

The Lantern

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 5

SEPTEMBER 2024

WESTERN NEW
YORK
DIVISION



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Reminder: New Division
leadership effective October
2024 (elections held in June)

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Sep. 2024 - No Meeting
NER Convention 9/19-9/22
Rochester, NY

19 October 2024
Mtg. @ 100 Lee Street
Buffalo, NY

23-24 November 2024
Hamburg Train Show
Hamburg, NY (fairgrounds)

07 December 2024
Holiday Party - TBD

From the Cab



Division

Please let me first say thank you to all of you for your thoughts, prayers, and great meals during my recent illness. You personify what being a member of the NMRA is all about—making friends. Thank you all.

To that end, I encourage you to participate to some degree in [LakeShores '24](#). [LakeShores '24 is the Northeastern Regions Regional convention](#) open to all NMRA members. (I have provided links to their website where you see blue underlines; clicking on the image will also take you there) You don't have to go every day if you don't want to. You can pick and choose when and where. There are clinics, operational layouts to participate in, a train ride from Brockport to Medina and back, and Layout tours in Buffalo, Rochester, and Syracuse to visit. The Interchange Room is a hangout area with Vendors, Switching layouts, Free-Mo, and Learning Tables at which clinicians will present continuous demonstrations throughout the mornings. Plus, the Celebration of Models is one of the highlights of any NER Convention.

Also, you get to meet a great bunch of people who talk your ear off about modeling. Speaking of clinics, I, Frank Pastore, Gary Reynolds, Ken Akerboom, and Ron Kemp from our Division, as well as industry experts like Chris Costello (JL Innovations), Chuck Diljak MMR (our buddy from Northern New Jersey), Mike Tylick MMR, (Bar Mills) Jim DeMarco MMR LakeShores AP Chair, Otto Vondrak MRC Magazine, and Tony Koester, will be sharing their knowledge and experiences. This is a unique opportunity to learn from the best in the field.

As an NMRA member in the Northeastern Regions, LakeShores '24 is the closest regional convention you can attend with minimal travel. Its convenient location makes it easy for you to check it out and consider attending one of the events. The proximity of the convention should make it a compelling option for you to consider.

With all these exciting opportunities at [LakeShores '24](#), I encourage you to consider attending. My best wishes, and thanks again to all of you for your continued support and friendship. I hope to see you at [LakeShores '24](#). 📍

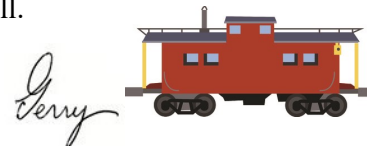
From the Cabin Car

Hello! Looks like I missed a great picnic this year...I hope everyone had a fun and relaxing time at the Williamsville Depot. Luckily, Lisa and I caught some enjoyably cooler weather while visiting Chicago over the picnic weekend.



Since returning from that trip, I finally started preparing a roughly 14 foot by 38 foot area of my basement for an O scale, high rail layout. As many of you know, that's not much space for a 3-rail layout, but with careful planning, we'll make it work. As of Sept. 4, 2024 the milestone of finished drywall walls was achieved and now begins the "real" work. I'm pretty handy with power tools, electrical work, and painting, but will eventually be headed towards some of the more challenging aspects of our hobby...permanent track laying, scenery, and weathering. I look forward to developing those skills going forward, but a little apprehensive I'll make a mistake (or two)! Well, as luck would have it, Mike Hauk, Superintendent of Division 12 MCR, has some encouraging words for us all.

Thank you Mike for sharing your insights! 📸



Superintendent's Letter (Mike Hauk, Div. 12, MCR)

A recent discussion on our Thursday night modeling chat led to some back-and-forth about "comfort zones". One of our regulars who is an MMR and helps with the NMRA "Modeling with the Masters" often hears, "I could never do THAT!" from participants.

I would like to point out that attitude, while understandable, is self-defeating. Understandable, because people often want to stay in their comfort zone; but self-defeating because it can lead to stagnation and boredom.

