VOLUME 42, NUMBER 05 SEPTEMBER 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 MEETINGS . . .

CENTRAL SQUARE STATION MUSEUM
SUNDAY OCTOBER 6, 2024 – 2:00 – 4:00 PM
132 RAILROAD STREET, CENTRAL SQUARE, NY 13036

AT THIS MEETING AND IN THIS ISSUE . . .

Railroad Station Museum: The Central Square Museum was once jointly operated as a depot for the New York, Ontario & Western and New York Central railroads. There are both indoor and outdoor exhibits. Our hosts for this meeting, the Central New York Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society has undertaken the arduous task of restoring the depot to its original appearance inside and out. The finished project is presenting what the rail age gave to the community and serves as a rail museum, library and public meeting space. The museum is coordinated by Stationmaster Harvey Harke, and for years had been a project of the late Stationmaster Bob Townsend, Bob's late wife Judy, and the late Bob Kline.

Model Railroad: 12" = 1 foot railroading is on display. There might be an appearance by a CSX freight on the Montreal Secondary line.

Division Meeting: There will be a sign up sheet for Volunteers to staff the Division tables and layout at the Train Fair November 2 and 3. Let Roger Beiswenger (rogerfbeis@gmail.com) know if you are able to help out.

Clinic: Walter Haner will present **"Exploring Donner Pass."**

The "Brass Hats"
CENTRAL NEW YORK DIVISION
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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.

PAYMASTER'S REPORT

8 July 2024 – 24 September 2024

BANK ACCOUNTS

Checking Balance as of 8 Jul 2024		$2,054.62
Total DEBITS for period	$362.55	
Total CREDITS for period	$235.59	
Checking Balance as of 24 Sep 2024		$1,927.66
Savings Balance as of 8 Jul 2024		$1,525.85
Total DEBITS for period	$1,500.00	
Total CREDITS for period	$0.97	
Savings Balance as of 24 Sep 2024		$25.13
Share Certificate (CD) Balance as of 8 Jul 2024		$1,000.55
Total DEBITS for period	$0.00	
Total CREDITS for period	$1,510.19	
Share Certificate (CD) Balance as of 24 Sep 2024		$2,510.74
EXPENSES		
Picnic	$178.52	
Train/Hobby Show Outreach	$20.00	
Ops 'til You Drop	$135.59	
Red Markers Newsletter	$13.44	
Miscellaneous	$15.00	
Total EXPENSES for the period		$362.55
INCOME		
Donations	$100.00	
Ops 'til You Drop Reservations	$135.59	
Savings/Share Certificate Interest	$11.16	
Total INCOME for the period		$246.75

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 have trouble receiving your "Red Markers," need to change your e-mail or post office address.

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
11/1/24

(Loose Spikes continued on page 4)

FROM THE FREIGHT SHED

DREW JAMES, MMR, SUPERINTENDENT

I am writing this column the day after I returned from the NER convention "Lakeshores24" held in Rochester. Wow! It was so much fun! I was pleased to see so many of you there. I believe we had 21 members registered which was a great showing. Several of our attendees were at their first convention.

At the awards breakfast, Bill Brown said that you know it is a great convention when you simply can't do everything you would like to do. I felt that way as well as there were so many fun activities to chose from. The four days were a whirlwind of clinics, layout visits, op sessions, visits to rail museums, a train excursion, and many other activities. In addition to delicious food, the banquet had an amazing speaker discussing the rail scene in Western and Central New York. Bill did a great job hosting the Sunday morning awards breakfast.

Congratulations to Bill, Dick Hehir, and Jeff Paston on their winning entries in the contest room.

It isn't just the model railroaders having fun. At the awards breakfast Sunday morning, the division wives in attendance ditched their husbands and all sat together so they could talk about something other than trains while they ate (really, I guess if you try hard enough there are other things to talk about. (Who knew?). I spotted them going around the room "rescuing" the wives from other divisions as well.

I know I keep repeating myself when I encourage you all to try out an NER convention. They are a great bang for the buck and simply a blast. Next year the convention will be in beautiful Concord, New Hampshire. Karel and I are planning to make a trip out of it and spend time in beautiful northern New England before or after the convention. My NER friends tell me September is the best time to visit as school is back in session, but it isn't leaf season yet so there are no crowds. Sounds good to me.

Also, next year's national convention is closer than it has been in years in Novi, Michigan – about a six-hour drive from Syracuse – and the hosts have worked hard to keep it affordable. If you have considered going to a national, this would be a good one to try.

