSE MAKER FAIRE

Saturday, May 4, 10-4:00
Horticultural Building, State Fair Grounds

This will be a different kind of event for us. It is not a train show. " Maker Faire is a gathering of fascinating, curious people who enjoy learning and who love sharing what they can do. From engineers, to artists, to crafters, Maker Faire is a venue for these "makers" to show hobbies, experiments, and projects." Google "Syracuse Maker Faire" to see what we and others will be presenting there.

We will invite attendees to switch cars on our Port of Oswego layout and share information about the layout, our hobby, and the NMRA. We will have some space for members to display models you have built , and maybe someone working on a model.

If you are interested in volunteering or displaying your model at this event, please sign up at the April 14 meeting or email Roger Beiswenger at rogerfbeis@gmail.com

Ken Cameron receives the first Superintendent's Service Award from Drew James for his work creating the new CNY Division website.

LOOSE SPIKES, *(Cont. from pg. 2)*

FUTURE CONVENTIONS:

NMRA NATIONAL CONVENTION

2024 Surfliner
Long Beach, CA
August 4 – 11, 2024
https://
surfliner2024.org

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!
Conventions.nernmra.org

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

FACEBOOK is a great place to post layout photos, ask questions, or seek information about the hobby and events.
There is an **NMRA** page, a **NORTHEASTERN REGION, NMRA** page, and **THE CENTRAL NY DIVISION OF THE NMRA** page. See what is happening all over the world in model railroading.

FOLLOW US ON X!@cnynmra

THE NMRA INTERCHANGE is a new place to ask questions, provide answers, post events, share ideas and make friends.
It is implemented as a Discord server.
Information on the NMRA members page
https://www.nmra.org/nmra-interchange

CNY DIVISION TOOL LOAN PROGRAM

Ed Olszewski, Division Storekeeper
and Member Aid Chair

The list of tools available for loan is on the CNY Division website in the "Tool Room" tab:
https://cnynmra.org/tool-room/

In summary, we have Fast Track HO and HOn3 turnout and crossover jigs, track spacing gauges, rock molds, HO camera car, a static grass applicator, and a speedometer useful for speed matching your DCC locomotives.

Send the Division Storekeeper an e-mail to cnynmra@gmail.com with the words "Tool Loan" in the subject line, listing the tool(s) you wish to borrow.

We would like to continue to add to the Divion store. If you have tools you no longer need and would like to donate them to the, contact the Storekeeper and let him know what you have to donate.

OPS 'TIL YOU DROP

April 27 & 28, 2024
Central NY Division

SCALE TRAINS ROAD TRIP!

The Scale Trains Road Trip is coming to the Central New York Model Railroad Club & Historical Society on Thursday May 2, 2024

4986 Jordan Rd. Elbridge, NY 13060

From The Dispatcher's Desk

The Canadian – Vancouver to Toronto

Several members of the CNY Division along with spouses rode the VIARAIL Canada "Canadian" from Vancouver, BC to Toronto, ON in February. I think I speak for all involved in recommending this very highly to any and all. The train and rooms were very comfortable, the food was excellent, and the scenery magnificent. In particular, traveling at this time of year, the train was not crowded. The trade-off to this is that in the Summer there would be more daylight, so more views of the scenery. But as you can see from Bill Brown's accompanying photos, there was no shortage of great views.

Ed

CSX Northeast - Surprise Phone Call Leads to Layout Expansion

By Dave Martini

Layout ownership is a continuous search for those last few inches of space to squeeze in one more track, building or road that will improve the layout. Negotiations with the land-owner (AKA "spouse") require diplomacy, tact, and, sometimes, luck. Kelly and I became empty nesters in 2020 (the daughters got their own places), and it was time for updating and remodeling our home. After negotiations regarding paint color, trim, fixtures (AKA "wife decisions"), Bill, a trusted contractor who has worked for us previously, arrived bright and early one Monday morning. My only concern was that much of the plumbing work had to be done over the finished Fairport Harbor section of the layout. Bill assured me that there would be minimal or no damage to the layout, so construction began.

