The Lontern

Newsletter of the Western New York Division
Niagara Frontier Region - National Model Railroad Association

Volume 5 · Issue 1 March 2025



IN THIS ISSUE:

From the Cabin Car 3
DEC 2024/JAN & FEB
2025 Mtg. Notes 4-7
AP Report 9-11
What's On Your
Work Bench 12
Retirement 13
Division Calendar 14
Links & Notes 16-19

Please visit for more info: www.wnydivisionnmra.com www.nmra.org

UPCOMING EVENTS:

<u>Is March @ HDC</u>

<u>Is April - No Meeting</u>

Happy Easter!

Is May @ HDC

21 June @ HDC
"Make & Take" with
JL Innovative Design
...more details coming
soon!

From the Cab

Division,

There are a number of people who are members of the NMRA along with holding membership in other great rail historical societies and clubs. Art Toale was one of them. Art passed away after a tragic accident in January. The Western New York Railway Historical Society presents two premiere train and toy shows yearly and Art has been chairman of that event for the past ten years. He always cut a fine figure in his conductor's uniform which he wore for every show. Art's passion for rail preservation and community service has been passed down to his family. Art's daughter Amy has stepped forward and will chair the Train and



Toy show and be assisted by her sister Becky and Art's wife Sandy. Rest in Peace Art.

Thanks to Bob Andrycha and Bob Scheib for their presentation on the history of

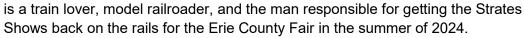


the railroads that served Akron and Newstead at our January meeting. The amount of rail activity in that area in the early 1900's was incredible.

In the magazine Model Railroad Planning 2025 you'll find an article on layout planning as a role-playing game. The article written by Mike Haulk, Superintendent of the Alleghany Western Division 12 in the Mid Central Region. Last November along with a few other WNY Division members I visited Mike's layout in Erie, Pennsylvania during their Division layout tour week-

end. Mike is a skilled modeler.

At our March 15th meeting Marty Biniasz Director of Marketing for the James E. Strates Shows will be our guest. Marty



Two dates to remember for June. The 21st a Make & Take with JL Innovative Design...more details coming soon. June 28th the annual Division picnic at the Williamsville Depot.

Bill Wiedenbeck, Superintendent @

Photo and Images by Bill Wiedenbeck

Western New York Division Contact Info:

Elected:

Superintendent: Bill Wiedenbeck

Superintendent@wnydivisionnmra.com

Radiobill@roadrunner.com

716-866-3732

Assistant Superintendent: Steve Cotten

Assistantsuperintendent@wnydivisionnmra.com

716-261-8231

Chief Clerk: Mike Grabecki

Chiefclerk@wnydivisionnmra.com / 716-440-7685

Pay Master: Tom McQuillen

Paymaster@wnydivisionnmra.com / 716-517-0155

Appointed:

Division Achievement Program Chairman:

Gary Reynolds, MMR

Gar2rey@gmail.com / 716-225-2269

Membership Chairman: Mike Grabecki

Mgrabecki@icloud.com / 716-261-8231

Elections Chairman: Ron Tober

rontober@gmail.com / 716-694-0875

Newsletter Editor: Gerry DiPaola

Editor@wnydivisionnmra.com / 716-545-1740

IT Director: Darby Marriott

DirectorIT@wnydivsionnmra.com / 469-815-5324

Webmaster: Andy MacVie

Andymacvie@roadrunner.com / 716-445-6805

Executive Board Members:

Ron Tober

rontober@gmail.com / 716-694-0875

Franke Pastore

frankcpastore@yahoo.com / 716-909-6898

Ron Kemp

rgkemp316@gmail.com / 716-990-9903

<u>Division Contact for 2028 NMRA National Convention:</u>

Andy MacVie

Andymacvie@roadrunner.com / 716-445-6805



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.

From the Cabin Car

Greetings Everyone!

