VOLUME 44, NUMBER 02 MARCH 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. . .

SUNDAY MARCH 22, 2026 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
UTICA UNION STATION
MAIN STREET, UTICA, NY

AT THIS MEETING AND IN THIS ISSUE . . .

Model Railroad: The CSX Railroad, Amtrak, and the Adirondack Scenic Railroad will offer examples of 12” = 1 foot railroading.

Division Meeting: We will have a brief business meeting in the Station waiting room.

Clinic: There will be a tour and lecture regarding the history and current use of the former New York Central Station. Following that will be a tour of the Adirondack Railroad facilities and cars. This will be outdoors, so dress for the weather.

Raffle: We will be in a public space, so the raffle will take a holiday at this event.

Parking: There is free public parking on the streets around the station. There is also a lot on the east side of the building. Observe parking restrictions posted, but there is usually not a problem on a weekend.

(Photo courtesy of Roger Beiswenger)

The "Brass Hats"
Central New York Division
- ELECTED -
Superintendent
Drew James, MMR
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domerdrew@gmail.com
Asst. Superintendent
Walter Haner
(201) 803-1648
walter.haner@gmail.com
Chief Clerk
Tom Lynch
(315) 762-2777
tommyl@me.com
Paymaster
Paul Blust
(315) 484-6766
jamesvillep@gmail.com
- APPOINTED -
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martinikelly1966@gmail.com
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Division Storekeeper
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From the Freight Shed

Drew James, MMR, Superintendent

After going far too long without holding any meetings to the east of Syracuse, we will be holding our third meeting in a row in the Utica / Oneida area of our division. Unlike so many cities where the historical train stations were torn down, Utica preserved its beautiful station, and it is still used to serve railroad passengers. We will get a tour of the station as well as some of the equipment stored there by the Adirondack Railroad. After the tours we will have a short meeting in the waiting area of the station. Many thanks to Roger Beiswenger for setting up this meeting.

Despite a cold and snowy day, we had an excellent turnout for our annual meeting. I have finally seen Charlie Albee's "secret" layout and was very impressed with what I saw! At the annual meeting elections were held for officers, and the results are listed on page 3 of this edition. Thank you, Mark Withiam and Rick Mniece, for your service and I appreciate your willingness to continue to serve the division in other capacities. Welcome aboard Paul Blust (Pay Master) and Walter Haner (Asst Superintendent) and the continued service of Tom Lynch (Chief Clerk). It was clear that Charlie and Marie put in a lot of work preparing for the meeting and it is greatly appreciated! Thank you.

Earlier today I listened to an episode of Ray Arnott's *Around the Layout* podcast where Paul Stamp was the guest. Paul is a younger modeler who also happens to be the Assistant Superintendent of the Lakes Shores division. Several of our division members have enjoyed operating on his outstanding Finger Lakes Railway layout. The topic of the episode was the evolution of the hobby. It was an interesting discussion about smaller switching layouts, modular layouts, 3D printing, social media, super detailing and scratch building, as well as many other topics. The message was loud and clear that the hobby has a bright future and that this is perhaps the golden age of model railroading. Far too many times I hear people lament that the hobby is dying as evidenced by declining NMRA membership, thinner magazines, and the closure of far too many hobby stores. However, a strong argument can be made that it isn't dying but rather is changing. There are more manufacturers of high-quality models than ever before. There are an infinite number of You Tube videos available to teach new skills and techniques. Small "garage shop" producers of detail parts and technology products seem to be everywhere. Attendance is up at train shows across the county. I agree with Paul and Ray. The hobby isn't dying, but it is certainly evolving.

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 4/25/26

Division Officers Elected at the February 7, 2026 General Meeting

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

Congratulations and Thank You for serving the Division!

Note as we go to press! A well-known local modeler has appeared in *Model Railroader!* Railway Post Office, page 21 of the April edition.