Fast forward 2 weeks, while at work I received a call from the wife; "You have to talk to Bill, there is an issue." No surprise since there is always some "issue" during construction.

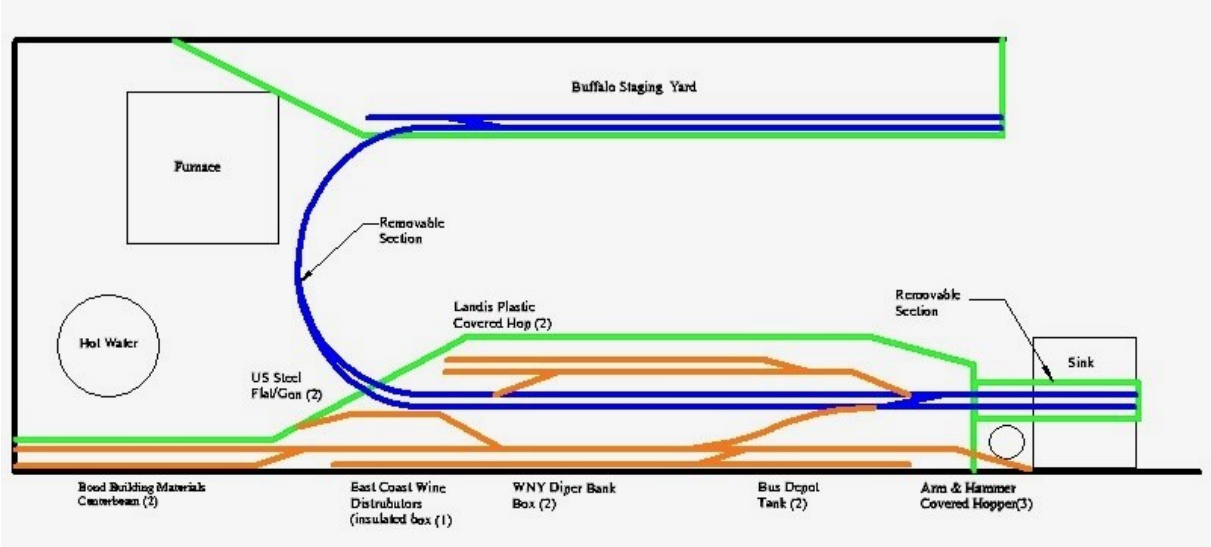
Bill; "There is a problem with the plumbing over the train bridges, it's tough to describe, can you come home at lunch to take a look?" Dave; "I'll be there in 20 minutes."

I arrive home, Bill is on a ladder over Fairport Harbor working on the plumbing. "Dave, come over here and look at this." We move to the other side of the wall, and he points to the washing machine and dryer; "Kelly and I decided these are moving upstairs so this space will be free for trains, but I'll have to change the plumbing over those bridges." Dave: "**YES!** and what is taking so long?" The washer and dryer are soon upstairs and there is now space for layout expansion. But what to model?

This new section of the layout would have to connect with the existing layout from the Buffalo staging Yard Track #1. This drives the decision to model an industrial area south of Buffalo. Over the next few weeks several track plans were drawn up on napkins, scraps of paper, whiteboards, etc. I finally settled on a workable plan and modeled the space and plan to scale with autocad.

As shown by the plan, (see below) the furnace/hot water heater and the utility sink are inaccessible, so the curved switch lead from Buffalo staging Track #1 to the main track is removable. After careful consideration, enough room with a 50% margin was left to service both appliances when the lift out sections are removed. The section above the sink is also removable. (See photos, page 7.)

Operationally, a local departs Buffalo staging, travels a short distance into a small working yard (really a passing siding), works the local industries and ends its day parking outbound cars on the siding. One of the benefits of Buffalo staging is that both CSX and NS trains service the area, allowing for a short interchange track to supply cars while keeping the local relatively short (3-5 cars).