Drew

Built in 1916 for New York State Railways' Syracuse lines. (NYS Railways reorganized in 1939 as Syracuse Transit Company.) Number 1036 operated until the final day of streetcar service in Syracuse January 4, 1941. The DeMichele family purchased the streetcar for use at their camp in Lakeport, and later donated it to the Plank Road Historical Society of North Syracuse for restoration in 1988. Spaghetti Warehouse Restaurant purchased it in 1994 and placed it in storage. After deciding not to use it in 1996, the restaurant donated the car back to the Plank Road Historical Society, which displayed it as a traveling trolley "museum." The Plank Road Historical Society donated the 1036 to the CNY NRHS in 2006. Come and see it at our meeting.

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

FUTURE CONVENTIONS:

STATION No. VI
2025 NMRA NATIONAL CONVENTION
July14 -19 -- Novi, Michigan

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!
HTTPS://NMRA2025.COM

The 2025 NMRA Convention is seeking clinicians. Anyone interested in presenting at the National – this one is a reasonable day's drive – let Ed O'Rourke know, and I will forward your information to Andrew Keeney, the Chair.

THE 2025 NER CONVENTION

is in Concord, NH September 11 – 14, 2025, hosted by Seacoast Division.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

FOLLOW US ON X!@cnynmra

MODEL TRAIN FAIR 2024 HOURS
Saturday, Nov. 2: 10AM-5PM
Sunday, Nov. 3: 10AM-4PM

MODEL TRAIN FAIR 2024 ADMISSION
All Adults (16 & over): **$15**
All Children (15 & under): **FREE**
Tickets are sold at the door. No advance sale available.

FREE PARKING
There is plenty of free parking at the fairgrounds!

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 Division 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.

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.

From The Dispatcher's Desk

What can the Division Library do for you?

The Division's research library is once again available for your use. We are fortunate to house a wide range of research material in the library. Here are some examples of resources the library offers for member use.

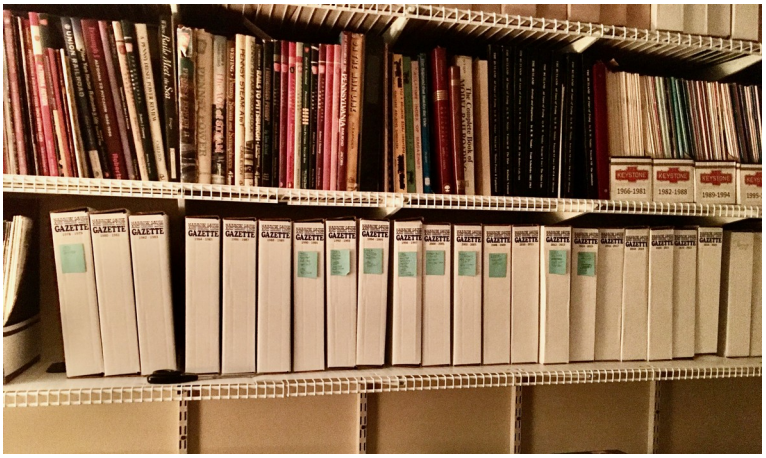
The library has a complete collection of ***Model Railroader*** from issue 1 through 2022. There is a nearly complete collection of ***Railroad Model Craftsman*** magazines from the early 1950's through September 2024. Both magazine archives are loaded with how-to articles, prototype plans and much more.

For those interested in logging or narrow-gauge railroading, the library contains a complete collection of ***Narrow Gauge and Short Line Gazette*** to provide answers to your modeling and prototype questions. There is also a rather substantial collection of ***Timber Beast*** and ***Timber Line*** magazines to help quench your thirst for logging knowledge. Closer to home, the library houses an extensive set of reference books on railroading in the Adirondack Mountains of NY.

Thanks to the family of our late member Mike Shanahan, the library has a large collection of books on the Pennsylvania Railroad including a large collection of ***Keystone*** Magazines. There are books on the Lackawanna, Erie Lackawanna, railroads in the Catskill Mountains, New York, Ontario & Western and many others.

Due to the delicate condition and/or rarity of the materials, none of the research material is available to take out. Instead scans of the pertinent text and drawings will be provided to you at no charge. It is important that you should understand that all material is covered by copyrights and can only be used for your own personal use and cannot be republished without first receiving permission of the copyright holder. If your research is intended for a clinic, magazine article of some other form of electronic or printed media, we will provide a scan of the copyright notice to assist you with gaining permission to use the material.

The library is a Division Member benefit free to use. Division Member Aid Chair Ed Olszewski can provide more detail on specific library holdings. You can submit your requests to Ed at cnynmra@gmail.com with Library Request in the subject line.



THE NEXT GENERATION OF MODELERS Ben Lynch runs the CS&P Dispatcher's panel while Rick Mniece's Grandson Kellen studies the moves.

