

# The Lantern

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WESTERN NEW YORK  
DIVISION OF THE  
NMRA



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### Our Next Meeting

February 26 @ 10AM

@ Hamburg Train  
Show

March 19 @ 10AM

@ Lee Street

## From the Cab

From where I sit, we have green all the way. We have some fun events coming up, like our next meeting at the Hamburg Fairgrounds. We have our own room for clinics if you missed the November Show (Check [our website](#) to see videos from that show).



Photo by Frank Pastore

We had live and Zoom clinics for NMRA members and the general public. This February, we will have new clinics, some T-track modules to show the public, and I hope that many of you will bring something you are



Photo by Frank Pastore

working on. We would like to have displays from all Gauges. O, S, HO, N, Z, and anything in between for the show. So, please bring something to show. This is also an excellent opportunity to meet other Division members and learn some new skills and ideas for your modeling efforts, whatever they are. We will again have members from our sister Divisions [LakeShores Division](#) (Rochester) and the [Allegheny Western Division](#) (Erie Pa.) there as well. Unfortunately, our other sister Division the [International Division](#), will still not be able to join us. Soon we hope.

We have a couple of fun projects you can join; first, the Steel Mill Museum has a small layout that needs work; we will be working with the [Gowanda and Buffalo Model Railroad Club](#) and some volunteers from the [Western New York Railway Historical Society](#). This is a great place to learn something about Steel Mills and the Railroads.

My second project is to form a technology team to help with our Website, Zoom meetings, and other media-related issues. You don't have to know a lot about it; we can teach you. So as I said, in the beginning, I see green ahead.

High Ball

## From the Cabin Car

Note from Gary

2021 was a bitter sweet year. Train shows started to open up and operating sessions started to occur. It looked like the delta variant was easing up, then all of a sudden we got hit with the Omicron variant and we started another battle with the Covid pandemic. It seemed as if half the people I knew came down with one form of Covid or another. I don't know about you but I am getting a little tired of all these Greek Covid strains. I am coming to the realization that this may be our new way of life. Oh well, we will adapt and survive. At least I can always go down to my basement and work on my railroad. At least this is what I thought when near the end of November I had a nasty fall. I ended up with a bruised rotator cuff on my left shoulder and a broken right hand. Everything came to a crashing halt during the month of December. I needed help to get dressed, had trouble eating and I was limited in what I could do with my dominant hand in a cast and my other arm in pain. Needless to say, all train activity was out of the question.

Well, I did survive and I have a new appreciation for the human body. Things are starting to look up. I got my booster and after a negative Covid test, my wife and I visited family in Fredonia and Erie for the holidays without having to fight snow storms along I90. The cast just came off (although I still need to wear a brace) and am starting to resume some of my daily activities. I even visited my layout in the basement, organized my work bench and am ready to resume my model building.

We have a couple of exciting new articles for you this month. Brian Carlson introduces us to the the Model Railroad Club of Buffalo and Frank Pastore goes mad putting interiors in all of his buildings, along with our standard features. Let's all hope for a brighter new year. Stay warm and healthy as we move into the winter months.

## From the Back Seat

Here I am totally bored sitting in the back seat of the car doing errands with my dad. We are at a building supply shop so my dad can order some cement blocks. He is in the process of building a new garage and he wants to get everything ready for next week. His two brothers are coming into town to build the walls for the garage. They are brick layers and occasionally come up for a visit or to help my dad with some project or other. My job the past two weeks was to dig a trench two feet deep that will be used for the footer. I really worked my little bun off digging that trench, but to be honest, my dad dug most of it. Nevertheless, I did dig a good six feet myself. My dad said if I helped out I would be given a big reward. Some reward, here we are at Fitzgerald's. He probably wants me to load all the blocks onto a truck or something. Finally I see my dad waving me over and telling me to hurry. I also see two boxcars being shoved into a siding by the warehouse. Wait a minute, the second car is not a boxcar but a brand new diesel engine. I get out of the car and go over to where my dad is standing. He tells me that this is the new HH660 switch engine that just arrived from the ALCO engine works. I then hear my name being called and the engineer is waving me over. He says "come on up, boy". I can't believe it, I am going to get a ride in a brand new engine. Boy, this is the greatest day ever and an experience I will never forget.



## The Model Railroad Club of Buffalo

By Brian J Carlson (pictures by the author)

The Model Railroad Club of Buffalo Inc. was established in 1936 and incorporated in New York State in 1945. We believe we

are one of the oldest continually operating model railroad clubs in the United States. We are currently in our third home occupying 3 former classrooms on the second floor of the Town Boys & Girls Club on Riverdale Avenue in the Town of Tonawanda. The club's previous homes included Keystone Chromium and above Singer's Gym in the City of Buffalo. We moved to our current location in the 1960's. Like most early clubs we started as an O scale club. When we moved to our current location the club constructed



Mogul 56 (former WP&Y) picking up loaded coal at one of the mines on the On30

a large 100 ft x 20 ft 2 rail O scale layout and a moderately sized HO layout approximately 15 ft x 25 ft. At that time, the members interested in O scale outnumbered those interested in HO, however, over time interest in O scale waned and HO grew. Therefore, in the early 1990's the O scale layout was reduced in size to approximately 20 ft x 20 ft and the original HO scale layout was dismantled, and a new 70 ft. x 20 ft. HO scale layout began construction.