CENTRAL NEW YORK DIVISION NER NMRA, INC
PAYMASTER'S REPORT
31 December 2025 – 6 March 2026

BANK ACCOUNTS

Checking Balance as of 31 Dec2025		$2,269.52
Total DEBITS for period	$1,600.00	
Total CREDITS for period	$1,674.00	
Checking Balance as of 6 Mar 2026		$2,343.52
Savings Balance as of 31 Dec 2025		$27.35
Total DEBITS for period	$0.00	
Total CREDITS for period	$0.02	
Savings Balance as of 6 Mar 2026		$27.37
Share Certificate (CD) Balance as of 31 Dec 2025		$3,664.43
Total DEBITS for period	$0.00	
Total CREDITS for period	$25.21	
Share Certificate (CD) Balance as of 6 Mar 2026		$3,689.64

EXPENSES

Banquet	$1,500.00
Donations to 501c3 Hosts	$100.00
Total EXPENSES for the period	$1,600.00

INCOME

Donations	$100.00
Banquet Reservations	$1,229.00
Ops 'til You Drop Reservations	$345.00
Savings/Share Certificate Interest	$25.23
Total INCOME for the period	$1,699.23

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Withiam, Assistant Paymaster

A Scholarship Program for Young Modelers Who Are Pursuing a STEAM Degree

Apply for the

NEW TRACKS MODELING MENTORING SCHOLARSHIP

A unique scholarship for Model Railroaders and other modelers pursuing an undergraduate STEAM related college degree or technical school credential.

Offering at least (3) $2,500 scholarships for the 2026-2027 academic year.

Applications open January 1, 2026

$15,000.00 In Scholarships Have Already Been Awarded!!

To learn more, get an application, or make a donation, scan the QR code or visit:
www.newtracksmodeling.com/scholarship
Questions? E-mail us at:
NTMMS@newtracksmodeling.com

Roger Beiswenger Receives the Superintendent's Award

At the annual meeting Drew presented the Superintendent's Award to Train Show Coordinator Roger Beiswenger. In the last few years the division has increased its presence beyond the traditional train shows in Syracuse and Utica. Thanks to Roger and his team, we are also now doing community outreach at the Maker Faire and the Homeville Museum.
Congratulations, Roger!

FROM THE DISPATCHER'S DESK

Railway Prototype Modeler (RPM) meets have been an increasingly expanding aspect of the hobby. There are many such events throughout the country of varying sizes and complexity. One of the larger ones, in Cocoa Beach, FL, has been going on for over 25 years and was recently written up in Railroad Model Craftsman. A much smaller event was held in Rochester in February, which I was able to attend. I saw some very fine modeling, but also a number of "in progress" models, which is one of the important aspects of RPM meets – show how you are creating this model, not just the finished project. I was happy to see CNY Division member Nick McGinnis there with a couple of his modules. Because they are corners it is difficult to add sidings, but Nick had the interesting idea of creating dummy sidings as scenic elements. I thought this was a neat idea that could be incorporated into a larger layout as well.

On a less happy note, I was able to participate in the "Last Run" on Ron Stacy's Rondemont and West Shore Railroad. Ron has had some health issues related to a fall and he and Nancy are moving to an apartment. Ron says there is a spare bedroom where he can build a switching layout, so some of the layout will live on.

In my "alter ego" as Region President, I presented Ron and Nancy with a Proclamation declaring Saturday February 28, 2026 as "Rondemont and West Shore Day" in the Region. "I am the NMRA!" *(Photo by Dave Coon)*

I also got to serve as engineer of a train, with Ned Spiller as conductor – thank goodness for Ned, since he knows the railroad. My train is in hole, waiting for the coal drag to pass. And yes, you've seen those engines often in NCE ads in the model press.

