VOLUME 43, NUMBER 05 SEPTEMBER 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. . .

SUNDAY OCTOBER 5, 2025 2:00 – 4:00 PM
CNY MODEL RAILROAD CLUB
4986 JORDAN RD. ELBRIDGE NY 13060

AT THIS MEETING AND IN THIS ISSUE . . .

Model Railroads: It has been a while since we visited the Club in their station in Elbridge. On our last visit they were just getting to work on benchwork, so it will be interesting to see the progress they have made since then. Their layout depicts the Fingerlakes Railway from Solvay to Geneva, as well as the CSX line in Central NY.

Division Meeting: Note that our meeting will be outdoors under a tent so come prepared for the weather. Bring your own seating. And also note there is no running water at the club, so take care of anything that might require it before you get there. We will take some time to talk about the recent National and Region Conventions and the 2028 National in Rochester.

Raffle: Bring your $$$ and any items you might want to contribute to the raffle.

CNY Model Railroad Club Engine Terminal and a Scratch-built West Rock *(Mark Domino photos)*

The "Brass Hats"
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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 July 2025 – 18 September 2025

BANK ACCOUNTS

Checking Balance as of 1 Jul 2025		$2,848.19
Total DEBITS for period	$606.45	
Total CREDITS for period	$125.00	
Checking Balance as of 18 Sep 2025		$2,366.74
Savings Balance as of 1 Jul 2025		$27.29
Total DEBITS for period	$0.00	
Total CREDITS for period	$0.02	
Savings Balance as of 18 Sep 2025		$27.31
Share Certificate (CD) Balance as of 1 Jul 2025		$3,196.39
Total DEBITS for period	$0.00	
Total CREDITS for period	$421.63	
Share Certificate (CD) Balance as of 18 Sep 2025		$3,618.02

1. $400.00 transferred from checking to share certificates.

EXPENSES

Member Name Badges	$32.83	
Picnic	$230.66	
Miscellaneous 2	$12.96	
Total EXPENSES for the period		$276.45

2. Jim Heidt MOW Award Engraving

INCOME

Division Sales from Donations	$195.00
Savings/Share Certificate Interest	$21.65
Total INCOME for the period	$216.65

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
10/31//25

(Loose Spikes continued on page 4)

FROM THE FREIGHT SHED

DREW JAMES, MMR, SUPERINTENDENT

Since my last column I have attended two conventions. The first was the national convention in Novi, Michigan held in July. The convention's tag line was "A convention like no other" and this was not a typical national convention. There were two primary differences I noticed from previous national conventions I have attended. This first was that it was shorter. Rather than starting on Sunday, the convention started on Tuesday with a full slate of activities through the end of the day Saturday. This made a convention more affordable and easier to attend. The second big change was that all layout tours were "self-drive" as is typically done for regional conventions. In past conventions, attendees needed to go on bus tours to see local layouts. I really enjoyed this approach as we could pick and choose which layouts to see and not have to spend all day on a bus to see a small number of layouts. Division members Ed Olszewski, Rick Mniece, and Walter Haner also attended the convention. We thought that changes were very positive and plan to do the same for the 2028 national to be held in Rochester.

Speaking of which, by now you know that at its meeting in Novi the NMRA Board officially accepted our bid for the 2028 national convention. After the initial excitement of getting through this hurdle, it became very real as to the amount of work in front of us. You will be hearing more about "Empire State Express 2028" as time goes on.

October brought the Northeast Region's convention in Concord, New Hampshire. As always, our division had a good showing with at least 14 members in attendance along with many spouses. It was a blast! It does not go unnoticed that our division punches above its weight in the region so to speak. Many of our members (including the region's president, Ed O'Rourke) hold positions in the region, participate in the contests, help plan the convention, conduct clinics, help with the judging, etc. I'm proud to be part of such an active division. I attended many outstanding clinics, saw some beautiful layouts, participated in an op session, and caught up with friends from across the region. In other words, just another great NER convention! I cannot encourage you enough to make time to attend a regional convention as they are a great value and so much fun. Next year's will be in Southbridge, Mass.

I hope you can make it to our meeting at the Central New York Model Railroad Club and Historical Society in Elbridge. It has been several years since we last visited. Then, the club was just starting on building a new layout based on the Finger Lakes Railway which runs just outside the club's station. Now, all the track is installed and up and running. The club has even started running op sessions. As a result of our last visit there, I decided to join the club, perhaps you might do the same after this meeting. Many of the club members are also members of our division. At left is a shot of their version of Dewitt Yard.

