VOLUME 44, NUMBER 01 JANUARY 2026

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

NMRA NORTHEASTERN REGION

NEXT MEETING. . .

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 7, 2026 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM
CHARLIE AND MARIE ALBEE
215 FALLS BLVD. CHITTENANGO, NY 13037
ANNUAL MEETING – 2:00 – 4:00 PM
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
118 ARCH ST. CHITTENANGO, NY 13037

AT THIS MEETING AND IN THIS ISSUE . . .

Model Railroad: Charlie's Cohocton Valley and Western is set in1959-60, just before the Erie and Lackawanna merger, on the Lackawanna mainline from Corning, NY to Buffalo (loosely interpreted). Parking is on the house side of the street. Follow the driveway to the back of the house and enter through the outside cellar entrance. The layout will be open beginning at 1 pm, and after the meeting.

Division Meeting: The Church is about a half mile from Charlie's house. Entrance for the meeting will be at the front of the building on North Street. Parking on either side of North Street (one way, enter from Russell Street) and on all sides of the church. Election of Officers for the next year will be at this meeting. Candidates are listed on page 10. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor during the meeting.

Clinic: Model showcase – bring something you have been working on to for us to see and marvel at. If you have something you'd like judged for AP credit, let Dave Martini know (martinkelly1966@gmail.com) and he can arrange for judging.

Swap meet: Bring all those items you aren't going to use that have been gathering dust under the layout and sell, swap, or buy new items to put under there. Grab some space on a table when you arrive at the church.

(Photos by Charlie Albee)

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
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Liverpool, NY 13088
(315) 457-7437
martinikelly1966@gmail.com
NMRA Member Aid Chairman
Division Storekeeper
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eolszew1@gmail.com
Division Clinic Coordinator
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6002 Singletree Lane
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larcproducts@yahoo.com
Train Show Coordinator
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(315) 735-2145
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FROM THE FREIGHT SHED

DREW JAMES, MMR, SUPERINTENDENT

The cold outside makes this a great time of the year for model railroading! I hope you all are finding time to work on your layouts, put together a kit that has been sitting on your shelf for far too long, or starting in on a new module. It was also great to see so many of you at the Utica train show, Springfield, and at our banquet.

Banquet: We had a great turnout with over 50(!) members and their guests in attendance. That is the highest attendance in recent memory. Delicious food and good fellowship were had by all. Many thanks to Rick Mniece and Mark Withiam for organizing this event and to Ed Olszewski for sharing his pictures of his Australian transcontinental adventure onboard the *Indian Pacific*.

Board Meeting: The division board met in January. There have been some recent changes to the board's composition. We thank Scooter Youst and Charlie Albee for many years of service as they step away from the board. I recently appointed Scott Donovan as the "Assistant Train Show Coordinator" to help Roger as we have been expanding our public outreach by attending more shows and events in recent years. Scott will also serve on the board.

One of the responsibilities of the board is to make officer nominations. The nominations may be found on page 10 of this edition of Red Markers. Members of this division have always been great at stepping up to serve and I greatly appreciate that Paul Blust and Walter Haner have agreed to stand for election. As with Scott, both are relatively new members of the division who have been very active in the past couple of years. We will also take nominations from the floor at the annual meeting.

The board also reviewed the NMRA's "Division Standards" from its recent "Vision 2035" document. It is no surprise that our division meets or exceeds most of the standards. However, we identified a couple of areas for improvement. We plan to review and discuss the standards at our upcoming annual meeting.

We have a full slate of activities planning for 2026 as can be seen in the calendar. We will be visiting several new layouts for the first time ever, or the first time in a very long time. We are also planning a trip to Steamtown in August instead of the usual train watching.

Annual Meeting: I hope you can make the upcoming annual meeting. Besides finding us a venue to meet in, Charlie Albee is opening up his layout for us to visit. Charlie's is one of those "secret" layouts in the division – we knew he had one, but no one seems to have actually seen it. We will have our swap meet so bring your unneeded treasures for sale to other members. We'll also hold a raffle and have our business meeting.

Drew

"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.

Future Conventions:

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

The 2026 NER Convention Eyes on the NER

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.

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,

Red Markers Publication Deadline 3/5/26

CNY Model RR Club Show
Saturday February 21, 2026
10:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Mattydale American Legion

RocRPM ROCHESTER RAILROAD PROTOTYPE MODELERS MEET
Feb. 21-22, 2026
EDGERTON COMMUNITY CENTER
41 BACKUS ST., ROCHESTER, NY

- Display and discuss your models, completed or in-progress
- Locomotives, rolling stock, structures, and dioramas
- Clinic presentations on modeling and prototype history
- Modular layout displays, including Free-Mo
- Local layout tours and operating sessions

Admission: $10 • Contact: RocRPM2026@gmail.com • facebook.com/RocRPM
PRESENTED BY LAKESHORES DIVISION NMRA AND THE EDGERTON MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

