

# The L<sup>ntern</sup>

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WESTERN NEW YORK  
DIVISION



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## Our Next Meetings

September 23, 2023  
Lee Street  
10:30 AM

## From the Cab

So, what's new? Well, the CNY Division and the NER leadership think hosting a NATIONAL NMRA convention in Rochester in 2029 is



an excellent idea. The group has contacted us and asked if we would help, and our Executive Committee thinks it's a good idea. So, we will be involved in the process. No one knows if it will happen, but the effort is being made. Our Regional President, Gerald Arends, has indicated that we should be involved. A lot must happen before this can be a reality. Bids must be put together, and lots of planning must take place before it occurs. So, stand by the **Empire State Express**, maybe coming down the line. Remember, this is still an idea, but so is thinking about winning the lottery. We will keep you in the loop.

## Big Idea

- 2029 National NMRA Convention in Rochester
- Hosted by:
  - Central New York Division (lead)
  - Lakeshores Division
  - Western New York Division
  - Northeast and Niagara Frontier Regions



I'm closing out my comments by thanking everyone who made our picnic so much



fun. Marty and his team at the station did a remarkable job in setting up. Frank and his crew provided a wonderful meal. We made some money between Bob Leary, who ran the si-



lent auction, and Tom McQuillen, who handled the door receipts.

Great job, everyone.

See you all at our September 23rd meeting at Lee Street starting at 10:30 AM.

## From the Cabin Car

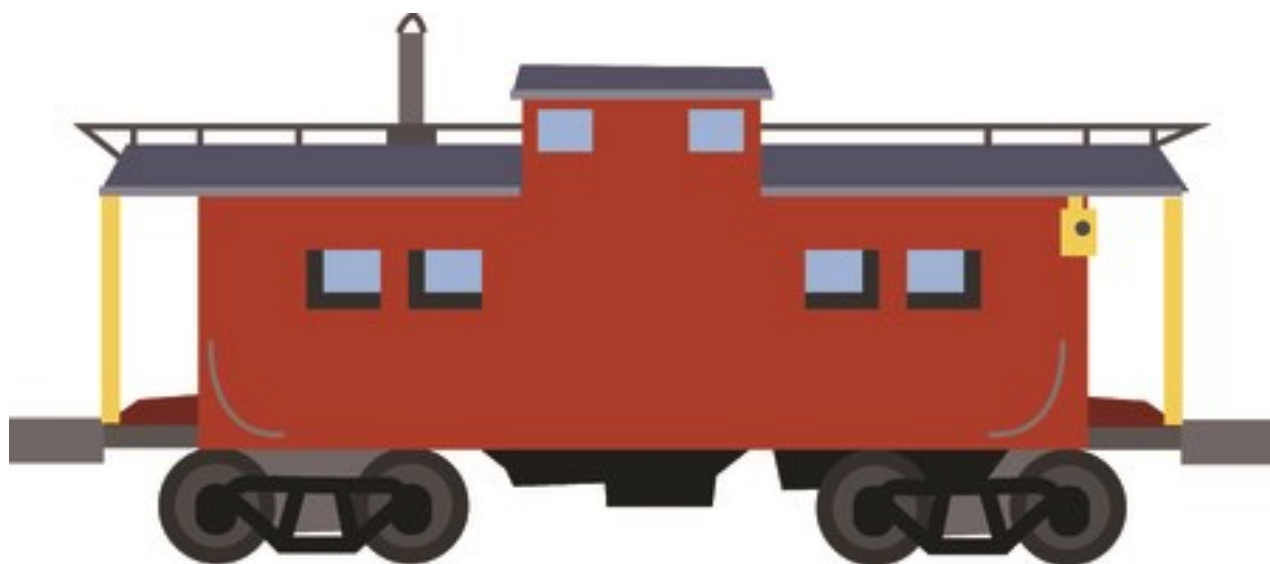
Note from Gary Reynolds, MMR

It's good to be alive. Think of all the great things we have today that didn't even exist a few years ago.: DCC, sound, reasonably priced steam engines, outstanding rolling stock, scenery supplies that will knock your socks off, and an abundance of excellent model railroad layouts in our local area. And a great NMRA Division to boot. It's great to be a model railroader today. Yes, it's great to be alive.