Comfort zones can be both positive and negative for hobbies. Comfort zones can be a safe place to focus on yourself and your personal qualities. They can also allow you to draw on experience and perform tasks you're familiar with and likely to succeed at.

However, comfort zones can lead to boredom and stagnation if you don't expose yourself to new experiences. They can also limit your learning and growth.

Stepping outside of your comfort zone can have positive effects, such as breaking down your routine and allowing you to explore your curiosity.

Taking a few risks with your modeling can help you learn more about yourself, build confidence, and become more comfortable with taking chances, leading to expanded modeling opportunities. This can also lead to new social opportunities such as showing others your new-found techniques, or even giving a clinic about what you've learned!

Humans are excited by change, even though we're also hardwired to develop routines; and exploring a few new things and expanding our modeling horizons can lead to greater joy derived from the hobby.

So, break out of your routine comfort zone and try something new! Whether that car! Lay down some static grass! Paint that backdrop! You don't know what you're missing!

Mike Hauk

Superintendent, Division 12, MCR

Article by Mike Hauk, Superintendent Division 12, MCR (used with permission)



July 20, 2024 - DIVISION PICNIC AT THE DEPOT

On July 20th, the WNY Division of the NMRA held their annual picnic at the Williamsville Depot just off South Long Street in the Village of Williamsville, NY. A great time had by all and many thanks to all the membership who donated items for the raffle, provided tents/tables, etc. for the day, brought a dish for passing, and cooked! And many thanks to the Western New York Railway Historical Society for allowing us to hold our event at the depot! 📷



Photos By Dave Hornung

WNY DIVISION MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

As you know, Steve Cotton is our Membership Chairman and does a great job at keeping us informed of not only new members when they join, but overall the health of the Division in terms of participation whether it be presentations or attendance. For the mid-2024 recording period, Steve is reporting:

“Steady membership numbers with a slight increase in recent months. Meeting attendance has averaged about 32% of the membership total over the period. This is a healthy percentage and perhaps a testament to the convenience of our meeting locations, the general high quality of the programs and their presentation, and the camaraderie that has developed among our members, all contributing to the overall value and appeal of the meetings.”

As you can see below, tracking membership stats can be challenging...thanks to Steve for keeping us informed! Going forward, we'll periodically provide membership updates and stats for everyone's awareness. 📊

WNY DIVISION MEETING ATTENDANCE

Member Name	Address	Phone	City	State	Zip	Member Since	Active	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Abrahamson, Dan	1234 Main St	716-432-1234	Buffalo	NY	14202	1985	Yes																															

AP REPORT

Gary Reynolds, MMR, our AP Manager, shares the latest on our AP Program.

Gary's message to WNY NMRA members:

I have one big piece of advice for anyone who plans to apply for an AP certificate, "Read the requirements on the NMRA website." Do not try to overthink what it says. Do not try to interpret what it says. Do not make it harder than it says.

Several of the certificates, specifically Motive Power, Cars, and Structures require that some of the models be judged or qualified for the certificate. This requires three judges to grade the model on five specific areas: construction, detail, conformity, finish, and scratchbuilding. If you look at the AP areas on the NMRA website, you can find out what each of these areas entails. Another way is to ask me (your AP chairman) what each area entails. The judges follow these definitions. **DO NOT MAKE UP YOUR OWN DEFINITIONS.**

Case in point, scratchbuilding is a very tricky category. Some people want the category to cover anything they have to cut, file, or fit a kit to be included as scratchbuilt. By definition, anything supplied in a kit is **NOT** scratchbuilt. To be considered scratchbuilt, you have to purchase the raw stock, make your own plans, and build it. The score is then considered as a percentage of the model that is scratchbuilt. If the kit is built entirely from kit-supplied parts, the scratchbuilt score is zero.

