VOLUME 43, NUMBER 01 FEBRUARY 2025

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 FEBRUARY 23, 2025 2:00 – 4:00 PM
BOB DAVIDSON
EXHIBITS AND MORE
7843 GOGUEN DRIVE, LIVERPOOL

AT THIS MEETING AND IN THIS ISSUE . . .

Division Business: Election of Officers for 2025 will be in order.

Featured presentations: Dave Martini will present a clinic on building structures from foam core board.

Swap Meet: Most of us have too much stuff, much of which we will never use, and which takes up space we could use to store new stuff. Bring your stuff and sell or trade it to another member for his spouse to complain about. The Division will have items for sale as well, and there will also a raffle. Bring your cash!

Old meets new, as NY Central switcher 6721 meets Amtrak's Eastbound Maple Leaf at Utica Union Station on a cold and snowy January 19, 2025. A reminder that railroading is an all-weather business.
(Ed O'Rourke photo)

The "Brass Hats"
CENTRAL NEW YORK DIVISION
- ELECTED -
Superintendent
Drew James, MMR
4262 Lynville Way
Clay, NY 13041
(315) 430-3440
domerdrew@gmail.com
Asst. Superintendent
Rick Mniece
6291 Wooderton Path
Cicero, NY 13039
(315) 699-6668
rmniece@gmail.com
Chief Clerk
Tom Lynch
1031 Wheatfield Way
Camillus, NY 13031
(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
6943 Shannon Way
Liverpool, NY 13088
(315) 457-7437
martinikelly1966@gmail.com
NMRA Member Aid Chairman
Division Storekeeper
Ed Olszewski
(315) 488-4193
eolszew1@gmail.com
Division Clinic Coordinator
Bill Brown, MMR
6002 Singletree Lane
Jamesville, NY 13078
(315) 454-2516
larcproducts@yahoo.com
Train Show Coordinator
Roger Beiswenger
16 Canterbury Road
New Hartford, NY 13413
(315) 735-2145
rogerfbeis@gmail.com
Assistant Paymaster
Charlie Albee
215 Falls Blvd
Chittenango, NY 13037
(315) 687-3282
m.c.albee1948@gmail.com

Red Markers Co-Editors
Ed Olszewski and
Ed O'Rourke, MMR
5193 Pointe East Drive
Jamesville, NY 13078
(315) 247-0494
eolszew1@gmail.com
edwardorourke1@me.com

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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

24 October 2024 – 31 January 2025

BANK ACCOUNTS		
Checking Balance as of 24 Oct 2024		$1,918.34
Total DEBITS for period	$1,469.15	
Total CREDITS for period		$1,464.00
Checking Balance as of 31Jan 2025		$1,913.19
Savings Balance as of 24 Oct 2024		$26.85
Total DEBITS for period	$0.00	
Total CREDITS for period		$0.38
Savings Balance as of 31 Jan 2025		$27.23
Share Certificate (CD) Balance as of 24 Oct 2024		$2520.13
Total DEBITS for period	$0.00	
Total CREDITS for period		$25.47
Share Certificate (CD) Balance as of 31 Jan 2025		$2545.60

EXPENSES		
Name Badges	$32.31	
Banquet	$1,225.00	
Train/Hobby Show Outreach	$47.21	
Red Markers Newsletter	$13.84	
Miscellaneous	$135.79 - 1	
Total EXPENSES for the period		$1,449.15

1. New projector and laser pointer.

INCOME		
Raffle/Sales	$89.00	
Division Sales	$300.00	
Donations	$60.00	
Banquet Reservations	$1000.00	
Savings/Share Certificate Interest	$25.85	
Miscellaneous	$15.00 - 2	
Total INCOME for the period		$1,489.85

2. Payment for member lost name badge.

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
3/10/25

(Loose Spikes continued on page 4)

FROM THE FREIGHT SHED

DREW JAMES, MMR, SUPERINTENDENT

Let me start with a big thank you to Rick Mniece, Mark Withiam, and Bill Brown for organizing our annual banquet and program. The most important benefit of the NMRA for me, and most of you, is getting together with friends to enjoy fellowship and talk trains. We had 49 members and guests attend the banquet – the largest turnout in recent memory.

Last weekend I was at the Amherst Railroad Hobby Show, better known locally as the "Springfield Show." I was pleased to see many of our members in attendance. All my Christmas gift money is now spent, but I have some new equipment for the CS&P as well as materials for a couple of new projects to get me through the winter. It is fun to catch up with many friends from the region who I typically see twice a year – at Springfield and the NER convention.