For me, it's something extraordinary. I was recently diagnosed with an aortic valve problem and only had several weeks to live. I had emergency open heart surgery, bypassing several blocked arteries and an aortic valve replacement. I am still in recovery and will be for the remainder of the year. I have already gotten down to my railroad in the basement and have a new appreciation for all my models. My engines are purring like never before, and the rolling stock looks fabulous. Yes, it's great to be alive.

I don't know how, but I got another Lantern issue out for your enjoyment. The second issue of Jack Ellis' Craftsman 101 is included discussing paints and adhesives. Also, a review of the Steel Mill Convention by Bob Maskrey is included. Plus, Dave Hornung's "Tales of the Mindanau"

Finally, if you ever saw the movie "Night at the Museum" I am sure you will enjoy **"Strange things happen at night."** 🏠



## Steel Mill Modelers SIG Convention, July 2023

By Robert Maskrey (photos by author)

The SMMSIG convention was held in Pittsburgh, PA in July this year. It ran from Thursday July 27 through Saturday July 29. Here are my observations from the meetings:

### Opening

The first day was registration and a tour of the Carrie Furnaces. The furnaces are a restored portion of the US Steel Homestead Works. They don't operate, but make a great historical landmark and educational site. Tours are regularly given, and since I had a very comprehensive tour several years ago, I elected to skip this tour. If you are the least bit interested in Steel and its manufacturing, I recommend this tour and a visit to the Rivers Of Steel Museum.

The second day was a welcome session and clinics. It was announced that State Tool and Die of Ohio is selling the company. It is being purchased and moved to Wisconsin. The new owner has promised to maintain the Name, the product line, the web site and the phone number. Only the address will be different. If you are not familiar, State makes a line of resin cast mill equipment such as ladles, pouring buckets, parts for slag and hot metal cars, and other items such as ingots, slabs, etc. They also make complete kits for hot metal and slag cars.





## Steel Mill Modelers Convention (cont.)

### Clinics

**DJ** of DJSTRAINS gave an excellent clinic on mill related railroading. DJ is a locomotive engineer with the CSX railroad, and most of his activity is centered around the mills and the transfer of materials from the mill service roads to the CSX mainlines. DJ is licensed Drone pilot and a cameraman, and his flying overhead views of railroads are spectacular. You can witness them on YouTube under [DJSTRAINS](#). His stories about the railroad incidents are eye opening. One thing he pointed out, they deliver steel to a galvanizing mill, and they deliver Zinc. The Zinc is shipped in boxcars, so it is OK to have boxcars on your RR steel mill!

A second engineer, Steve, joined DJ and announced he had a YouTube channel called "[Life as an Engineer](#)" I have not checked it out.

**George Pandelios** described Weirton Steel's Open Hearth, including the history. I have no takeaways to offer.

**Wayne A. Cole**, who has [authored many books](#) and has a large collection for sale, described Steel making in the Pittsburgh area. He reviewed each of the mills and railroads serving the Pittsburgh area and their history over most of the 20 th century. It is hard to do a summary of that!

**Steven Timko** is a well known author of books, most of them on railroads or steel mills. A majority of his books are [published by Morning Sun](#). He worked on the Erie-Lackawanna RR on the '70s. His talk was on the mills and railroads in the Mahoning and Shenandoah Valleys. It was a comprehensive tour, but I have no takeaways. Check out his books.

**Jack Klein** was formerly employed by Koppel steel in Ohio, and he gave us a thorough history of the company. Koppel was started when Mr. Koppel brought a narrow-gauge locomotive from Germany in the 1800's and began producing it in the Eastern corner of Ohio, near the PA border. It changed hands many times and Babcock & Wilcox eventually bought the property for expansion. Today it is a steel mill that takes scrap from a variety of sources and makes ingots for use in other mills. It was an interesting perspective on the scrap process and the science of turning that into useable steel.

**Jim Di Paoli** gave a talk on the construction of and the moving into his basement of the NUCOR rolling mill constructed by three members of the SIG. This is an extensive and accurately detailed model of an actual Mill. It was used for public relations, recruiting and training by NUCOR, then returned to the builders.



