VOLUME 43, NUMBER 04 JULY 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 MEETINGS. . .

DIVISION PICNIC
SATURDAY JULY 26, 2025 12:00 – 4:00 PM
BILL AND JUDY BROWN
6002 SINGLETREE LANE
JAMESVILLE, NY 13078

AT THIS MEETING AND IN THIS ISSUE . . .

YOU SHOULD BRING: Your own seating and non-alcoholic beverages **AND**
A DISH TO PASS: Based on your last name you should bring the following:
A-F – Side Dish (Beans, Casserole, etc.) **G-M** – Salad (Pasta, Potato, Garden, etc.)
N-T – Desserts **U-Z**- Snacks (Chips, crackers, dip, etc.)
The Division will provide Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, water, utensils, plates, rolls & buns, condiments etc. A side note: if someone would like to bring a cooler full of ice (always nice to have on hand).
Contact Bill directly by text (315-464-2516) if you can do any of the following:

- **show up at 11 to help with the tent.**
- **bring a table (3 or 4 needed).**
- **bring a grill (I have a small one).**
- **volunteer to cook.**

Model Railroads: Bill's LARC is actually two layouts – a modern standard gauge, and a Colorado Narrow Gauge. It is one of the premier layouts in the northeast – if you haven't seen it yet, you're in for a treat.

Division Meeting: No business is conducted at the picnic. Just come and enjoy. The MOW Award will be presented at this meeting. Who is the honoree? You'll have to come and find out. Maybe it is you!

DIVISION TRAIN WATCHING
SATURDAY AUGUST 16, 2025 3:00 – 5:00PM
TRACKSIDE BEHIND TRACTOR SUPPLY CO.
6641 MANLIUS CENTER ROAD
EAST SYRACUSE, NY 13057

AT THIS MEETING AND IN THIS ISSUE . . .

Meeting Details: No agenda for this meeting – just bring your own seating, beverage and maybe some snacks. Enjoy the fellowship and maybe see some trains.
Clinic: CSX will provide a demonstration of modern intermodal and mixed freight operations and Amtrak will offer an example of present day intercity passenger operations.

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
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6943 Shannon Way
Liverpool, NY 13088
(315) 457-7437
martinikelly1966@gmail.com
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Division Storekeeper
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(315) 488-4193
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.

PAYMASTER'S REPORT

1 May 2025 – 1 July 2025

BANK ACCOUNTS

Checking Balance as of 1 May 2025		$3,122.33
Total DEBITS for period	$711.14	
Total CREDITS for period	$437.00	
Checking Balance as of 1 Jul 2025		$2,848.19
Savings Balance as of 1 May 2025		$27.27
Total DEBITS for period	$0.00	
Total CREDITS for period	$0.02	
Savings Balance as of 1 Jul 2025		$27.29
Share Certificate (CD) Balance as of 1 May 2025		$2,578.20
Total DEBITS for period	$0.00	
Total CREDITS for period	$618.19	
Share Certificate (CD) Balance as of 26 Mar 2024		$3,196.39

$600.00 transferred from checking to share certificates.

EXPENSES

Train/Hobby Show Outreach	$39.95	
Ops 'til You Drop	$66.00	
Red Markers Newsletter	$5.19	
Total EXPENSES for the period		$111.14

INCOME

Raffle	$91.00	
Division Sales from Donations	$346.00	
Savings/Share Certificate Interest	$18.21	
Total INCOME for the period		$455.21

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
9/1//25

(Loose Spikes continued on page 4)