I hope you've been able to enjoy our hobby lately, whether indoors due to the bitter cold or by braving the elements and heading to any of the many shows and events being held this winter season in our region.

So far, I've been able to attend the Batavia, NY and both of the recent Hamburg Fair-grounds events. At all three events, I had the pleasure of speaking with a number of folks including a gentleman looking to get into the hobby (as 2nd winter hobby), an European Train Enthusiast (ETE) member/modeler, and a coworker (with young children) looking to expand beyond the basic Christmas tree layout. All three individuals were in very different phases of their model railroad journey, yet in all three instances, I either learned something completely new aspect of our hobby, shared my knowledge/experience of the hobby with others, or both. After each encounter, it was rewarding to learn of "something new" even after a number of years in the hobby and to help others seeking information on how to begin their model railroad journey into what may turn into a life long hobby for them.

Before closing, I want to encourage everyone to checkout the next round of model railroading events in the months ahead (be sure to visit our WNY Division web page for the upcoming events/flyer listings)...you never know who you'll meet or bump into even if only for a few minutes. You just might end up learning something new about our awesome hobby, and even better, you may find yourself inspiring others to take that first step into a hobby that has something for everyone, from prototype modeling to railing fanning and everything in-between!



Photos by Gerry DiPaola



Assistant Superintendent Steve Cotten on point ready to assist with questions or provide advise.



Gerry DiPaola, Editor

December 2024 - Division Mtg. / Holiday Luncheon







Photos by
Mike Grabecki



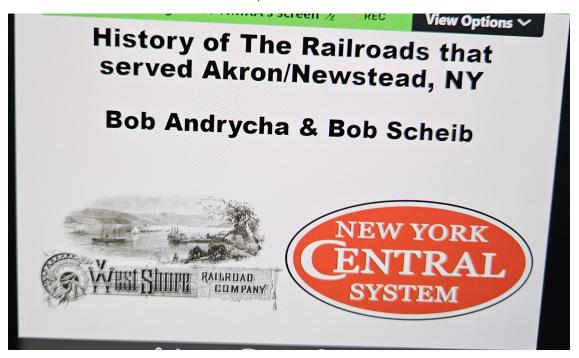


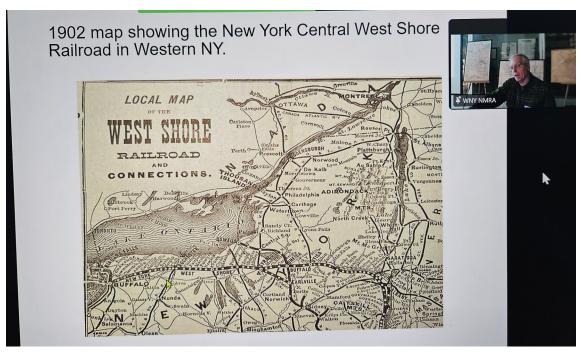




January 18, 2025 - Division Mtg. at Heritage Discovery Center

On January 18th, the WNY Division of the NMRA held their monthly meeting at the Heritage Discovery Center. Superintendent Bill Wiedenbeck presided over a short business meeting. Guest speakers included Mr. Bob Andrycha and Mr. Bob Scheib giving a presentation on the History of the Railroads that served Akron & Newstead, New York.





Presentation slides by Mr. Bob Andrycha and Mr. Bob Scheib

February 15, 2025 - Division Mtg. at Hamburg Train Show



Assistant Superintendent, Steve Cotton, presiding over the February meeting on behalf of Superintendent, Bill Wiedenbeck.



Chief Clerk, Mike Grabecki, updates WNY Division members on various items of business including previous Division meeting minutes, membership, and the current AP Build Certificate project.

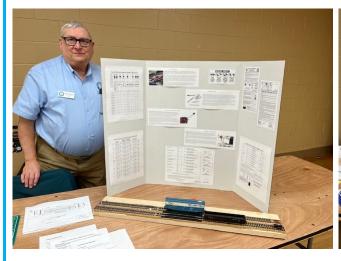
Member Dave Hornung demonstrates how to create log loads for logging operations on his On30 modular layout set in south east Asia.