## Steel Mill Modelers Convention (cont.)

### Tours

Several (4) club tours were offered, but traffic was so bad around Pittsburgh – it was a Saturday, and the Pirates were in town playing Philadelphia – so we decided to focus on one club. We visited the McKeesport Model Railroad Club, located in McKeesport, the former home of the Duquesne Works of USS National Tube Plant. It was an extensive layout on a single level, and included both some city scenery and mostly industrial steel mill scenes. Many of the steel buildings were scratch built, mostly by former mill employees. Very well done. Lots of special features for the young visitors to spot. 🏠





## TALES OF THE MINDANAU

*Dave Hornung*

All Photos by the author

**The Cane Cars**

Mindanao is the second largest island in the Philippines and provides the setting for my *Mindanao Railway & Transit Co.* This On30 streak of rust needed some Sugar Cane cars for Duco Candies. Because the sugar cane fields are serviced by an older section of the railway (British designed), clearances are tight; sidings are short, so the shop crew needed to come up with a car for the service. As with any island, railroad cost was a consideration (OK in 12" to the foot scale Retired widower).

I saw a 14' bulkhead flat from [itstrainsandstuff](#) (He sells his wears on *eBay*) and remembered an article in an issue of On30 Annual some years back. If you are interested, it is easy to find his cars; search under O gauge [On30 3d](#). He sells a wide variety of simple, inexpensive cars but high enough quality, perfect for kit bashing, and comparatively cheap. The kit consists of 3 pieces; a deck and ends, an underframe, and a smaller car without an underframe.

Setting aside the smaller car, I started work on the Cane Car. If you note from the pictures, there is already a cutout for a Ka-dee coupler pocket and a hole for the trucks (the owner needs to supply both).



Car Kit as delivered

I started by drilling and tapping holes for 2-56 screws for trucks and couplers. If you prefer not to drill out the truck mounting hole, use the self-tapping Bachman screws with their trucks. I have numerous kits from him, and the coupler-pocked mounting space has always been a perfect fit. After this, I mounted a  $\frac{3}{4}$ " long piece of Evergreen round stock to represent an air tank. How far you wish to take the brake rigging is up to you, but this is

enough for me I am not planning to enter it in a contest, and as I approach the  $\frac{3}{4}$  century mark, this is enough—next, a trip to the garage to give the underframe a coat of matt black.

Next, I started on the body. Stopping by the old hardware store, I purchased a roll of window screening, note from experience, try to get the nylon screening instead of the aluminum, as the latter tends to unravel and bite. I cut a piece using simple scissors to the approximate length and height plus about  $5/8$ ". This was done with the old Mk 1 eyeball; these are backwoods cars in a country still



After painting, I affixed the couplers, Kadее #22, and



The first side in place

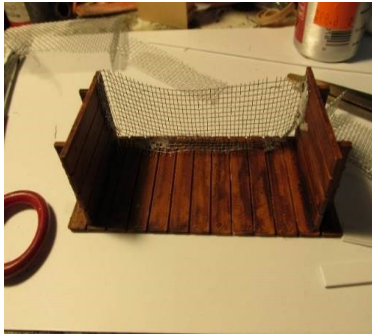


Next, repeat with the other side.



Car Kit as delivered

recovering from war and occupation, not in a fancy Hi-Teck shop. A square notch was cut out at each end so that when folded over, the length fit in between the bulkheads; the bottom folded up then the fun began trying to super glue the folds down without attaching my fingers to the car. I strongly suggest doing one seam at a time, starting with the bottom.



After this, I glued in 2x10 planks on the bottom and ends that our dedicated shop crew used to secure the chain link car sides. I used Evergreen scale 2x10 planks.

With the planks trimmed off, a coat of paint was applied. I have been using a color called Hardened Leather by Army Painter Quick Paint which goes on much like a wash and gives a nice uneven color so it looks weathered. Finishing up the body, I cut some stock roughly 4x4s (left over from a DPM kit) for uprights and some approximately 1x6 for cross pieces. This formed the mid-car bracing. Then more paint, I washed the screen with rust to give it some age.

On other cars, I could mount a prawn and brake stand, but with these, there was not enough end sill, so I had the shop crew mount a brake wheel to another three scale foot piece of 2x10. Final touch-up painting and decals completed my Cane Car. I have to install the load yet, and this will come from a sacrificial whisk broom; it will hide the weights and imperfections. There is enough room to mount the weights in the underframe wells if you prefer not to put the weights in the load area.



