VOLUME 44, NUMBER 04 JULY 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

NEXT MEETING. . .

SATURDAY JULY 25, 2026 12:00 – 4:00PM
DIVISION PICNIC – CLAY HISTORICAL PARK
NY RTE 31, CLAY, NY

AT THIS MEETING AND IN THIS ISSUE . . .

Division Meeting: Typically, no business is conducted at this meeting. There may be information shared about upcoming events. The **Jim Heidt MOW Award** will be presented.

Model Railroad: No model railroad to visit but the Historic Cigarville Station is open for visits and the CSX Montreal Line does run right past the site so we might see a 12" = 1' train.

The Picnic: 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 – Salad (Pasta, Potato, Garden, etc.) **G-M** – Desserts
N-T – Snacks (Chips, crackers, dip, etc.) **U-Z**- Side Dish (Beans, Casserole, 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 the division (cnynmra@gmail.com) if you can do any of the following:
-bring a grill.
-volunteer to cook.

Raffle: On vacation this month.

SATURDAY AUGUST 22, 2026
DIVISION TRIP TO STEAMTOWN

The Trip: Our visit to Steamtown takes the place of our usual Train Watching event. The trip is self-drive: we will meet at the Steamtown entrance at 10:30 AM.
Travel: Those who may wish to carpool should meet at Lafayette, NY Park & Ride (behind McDonalds off I-81 South) no later than 8:15AM. Members from the Utica area may wish to make their own arrangements.
Lunch will be on your own: there is a mall food court which connects to the park or bring your own lunch.
We will have a back-shop tour and a train ride. The train ride will cost $6, payable day of at the park.

<u>You must RSVP (cnynmra@gmail.com) for the trip no later than Friday August 7!!!!!</u>
We need to know how many tickets to order for the train ride and tour.
We may plan a dinner stop at Bingham's Exit 211 PA 92 on the return trip.

The "Brass Hats"
CENTRAL NEW YORK DIVISION
- ELECTED -
Superintendent
Drew James, MMR
(315) 430-3440
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 -
NMRA Achievement Program Representative
Dave Martini
(315) 457-7437
martinikelly1966@gmail.com
NMRA Member Aid Chairman
Division Storekeeper
Ed Olszewski
(315) 488-4193
eolszew1@gmail.com
Division Clinic Coordinator
Bill Brown, MMR
(315) 454-2516
larcproducts@yahoo.com
Train Show Coordinator
Roger Beiswenger
(315) 735-2145
rogerfbeis@gmail.com
Assistant Train Show Coordinator
Scott Donovan
315-736-8042
sedonovan@roadrunner.com
Assistant Paymaster
Mark Withiam
607-591-7812
mlwithiam@yahoo.com
Social Event Co-ordinator
Rick Mniece
(315) 699-6668
rmniece@gmail.com
Red Markers Co-Editors
Ed Olszewski and
Ed O'Rourke, MMR
5193 Pointe East Drive
Jamesville, NY 13078
(315) 247-0494
eolszew1@gmail.com
edwardorourke1@me.com
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FROM THE FREIGHT SHED

DREW JAMES, MMR, SUPERINTENDENT

As I write this the temperature outside is well into the 90s! However, it is a cool comfortable 73 degrees in my basement and I've been taking advantage of perfect model railroading weather to work on some projects. Most of you know that on the day of our May meeting I came down into the basement to grab a drink from the fridge before heading to Geneva and found water on the floor throughout the basement. I'm happy to report that after several weeks of disruption and disarray, there is new carpeting in the crew lounge, the train room floor is repainted, and the sump now has a new pump with a backup float. Luckily there was no water in the shop and the only thing I stored under the layout on the floor were empty boxes so no trains were harmed. Actually, this is the nicest the basement has ever been.

In this hot weather I finished installing the new food distributer in Nelson. *(Photo on Page 3)* Now I have to figure out how it gets serviced. Most likely the Nelson Switch Job (NSJ) will turn into a morning job and an afternoon job. It also gives me reason to add a few more reefers and box cars to the fleet.

This summer will be a little be different than usual. Our July picnic will be at the Clay Historical Park for the first time. We met there a couple of years ago for a regular meeting. They have a very nice facility and museums as well as the Cigarville Station for us to tour. Of course, the Freight Yard brew pub is located just across the tracks for those of you who have an interest after the picnic. Also, you might want to take a drive up the road and see where the new railroad spur is being installed to bring fill into Micron.