(Photo by Mark Domino)

Drew

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

FUTURE CONVENTIONS:

2026 NMRA National Convention Chattanooga, TN.
July 27 – August 2, 2026
https://www.nmra2026.org

THE 2026 NER CONVENTION

Southbridge, MA October 15 – 18, 2026

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

FOLLOW US ON X!@cnynmra

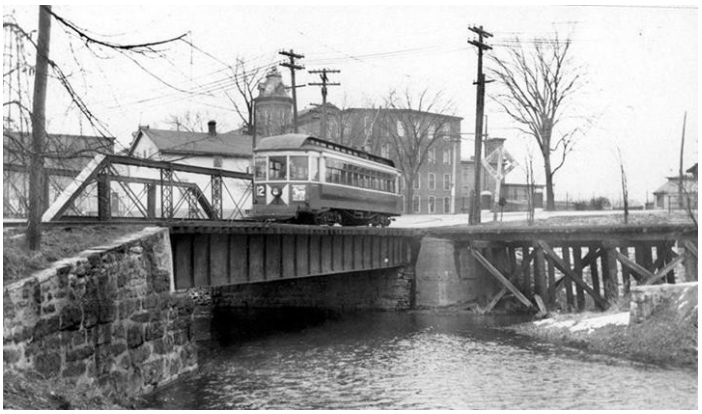
FACEBOOK is a great place to post layout photos, ask questions, or seek information about the hobby and events.
There is an **NMRA** page, a **NORTHEASTERN REGION, NMRA** page, and **THE CENTRAL NY DIVISION OF THE NMRA** page. See what is happening all over the world in model railroading.

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 Division, contact the Storekeeper and let him know what you have to donate.



Above is a picture of a trolley going across the bridge by Hapanowicz Market in New York Mills. Marty Denali sent the picture. Photographer unknown. Wouldn't this make an interesting scene for a late 1930's layout?

FROM THE DISPATCHER'S DESK

Drew is the guest columnist today. Your story could be in the next edition. Why don't you get started writing it?

Ed and Ed

TIMETABLE AND TRAIN ORDER ON THE CANADA SPOKANE & PACIFIC

From the time construction first started of my HO scale Canada Spokane & Pacific Railroad I envisioned that movement of trains over the railroad would be driven by Centralized Traffic Control (CTC). Most of you know that during the pandemic, Dave Martini, Ken Cameron, and I built a replica US&S CTC machine which has been in use for several years now. I still believe that CTC is the best traffic control method for the railroad given the time frame I model (1978) and the high traffic density (~20 trains during a typical op session) across the railroad. There are no plans to transition away from CTC.

However, over the years, Ken and I have often talked about the possibility of also using Timetable and Train Order (TT&TO) for some sessions. The design of the railroad with fairly long runs between stations and the inability for crews to easily view the next stations lend itself to TT&TO. Also, while I have operated on a couple of layouts which use what I will call "TT&TO light," I have no experience with a full up implementation and it is something I have wanted to learn. My basement is nice and cool during the hot summer so I decided it would be a fun summer project to take on.

The first step was to develop the employee timetable shown below.