Ed Olszewski and I attended the board meeting of the NMRA on the day before the show started. We did not have any business before the board, besides discussing our 2028 convention plans during breaks with individual directors, and we mostly listened. Before the board meeting started, the NMRA president, Gordy Robinson, welcomed the dozen or so members who, like us, were in attendance to listen, and asked us each to introduce ourselves. The meeting was very much focused on rapidly getting through a lengthy agenda and Gordy did a good job of keeping the meeting on track. As I get to know some of the officers and board members at National, it has really hit home that they are just volunteers trying to run a 15,000+ member organization in their spare time as a service to a hobby they love. It is also amazing to think that our president is from Scotland and one of the board members is from Australia.

The CNYMRR Club in Elbridge will be hosting for the first time a winter train show on February 15th and 16th at the Mattydale VFW. This show replaces the one that the Syracuse club hosted for many years. Please attend and support the club as it builds its new layout in the Hartlot NYC Station. (Details on page 4.)

I hope to see you at the annual meeting. Many thanks to Bob Davidson for volunteering the use of his place of business yet again. Yes, we must do a little business, but most of the meeting will be more "railroady."

Drew

FROM THE DISPATCHER'S DESK

STARTING OVER, by Ed O'Rourke, MMR

As most of you know, Judy and I downsized to a new home in June 2023. This involved tearing down my 12-year old mostly complete New Haven layout. That layout had many notorious short-comings I was determined not to replicate, so the home search took over a year before we found an acceptable layout room with a sewing room and suitable living space attached. I am going to document some of the adventures this entails in coming RMs. *(continued on page 5)*

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

NER
March 17-20
6:30-10:30 PM Eastern
For more information, visit
NERx.org

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

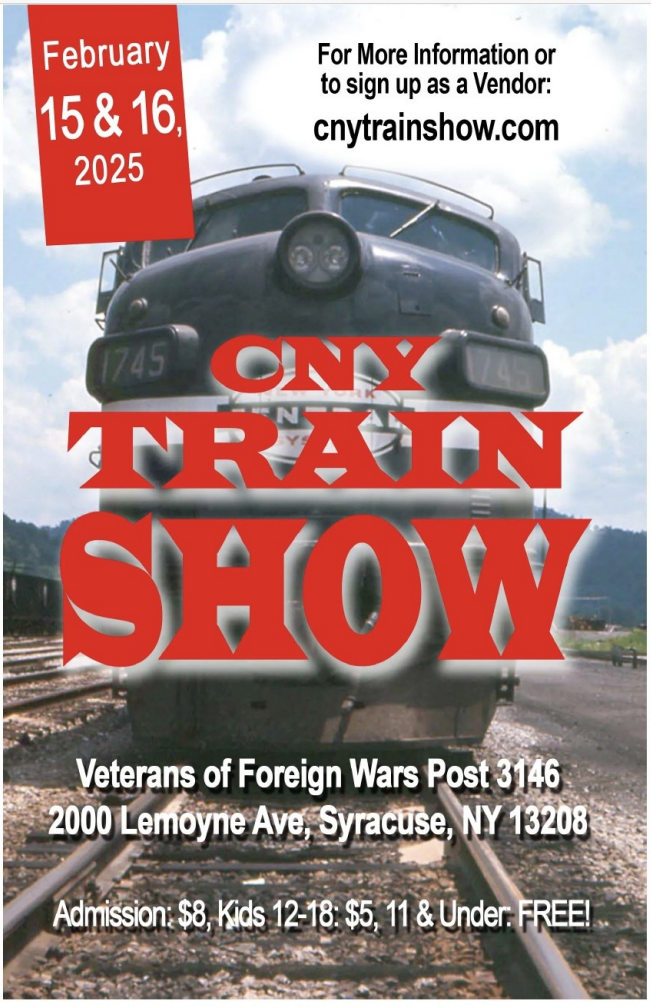
FACEBOOK is a great place to post layout photos, ask questions, or seek information about the hobby and events.
There is an **NMRA** page, a **NORTHEASTERN REGION, NMRA** page, and **THE CENTRAL NY DIVISION OF THE NMRA** page. See what is happening all over the world in model railroading.

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.



THE DIVISION LAYOUT has been on the road, with visits to the Great NYS Train Fair, Homeville Museum Train Day, and the TTCS Show in Utica Union Station. Many new engineers certified.
(Photos by Ed O'Rourke and Roger Beiswenger)

STARTING OVER *(continued from page 3)*

The new space is an unfinished storage area in the basement. One of my concerns at age 72, having witnessed the tragedy of Jim Heidt's demise, was stairs.(Judy has similar concerns with the laundry room.) We would not have bought this house, but for the fact that a previous owner installed an elevator. With that, I am confident I will be able to access the layout even if confined to a wheel-chair. With that in mind as well, I decided I would build it at desk-top height, about 30 – 35 inches high. An added benefit, this is very grandchild friendly.