FROM THE FREIGHT SHED

DREW JAMES, MMR, SUPERINTENDENT

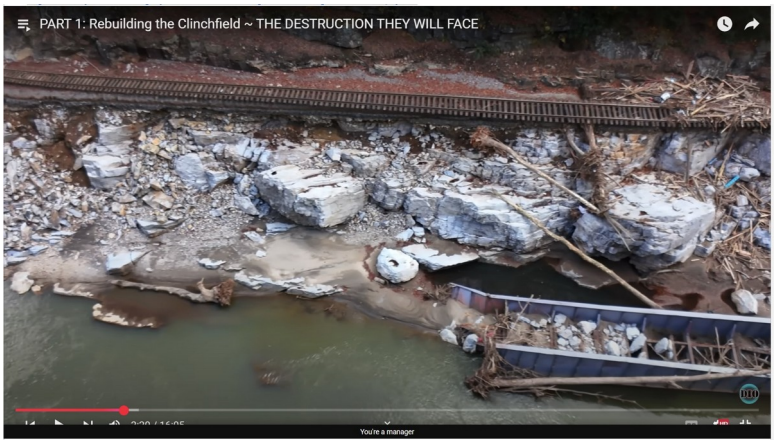
I hope everyone is having a great summer! Of course, summer is not the traditional time for model railroading, but hopefully everyone is finding a way to fit trains in around family, golf, picnics, vacations, etc. It sure is nice and cool in my basement and I find myself heading down when the thermometer starts going up. I don't have any big new projects going on, but I'm getting some maintenance and cleaning done as well as thinking about what might be next for the CS&P. I enjoy assembling and painting detail parts to be added to the layout as I watch or listen to Mets baseball games.

Since it is July, that means our picnic is coming up and the details may be found in this issue. Many thanks to Bill and Judy Brown for agreeing to host this event at their home. Bill's *Leadville & Red Cliff* (LARC) is one of the most beautiful model railroads you will find anywhere! Actually, it is two railroads in one – a modern incarnation of D&RGW's Tennessee Pass on the lower level and early 20th century Colorado narrow gauge on the upper level. It really must be seen to be believed. Of course, there will also be plenty of food and we will be awarding the Jim Heidt MOW Service Award.

We would sure like to see some new material in Red Markers. If you have a tip or trick, please do not hesitate to share it. We'd also like to see pictures and a short update on progress you are making on your layout. Just reach out to Ed if you have an article or an idea for an article.

It is time to register to attend *Concord Flyer*, if you haven't already, our region's convention being held from September 11th – 14th in Concord, New Hampshire. Our region's convention is always such a good time and many of our local members attend. I've been told by my friends in the area, that mid-September is a wonderful time to visit northern New England – after the summer rush, but prior to "leaf peeping" season.

Drew



This link is for a playlist with 37 videos in it for the rebuilding of the CSX Clinchfield Line in NC after hurricane Helene completely tore the railroad up through the gorge. If you ever wanted to see how a destroyed railroad is rebuilt these videos will show you how.
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLsUvFnOq2OdO8O5Vvpn4LRtM0XQrsyY-k

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

FUTURE CONVENTIONS:

2026 NMRA National Convention will be in Chattanooga, TN.
July 27 – August 2

https://www.nmra2026.org

THE 2025 NER CONVENTION "THE CONCORD FLYER"

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

CNY Model Railroad Club is hosting a Train Show September 27 – 28, 2025 10:00Am – 4:00PM at the Mattydale VFW 2000 LeMoyne Avenue, Syracuse.

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 JIM HEIDT MOW AWARD

will be presented at the picnic. Who will be the winner? You'll have to come to the picnic or wait until the next Red Markers arrives to find out. Maybe it will be you!

Previous Recipients:
2001 Edward C. Scott
2002 James K. Heidt
2003 Bill Brown
2004 George "Scooter" Youst
2005 Bill Fredlund
2006 Bill Bender
2007 Brian Curry
2008 Ed Olszewski
2009 Bernie Watkins
2010 Martin Collard
2011 Linda Bender
2012 Dave Martini
Ken Cameron
2013 Ralph Hodson
2015 Ed O'Rourke
2016 Charlie Albee
2017 Len Amrhein
2018 Roger Beiswenger
2019 Robert Verkuyl
2021 – Tom Kehoskie, Aric Penfield
2024 Drew James

From The Dispatcher's Desk

"Uncertainty is a term that is finding its way into many aspects of our society these days - including the model railroad hobby. Pricing and availability of model railroad products has become a concern for manufacturers, retailers, as well as modelers. Amherst has joined with many others in the model railroad industry to form the Hobby Industry Coalition -hobbycoalition.org - in an effort to bring economic certainty back to the hobby.