6234 Buffalo Central SD45 3603 heads north on Track 1 while a SB train waits on track 2

### Current Operation & Member

We currently meet weekly on Tuesday nights from 7 pm until folks decide to go home. We will often have work sessions on selected Saturdays also. Our current membership is approximately 20 members, and it is a diverse group between the ages of 12 and 71. If we aren't working on the layout, we are usually railfanning. Club memberships are open to anyone 16 and older, with full memberships starting at 18.



## Model Railroad Club of Buffalo (cont)

### Current Layouts

The current HO layout is a direct descendent of the layout that was started in the 1990's but it has been modified several times. It is a single deck point to point with continuous run option walk around layout. We run DCC using the CVP EasyDCC system.

The layout represents a north-south railroad between Buffalo NY and Pittsburgh PA., essentially the BR&P in an alternate reality. Since one of the signature scenes on the layout are twin tunnels, we decided we are modeling the southern portion of the layout in the Pittsburg PA area to further north in Pennsylvania since there is only one railroad tunnel in Western New York. The layout has two main yards, Mohawk yard near Pittsburgh PA. and



6313 Kinzua Creek 2-6-0 crosses the high bridge on the O scale

Nickel Yard someplace near Butler. In addition, to the visible yards there are three staging yards (Empire, Buckeye, and Keystone) to route traffic onto the layout and numerous industries



9428 Pittsburg and Shawmut SW9's layover in Nickel Yard after bringing their coal train down for interchange.

to switch including steel, paper, and petroleum. All of which can be found in western Pennsylvania. Since we are a club, operating sessions range from structured era specific sessions with dispatcher issued track warrants to informal mother may I dispatching with anything goes. The nice thing about a club layout is we have enough equipment to rotate between 1970's equipment to 2015 or so equipment to provide a variety of operating experiences.

## Model Railroad Club of Buffalo (cont.)

between 1970's equipment to 2015 or so equipment to provide a variety of operating experiences.

The current O scale layout is relatively new with construction beginning in 2011. The layout is a double deck layout featuring 2-rail O scale and On30. The era is around WW2 but not really enforced. The On30 narrow gauge exists to haul coal and lumber out of Pennsylvania forests. The lower deck is standard O scale and runs in a loop from staging back to staging. In addition to the steam and diesel trains on the mainline there is an interurban that interchanges with the main railroad. The main industry on the layout is a coal prep plant that receives coal from the On30 and ships it out in standard hoppers.

The On30 narrow gauge starts on the lower deck and runs up a helix to the second deck. On the upper deck it serves several coal mines as well as timber operations. Some general freight and passenger traffic keeps the backwoods towns connected to the outside world. The O scale uses Digitrax DCC for the standard O scale and On30 and straight DC for the interurban.

### Outreach

We are active at local train shows and have tables set up at many of the shows in Western New York. We also normally have an open house two weekends a year in January however, Covid has curtailed the last two years. We do welcome visitors and potential members to our Tuesday meetings.

For more information, please email us at [modelrrclubofbuffalo@gmail.com](mailto:modelrrclubofbuffalo@gmail.com) or find us on Facebook (The Model Railroad Club of Buffalo) and Instagram ([modelrrclubofbuffalo](https://www.instagram.com/modelrrclubofbuffalo)).



Local approaching Bristol

## Roomettes and Building Interiors for your RR

by Frank Pastore (photos by the author)

I've been a model railroader for decades but have never added interiors to any of my buildings. While attending a local train show several years I purchased my first HO Roomettes building interior. What is a Roomette kit? Roomettes kits are custom designed laser cut interiors with highly detailed graphics and fit many Woodland Scenics and DPM buildings. They are very easy to assemble using glue and tape. The kits also include LEDs compatible with Woodland Scenics Just Plug lighting systems and the kits are available in multiple scales. In just one evening you'll have a complete interior to add to your model street scene.



I purchased a couple more kits while attending the September 2019 Empire Junction NMRA Northeast Regional Convention, in Syracuse, NY. I decided to add these new interiors in time for the yearly model railroad layout tour I organize in late October (WNY Layout Tours). I received so many positive comments on the well lit building interiors that I decided to add more interiors with lights to existing structures.

Then Covid-19 hit in March 2020. Now with nowhere to go and having gained a little experience adding building interiors, I decided to scratch build interiors with details to several more city buildings and large industrial buildings. I purchased LEDs online and fabricated my own interiors. I found it was surprisingly easy to add multiple LEDs and interiors to DPM buildings and Walthers and City Classic factories. I constructed floors for many of these buildings by using a product called Gatorfoam, which is lightweight display board. It is very easy to cut with a utility knife and sand if necessary.