CP Rail

Canada Spokane & Pacific Railroad

Employee Timetable

			FIRST CLASS						FIRST CLASS				
CS23	CN East	CS45	3	1	Siding Length (Cars)	ID	Travel Time (Mins)	4	2	SC22	SC42	CN West
Freght	Freight	Freight	Pass	Pass		Type		Pass	Pass	Freight	Freight	Freight
Odd Days	Daily	Daily	Daily	Daily		Frequency		Daily	Daily	Even Days	Daily	Daily
SOUTHBOUND TRAINS (odd numbers, work down)						NORTH		NORTHBOUND TRAINS (even numbers, work up)				
12:00pm		7:15am		6:00am		Calgary (CLY)			4:42pm	1:11pm	6:16pm	
Ar. 12:06pm Lv. 12:51pm		Ar. 7:21am SC32 Dp. 8:15am		↓	20	Nelson Yard (NY)	6		↑	Dp. 1:05pm Ar. 12:15pm	Dp. 6:10 Ar. 5:25pm	
↓	↓	↓	Ar: 9:45am Lv: 10:15am	Ar: 6:12am Lv: 6:22am		S. Nelson (NSN) (Station - Siding)	6	2:45pm	Lv: 4:30pm Ar: 4:15pm	↑	↑	
1:10pm	Ar. 8:00am CS45 Lv. 9:00am	CN East 8:33am	10:20am	6:34am	20	Castlegar (CGR) (Station - Main)	12	2:33pm	4:03pm	11:57am	5:07pm	4:48pm
1:23pm	9:13am	8:46am	10:35am	6:47am	20	Boundary (BDY) (Station - Siding)	13	2:20pm	CS35 3:50pm	11:44am	4:54pm	4:35pm
↓	9:18am	↓	↓	↓		CN Junction (CN)	10	↑	↑	↑	↑	4:30pm
1:33pm		8:56am	11:00am	6:57am	16	Northport (NPT) (Station - Main)		2:10pm	3:40pm	11:34am	4:44pm	
4 1:43pm		9:06am	11:20am	Ar: 7:07am SC32 Lv: 7:17am	20	Kettle Falls (KF) (Station - Siding)	10	Dp. 2:00pm CS23 Ar. 1:30pm	Lv: 3:30pm Ar: 3:15pm	11:24am	CS35 4:34pm	
1:52pm		9:15am		7:26am		Spokane (SPN)	9		3:06pm	11:15am	4:25pm	
SOUTHBOUND TRAINS (odd numbers, work down)						SOUTH		NORTHBOUND TRAINS (even numbers, work up)				

(Continued on page 7)

The Concord Flyer NER convention

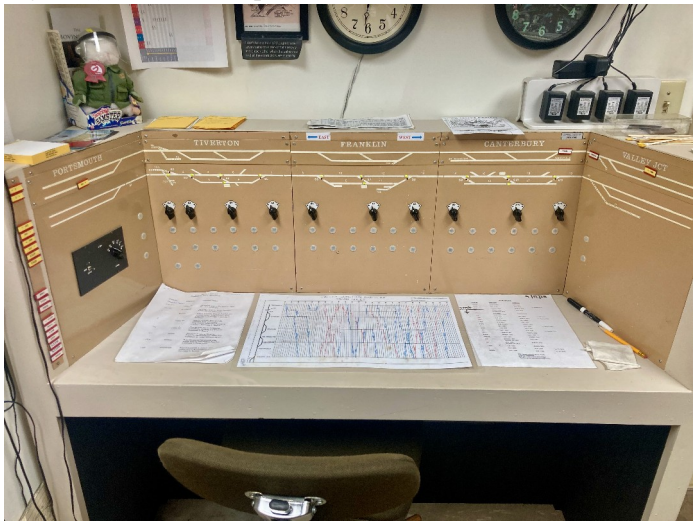
The Division was well represented at the NER Convention in September. By all accounts the event was a great success. Here are some photos.

I rode past this bridge over the Charles River every day on my Green Line trip from Lechmere Station to Boston when I was in grad school. Here it is on Tom Oxnard's B&M. *Ed O'Rourke photo)*

This Joe Santoro's S scale layout. I took the photo moastly for the New Haven Osgood Bradley "American Flyer" coaches. *(Ed O'Rourke photo*

Post Lake Winnipesaukee Boat trip on the Mt. Washington, behind the group. *(Bill Brown photo)*

A very small portion of Chris Oliver's SP Donner Pass layout. *(Ed O'Rourke photo)*



Dispatcher's Panel on Bruce Robinson's Valley Jct. Railroad. *(Ed O'Rourke phot)*

Bob V. got to sit at the wives table, while the guys are to the right behind. Something about a "thorn amongst the roses?" *(Ed O'Rourke photo)*

TIMETABLE AND TRAIN ORDER ON THE CS&P, (*continued from P. 5)*

I had to decide which trains to include in the timetable. It was obvious that the passenger trains should be included and the local turns should not be included and treated as extras. In the end I decided to include about half of the freight trains. The goal was to have a good mix between "regular" trains included in the timetable and "extras" which are not in the timetable. The running times were arrived at by running test trains over the railroad and noting the travel times between stations on the fast clock. I utilized a string chart to help space out trains and figure out where scheduled meets should occur.

In TT&TO operations, train crews have more to do than in CTC. They have to "OS" their departure from each station, fill in the train register, and use the train register and timetable to determine if they can proceed to the next station. They also may have orders waiting for them. Therefore, I decided to slow down the fast clock and eliminated almost all the non-essential (TOFC, through freights, etc) trains from the session.

