VOLUME 43, NUMBER 02 MARCH 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 APRIL 13, 2025 12:45 – 4:00 PM
HOMEVILLE MUSEUM/CNY LIVING HISTORY CENTER
4386 US RT. 11, CORTLAND, NY

BRUCE RYAN 2:30 – 4:30 PM
44 NORTH LANSING SCHOOL ROAD, GROTON, NY

AT THIS MEETING AND IN THIS ISSUE . . .

Museum Visit: The Homeville Museum houses a large collection of military, local business, industry and railroad history. Of particular note is a large collection of Brockway trucks.
NOTE: Admission to the museum is **$5.00** for NMRA members (please wear your name tag), **$10.00** for non-members, with all proceeds going to the museum. (The CNY Division is subsidizing member admission.)

Division Business: No Division business at this meeting. No raffle.

Featured presentations: Ed O'Rourke, MMR will present a clinic on basic car and structure weathering. Bill Brown, MMR will present a clinic on "Creating a Scene."

HO Model Railroad Tour: Bruce Ryan's layout is a real gem, a depiction of New York Central Westside Freight line in the 1960's. The scenery is massive New York City industrial scenes. Bruce's home is about a 30 minute drive from the museum and will be open from **2:30 – 4:30 PM**

Bruce Ryan's NY Central Westside Line *Ed O'Rourke photo)*

Homeville Museum

The "Brass Hats"
CENTRAL NEW YORK
DIVISION

- ELECTED -
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- 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.

PAYMASTER'S REPORT

31 January 2025 – 3 March 2025

BANK ACCOUNTS

Checking Balance as of 31 Jan 2025	$1,913.19	
Total DEBITS for period	$46.13	
Total CREDITS for period	$927.00	
Checking Balance as of 26 Mar 2024	$2,794.06	
Savings Balance as of 24 Jan 2024		$27.23
Total DEBITS for period	$0.00	
Total CREDITS for period	$0.02	
Savings Balance as of 26 Mar 2024		$27.25
Share Certificate (CD) Balance as of 24 Jan 2024		$2,545.60
Total DEBITS for period	$0.00	
Total CREDITS for period	$15.47	
Share Certificate (CD) Balance as of 26 Mar 2024		$2,561.07

EXPENSES

Member Name Badges	$17.29	
Ops 'til You Drop1	$15.00	
Red Markers Newsletter	$13.84	
Total EXPENSES for the period		$46.13

1. One refund issued of $15.00

INCOME

Raffle	$150.00	
Division Sales	$77.00	
Donations	$100.00	
Ops 'til You Drop Reservations	$600.00	
Savings/Share Certificate Interest	$15.47	
Total INCOME for the period		$942.47

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
5/1//25

(Loose Spikes continued on page 4)

FROM THE FREIGHT SHED

DREW JAMES, MMR, SUPERINTENDENT

Our annual meeting in February was a big success! Many thanks to Bob Davidson for arranging the use of his old business for our meeting. Many of you took advantage of the swap meet to sell or buy new items for your railroads. The division was able to dispose of many of its donated items at very reasonable prices – a win-win for both our members and for the paymaster's checkbook. We still have a few brass items remaining which we will sell off in the coming months.

All the current officers were reelected at the meeting. Many thanks to Rick, Tom, and Mark for agreeing to serve another term. I am grateful for their service to the division and appreciate how they make my job so much easier!

As we discussed at the annual meeting, our division remains strong and active. We had several new members join this year who have already become active in the division. Our finances have grown so we have the resources to continue our activities and provide services to our members. We have seen an increase in the number of members routinely attending meetings – so much so that we are starting to grow out of being able to fit inside homes for meetings. That is a good problem to have and we are identifying new meeting locations.

Speaking of new meeting places, this month's meeting will be in a new location at the Homeville Museum in Homer. The museum has a few railroad items and displays, but also has extensive military, truck, firetruck, and tractor exhibits which I know you will find interesting. There will be clinics and a short meeting in the theater. We are hoping to attract some NMRA members and guests from the Southern Tier to the event. If you see someone you do not know, please be sure to welcome them. Be sure to stop by Bruce Ryan's amazing HO "Manhattan Terminal" layout after the meeting. It is unique featuring gritty urban scenes with huge structures – trust me, it is well worth the drive.

Bill Brown tells me that we are full up for April's "Ops 'Till Drop" event. I apologize that we had to ask some of the locals to give up their spot to make room for out-of-town guests. We are trying to make it up by getting those impacted into op sessions outside of that event. If you would like to give operations a try, but do not know who to ask, just shoot us an email at cnynmra@gmail.com and we will work with you to get an invitation.