While the economics of the hobby might be up-in-the-air, the enjoyment that we all receive from the railroad hobbies is not. The pure joy of riding a train, or building a model, or learning how to solder, or getting the shot (photo), or making new railroad friends - those enjoyments are not uncertain. They are real. They are happening every day. And, they are not going away.

Planning for the 2026 Railroad Hobby Show is well underway, and a word that keeps coming up in the discussions is - celebration. Celebration. In January, 2026, we are going to celebrate the enjoyment the railroad hobbies bring to our lives - big time! The Amherst Railway Society exists to make a positive difference in people's lives through the railroad and model railroad hobbies. That's our mantra. And, that's a certainty.

The economics are a struggle right now, but as an industry we will find a way to work through that. Enjoyment? - that's not a struggle. That's a certainly, and no one can take that away."

- From the Amherst Railway Society June newsletter, "Eight & Sand". Used by permission.

Ed and Ed

Starting Over, continued – By Ed O'Rourke, MMR

As I said in a previous article, I hired a contractor to put up sheetrock and finish the walls, add some electrical outlets and lights, and paint the ceiling. I might have put in a drop ceiling, but with wanting to keep pipes and electrical wiring accessible, I decided painting it black, as suggested by Bob Verkuyl, would work. I haven't found a problem with dust coming from above. I painted the walls with a couple of different shades of light blue – darker at the top and lighter as I worked towards the horizon. I added some clouds with a sort of stipple technique and white paint. The photo on page 7 shows some of that. It also shows the left side of the room, which is under a bay window in the kitchen. There were no studs here so I had to figure out a plan.

I moved the staging yards intact from the old house, and didn't want to try and curve them around several angles. Also, the main water shut off and meter was over here which I wanted easy access to, so I decided this section of the layout would be free-standing with a low backdrop attached. Judy later produced a black curtain to hide the rest of it. The one drawback to that was it made the corner a bit dark, so I added a light fixture to brighten it up.

I don't have a printed track plan. I use structures in some places to figure out track alignment and spacing – particularly in the station area. I draw curves using an old yardstick with holes drilled at various radii, and have a long straight metal straight edge to use for straight sections. I let the roadbed and flex track form natural easements. The Fast Track gauges the Division owns are invaluable for keeping you honest regarding curve radii and keeping flex track straight. Keeping a minimum 24" radius in the two room corners determined the rest of the track alignment. *(Continued on Page 7)*

Model or Prototype?

Before you read the article below, choose in your mind which of the two pictures is the model and which is the prototype.

OK, now that you had a chance to think about it, the photo above is Wells Falls in Ithaca, NY. The photo at left is Martin Collard's model inspired by the photo. Read on for Martin's explanation.