In August, instead of our normal train watching activity, we will be heading down to Steamtown. Probably most of you have been there before at least once, but it is always a good time. It has been several years since I was last there. I was pleased to hear that several of you took up the offer of the NRHS to join them on their bus trip to Steamtown to see the Big Boy.

The day after the picnic I'll be heading to Chattanooga for the national convention. We'll have a table there for *Empire State Express 2028* and I'll be checking out everything they do for ideas and lessons learned. Should be a good time.

Enjoy the summer!

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 9/01/26

Here's the new food warehouse in Nelson on the CS&P. *(Photo by Drew James)*

CENTRAL NEW YORK DIVISION NER NMRA, INC
PAYMASTER'S REPORT
4 May 2025 – 9 July 2026

BANK ACCOUNTS

Checking Balance as of 4 May 2026		$2,321.80
Total DEBITS for period	$0.00	
Total CREDITS for period	$15.00	
Checking Balance as of 9 July 2026		$2,336.80
Savings Balance as of 4 May 2026		$27.39
Total DEBITS for period	$0.00	
Total CREDITS for period	$200.05	
Savings Balance as of 9 July 2026		$227.44
Share Certificate (CD) Balance as of 4 May 2025		$3,715.90
Total DEBITS for period	$0.00	
Total CREDITS for period	$25.22	
Share Certificate (CD) Balance as of 9 July 2026		$3,741.12

EXPENSES

Total EXPENSES for the period	$0.00

INCOME

Ops 'til you Drop Reservations	$15.00
New Banner Funds from National	$200.00
Savings/Share Certificate Interest	$25.27
Total INCOME for the period	$240.27

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Blust, 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

Starting Over - Addendum

Pro tip! Do not let your beloved grandson run your Rapido EP-5 , which raises and lowers the pans depending on direction of travel, under half-completed wire with the pans up. They will invariably snag on the incomplete end, which will result in damage resulting in the pans malfunctioning and require that it be sent back to Rapido to see if they can repair it. Do not ask how I know this.

From The Dispatcher's Desk

Ed and Ed

Starting Over – Continued from March Red Markers

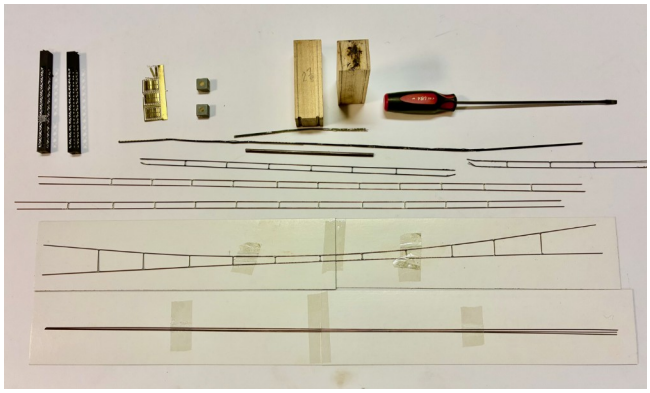
by Ed O'Rourke, MMR -photos by the author

Once the track work was all in place and I was comfortable with its functionality I invited some CNY Division friends in to test run some operations. I wanted to be sure the plan I had was workable and entertaining, and see that any track "gremlins" were repaired. I planned on having six operator positions: Manufacturers Railway switcher, Canal Line Turn operator (this job could have a two-person crew), a "local" switcher to work mainline industries, a Stationmaster to control trains through the station area, and two mainline engineers to run the through passenger and freights. Passenger trains on the main-line stop in the station to exchange power (electric to diesel/steam or vice versa). Freights run from one end to the other without stopping. I opted to use switch lists for all jobs rather than the car card waybill system I used on the previous layout.

The system seems to have worked out well, and all have agreed it is entertaining. I have made a few tweaks to it after various suggestions. I would like to add a fast clock to better time the mainline trains, but have not done so as yet. Inevitably issues arose, in one case requiring replacement of a turnout, fortunately discovered before installing ballast. Paperwork has been made more clear (I think). We have survived two Ops 'til You Drop seasons, so I think it is doing what I had hoped for.