The short car body was a simple build. I used whatever was handy to add some side rails to the bottom of the car for strengthening, a short length of



$\frac{1}{4}$ " round stock for a truck pad, drill, and tap. There was no air tank or brake wheel as these cars are used in the shop area to move stores and drums around so that some scrap wood would serve as a chock/brake. The airlines are simply through piped in case it is pulled in a train. On some of the models, he supplies a "wood" truck without wheels, and I plan to swap out the Bachman trucks with

these as time permits for a more knocked-together shop-use look. 🛠️



I HOPE YOU HAVE ENJOYED THIS BIT OF TROPICAL ADVENTURE IN THE PHILIPPINES.

*Dave Hornung*

## CRAFTSMAN KITS 101 BY Jack Ellis (photos by author)

### Paints

The applications will determines the paint you will use.  
You can brush almost any paint. Some paints are harder to spray than others.



**Brush Painting:** Brush painting is slower and may leave brush marks but there are some effects you can only get with a brush. Dry brushing. And touch up.

**Solvent Base Paint:** Floquil, Testers Some of the Military Paints. They give off toxic fumes and must be used with adequate ventilation. Cleans up with solvents. Can be purchased at hobby stores or on line.

**Water Base Paints:** Polly S is water base paint easy clean up also a great selection of Rail-road colors. Can be purchased at hobby stores or on line

**Acrylic Craft Paints:** these paints have been used in other hobbies for a long time. They are water base and are easy to clean up. Great for making washes or straight from the bottle. They are best painted over primer and sometimes need two coats. Can be purchased at any craft store or Wal-Mart

***Tip:** For cleaning up water base paint buy a gallon of windshield washer fluid, the blue stuff and use it straight from the bottle to clean up brushes and airbrushes.*

### Spray Painting:

There are two ways to spray paint one with spray cans and one with Airbrushes.

*With any spray paint always use adequate Ventilation. If spray painting indoors a spray booth is a must.*



## CRAFTSMAN KITS (cont.)

**Adhesives:** Lots of adhesives on the market. The application will determine the type of adhesive you will use.



**Yellow Carpenters Glue:** glue for wood and paper. Sold in craft stores and most hardware stores.

**Aleen's Tacky Glue:** Will glue wood, metal and plastic. Aleen's sells difference types fast grab, fast dry and clear. Sold in most craft stores and Wal-Mart.

**White Glue:** Use as additive with paint to make colored glue and gluing signs to the sides of buildings.

**Canopy Glue:** A clear glue used to secure window glazing or used for window glazing. Sold in hobby store.

**Testors Plastic Cement:** Solvent cement that melts plastic together. I like Testors because the glue is not too aggressive. Used for joining plastic parts and applying window glazing.

## CRAFTSMAN KITS (cont.)

**Contact Cement:** A solvent base cement. Works well with paper, wood, corrugated metal roofing. Apply to both surfaces wait till tacky and press together. Once pressed together it's hard to get apart. So get it right the first time. Made by Weldwood and sold in small bottle in most hardware stores.

**Walthers Goo:** A type of contact cement comes in a tube. Apply a small amount and squeeze together. When applied can make long fibers from the dab of glue and will get on everything in the way. Good with wood, plastic and metal.

**Rubber Cement:** Good with paper. There are two ways to apply rubber cement. One, spread the cement on both surfaces and with the glue still wet, place the two surfaces together. Applying this way will let you pull up the paper at a later date with out ripping it. Second is to spread the glue on both surfaces, let day till tacky and press the two surfaces together. This will give you a permanent bond. Rubber cement can be bought in most art supply stores and Wal-Mart.

**3M Transfer Tape:** A thin layer of permanent adhesive that comes on a roll. Good to apply tarpaper, shingles, even strip wood and some use it to apply signs.

*Tip: When using glues it's hard to get a small amount on to the parts you wish to glue together. Keep a pad of Post It on your bench and put a small amount on the paper and apply with a toothpick. When the glue dries tear off the top sheet and start fresh.*

Next issue we get into the actual building process. 🏠

## Strange things happen in the night

As I mentioned earlier, I had a major operation that prevented me from going down to the basement for several a month or so. As a result, I could not see, work or play with my trains. Recently, I just got the clearance from the doctor that I was now allowed to transverse the steps. My plan was to go down tomorrow and check up on my trains.