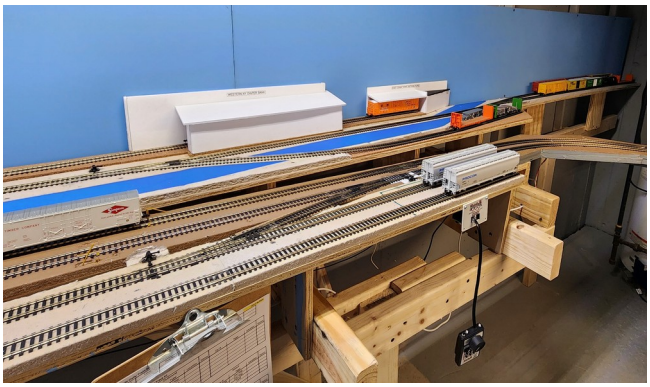


(Continued on Page 7)

CSX Northeast Expansion

(continued from Page 6)

All photos by Dave Martini



Are You a Model Railroader?
Are You a Modeler?
Are You Pursuing a STEAM Degree?

Apply for the

New Tracks Modeling Mentoring Scholarship

A unique scholarship focused to Model Railroaders and other modelers pursuing a STEAM related college degree or technical school credential.

Offering three (3) $2,000 scholarships for the 2024-2025 academic year.

Deadline for applications is July 1, 2024

To learn more, get an application, or make a donation, scan the QR code or visit:
www.newtracksmodeling.com/scholarship
Questions? E-mail us at:
NTMMS@newtracksmodeling.com

NEW TRACKS MODELING
MENTORING SCHOLARSHIP

Drew runs the City of San Francisco on Peter Darling's spectacular SP Donner Pass layout, which will be on tour during the Lakeshores 24 Convention in September. Don't miss it!

(Photo by Ed O'Rourke)

NMRA's Partnership Program

Partnership Program

The NMRA Partnership Program is a member benefit that truly has a tangible payback. We've partnered with model railroad manufacturers of all sizes, giving them exposure on our website in return for receiving generous discounts for NMRA members all year long. Some provide members with special codes, others prefer a phone or email order, but all appreciate the additional business from our members. And of course, our members appreciate the extra savings...savings that can actually pay the cost of NMRA membership!

Area Model Railroad Groups:

The Central New York Model Railroad Club and Historical Society: 4986 Jordan Rd. Elbridge NY 13060. Sun; 1:00 PM or by appt. New members and visitors are always welcome, $5 donation is suggested over 18. Starting scenery on the new layout. cnymrrc22@gmail.com www.facebook.com/Central New York Model Railroad Club & Historical Society

Salt City N-Trak, Ltd.:
Meeting schedule / location TBA. N-TRAK modular layout which often tours. Info: www.facebook.com/saltcityntrak or email SaltCityNTRAK@gmail.com

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.
http://funtrak.net

Cayuga Valley Model Railroad Club:
Wed. 7:00PM at the club at 245 Genesee St, Auburn. Info: Call Tom Way 585-369-8403. www.facebook.com/cayugavalleymodelrailroader www.cayugavalley.weeby.com tmaway@frontier.net

Oswego Valley Railroad Association:
The group sponsors several train shows in Oswego County. Contact Charles Hewitt thepartstruck@gmail.com On FaceBook @ Oswego Valley Railroad Assoc.

Central New York Modelers:
CNYMOD Info: at www.cnymod.com or by contacting President **Andy Rezsnyak** at 440-4511 or e-mail cny187@gmail.com.

Central New York Large-Scale Railway Society:
Meets at Driver's Village, where they have an extensive layout. http://cnylsrs.net. Info: **John McCumber** at jmccumbe@twcny.rr.com.

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

CNYNRHS Model Railroad Group
This group maintains a O Gauge high-rail scale modular layout in wareroom behind JR Junction Train & Hobby, 2716 Erie Blvd. E., Syracuse New York 13224. Currently meeting 7:00-9:00pm most Thursday evenings. It is recommended to call ahead at 315-451-6551. More information: www.cnynrhs.org or E-Mail modelrr@cnynrhs.org

European Train Enthusiasts, CNY Chapter
Round robin meetings. 'N' scale modular layout, Info: **Tom Lynch** at 315-762-2777, tommy1@me.com or @UpstateNYETE on FaceBook

2024 CNY Division Schedule

Meetings 2-4 PM unless otherwise noted!