CENTRAL NEW YORK DIVISION NER NMRA, INC
YEAR END PAYMASTER'S REPORT
1 January 2025 – 31 December 2025

BANK ACCOUNTS (note 1)		
Checking Balance as of 1 Jan 2025		$2,518.19
Total DEBITS for period (note 2)	$3,280.50	
Total CREDITS for period	$3,031.83	
Checking Balance as of 31 Dec 2025	$2,269.52	
Savings Balance as of 1 Jan 2025		$27.23
Total DEBITS for period	$0.00	
Total CREDITS for period (note 3)	$0.12	
Savings Balance as of 31 Dec 2025		$27.35
Share Certificate (CD) Balance as of 1 Jan 2025	$2,544.48	
Total DEBITS for period	$0.00	
Total CREDITS for period (note 4)	$1,119.95	
Share Certificate (CD) Balance as of 31 Dec 2025		$3,664.43
EXPENSES		
Meetings	$46.00	
Member Name Badges	$67.41	
Picnic	$230.66	
Banquet (note 5)	$1,225.00	
Train/Hobby Show Outreach	$59.90	
Ops 'til You Drop (note 6)	$415.16	
Red Markers Newsletter	$40.14	
Tool Loan Program	$48.27	
Donations to 501c3 Hosts	$235.00	
Miscellaneous	$12.96	
Total EXPENSES for the period		$2,380.50
INCOME		
Raffle	$347.00	
Division Sales from Donations	$618.00	
Donations	$195.00	
NMRA/NER Dues Sharing	$551.83	
Banquet Reservations (in 2025) (note 5)	$560.00	
Ops 'til You Drop Reservations (note 6)	$660.00	
Events	$200.00	
Savings/Share Certificate Interest	$120.07	
Total INCOME for the period		$3,251.90

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Withiam, Paymaster

Notes:
1. The Bank Accounts section is a quasi-cash flow statement. The Expense/Income sections are a quasi-Balance Sheet. The two are related but will not always perfectly balance out. The Checking, Savings and all Five (5) Share Certificate accounts balanced with the bank as of 31 December 2025.
2. These debits include $1,000.00 in transfers to the Share Certificate accounts.
3. Savings interest.
4. These credits include the $1,000.00 in transfers from the Checking account. The balance is interest.
5. The net cost of the 2025 Banquet – including reservations received in 2024 – was $225.00.
6. The net gain for the 2025 Ops 'til You Drop was $244.84.

FROM THE DISPATCHER'S DESK

Train Show Coordinator Roger Beiswenger is our guest columnist. We think it applies to all of you who volunteer with the Division.

Ed and Ed

Thank you for working the Utica Show yesterday. It was a very busy afternoon with kids lined up for a while to run the layout. We were all very tired afterwards. But the smiles make it all worth it. We saw many kids who love trains whose parents are supporting and encouraging their interest. We also had some good conversations with people. Some of the conversations I had were lengthy. Some were with people we have talked with previously. Some were first time. Some had questions. Some responded to my question with stories about their current, past, or childhood trains, and/or their current dreams or plans. Some shared stories about their own or their father or grandfather's work on the #1 scale. Four people signed our interest sheet. Perhaps none will actually become members. But we engaged the public by providing not only an opportunity to operate on a quality switching layout, but also to share their interests and stories.

I am reflecting today on how Charlie was the master carpenter who took the plan we acquired from the Little Rhody Division, purchased the 4x8 Belgian birch, cut it on Bernie's table saw, and constructed the sections with a little help from the rest of our team. He and Ed wired it. Bob, who as Superintendent initially wondered about projected costs, dove into the final construction details and working with the kids. It is great to have new member Scott on the team now as Assistant Train Show Coordinator.

Thanks again for yesterday and everything you do,

Roger

(Photos by Roger Beiswenger)

Starting Over – Continued from July 2025 Red Markers

By Ed O'Rourke, MMR *(Photos by the Author)*

Just to refresh your memories, I've been detailing the trials, tribulations and rewards of building a new layout in a new house. We have now been here about two-and-a-half years. You may recall last time, Drew and I had just installed the backdrop.

Having the backdrop in place gave me a better sense of how scenery would come together behind the track. The main-level layout tables are only two feet wide except in the staging yards, so a lot of the structures are either flats or low relief models. A key structure is New Haven Station – it anchors the station area and determines where the motor storage tracks end. On the former layout it was a two-sided flat that wrapped around a corner. You can (sort of) see it below left on the old layout.

For the new layout it needed to be a shallow relief building with side walls on both ends. Fortunately, I've gotten pretty good at "deconstructing" buildings, so with liberal amount of plastic solvent cement applied to the joints I was able to get it apart. It is constructed using the fronts of two Bachman Department Stores, and works reasonably well, although not at all an exact replica of the real station. I test fit it before the backdrop went in – there's a gap between two sections hidden behind it that I needed to be sure of and once I knew where it would go I could place the platforms. After the backdrop was in I added some flats to represent the backs of buildings on Union Avenue. Once that was done I installed the platform in front of the station and did some preliminary work on the scenery in Motor Storage.