So now we are on to the promised discussion of Catenary

As I have said many times, I grew up in the New Haven's "electrified zone" and have always loved "heavy electric" traction. So I always had an idea that I would model the New Haven station area, which would require installing overhead wire. But it wasn't until our late Superintendent Brian Curry visited my first layout that the matter came to a head. Brian simply remarked "Ed, how can you model the New Haven without overhead wire?" How indeed. I knew I wasn't ever going to be able to fabricate enough overhead for even the short area I had on that layout, to say nothing of the lattice catenary bridges needed. Fortunately, I discovered "Model Memories" a company in Virginia that produces authentic New Haven catenary. The owner is Don Silbauer, who has been most helpful and willing to produce custom work for me. I bought a couple of two-track bridges and some wire and actually installed one section on that first layout before it was torn down for a move to a new home.



STARTING OVER, *(continued from page 5)*

The photo (page 5, right) shows some of the basic parts and tools needed. The pull-off towers (as well as the bridges) can be purchased as flat kits or fully assembled. Assembly requires good soldering skills and patience and attention to detail. Originally I bought the flat kits and soldered them myself, but more recently have decided that time is money and let Don assemble them. The concrete bases come with each tower. The wooden blocks are used to support the wire while soldering it to the towers. You can also see the various types of wire and the "floating beam" at the bottom. The screwdriver is used to install the towers to the layout - they are either bolted or screwed into the roadbed. It was a challenge to find one long enough with a small enough blade to fit inside the tower. They now come with Phillips heads – I haven't found a suitable driver yet.

The bridges come in two, three or four-track versions. I have used all of them at various points on the layout. The New Haven's wires were attached to each bridge and a "floating beam" half-way between each bridge suspended by wire from each tower. Photo left below shows 2-track bridges with "floating beam" attached to a pull-off tower, which is needed for wire on a curve. Right below is a 4-track bridge with a single track extension to the right.

Did you notice, by the way, that one of the buildings in the background is upside down? It's been there for over a year through multiple op sessions without comment. I only noticed it in the photo – photos don't lie like our eyes do.

In the station, where wires span as many as 7 tracks a different system is used. Instead of a bridge there is a wire section attached to towers. You can see that below.

STARTING OVER, *(Continued from page 6)*

I didn't want to run catenary over the staging areas, but didn't want to end the wire out in the open, so I opted to camouflage the end of wire, on the East end with a road bridge described earlier, and on the West end with a footbridge I scratch-built. There was such a bridge in New Haven to allow workers access to the yards without walking across the main-line station tracks. The wires rise as they approach the end so that pantographs ease onto the traction wire.

Catenary installation is a slow process, again requiring good soldering skills, care, and attention to detail. The bridges and towers all need to be correctly spaced and installed solidly and leveled. As above, they are installed with bolts drilled through the plywood sub-roadbed and screwed into place with the long screwdriver. With my layout only two-feet deep I could hold the nuts with one hand and operate the driver with the other. On a deeper layout it would be a two-person job.

Model Memories catenary comes with very complete and thorough instructions, which was most helpful. The first step is to create a wire height gauge – actually several of them. I designed one especially to fit over switches. They are square wooden blocks with grooves cut in the bottom at track gauge and lines drawn to show the gauge on top. This sets the wire at a basic 22 HO-scale feet (2 7/8") above the track and keeps the wire centered over the track. It can wander a bit, but not much. (See photos below)

For straight track, the process is to install the hanger kit, then solder contact wires in place. It is essential to have a good soldering iron with a clean tip, use flux and take your time. I found I could install about two to three sections at a time before I needed to take a break and do somethinbg else. I did NOT have a battery powered iron, which added the complication of keeping the cords out of the way. It took several weeks of working on a few sections at a time to complete the entire layout, with a pause in the middle because I ran out of wire. I'm pleased with the way it turned out, but will not say that this part of model railroading is FUN.

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

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

Saturday May 16
Joint meet with Lakeshores

SaturdayJuly 25
12 – 4 PM
Division Picnic –
Clay Historical Museum
Details in this issue

Saturday August 22
Trip to Steamtown
Details in this issue

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

A friend went down to Sayre to catch the Big Boy – this is a still from her video. *(from video by Terry Mingle)*

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