Division Picnic hosted by Karel and Drew James *(Three photos above and right by Roger Beiswenger.)*

The "Fab Four" appear on an N-scale module at the National Convention.

THE JIM HEIDT MOW AWARD presented to Drew James at the Division Picnic by former Superintendent and previous awardee Bob Verkuyl.

Rapid Transit fans will recognize this 1932 J.G. Brill product as similar to the Philadelphia and Western "Bullet" cars. Interestingly enough, it was originally built for the Fonda, Johnstown and Gloversville in New York and ran there until 1939, when it went to the Bamberger Railroad running between Salt Lake City and Ogden, UT until 1952. It is now at the Southern California Railroad Museum in Perris, CA. *(Ed O'Rourke photo)*

(Two photos by Ed O'Rourke)

Current ***RMC*** editor Otto Vondrak and former editor Tony Koester at the Lakeshores24 Convention.

RAILROAD MUSEUM OF PENNSYLVANIA

By Mark Withiam – photos by the author

Carolyn and I recently made a railfan visit to the **Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania** (RMP) in Strasburg, PA. Prior to our visit I had perused their very good website https://www.rrmuseumpa.org/ extensively and planned what I wanted to see.

The RMP has an indoor "Rolling Stock Hall" and an "Outdoor Yard". The *Our Trains* page on the website https://www.rrmuseumpa.org/our-trains lists all the items on exhibit by category and does a nice job building expectations.

The Rolling Stock Hall is expansive and features locomotives and rolling stock of all types. The locomotive displays are dominated by steam and while I am not a steam locomotive buff by any stretch of the imagination, a couple oof locomotives really caught my eye. One was the Virginia & Truckee Railroad "Tahoe" built in 1875 by Baldwin. What made an impression on me was the size difference of this locomotive compared with the locomotive behind it built in the 1930's. (Photo top right) Also, assuming that some or all the drive train parts are original, the casting and machining that was accomplished in the 1870's really impressed me.

The other steam locomotive that I thought interesting is the Heisler No. 111 "Fireless" Steam Locomotive owned by the Bethlehem Steel Company. (Photo middle right) Instead of having a firebox, boiler and smoke box sections, these locomotives had a big pressure vessel that was filled with steam produced elsewhere. This loco is an 0-4-0 built in 1941 and was used for industrial switching. I had never heard or read about locomotives like this, but I can imagine a factory like Bethlehem Steel with a steam plant for driving machinery and providing heat filling up a locomotive like this for local yard work.

The Rolling Stock Hall also had some other exhibits related to railroading. One of note was the large Centralized Train Control (CTC) Panel once used on the Reading RR. (Photo lower right) While little effort has been made to restore the panel, it is easy to discern the scale of railroad operations it controlled.

Another interesting feature was the pit under one of the steam locomotives that gave a simplistic description of maintenance items and parts of the underside of a locomotive. You can see the pit in the center of the photo on the home page of the website.

Unfortunately, the Outdoor Yard was closed the day of our visit due to heavy rain the day before and standing water throughout the yard. This was disappointing as there were five pieces in the yard I really wanted to see in person. I had also thought there might be access to the restoration shop, which would have made the trip worthwhile by itself.

On the day of our visit there were no RMP personnel on the floor to ask questions about any of the equipment. All the equipment was roped off. There were a few passenger cars that had platforms so you could look in the windows, but no platforms at any of the locomotives to view into the cabs. It is hard to see any detail or controls in a cab that is six or more feet in the air. In many cases the amount of information about a piece of equipment was more detailed on the website than on the plaques at the piece, but obviously, seeing the equipment in person provides scale. The full-size diesel locomotive simulator was not operating, so I will have to be content operating my diesels at HO scale.

The Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania was worth the trip. If ever I am close by again and the weather has been good, I would stop by to get access to the Outdoor Yard. If you can't visit the Museum, going through the *Our Trains* page on the website is time well spent.

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

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
DETAILS IN THIS ISSUE

SAT/SUN NOVEMBER 2&3
Great NYS Train Fair

SUNDAY NOV. 17
Rick Mniece, Cicero

NEXT MEETING
Central Square Railroad Museum
October 6, 2024 2:00 – 4:00 PM

3 – foot Narrow Gauge 0 - 4 - 0 #3 is on display

This 18-ton locomotive was built in September 1922 by Vulcan Iron Works of Wilkes-Barre PA. It was owned by the General Crushed Stone Company and used at its quarry in LeRoy, near Rochester. After being retired from service, the locomotive sat unused for many years before the company donated it to the CNY NRHS. It was moved to Central Square in November 1995 and cosmetically restored.

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