There was shelving already in the room which I was able to convert to bench-work. The room is about 22'X 15', with a double door entrance. There is also

(continued on page 6)

Blank canvas

STARTING OVER, *(continued from page 5)*

a space outside the main room that I thought might become an industrial switching area, the Manufacturer's Railroad. The left side had an alcove under a bay window that housed the water meter, which I decided to leave unfinished, hidden by a free-standing backdrop and curtain. I hired a contractor to put up, finish and prime the sheetrock walls, run some additional lighting, and paint the ceiling black. This last, suggested by Bob Verkuyl, effectively makes it "disappear" but preserves access to wiring and plumbing if needed. That took some time, but not nearly as much as if I had attempted it myself.

With construction underway, it was time to start planning: I went with John Armstrong's tried and true method of "Givens and Druthers."

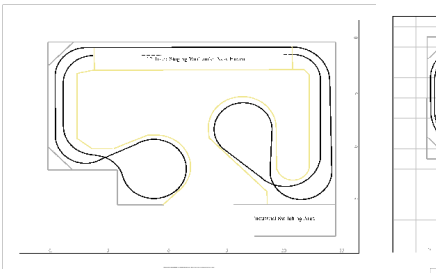
Givens

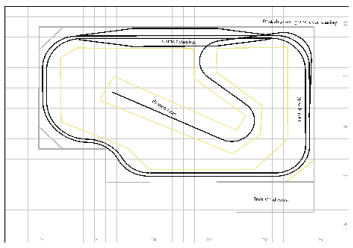
Heavy electric passenger and freight with catenary in electric zone
Main line
2 track
#6 switches minimum
Mainline minimum 24" radius – larger would be better
6-8 car passenger trains and 9-12 car freight
New Haven station
4 tracks
Approximately centered between staging
Space for engine storage and turning
Aisles wide enough for multiple operators.
Accessible while seated and for Grandchildren.
NO DUCK-UNDERS!
A minimum amount of hidden track

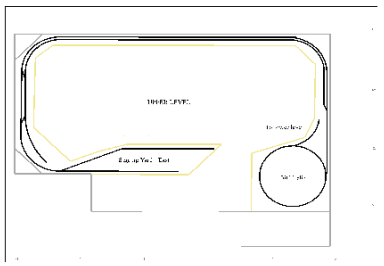
Druthers

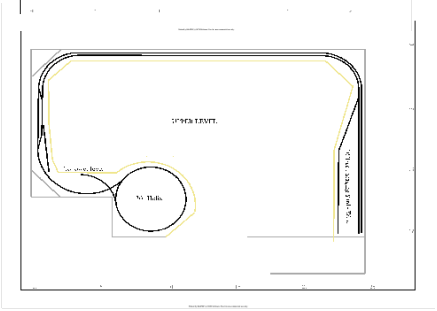
Point to point, but allowing for continuous run
10 -14 staging tracks – min. 8 feet long
Could be in one location or spread around
Double ended would be ideal
Branch line with switching opportunities
Main line industry sidings – would add more switching opportunities if space is available
Industrial switching area
I think my current operating plan works well, with mainline trains running through the station, engine and head-end switching, and local industry switching/yard work

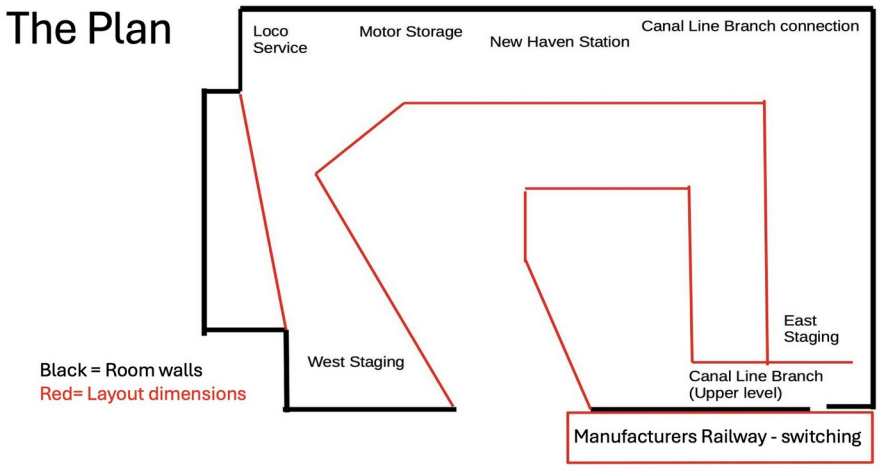
With these in mind, I talked to a couple of highly respected layout planners (Dave and Drew). We came up with several tentative plans, which you can see at left. Top left didn't leave much room for a branch or industrial switching, and was better suited to a mountain line than the flat Connecticut Shoreline. Bottom two on the left were considered, but decided the helix ate a lot of space and added complexity. Top near left needed a lift gate, which I felt defeated the purpose of continuous running. The eventual plan is below, with east and west staging yards, New Haven in the middle, branch line, and industrial switching under the stairs. More to come in the next ***Red Markers***.