Photos by Gerry DiPaola

February 15, 2025 - Division Mtg. at Hamburg Train Show

Mike Grabecki, Secretary of our WNY Division of the NMRA, standing next to posters he created illustrating NMRA standards and other information of our organization at the recent Hamburg Train Show. Great job Mike!





In addition, the Frank & Andy table of donations to our division at the train show raised a total of \$187.00. Thank you members for your contributions!



Mitch Friscia receiving his Gold Spike award from Steve Cotten, Assistant Superintendent of the WNY Division, NMRA at the February Hamburg Train Show.

Congratulations to Mitch on achieving this key milestone!



AP Chairman, Gary Reynolds, viewing Mitch's layout to qualify for the NMRA's Gold Spike award.

Photos by Frank Pastore

WNY Division Membership Update

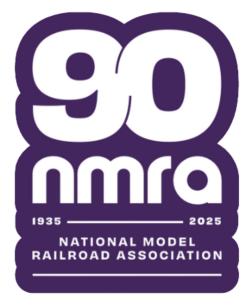


Image provided by Bill Wiedenbeck

Message from the Chief Clerk

Current membership is 72. We have a couple of prospects from the train show and 1 that has already paid for the Rail Pass. I will be notifying members 1-2 months ahead of their membership expiration to avoid them lapsing. I would like all members to pull up their membership information on the NMRA site and check is accuracy (please update incorrect or absent information). We have recently found several members that have incorrect e-mail addresses and no phone listing. We do not share any information outside of our Division.

If you have any questions concerning your membership, please contact me. The reports come out at the beginning of the month and we review it immediately upon its arrival.

I also had the opportunity at the train show to showcase the Gary Reynolds MMR car build program to the general public. There are 3 members (including myself) that are working on scratch building 4 cars. I was able show my cars in vari-

Thank you, Mike Grabecki Chief Clerk

ous stages of completion.

Editor's Note: See page 12 for Mike's progress on the AP Build Project!



Photo by Mike Grabecki

AP REPORT

Previously, Gary Reynolds, MMR, our AP Manager, shared the latest on the NMRA's Achievement Program Association Volunteer Certificate.

I'd like to take this opportunity to discuss the Achievement Program (AP) Association Volunteer Certificate. Our division has awarded this certificate to several of our members over the past year. I also know that a few members would qualify or are coming close to qualifying once they complete the required paperwork.

I have one big piece of advice for anyone who plans to apply for an AP certificate. Please read the requirements on the NMRA website and please do not overthink or interpret what it says.

All that being said, I will try to review the requirements for you. I have eliminated all the requirements that I feel do not apply in most cases (national and regional work).

To qualify for the Association Volunteer certificate, you must accumulate sixty (60) certified time units (TUs). The TUs you receive for various types of service are listed below:

- Active as a Division Officer or Committee Manager 1 TU per month
- Active satisfactory service as a Division Committee or Board Member ½ **TU per month**

So, what exactly constitutes a "committee"? Basically, just about any office or function except Divisional Superintendent (this is covered under Association Official). Most other officers in a Division are considered Committee Chairmen.

- Service as a Division Officer or Director (other than at the Regional level) 1 TU per month
- Newsletter Editors 1 TU per month (all newsletters must have at least 4 issues per year)
- Official judges at NMRA sponsored model contests (including non-rail) shall be given time units for such service at the contest only (not monthly), as a one-time service credit per contest as follows: Division Contest Judge - 1 Time Unit
- Individuals (and their crews) who open their home or club layout for layout tours in conjunction with NMRA conventions or other NMRA sponsored events earn credit as follows for each day the layout is open for viewing:

Regional Event - 3 Time Units/day (6 TUs maximum per event)
Divisional Event - 3 Time Units/day (3 TUs maximum per event)

 A live clinic that is presented more than once earns Association Volunteer credits for each additional (the first presentation is credited toward Author) presentation at the following schedule: Divisional Clinic - 1 Time Unit

You are required to complete a Record of Service (see sample form on next page) to track all of your hours. This may sound challenging, but you will be surprised how the hours add up. Remember your AP Chairman, that's me, is here to help!