Saturday Jan. 20, 2024
12:00 – 4:00PM
Banquet – Theodore's, Canastota

Sunday February 25
Annual Meeting – Bob Davidson
"Exhibits and More," Liverpool

Mon – Thur. March 18–22
NERX

Sunday April 14
Dave Martini, Liverpool
Drew James, Clay
Details in this issue

Sat/Sun April 27&28
Ops 'til You Drop

Sunday May 19
Tom and Ben Lynch, Camillus

SaturdayJuly 20 12 – 4 PM
Division Picnic – Drew James

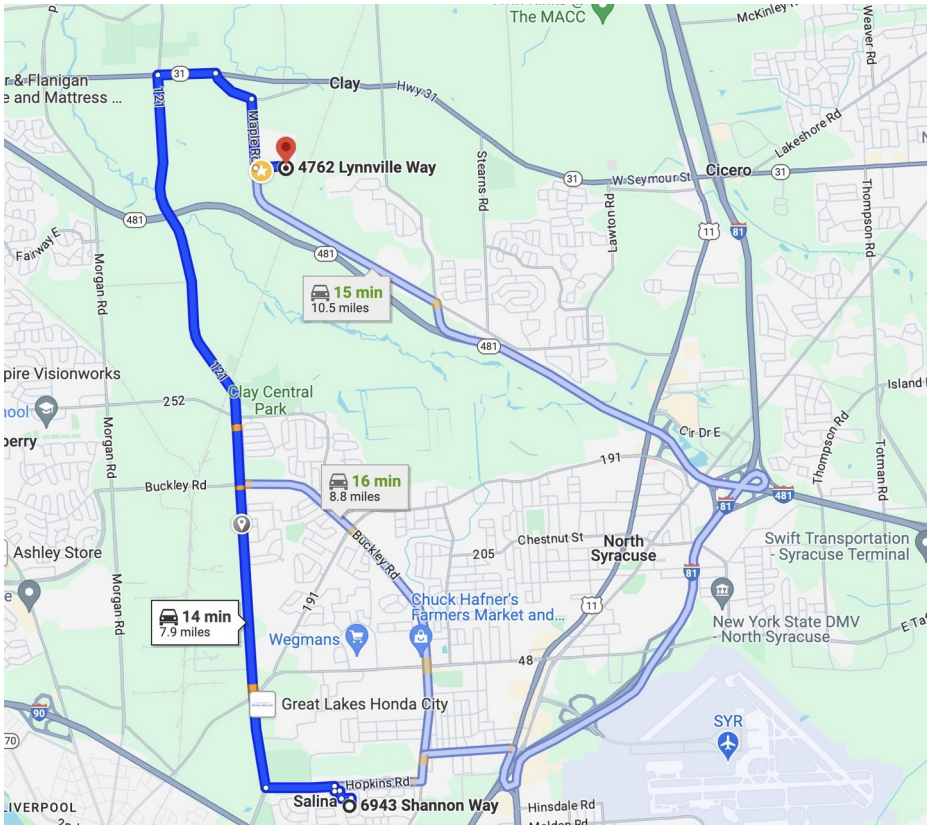
Sunday August 18 3-5 PM
Train Watching – Tractor Supply

Sept. 19 -22
NER Convention – Rochester

Sunday October 6
CNYNRHS – Central Sq. Station

Sat/Sun November 2&3
Great NYS Train Fair

Sunday Nov. 17
Rick Mniece, Cicero



Plan to get to Dave Martini's starting at 1:30 to tour his layout. Then hop in the car and make the 15 minute drive up to Drew James for the meeting by 3:00 PM. Note that Drew's layout will **NOT** be open at the meeting.

Central New York Division, NMRA
Red Markers News Letter
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