New Tracks Modeling Mentoring Scholarship

For Modeling's Future

In 2023 New Tracks Mentoring, Inc. was formed as a Florida 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation to provide financial assistance in the form of scholarships to model railroaders and other modelers pursuing a STEAM related undergraduate college degree or technical school credential.

MISSION STATEMENT: To encourage young modelers to develop their skills and maintain their connection to model railroading through mentoring and educational opportunities.

VISION STATEMENT: To provide financial assistance, through educational scholarships and grant programs, to inspire continued interest and expertise in railroad modeling.

Our first scholarship, in the amount of $1,000.00, was awarded in 2023, and we were able to grant three $2,000.00 scholarships in 2024. We anticipate granting another three scholarships in 2025.

To learn more about the application process,

https://newtracksmodeling.com/scholarship/

NMRA's Partnership Program

PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

NMRA members can log in and click on the Benefits tab to view the NMRA Partnership Program. Please patronize all of our partners for some fantastic discounts as an NMRA member!

- Bespoke Rail
- CatzPaw Innovations
- CB Train Junction
- Clever Models, LLC
- Coastmans Scenic Products
- Composite Designs, Inc.
- CMR Products, LLC
- Conowingo Models
- Daylight Sales (Merchandise)
- Deepwoods Software
- Deluxe Materials
- Cowcatcher Magazine*
- Diorama Hobbies
- Dwarvin Enterprises, Ltd
- East Coast Circuits
- Enterprise and National Car Rental Services
- Evan Designs
- Feight Studios
- Fusion Scale Graphics
- Gatorfoam
- Great Decals!
- Green Frog Productions
- Highways and Byways Model
- Hot Wire Foam Factory
- K.I.S.S Method, Inc.
- LaBelle Woodworking Co.
- LARC Products
- Logic Rail Technologies
- MAC Rail
- Mainline Model Railroad Products, LLC* (Hobby Shop)
- Micro-Mark
- Mine Mount Models
- miniprints
- MRC (Model Rectifier Corp)
- Model Train Catalogue
- Modelers Decals & Paint
- Motrak Models
- Mudd Creek Models
- New Creations Victorian Railroad Buildings
- Nick and Nora Designs
- Northlandz
- NScale Works by Mike Holly
- Old Depot Gallery
- Old West Scenery
- Ram Track
- RR-CirKits
- R & J Details
- Scale Model Plans
- Scale Railroad Models
- Scenery Solutions
- Showcase Miniatures
- Team Track Models
- The N Scale Architech
- The Old Depot Gallery
- The Train Place (Hobby Shop)
- Tichy Train Group
- Touch of the Brush Model Weathering
- Train Installations, LLC
- Train Show, Inc.
- Trainmasters TV/Model Railroad Hobbyist Store
- TRAINZ.com
- TSG Multimedia
- UGEARS
- USA Airbrush Supply/ Badger Airbrush
- WiFi Model Railroad, LLC
- Yelton Models

January 2024

[New Partners in RED*]

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!

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

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 – 25 CNY Division Schedule

Meetings 2-4 PM unless otherwise noted!

SATURDAY JAN. 18, 2025
12:00 – 4:00PM
Banquet – Theodore's, Canastota

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 23
Annual Meeting – Bob Davidson
"Exhibits and More," Liverpool
DETAILS IN THIS ISSUE

MON – THUR. MARCH 17–20
NERX

SUNDAY APRIL 13
Homeville Museum
Homer, NY

SAT/SUN APRIL 26&27
Ops 'til You Drop

SUNDAY MAY 18
Ed O'Rourke
Jamesville

SATURDAYJULY 26 12 – 4 PM
Division Picnic – TBD

SATURDAY AUGUST 16
3-5 PM
Train Watching – Tractor Supply

SEPT. 11 - 14
NER Convention – Concord, NH

SUNDAY OCTOBER 5
TBD

SAT/SUN NOVEMBER 1&2
Great NYS Train Fair

SUNDAY NOV. 16 - TBD

Bob Verkuyl's RDC NYC 499 meets NYC 454 at Benson Mines on it's maiden run on Roger's New York Central Adirondack line. Bob won the RDC in a Division raffle pre-covid. Finally out of the box. *(Roger Beiswenger photo)*

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