## Roomettes (cont)

My plan going forward is to add more details such as display cases, tables, chairs, crates and people to the various buildings. I hope you consider adding interiors to your model buildings to make them come alive.



Street Scene



In-

Industrial loading dock

## AP Report

In the last Lantern we discussed the Golden Spike Award. This is the first step in the Achievement Program. This award demonstrates your familiarity with the hobby of model railroading. The actual Achievement Program consists of a number of certificates which allow you to move beyond your comfort level and to master the many crafts and skills necessary in the hobby of model railroading. They are like merit badges which upon completion you will be issued a certificate acknowledging your achievement. Briefly, the AP is a system of requirements for demonstrating a superior level of skill in various aspects of our hobby. It covers not only building various types of models, but also building other things which are important to the hobby, such as scenery, structures, track work, and wiring. It also recognizes service to the hobby and the NMRA, which are important as well.

There are eleven possible certificates, broken into four categories that you can achieve. They are:

### Model Railroad Equipment

Master Builder - Motive Power

Master Builder – Cars

### Engineering and Operation

Model Railroad Engineer – Civil

Model Railroad Engineer – Electrical

Chief Dispatcher

### Settings

Master Builder - Structures

Master Builder - Scenery

Master Builder - Prototype Models

### Service to the Hobby

Association Official

Association Volunteer

Model Railroad Author

When you complete seven certificate (with at least one in each category) you qualify as a Master Model Railroader®. This is one of the highest honors the NMRA can bestow on an individual. Earning the title of Master Model Railroader® is the ultimate goal for many participants in the Achievement Program.

I like to break down the certificates into three types: the ones that need to be judged; the ones that are point based; and those that need to be demonstrated.

The judged certificates include Motive Power, Cars, Structures, Scenery and Prototype Models. Each of these certificates require that a model be judged in an NMRA sponsored contest or have a judge qualify the model at your home. Motive Power, Cars, Structures are evaluated on five different criteria. These include construction (describes the workmanship and methods used to build the model), detail (describes the refinement of the model), conformity (how well it conforms to the prototype), finish (painting weathering and finish of the model) and scratchbuilding (how much was scratchbuilt). Scenery and Prototype Models are on terrain (the natural features of the area). Structures (prototypical suitability and placement), background (treatment of the wall or backdrop to express depth, lighting (illumination of the area), and realism (how well you did what you were trying to achieve).

Most judging categories have aspects of both difficulty and quality. Scores go up as the modeler attempts more difficult modeling projects and methods. Judging is basically positive in that points are awarded for what has been done, rather than subtracting for shortcomings compared to a theoretical perfect model. Points are awarded on each category with a total of 120 points. A model must receive at least 90 points to qualify for the certificate. The hardest part for most people is the accompanying writeup that explains how and what you did. There are forms available that help you in explaining each category and what to include in the writeup.



## Member Profile—Gary Pagels

Gary was born and raised in Cheektowaga. Like most of us, Gary's initial introduction to model railroading was a Lionel train set when he was a kid. When Gary got married to Mary Kay they moved to Hamburg where they still live. The couple raised three strapping boys. They have been blessed with 7 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. As an empty nester, Gary is a retired project manager from Forest Materials (a lumber and milling company). Gary spends a lot of time on his current layout.

Gary's layout (seen in the accompanying photo) is freelance and represents an area to Dunkirk circa 1998. The layout is 20' x 30' spread out over two rooms in his basement. Since switching has always been Gary's favorite operational activity, there are nine locations with a total of 59 switching industries spread out over a single main line.

Gary is a member of a five man group which operates on a round robin basis.





**Directions:**

Ctrl & Click Here for a Map

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.



**Links and Notes**

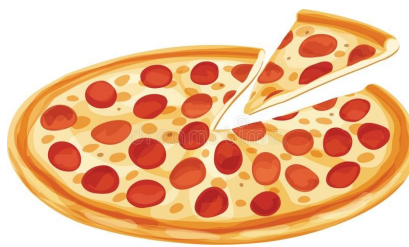
2021 National Assoc of S Gaugers

has **POSTPONED** their convention until August 2022. Watch our website and this newsletter for updates



March Pizza Party

Stay tuned to your email because we are planning a pizza and wings outing in March.



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

Click on any of the logo's to be taken to their websites.

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If you haven't visited [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org) lately, you're missing out on some really great stuff. Starting with a boatload of discounts!

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- CatzPaw Innovations** Modelers Decals & Paint
- Clever Models** Model Railroad Benchwork
- Deluxe Materials** Model Train Catalogue
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\*Indicates newest Partner

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## Western New York Division of the NMRA



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 .

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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.

#### Happy Birthday to the following

##### January Birthdays

Robert Fisher

Andrew Henry

Wayne Miller

##### February Birthdays

John Hahn

James Henry

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