The rules of TT&TO can be daunting and I have thick rule books from the prototype in my dispatcher's office. However, the more I dug into it, the more I realized that most rules are either inapplicable to my railroad or very special cases. Many rules are also related to flagging. Ken and I decided that only a few basic rules as follows were needed to get trains over the road:

Rules for Road Crews

1	First Class trains are superior to Second Class trains. Regular trains (appearing in timetable) are superior to Extras. Southbound trains are superior to northbound trains of the same class.
2	An inferior train must clear the time of an opposing superior train not less than five minutes.
3	Inferior trains shall take the siding when meeting superior trains, except when meeting passenger trains when the station is on the siding, in which case they shall hold on the main and set switches for the siding.
4	Trains may not leave a station prior to its scheduled departure time.
5	A train shall not leave a station until it has been determined that all superior trains due in the past 12 hours have arrived or left the station.
6	Signals do not provide authority to occupy any track. Authority is only granted via timetable or authorized train order.
7	All signals are permissive. Crews may proceed past a stop (red) at reduced speed. Signals relieve crews of flagging responsibilities.
8	Extras or local switcher performing work at a town shall clear the main or siding (if needed by a passenger train) 5 minutes before the scheduled arrival of a regular train.
9	Crews shall normalize switches following use.

None of these rules are overly complicated and can be quickly briefed at the beginning of a session. They are also contained in the employee timetable.

In early September I held my first TT&TO session with a group of my regulars. It went surprisingly well with no cornfield meets or injuries. As a result, I made a few modifications to the timetable so there would be more extras which tend to be more interesting to run. Also, in the next session I plan to add two station agents – one on the American side and one on the Canadian side. The agents will maintain the train registers, OS trains departing stations, and pass dispatchers train orders to the crews.

There are no plans to stop hosting my normal CTC sessions, but I do plan to add in an occasional TT&TO session to the mix. Hopefully this will add interest for my regulars and keep the operating sessions feeling fresh.

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!

18Ten Designs
Bespoke Rail
CatzPaw Innovations
CB Train Junction
Clever Models, LLC
CMR Products, LLC
Coastmans Scenic Products
Composite Designs, Inc.
Conowingo Models
Cowcatcher Magazine
Dark Sky Modules, LLC
Daylight Sales (Merchandise)
Deepwoods Software
Deluxe Materials
Diorama Hobbies
Dwarvin Enterprises, Ltd
East Coast Circuits
East Plaines Weathering Co.
Enterprise and National Car Rental Services
Evan Designs
EZTronic
Feight Studios
Fusion Scale Graphics
Gatorfoam
Golden Spike Hobbies
Great Decals!
Green Frog Productions
Highways and Byways Model Railroad Graphics
Hot Wire Foam Factory
Ipswich Hobbies
ITLA Scale Models
K.I.S.S Method, Inc.
Klawndyke
LaBelle Woodworking Co.
LARC Products
Leavin' A Mark Engraving
Lineside Details
Logic Rail Technologies
MAC Rail
Marker Tree Creations
Micro-Mark
Mid-South Hobbies
Mine Mount Models, LLC
Miniprints
Mississippi Agriculture & Forestry Museum
Model Train Catalogue
Modelers Decals & Paint
Motrak Models
Model Rectifier Corp (MRC)
MrTrain.com
Mudd Creek Models
New Creations Victorian Railroad Buildings
Nick and Nora Designs
Northlandz
NScale Works by Mike Holly
Old Depot Gallery
Old West Scenery
Precision Model Railroad
R & J Details
R. Duck Woodkits, LLC and R. Duck Locomotive Works
RailroadKits & Microlumina
RAM Track
RR-CirKits
Scale Model Plans
Scale Railroad Models
Scenery Solutions
Showcase Miniatures
T-Trak by Denniston
Team Track Models
The Model Railroad Benchwork Store
The N Scale Architech
The Old Depot Gallery
Third & Townsend Models
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
Wallace Locomotive Works
White Rose Hobbies, LLC
WiFi Model Railroad, LLC
Yelton Models

[New Partners in RED*]

June 2025

Partnership Program Member List

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

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

SEPT. 11 - 14
NER Convention – Concord, NH

SUNDAY OCTOBER 5
CNY MRR Club – Elbridge
DETAILS IN THIS ISSUE

SAT/SUN NOVEMBER 1&2
Great NYS Train Fair

SUNDAY NOV. 16
Roger Beiswenger – New Hartford
Bob Wilkins - Oneida

The BL-2 was in the Cole Land Transportation Museum in Bangor, ME. If you are up that way it is well worth a couple of hours to visit.

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