If you are building a structure or car or motive power from a kit, you need to fabricate some additional detail out of strip wood, strip plastic, sheet wood, sheet plastic, or whatever, and add it to the completed model. In the final write-up, you must list the material you used (not from the kit) and explain what you did. Only then will you get some points in this category.

This may sound hard, but remember your AP chairman (that's me) is here to help you.

Thank You,

Gary

Links and Notes



Directions:
Get off the 190 at the Smith Street Exit and go south on Smith Street to South Park Ave, turn left and head east on South Park to Lee Street, then turn left on to Lee Street and 100 Lee is on the left side of the street.

Parking and an entrance are in the back of the building; however, a Handicap entrance is only available in the front of the building.

Use a QR Reader to go to Western New York Division of the NMRA website. Yes fans we have our own



Good Reasons to keep your

THREE BIG BENEFITS OF NMRA MEMBERSHIP:

- 15% OFF
- 25% OFF
- 45% OFF

These are the discounts that manufacturers and hobby shops in our Partnership Program are giving us right now. Partners like Micro-Mark®, Model Rectifier Corporation®, Badger Airbrush®, Unreal Details®, Hot Wire Foam Factory®, Logic Rail™ Technologies, and over 30 more companies. It's savings that can actually pay for your membership!

And are you taking advantage of our other big benefits? Like 150+ national convention clinic videos. Or over 15 hours of "how-to" videos produced by the biggest names in model railroading videos. Or our directory of model railroad layouts all over the world that you can visit. The list goes on and on.

If you haven't visited www.nmra.org lately, you're missing out on some really great stuff. Starting with a boatload of discounts!

nmra.org
We make it more fun.

nmra.org **PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM**

NMRA members can log in at www.nmra.org and click on the Benefits tab to view the NMRA Partnership Programs. Please patronize all of our partners for some fantastic discounts as an NMRA member!

*NScaleWorks	NScaleWorks offers N-scale scenery and rolling stock detail items, as well as custom designed and printed decals.
*Tichy Train Group	Manufacturer of rolling stock and structure kits in N, HO, S, and O, as well as a wide array of detail & structural parts.
CatzPaw Innovations	Modelers Decals & Paint
Clever Models	Model Railroad Benchwork
Deluxe Materials	Model Train Catalogue
East Coast Circuits	Motrak Models
Great Decals	MRC (Model Rectifier Corp)
Green Frog Productions	OK Engines/Streamliners
Hot Wire Foam Factory	Old West Scenery
Jason's Brass Poles	Ram Track
K.I.S.S. Method Inc	RR-CirKits
LARC Productions	Rusty Stamps
Logic Rail Technologies	Scale Model Plans
Micro-Mark	Scalecoat Paint
Mini-Man Scale Models	Scenery Solutions
	Team Track Models
	The N Scale Architect
	The Train Show, Inc.
	Train Installations, LLC
	Trainmaster TV/MRH Store
	UGearz
	Unreal Details
	USA Airbrush Supply/
	Badger Airbrush
	WIFI Model Railroad LLC

*Indicates newest Partner

Click here for Partnership Pro-



Links and Notes

NOTE: At the HDC library we have been sorting magazines, both model railroad and prototype railroad. We have supplies of every title. We can, in many cases, supply full year sets of magazines. We will price magazines at very competitive prices for single copies and for full year sets. We encourage people to ask us about filling gaps in their collections. No doubt we can do that.

If you think it is appropriate please make this known to the membership. Want lists can be sent to [me](#) or to [Steve Kocsis](#). People can make purchases at the HDC or at the train show next month.

Obviously we have hundreds of copies of Model Railroader and RMC but we also have many copies of Mainline Modeler, Railpace, Classic Trains, and others.

Editors Note:

Any image in Links and Notes should take you to their website by clicking on the image. 

WNY NMRA Membership Info Pamphlet

Who We Are



The NMRA

The National Model Railroad Association (NMRA), an organization of model railroaders, advances the worldwide scale model railroading community through education and standards as well as advocacy and fellowship.

