VOLUME 43, NUMBER 03 MAY 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 MAY 18, 2025 2:00 – 4:00 PM
ED AND JUDY O'ROURKE
5193 POINTE EAST DRIVE
JAMESVILLE, NY 13078

AT THIS MEETING AND IN THIS ISSUE . . .

HO Model Railroad: Ed O'Rourke's New Haven Railroad is in its third iteration in a new home Ed and Judy moved to in June 2023. Ed has been documenting his layout in the last few ***Red Markers*** and recently hosted 2 Ops 'Til You Drop sessions. Come and have a look. He might have some catenary installed by the time we visit. The meeting will be in the garage and Ed asks that you bring your own seating. Note that there are two steps up from the garage into the house, but the layout is accessible by an elevator to the basement. Park on the street across from the house – not on the grass - and please don't block any mailboxes. Leave the driveway for those with mobility issues.

Division Business: We will have a brief meeting to discuss any matters that may come up.

Featured presentations: Rick Mniece and Ken Cameron will give a clinic on Free-Mo modules.

Raffle: Still a lot of good stuff available, so bring your $$$. Get a free ticket if you wear your division badge.

Nothing says "New Haven" like an EP-5 electric, which has just arrived with a Boston-bound express, while an EF-3 brings a freight through New Haven station on a summer afternoon in the early 1950's. An added attraction is the "State of Maine" boxcar and a venerable MUT in the background. *(Ed O'Rourke photo.)*

The "Brass Hats"
CENTRAL NEW YORK DIVISION
- ELECTED -
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Drew James, MMR
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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.

PAYMASTER'S REPORT

3 March 2025 – 1 May 2025

BANK ACCOUNTS		
Checking Balance as of 3 Mar 2025		$2,794.06
Total DEBITS for period	$468.56	
Total CREDITS for period	$796.83	
Checking Balance as of 1 May 2025		$3,122.33
Savings Balance as of 3 Mar 2025		$27.25
Total DEBITS for period	$0.00	
Total CREDITS for period	$0.02	
Savings Balance as of 1 May 2025		$27.27
Share Certificate (CD) Balance as of 3 Mar 2025		$2,561.07
Total DEBITS for period	$0.00	
Total CREDITS for period	$17.30	
Share Certificate (CD) Balance as of 26 Mar 2024		$2,578.37
EXPENSES		
Member Name Badges	$17.29	
Ops 'til You Drop	$334.16	
Red Markers Newsletter	$12.11	
Donations to 501c3 Hosts1	$135.00	
Total EXPENSES for the period		$498.56
1. CNY Living History Center for April Meeting		
INCOME		
Donations2		$15.00
NMRA/NER Dues Sharing3		$551.83
Ops 'til You Drop Reservations		$60.00
Events4		$200.00
Savings/Share Certificate Interest	$17.32	
Total INCOME for the period		$844.15

2. Returned Ops refund requested to be donated.
3. $51.83 National dues sharing,
   $500 NER Investment Fund Distribution.
4. NMRA Retention Grant

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
7/1//25

(Loose Spikes continued on page 4)

FROM THE FREIGHT SHED

DREW JAMES, MMR, SUPERINTENDENT

Many thanks to Bill Brown and the local layout hosts and their helpers for once again pulling off an outstanding "Ops 'Til You Drop" weekend! We hosted 45 or so guests from across the region to operate three times on a choice of seven different layouts in our division. The weekend included a group breakfast Sunday morning and new this year a dinner and train watching for early arrivers Friday evening. The feedback from guests and hosts was very positive. Great job! At the breakfast, Bill brought up how our hobby and organization are full of wonderful welcoming people. I could not agree more and I experienced that first hand on the other side of the world. My wife, Karel, and I recently took a trip of a lifetime to Australia for a month. Yes, it included riding the *Indian Pacific* transcontinental train with Ed Olszewski joining us, but that is a story for a different day.

Thanks to the NMRA and Ray Arnot's "Around the Layout" podcast (who I met two years ago during "Ops 'Til You Drop") I was able to connect with two modelers in the Sydney area and Ed and I spent an enjoyable day operating on two wonderful layouts.

