VOLUME 42, NUMBER 03 MAY 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 MAY 19, 2024 – 2:00 – 4:00
TOM AND BEN LYNCH,
1031 WHEATFIELD WAY, CAMILLUS, NY 13031

AT THIS MEETING AND IN THIS ISSUE . . .

N-Scale Model Railroad: It has been quite some time since we last visited the BD Kaiserslautern of Tom and Ben Lynch. Tom and Ben model the West German Railways in the 1970's. Parking is on the street. Watch for children playing. Bring a folding chair for the meeting.

Round-Robin Clinic: This meeting will feature a series of short clinics by several Division members.

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

Neuhemsbach Station *(Photo by Tom Lynch)*

The "Brass Hats"
CENTRAL NEW YORK
DIVISION
- ELECTED -
Superintendent
Drew James
4262 Lynville Way
Clay, NY 13041
(315) 430-3440
domerdrew@gmail.com
Asst. Superintendent
Rick Mniece
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Cicero, NY 13039
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rmniece@gmail.com
Chief Clerk
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(315) 762-2777
tommyl@me.com
Paymaster
Mark Withiam
4404 Limeledge Road
Marcellus, NY 13108
607-591-7812
mlwithiam@yahoo.com

- APPOINTED -
NMRA Achievement Program Representative
Dave Martini
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Liverpool, NY 13088
(315) 457-7437
martinikelly1966@gmail.com
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Division Storekeeper
Ed Olszewski
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eolszew1@gmail.com
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6002 Singletree Lane
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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

26 March 2024 – 30 April 2024

BANK ACCOUNTS

Checking Balance as of 26 Mar 2024		$4,658.63
Total DEBITS for period	$26.88	
Total CREDITS for period	$160.00	
Checking Balance as of 30 Apr 2024		$4,791.75
Savings Balance as of 26 Mar 2024		$25.13
Total DEBITS for period	$0.00	
Total CREDITS for period	$0.02	
Savings Balance as of 30 Apr 2024		$25.15

EXPENSES

Red Markers Newsletter	$26.88	
Total EXPENSES for the period		$26.88

INCOME

Raffle/Sales	$70.00	
Ops 'til You Drop Reservations	$90.00	
Savings Interest	$0.02	
Total INCOME for the period		$160.02

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
7/1/24

(Loose Spikes continued on page 4)

FROM THE FREIGHT SHED

DREW JAMES, SUPERINTENDENT

I am pleased to announce that after a couple of years of effort, the division is now officially a 501c3! Many thanks to Tom Lynch and Mark Withiam who finally got us over the finish line.

As I write this, the division just finished hosting another successful weekend of "Ops 'Til You Drop." Bill Brown does a great job of organizing this fun event for (can you believe it) 10 years! We had close to 40 guests participate including several from our division. Thank you Bill, Dick Hehir, Dave Martini, and Bob Vickery for opening their homes and layouts as well as their many helpers. This is always one of my favorite events of the year. It is so much fun to see the CS&P come to life as well as welcome back old friends. Do not be afraid to give operations a try as it is one of the many joys of our great hobby. Nothing is better than the combination of friends and trains.

I am excited to have recently completed the NMRA's Achievement Program requirements to become a Master Model Railroader (MMR) as this was a goal I set for myself a few years back. However, it did not start out that way. Over ten years ago I earned my first AP Certificate ("Chief Dispatcher") with Dave Martini's encouragement. I remember thinking "this is kind of cool maybe I can earn another one or two." Since I had a running layout (very modest in size and scope) it was not too difficult to earn the Electrical and Scenery certificates and I quickly had three certificates and started to think that maybe earning 7 was possible in my lifetime. "Volunteer" and "Author" were not too hard as they sort of fell out of my normal activities in the hobby – I just had to document my work. My sixth AP was "Civil Engineering." It turned out that I had met most of the requirements in building my current layout except for scratch building some track work which kind of scared me. However, the jigs the division owns made that achievable with a few months' worth of work during the pandemic. That left the dreaded "Cars" AP. It is a long story I will not go into here, but I almost gave up – more than once. I am not a very good detailed scratch builder and patience is not my long suit. However, with plenty of encouragement from Bill, Dave, Ed, Bob, and others I finally got there after two years. After several dead ends and much frustration, I found I could be successful by going slow, limiting the time I spent on the models each day, and setting micro goals – e.g."Today will be a good day if I can just get four grab irons on this one car."

My point of this story is not to brag or encourage everyone to try to become an MMR. However, I encourage you to try to achieve one or two AP certificates and then see where it takes you. I learned a lot on my journey and I know you will as well. If you have any questions on the AP program reach out to Dave Martini.

I look forward to seeing you this month at Tom and Ben Lynch's. You don't want to miss their beautiful unique layout – when was the last time you saw an N scale layout set in West Germany in the 1970s?

Drew

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.

TRAINS, TRUCKS, AND TRACTORS

Saturday, June 15, 2024
Homeville Museum
Rt. 11, Homer, NY

Contact Roger Beiswenger rogerfbeis@gmail.com if you can help staff the layout and information table.