The Western New York Division

The Western New York Division (WNYD) is a division of the NMRA and consists of Erie and Niagara counties in Western New York State.



Western New York Division

Fast Facts

- Organized in 2020
- Approximately 65 members
- Consists of Erie and Niagara Counties
- The Division is within the Niagara Frontier Region of the NMRA
- The WNY Division hosts events monthly
- Events consist of clinics, model railroad operations, prototype tours, layout open houses, door prizes, and much more
- Events are located throughout the division
- The division publishes *The Lantern* newsletter, bimonthly
- Learn more at www.WNYDivisionNMRA.com



Welcome to the
National Model
Railroad Association's
Western New York Division



Contact us at
Superintendent@WNYDivisionNMRA.com

Photo Credits:

Jerry Jordak, Frank Pastore, Bob Maskrey

Why Join the NMRA?

- Receive discounts from model railroad manufacturers that have partnered with the NMRA
- When you join the NMRA, you also receive automatic membership in the Niagara Frontier Region and the Western New York Division - Experience the fun and fellowship of getting together with other modelers... for help, advice & encouragement!



- Annual National & Regional conventions - Clinics, layout and prototype tours, contests & much more
- The Western New York Division conducts monthly meets, consisting of clinics, layout operations, & more
- Download articles from other division newsletters highlighted in the *NMRA Magazine*
- The NMRA offers insurance coverage for club meets & shows - If your club is 100% NMRA, you qualify!

- Participate in the NMRA's Achievement Program - Take part to improve your modeling skills or go for "Master Model Railroader" certification



- The NMRA has the world's largest railroad library - Contains over 100,000 prototype photos, 6,000 books, over 50,000 modeling, prototype and historical magazines, and thousands of kit instructions



- The NMRA offers reduced rates on special insurance for your layout or collection
- The NMRA offers free estate counseling

- Access to NMRA Standards & Data Sheets
- NMRA's Model Railroad Directory to contact other NMRA members in your area... or across the country
- Receive monthly digital national *NMRA Magazine*, bimonthly electronic *NMRA eBulletin*, monthly electronic *NMRA Turntable*, and bimonthly Western New York Division's *The Lantern* newsletter - All filled with NMRA news, modeling articles, tips and more.



- Watch pre-recorded clinics available on the NMRA website in the comfort of your home.



Introducing the best deal in model railroading.

Join the NMRA for 9 months for just \$19.95!*

- Get discounts from free shipping to 20% off (or more) from manufacturers of all sizes who've partnered with the NMRA
- Contact other NMRA members anywhere in the world for layout tours, train chat or even op sessions through our Model Railroad Directory
- Get access to more than 20,000 photos, slides, plans, drawings, paint schemes and more with the NMRA Online Archives
- Receive 9 monthly issues of *NMRA Magazine*
- Receive reduced rates on layout or collection insurance
- Take part in programs like Modeling with the Masters, the Achievement Program, Estate Counseling, contests, clinics, and more!
- Attend events at your local Division or Region

Sign me up!

Fill out this form and include your payment.
U.S.: Send \$19.95 (U.S.) to NMRA-RailPass Membership,
 P.O. Box 1328, Soddy Daisy, TN 37384

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Expiration _____ Security Code _____

Signature _____



**So much bang.
So few bucks.**

*RailPass offer is for new members and those who haven't been NMRA members for two years or more. Individuals can join at RailPass rates only once. Membership renewal will be at the regular membership rate. RailPass members can attend conventions and participate in contests, but cannot vote or hold office.



NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION, INC.
P. O. BOX 1328
SODDY DAISY, TN 37384-1328

FROM _____



PLACE
STAMP
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Remember that the National NMRA and the Regions are not where the hobby works, it works locally. We are the NMRA. Come and join us .

The best part of being a member of the NMRA is the friends you meet along the way.



Why name this newsletter “The Lantern”, because we are tired of being in the dark and we are signaling that we are going to make some changes.