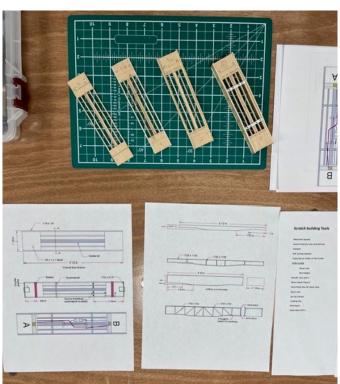
Thank You, Gary

AP REPORT (continued)									
Sample Record of Service form:									
٨	Member's Name:			NMF	RA #:	Ехр	Exp:		
	RECORD OF SERVICE								
RECORD OF SERVICE									
	POSITION HELD	FROM	ТО	LEVEL N - National R - Regional	POINTS/ MONTH	POINTS EARNED	VERIFIED BY	NMRA #	

TOTAL POINTS

AP REPORT

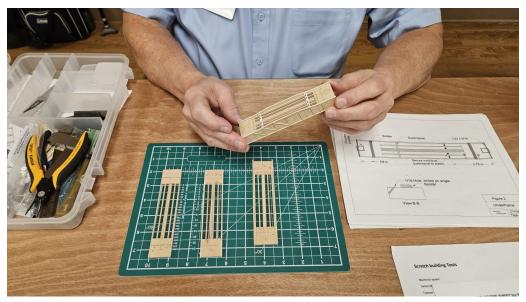
Previously at our October 2024 meeting, Gary Reynolds, MMR, our AP Manager, announced he would be leading a 4-car Work Train build project in support of members obtaining their AP Certificate. Construction includes building 2 flatcars and 2 gondolas (followed by either a boom, kitchen, engineering, or bunk car). An initial build kick-off meeting was held at Gary's home and several follow-on remote work sessions, are under-



way. At the February Division meeting held the Hamburg Train Show, our Chief Clerk, Mike Grabecki, shared his progress to date on the Work Train build. Looks great Mike...looking forward to checking in with you on your progress!

To those WNY Division members participating in the Work Train build, please consider sharing your experience and/or progress with others via the Lantern newsletter.

Please contact Gerry DiPaola at <u>Editor@wnydivisionnmra.com</u> to see how you can share your experience and help those who may be considering earning their AP Build Certificate.



Photos by Gerry DiPaola

What's On Your Workbench?

In this issue's *What's On Your Workbench*, Assistant Superintendent Steve Cotton shares his workbench with us. Thank you Steve!



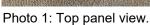




Photo 2: Bottom panel view.

Recently, I've built the control panel you see pictured to primarily control 7 remote turnouts in one of the two staging yards I've recently added to my N-Scale layout. I completed this effort over about 3 weeks in December.



Photo 3: Panel installed on the layout.

Steve Cotten @

Congratulations on your Retirement!

The Western New York Division NMRA would like to congratulate Neal Keirn on his recent retirement. Neal has been a WNY Division member since 2022. Best wishes from the Division for a happy and healthy retirement, enjoy!

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2025 . UNION-SUN & JOURNAL

End of the tracks for locomotive engineer Neal Keirn

Participates in last run after 18 years on the job

> VIRGINIA KROPF CONTRIBUTOR

MIDDLEPORT — Neal Keirn began his dream job with the Falls Road Railroad on Jan. 17, 2007, and 18 years to the day later, he climbed into engine #2035 for the last time

Keirn has had a passionate infatuation with the railroad since he was a little boy, growing up across from the tracks in Middleport.

in Middleport.
"As a kid, I hung around the railroad," Keirn said. "I'd be watching them switch cars and the engineer would let me climb in the engine with him. I got the idea that would be a fun thing to do."