The first layout was Justin Mitchel's beautiful HO scale "The Surf Line" which was in an office suite downtown. The Surf Line is an accurate, but compressed, model of the Santa Fe's line between LA and San Diego in the mid-1950s. Ed ran a local freight with a lot of switching while I got the passenger job. It was a bit surreal running an accurate 15-car-long model of the *Super Chief* on a layout halfway around the world! After goodbyes and pictures one of our new Aussie friends drove us out to Paul Cassar's beautiful home in the suburbs and his shelf industrial layout located in the garage. We spent a couple of enjoyable hours socializing and using his Proto Throttle to service several industries before it was time to ride the 1:1 scale train back to our downtown hotel. What a fantastic day making new friends and running trains! I never could have believed a day like that would be one of the many benefits I would have from joining the NMRA. As Bill said at the breakfast, the biggest benefit of the NMRA is the people you meet.

I hope you can make it to Ed O'Rourke's for our upcoming meeting. As we have seen in these pages, Ed is building a beautiful new layout based on the New Haven in the 1950s. While there is no catenary yet, he has made rapid progress since moving into his new home.

Drew

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.

NYS&W track crew at work on the E. Colvin St. overpass.

From The Dispatcher's Desk

"Hi, I'm Ed and I'm a hardcore procrastinator."

There, I've said it, I have been procrastinating about building a layout for years. Not because I lack the room; I don't have a lot of room available but I still could build a small switching layout. Not because I lack the equipment and scenic materials; like many of you reading this, I have a well stocked hobby shop in my basement. Not because I don't know how; I have all of you to help get me started. No, it was far more sinister; I lacked confidence in my ability to build a "worthy" layout.

Many of you have layouts already and I congratulate you on your accomplishments. You're well ahead of me. Perhaps you had some concern that the layout you could build would not match the layout you envisioned in your mind's eye. Despite any concerns you may have had you forged ahead and built your layout anyway. But perhaps there is some other aspect of this hobby you would like to try but something is stopping you from moving forward.

Have you ever wanted to do something in the hobby but stopped because of a little voice in your head that was saying "you aren't ready to take on (insert name of project)?" Perhaps you wanted one more piece of prototype information before starting to kit-bash or scratch build a model; this is called "analysis paralysis." I assure you, after you build your model more information will come to light - and if you scratch build the model, three months later some vendor will come out with a ready to run version of it.

Maybe you didn't think you had/have the skills to build a particular model? That should NEVER stop you. Talk to other division members and you will find someone who has faced a similar issue and found a way around it. Watch some "How-To" videos on YouTube or another platform of your choice, but DO NOT fall into the "Analysis Paralysis" trap. After a few videos, watching more of them won't add to your knowledge. Go and practice that portion of the build to develop the skill. In the end, building material is cheap and the skills you develop will last a life time.

Maybe you don't think you have the time to accomplish what you want to do? Have you heard yourself saying "I'll be (insert how old you will be before the project is done) by the time I do that?" Ask yourself instead "how old will I be if I don't do this?"

Division members can help you get started with any project you may need some assistance planning or building. We have a Member Aid person ready to provide you with advice and help or connect you with others who can help. The Division library is available to provide you with reference material for building or maintaining your layout, building models, or prototype information. These are material benefits of belonging to the NMRA and our Division. They are there for your use, all you have to do is take the first step and ask.

"A journey of 1,000 miles begins with a single step." Anonymous

"If I had 8 hours to cut down a tree, I'd spend 4 of them sharpening my ax."
Abraham Lincoln

"Do - or do not. There is no try." Yoda

Ops 'til You Drop

Clockwise from lower left: Rick Smith and Ned Spiller, Scott Baroody, Kevin Surman, and Ray Arnott at Bill Brown's LARC. Below left, Mark Herrick, Dave Insley and Dennis Collucci at Ed O'Rourke's New Haven. *(Photos by Bill Brown and Ed O'Rourke)*

Above, Angel Bernard surveys the calm before the storm. Right,the storm has hit - it looks like about 4 trains have arrived in Sioux City Yard on Bob Vickery's layout.
(Rich Shopland photos.)

More Ops 'Til You Drop

Clockwise from above: Steve Belforti and Dennis Collucci running at Drew's, the Nelson Yard crew, Dave Barrazza and Bob Cabrera bring a freight through Kettle Falls. *(Drew James photos)*
At right, Tage Erickson services his loco at Animas Forks on Bill Brown's Narrow Gauge *(Bill Brown photo)*

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!

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

Sat/Sun April 26&27
Ops 'til You Drop

Sunday May 18
Ed O'Rourke
Jamesville
Details in this issue

SaturdayJuly 26 12 – 4 PM
Division Picnic –
Bill and Judy Brown, Jamesville

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

A closer view of the track maintainer from page 4. *(2 photos pg. 4 and above by Ed O'Rourke)*

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