The rumor is a model railroad is never finished.
My Borodino & Southern RR became "Complete " during COVID, but apparently not finished. I have continued to add details and more of my vehicles.
During one of our BS Lounge get togethers Scott Baroody mentioned a picture he showed George Sellios of an old mill at Wells Falls near Ithaca. (above right) I found this very interesting. Trying to figure out if I could make something of this scene, I decided if I reversed the image maybe it would work.
I first made a cardboard mockup and then moved on to the model. An abandoned mill which has been closed for at least 40 years. Most of the components came from old kit parts (junk box). I had a set of 4 hydrocal aged brick walls and found they would fit. It only took two. I have no idea where they came from, but always wanted to use them for a building. They became the ground level section. "The Ruins" another hydrocal kit became the upper level.
Using a contour gauge I transferred the shape to cardboard. I then added more cardboard so I could acquire a vertical plumb line to establish the corner of the building wall. All the walls that contact the rock faces were done this way.The lower section needed some windows and Grandt Line's 5154 masonry windows fit the bill. Cutting the openings out of a hydrocal wall is always a challenge. A jeweler's saw worked well which I also used to cut the rock faces contours. I then painted the walls, glued them together and added some interior bracing as well.The roof sections are braced cardboard.
I wanted the upper section to look a bit used up, so I adding some broken rafters and roof boards. The theory here is the water tank leaked causing the rotted roof.
I referred to the original photos to get the weathering under way using dry brushing, Pan Pastels, alcohol and India ink plus foliage on the roof and around the base of the building.
The water feeder pipe is made from 5/8" PVC pipe. Central Valley, Tichy and Styrene parts make up the stairway.
Although the model may not be prototypically correct, I am satisfied with the results.
Martin Collard

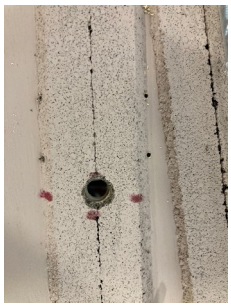
STARTING OVER, (*continued from P. 5)*

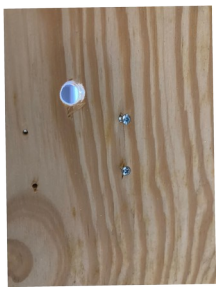
Left side of train room, before and after.

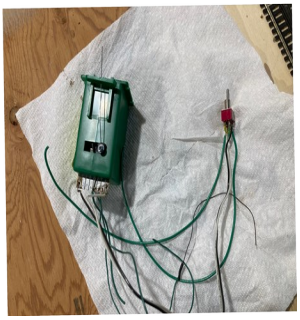
Above and below: Planning building and scenery placement with backdrop installed.

I use Tortoise switch machines on all the mainline switches – don't want hands reaching into catenary to throw switches. On the old layout I installed them from below after the track was in place. This time I came up with a better plan: I pasted the paper drilling template to a scrap piece of ¼" hardboard and drilled it out. I mark the location of the throw-bar and drill all the holes from above using the template. Then I install two of the mounting screws before trying to place the pre-wired machine. Once I install the final two screws, I then locate the turnout onto the actuator wire. I have found this requires less acrobatics under the layout and far fewer curses and swear words. Try it!

Clockwise from above left: drilling template; switch throw-bar location marked in red; holes drilled from above; underside with rear two screws installed, pre wired Tottoise.







With the walls prepared it was time to get with the LARC Products CEO and select backdrops. Bill has an incredible variety of scenes. I was able to save one scene from the old layout because it was a peel and stick variety. Bill and I talked about what I wanted, went thorough some scenes he suggested, including editing some to remove buildings judged "too modern" for 1950's New Haven, CT. We had measured the space carefully, so everything fit pretty much perfectly. There were 5 different sections – Drew James came over and helped with the installation – definitely a multi-person job. It is amazing how much having the backdrop in place changes the look of the room. With it installed, I was able to better visualize what the scenes behind the track would look like.

To be continued in a future edition of Red Markers. *(All photos by Ed O'Rourke)*

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

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

Sunday May 18
Ed O'Rourke
Jamesville

SaturdayJuly 26 12 – 4 PM
Division Picnic –
Bill and Judy Brown, Jamesville
Details in this issue

Saturday August 16
3-5 PM
Train Watching – Tractor Supply
Details in this issue

Sept. 11 - 14
NER Convention – Concord, NH

Sunday October 5
CNY MRR Club - Elbridge

Sat/Sun November 1&2
Great NYS Train Fair

Sunday Nov. 16 - TBD

Just to whet your appetite, here's a scene from Bill's standard gauge LARC. *(Bill Brown photo)*

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