As he grew older and reached his teens, he began to understand how the railroad worked and about becoming an engineer.

"But in the mid-1970s, Penn Central had gone bankrupt, four other railroads that served the area went bankrupt and the other railroads



Photo by Brody George, conductor/

Neal Keirn of Middleport waves from the engine as he passes the Medina Railroad Museum on his last day as an engineer before retirement. He began his dream job exactly 18 years ago, on Jan. 17, 2007.

Henn, museum board member and head conductor on train excursions, has meant the world to Keirn, he said

the world to Keirn, he said.
"I tried very hard to do a
good job, starting slowly and
stopping smoothly with all
the young passengers," Keirn
said. "It was very rewarding
to hear I was doing my best."

to hear I was doing my best."
"We can always tell when
you're running the train,"
Henn once told Keirn,
For 10 years, Keirn has

For 10 years, Keirn has trained locomotive engineers and numerous conductors, in which he took a lot of pride, he said.

The only downside to his job has been four incidents at grade crossings, Keirn said, none of which were his fault. Two occurred on Hulberton Road; another was when a woman skidded onto the tracks in Batavia on a snowy day; and another last June when a truck stalled on the tracks on Fancher Road. Fortunately, none of the incidents resulted in any serious injuries.

Keirn is married to the former Roberta "Gilly." Blount of Medina and they have two

Last July Keirn turned 67

Partial article from Union-Sun & Journal provided by Assistant Superintendent Steve Cotten

Full article by Virgina Kropf (photo by Brody George) available at https://www.lockportjournal.com

Division Calendar & Up Coming Events

- Mar. 15- Division Meeting 100 Lee St. 10:30am. Marty Biniasz with the James E. Strates Shows talks all things trains.
- Apr. 12- Division meeting 100 Lee St., Buffalo 10:30 a.m., Topic TBA
- May 17- Division meeting 100 Lee St. Buffalo 10:30 a.m., Topic TBA
- June 21- Division meeting 100 Lee St., Buffalo 10:30 a.m., Make & Take with JL Innovative Design...more details coming soon!
- July 14 to 19- NMRA 2025 National convention (incl. the National Train Show) in Novi, Michigan
- 2026- NMRA National convention in Chattanooga, Tennessee, dates TBA

Click here for NMRA National Conventions

Click here for NMRA Regional Conventions

2025 WNYNMRA DIVISION MONTHLY MEETINGS

January 18th - Division meeting at WNYHDC 100 Lee St., Buffalo, NY 14210

February 15th & 16th - Division meeting at Hamburg Fairgrounds (Train and Toy Show) 5820 South Park Ave., Hamburg, NY 14075

March 15th - Division meeting at WNYHDC 100 Lee St., Buffalo, NY 14210

April 12th - No Division meeting, Happy Easter!

May 17th - Division meeting at WNYHDC 100 Lee St., Buffalo, NY 14210

June 28th - Division Picnic at the Williamsville Depot, 86 S. Long St., Williamsville, NY 14221

July 19th - Division meeting at WNYHDC 100 Lee St., Buffalo, NY 14210

August 16th - Division meeting at WNYHDC 100 Lee St., Buffalo, NY 14210

September 20th - Division meeting at WNYHDC 100 Lee St., Buffalo, NY 14210

October 18th - Division meeting at WNYHDC 100 Lee St., Buffalo, NY 14210

November date TBD- Division meeting at Hamburg Fairgrounds (Train and Toy Show) 5820 South Park Ave., Hamburg, NY 14075

December date TBD - no meeting, Division Holiday Party, location TBD

Get Paid For Your NMRA Activities

Dear Western New York Division member,

We're thrilled to share some exciting news, the National Model Railroad Association has teamed up with Grouper, a Medicare Advantage and Supplement plan benefit, to support your membership dues!

What Does This Mean for You? Starting now, members with an eligible health plan can enjoy all the benefits of National Model Railroad Association membership with more peace of mind.