From The Dispatcher's Desk

Maker Faire - The division Port of Oswego switching layout paid a visit to the Maker Faire at the Fairgrounds. It was an interesting event, including everything from sewing, candle making, and Morris Dancers to laser cutting and 3D printing, drones, rockets and a lot of Star Wars. Division members staffing the layout included Roger Beiswenger, Drew James, Tom Lynch, Ben Lynch, Ed O'Rourke, Bob Pletl, Bob Verkuyl, and Mark Withiam. Ed, Bob and Mark contributed models for display. We certified a few engineers as well.

Another Successful Ops 'Til You Drop

The Division's 10th Ops 'Til You Drop ran April 27-28. This year's layout hosts were Bill Brown, Dick Hehir, Drew James, Dave Martini, and Bob Vickery. At right, Dick explains how the B&A works in Westfield, MA.

(Rich Shopland photo)

More Ops 'Til You Drop

Above, Dave Insley follows a train through Red Cliff, while John Flemming and Ed O'Connell do some switching in Leadville. *(Bill Brown photos)* Below, Mark Withiam and James Lauser run Nelson Yard, Mark Herrick and Don Irace figure out the Castlegar Turn, as a coal train makes its way past Nelson Station. *(Ed O'Rourke photo*

(Continued on Page 7)

Top, Ben Keltz has Canada to himself as he works the Kettle Falls switcher. Middle, the railfans on the Nelson Station platform get a thrill as the Dispatcher has arranged a meet between a manifest freight and a coal drag. Below, Ned Spiller waits for his train to head into Castlegar. *(Ed O'Rourke photos)*

Greg Brockway manages a cut of cars in Mintern Yard. *(Bill Brown photo)*

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

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New Tracks Modeling Mentoring Scholarship

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Questions? E-mail us at:
NTMMS@newtracksmodeling.com

NEW TRACKS MODELING
MENTORING SCHOLARSHIP

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

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

Sunday May 19
Tom and Ben Lynch, Camillus
Details in this issue

SaturdayJuly 20 12 – 4 PM
Division Picnic – Drew James

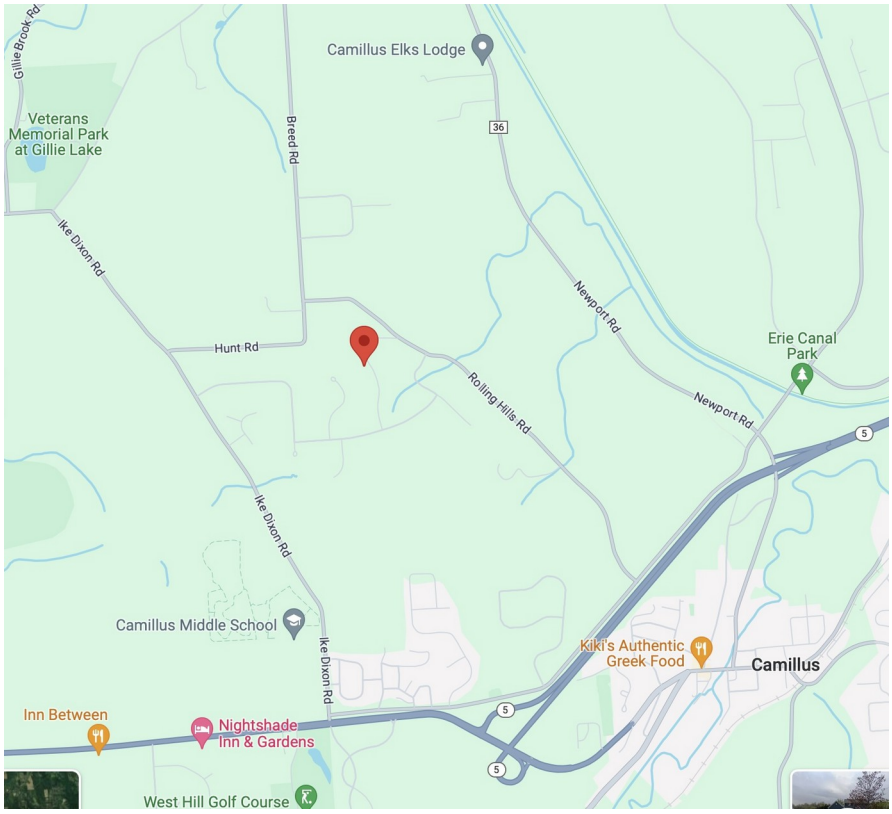
Sunday August 18 3-5 PM
Train Watching – Tractor Supply

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



Tom and Ben Lynch, 1031 Wheatfield Way, Camillus, NY 13031

The Lynch home is in the Syracuse suburbs west of the village of Camillus, off NYS Rte. 5.

As always use your own GPS to find the best route.

Central New York Division, NMRA
Red Markers News Letter
5193 Pointe East Drive
Jamesville NY 13078