Ed and Ed

Starting Over – Continued from February 2026 Red Markers

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

The Canal Line branch leaves the east end of New Haven Station. On the prototype New Haven it ran on the bed of the Farmington Canal in a cut through the Yale Campus. My version begins a grade that takes it up and over the east end staging yard. To construct the grade I used Woodland Scenics foam inclines, which create a smooth 2% grade. Cork roadbed was glued on top of the foam and track secured initially with track nails. The curves in the corners east of the station and at the top of the grade were broad enough for my RDC's. This did result in covering up the east staging yard and the Manufacturers Railway lead more than I might have wished, although thus far there have been no serious issues with it.

The track runs right against the backdrop except in the corner, where there is a triangle about 24" across and 12" deep at the center. I didn't cove my corners, so I needed to figure out how to scenic the area and camouflage the right angle of the wall. I decided it would be a part of downtown New Haven with some fairly tall structures.

To create a flat area for buildings I cut a double section of a 1' foam "projects" board to fit the space and glued it in place. I used drywall patching plaster and joint compound to smooth out the joints, then painted it with my ground color. Once that dried I started experimenting with building placement. I wanted a road crossing which would then cross a bridge at the top of the hill. The bridge would camouflage the end of overhead wire.

I glued a few of Bill's "Background Buildings" to the backdrop to suggest a continuation of the street scene. Building front flats served for one side of the street. On the other side, the Earl Smallshaw inspired low relief tenement and another flat suggested a street beyond. The large apartment building is Downtown Deco plaster structure I bought some time ago. They are an interesting build and make up into a nice structure. This one has the "shadow" of a torn down adjacent building, which was replaced by the White Tower restaurant as part of Urban Renewal. The tall building is a City Classics building I shortened by one story. The Acme Company is preparing a shipment of its "World Famous Exploding Tennis Balls" to ship to a Mr. Coyote in the Southwest. The photo doesn't show it, but a road crew is digging up the street and has snarled traffic. A police officer has arrived to direct traffic around the work site.

Starting Over (Cont.)

My next challenge was to install scenery to connect the scene to the mainline tracks. I used Chooch flexible walls for the stone walls which were a feature of the tracks through New Haven. They are easily trimmed and fit together well so they bring the terrain up to the level of the bridge abutment. I had never modeled any rock previously, so I experimented with different shades of black, grey, and brown to produce typical New England rock. I was pretty pleased with the way it came out. The road is sanded grout, which I find effective for modeling asphalt roads. I have seen modelers use sandpaper, but that would have resulted in seams and this has a bit more texture and unevenness, which I like.

The bridge at the top of the grade is a Central Valley single-track bridge which I shortened to fit the space and converted to road use. Bridges across the electric zone featured the 8 foot board fencing to keep people away from the 11,000 volt AC catenary below. The abutments and the wall sections east of the bridge are Chooch castings. Later on I purchased crossing lights and installed them. Pro tip: Much better to do this **before** ballasting track and adding scenery. The bridge is removable, not attached to the abutments. Less chance of damage if it gets bumped by a wayward hand or elbow.

This completed the scenery behind the track so I couldn't postpone installing catenary any longer. In the next installment we will discuss the trials and tribulations of that endeavor.

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!

Saturday Jan. 18, 2026
12:00 – 4:00PM
Banquet – Theodore's, Canastota

Saturday February 7
Charlie Albee - Chittenango

Mon – Thur. March 16–19
NERX

Sunday March 22
Utica Union station
Details in this issue

Sat/Sun April 18 & 19
Ops 'til You Drop-TBA

Saturday 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

The Jim Heidt MOW Award, instituted in 2001, is presented to a division member who has demonstrated Exemplary Service to our Central New York Division, in any way, past or present. Nominations can be made to the Superintendent during the first three months of the year, through March 31. A member can only receive the award once.

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
2014 - Not Awarded
2015 Ed O'Rourke
2016 Charlie Albee
2017 Len Amrhein
2018 Roger Beiswenger
2019 Robert Verkuyl
2020 – Bernie Messenger
2024 - Drew James

NMRA
NORTHEASTERN REGION

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