If you have a qualifying Medicare Advantage or Medicare Supplement plan, Grouper will send you a check to cover your NMRA membership dues. Check Your Eligibility: Curious to know if you qualify?

We look forward to sharing more about how this partnership with Grouper is designed to enhance your model railroad experience and overall well-being.

If you have any immediate questions, feel free to contact Grouper at 833-906-1700.

Thank you,
Bill Wiedenbeck
Superintendent

Links and Notes



Heritage Discovery Center Directions:

Get off the I-90 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 I00 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 the QR Reader below to go to Western New York Division of the NMRA website. Yes fans we have our own webpage! www.WNYDivsionNMRA.com



The Lantern Newsletter - Publication Dates for 2025

Our Lantern is published monthly and is a great place to learn and share information. Contributions welcome! Consider adding to our Lantern... by sending your ideas and articles to the editor, Gerry DiPaola, at:

Editor@wnydivisionnmra.com / 716-545-1740

Publication March 1st 2025 - Deadline for submissions is February 17th

Publication June 1st 2025 - Deadline for submissions is May 25th

Publication September 1st 2025 Deadline for submissions is August 25th

Publication December 1st 2025 Deadline for submissions is November 24th

Thank you for your contributions!



Links and Notes

Good Reasons to keep your membership!

Click the below link for the most current information.

THREE BIG BENEFITS OF NMRA MEMBERSHIP:

15% OFF 25% OFF



Those are the discounts that manufacturers and hobby shops in our Partnership Program are giving us <u>right now</u>. 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 <u>other</u> 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!





PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

NMRA members can log in at www.nmra.org 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!

*NScaleWorks

NScaleWorks offers N-scale scenery and rolling stock detail items, as well as custom designed and printed decals.

*Tichy Train Manufacturer of rolling stock and structure kits in N, HO, S, Group and O, as well as a wide array of detail & structural parts.

CatzPaw Innovations
Clever Models
Deluxe Materials
East Coast Circuits
Great Decals
Green Frog Productions
Hot Wire Foam Factory
Jason's Brass Poles
K.I.S.S. Method Inc
LARC Productions
Logic Rail Technologies
Micro-Mark
MinuteMan Scale Models

Modelers Decals & Paint
Model Railroad Benchwork
Model Train Catalogue
Motrak Models
MRC (Model Rectifier Corp)
OK Engines/Streamliners
Old West Scenery
Ram Track
RR-CirKits
Rusty Stumps
Scale Model Plans
Scalecoat Paint
Scenery Solutions

Showcase Miniatures
Team Track Models
The N Scale Architect
The Train Show, Inc.
Train Installations, LLC
Trainmaster TV/MRH Store
UGears
Unreal Details
USA Airbrush Supply/
Badger Airbrush
WiFi Model Railroad LLC

*Indicates newest Partner

60

NMRA Magazine

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.



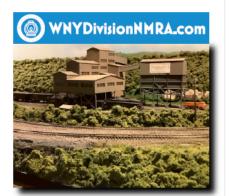
Western New York Division Fast Facts

- 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



Photo Credits:

Jerry Jordak, Frank Pastore, Bob Maskrey



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



Contact us at Superintendent@WNYDivisionNMRA.com

Great Connections - Check Out These Links for Additional Information:

- NMRA Membership Information
- NMRA Beginners Guide
- NMRA 2025 National Convention in Novi, Michigan National

WNY NMRA Membership Info Pamphlet

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.



WNY Division Apparel

Thanks to Frank Pastore for his efforts working with area vendors for WNY Division name tags and apparel items. Please reach out to Frank directly if you have yet to either pay for and/or pick up a name tag. For apparel related offerings, please visit https://selectlinesports.com/collections/national-model-railroad-association-wny or use the QR Reader to the right to take you to the website (select Fan Cave, Team Stories, then National Model Railroad Association). Currently available are polos, sweatshirts, 1/4 zip top, and oxford shirts.