Drew

DIVISION EXHIBIT AT SYRACUSE MAKER FAIRE 25

Saturday, May 3, 10-5:00 - Horticultural Building, State Fair Grounds
This is 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 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.
We are adding to our presentation this year. In addition to inviting attendees to switch cars on our Port of Oswego layout, and sharing information about the layout, our hobby and the NMRA, division members will demonstrate modeling various projects.
Thirteen members have signed up to volunteer with the layout, talk with attendees, and/ or work on a modeling project at the show. Six of those have indicated they will bring a railcar or structure. We would like to present a variety of projects such as scenery, electronics, a Fast track turnout, etc. If you can add one of these other projects to our presentation, please email Roger Beiswenger at rogerfbeis@gmail.com.

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 NER CONVENTION

"THE CONCORD FLYER" 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.

Ed Olszewski receives the Division President's Award from Drew James at our annual meeting in February. Ed was recognized for taking on the Division Member Aid Chairmanship and his work in organizing the Division Library and Tool-loan Program.

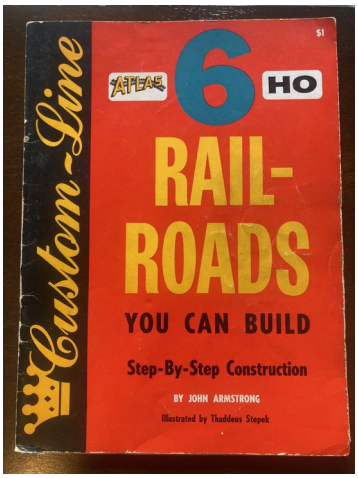
Congratulations!

From The Dispatcher's Desk

Starting Over – Ed O'Rourke, MMR

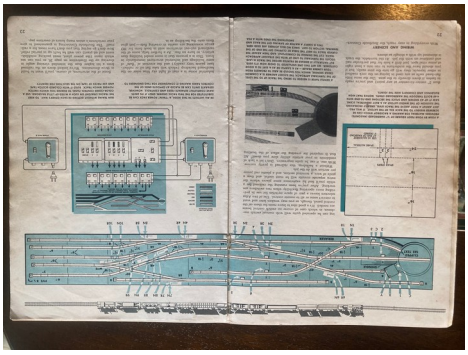
In the previous ***Red Markers*** I began this series talking about the pitfalls and rewards of building a new layout in a new home. I will continue this as space and time allow in later editions.

I was fortunate to be able to save a good deal of the materials from my previous layout, including buildings, track, and much of the benchwork. I had nailed my track down rather than gluing it, so I was able to spray the ballast with isopropyl alcohol, which softened the glue so I could pull up the nails and remove the track without (too much) damage to it. I built my benchwork with screws so I was able to dismantle most of it. (Some of the L-girders have lived through several layouts, starting with one I built in my parent's home as a teenager. The wood is well seasoned!) The movers were a bit surprised at this development.



It took several months to get the contractor in to do the sheetrock and painting. The space under the stairs was ready to go, however, so so I decided to get started planning and building the Manufacturers Railway. This was an industrial switching line the New Haven ran, originally with trolley motors and later with 44 ton diesels. I toyed with the idea of running it under wire, but when Rapido announced production of NH 44 tonners, the matter was settled.

The space was 10 feet long and 3 feet wide, so I knew the benchwork couldn't be deeper than about 16 inches. Thinking it over, I recalled that my father's layout when I was growing up was "Southside Connecting," a switching area taken from John Armstrong's "6 HO Railroads You Can Build, " published by Atlas. I still had the book.



I modified the plan, which used a turntable as part of the run-around track, and added a connection at the back to the main layout. The resulting plan made for some interesting switching – curves are tight, sidings and tail-tracks are short, so it requires a good deal of thought to work it efficiently. I used flex track instead of section track.Thus far Bob Verkuyl and Charlie Albee have worked it and pronounced it enjoyable. I think the old man would be pleased with the way it worked out. It is also free standing. If I cut the connection to the main layout, I could possibly take it with me when the girls move us into the home.

(L to R) Progress from bare table top to semi-finished scenery. Having a "finished" scene is something you can show visitors while working on the rest of the layout. All the structures came from my previous layout.

CAYUGA VALLEY MRR CLUB; Drew, Bill and both Ed O's visited the Auburn club on one of their Wednesday night work sessions. The club acquired sections of Mike Shanahan's and Ray Howard's layouts and are getting them restored as part of their layout in their new club rooms. Nice to see that these survived the passing of their builders. *(Four photos below by Ed Olszewski)*

The club also has a small Christmas display in their front window. How many of these structures:
1. Can you identify? 2. Did you build at some point in your modeling life? 3. Are on your layout?
(Two photos by Ed O'Rourke)

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

Mon – Thur. March 17–20
NERX

Sunday April 13
Homeville Museum
Homer, NY
Details in this issue

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

Another look at one of the scenes on Bruce Ryan's spectacular layout. Don't miss it! *(Photo by Ed O'Rourke)*

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