One of the critical aspects of modeling the New Haven is the overhead wire. I was able to save the catenary bridges and most of the wire from my old layout, but I needed to buy more. The section through the station is wider than on the old layout, and there is a longer run on each end going to staging. Fortunately, ***Model Memories*** in Powhattan, VA, makes authentic New Haven catenary. Don Silbauer, the owner, worked with me to produce exactly what I needed.

It is essential that track-work be perfect and ballasting completed before the wire is installed. You do not want to be fiddling with track, adjusting switches or ballasting after soldering it in place. I also did not want to be working on scenery behind the tracks once the wire was in. Wayward hands, elbows and tools can wreak havoc.

Starting Over

One of the things I wanted was a raised area representing the commercial and residential neighborhood west of the station. I used two sheets of 2-inch extruded foam board as the base for this area. Most of the buildings were salvaged from the old layout, although the central block is a Walthers Merchants Row kit gifted to me many years ago. I use dark grey sanded grout for asphalt paving – I think it provides a good texture. I apply it over wet black paint, then mist it with "wet" water and apply some diluted white glue. The walls are Chooch Random Stone flexible wall sections, which are similar to the stone walls in New Haven. They are all topped with 8-foot board fences to keep people and animals away from the 11,000 volt AC catenary. The steam/diesel engine facilities are to the west of this section, with motor storage to the east. Next time we will move on to the East end of the station.

PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

The companies listed below give discounts to NMRA members when orders are placed using a special discount code. Check them out! You can find descriptions of these companies and their products, links to their websites, and the discount codes on our Partnership Page at *nmra.org/partnerships* . Remember you need to be logged into our site as a member to see the codes! Go to *nmra.org/user/register* to register your name on the website.

- 18ten Designs
- Bespoke Rail
- CatzPaw Innovations
- CB Train Junction
- Clever Models
- CMR
- Coastmans Scenic Products
- Composite Designs
- Conowingo Models
- Cowcatcher Magazine
- Dark Sky Modules
- Daylight Sales
- Deepwoods Software
- Deluxe Materials
- Diorama Hobbies
- DVL Design
- Dwarvin Enterprises
- East Coast Circuits
- East Plaines Weathering
- Enterprise & National Car Rentals
- 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
- Klawndyke
- LaBelle Woodworking
- LARC Products
- Leavin' A Mark Engraving
- Lineside Details
- Logic Rail Technologies
- MAC Rail
- Marker Tree Creations
- Micro-Mark
- Mid-South Hobbies
- Mine Mount Models
- Miniprints
- Mississippi Agriculture & Forestry Museum
- Model Train Catalogue
- Modelers Decals & Paint
- Motrak Models
- MRC (Model Rectifier Corp)
- MrTrain.com
- Mudd Creek Models
- New Creations Victorian Railroad Buildings
- Nick and Nora Designs
- Northlandz
- NScaleWorks
- Old Depot Gallery
- Old West Scenery
- Precision Model Railroad
- R & J Details
- R. Duck Woodkits
- R. Duck Locomotive Works
- RailroadKits & Microlumina
- Ram Track
- RR-CirKits
- Scale Model Plans
- Scale Railroad Models
- Showcase Miniatures
- T-TRAK by Denniston
- Team Track Models
- The Model Railroad Benchwork Store
- The N Scale Architect
- Third & Townsend Models
- Tichy Train Group
- Touch of the Brush Weathering
- Train Installations
- Train Show, Inc.
- Trainmasters TV/MRH Store
- Trainz
- TSG Multimedia
- UGEARS
- USA Airbrush Supplies/Badger
- Wallace Locomotive Works
- White Rose Hobbies
- WiFi Model Railroad (LocoFi)
- Yelton Models

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

2025 – 26 CNY Division Schedule

Meetings 2-4 PM unless otherwise noted!

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

SATURDAY JAN. 18, 2026
12:00 – 4:00PM
Banquet – Theodore's, Canastota

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 7
Charlie Albee - Chittenango
DETAILS IN THIS ISSUE

MON – THUR. MARCH 16–19
NERX

SUNDAY MARCH 22
Utica Union station

SAT/SUN APRIL 18 & 19
Ops 'til You Drop-TBA

SUNDAY MAY 16
Joint meet with Lakeshores

SATURDAYJULY TBA
12 – 4 PM
Division Picnic –
Clay Historical Museum

SATURDAY AUGUST TBA
Trip to Steamtown

SUNDAY SEPT. 20
Gary Frost, Camillus

OCTOBER 15 – 18
NER Convention – Southbridge, MA

SAT/SUN NOVEMBER 14 & 15
Great NYS Train Fair

SUNDAY DECEMBER 6
Dick Hehir, Fayetteville

Come see Charlie Albee's Cohocton Valley and Western Layout and Vote for Division Officers

Officer candidates nominated by CNY Division Executive Board

Superintendent – Drew James
Asst. Superintendent – Walter Haner
Paymaster – Paul Blust
Chief Clerk – Tom Lynch

Members may propose additional nominations from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

NMRA
NORTHEASTERN REGION

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