You will never guess what happened. Last night, just before I fell asleep, I started to hear some strange singing. I got up and walked around to see where the singing was coming from. It wasn't very loud but seemed to be coming from the basement. I got up and opened the basement door and that's when I heard

I got the St. Lois Blues, hah,  
I'm just as blue as I can be, hah.  
Susie wore a red dress, hah,  
Mary wears a blue. hah,  
Yon' comes sister in a yellow dress, hah,  
Now think what you can do, hah,  
I'm just blue as I can be, hah!"

I crept down the stairs and it got louder and sounded like it was coming from my layout. I know this is strange, but I always felt that everything comes alive on my layout at night when no one was around. I turned on the lights, everything froze and the noise stopped. I walked around and started to check out my layout. It was then that I noticed that there was a work train in front of the Ather-



ton Paper Mill. It looked like they were working on the track. This area has had a lot of problem this past year with my regular operators complaining about the track work. I just never got around to fix it and it seemed that the train management has taken it upon themselves to send over work train and finally fix the issues. I never new that they could do that sort of thing but what the heck they say strange things happen in the night. I know my operators will be pleased. 🙏



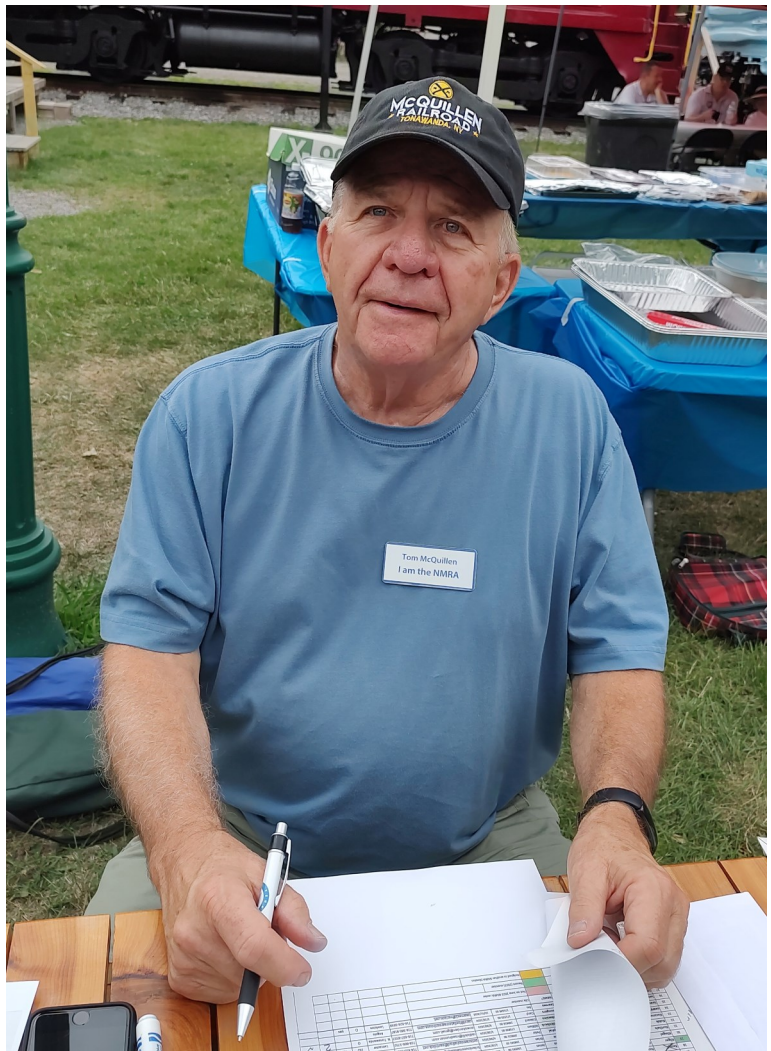
## Member Profile - Tom McQuillen

**My name is Tom McQuillen, and “I am the NMRA,” though two years ago, I was not!**

At that time, model railroading was a fond distant memory from the last century when I was a model railroader with a first-time modest basement layout. Model railroading, for me, naturally developed as an offshoot of being a real rail fan. Back then, model railroading included me making weekly shopping trips to K-Val Hobby, plus many purchases at model railroad shows. My then young son rail fanned went to K-Val and the train shows with me. We had many a good time, some very memorable, doing these two complementary railroad-related hobbies together!

However, my model railroading suffered an abrupt halt (what I thought at the time to be just an interruption) when the layout experienced a considerable amount of water damage from a ceiling pipe leak! The result was that the layout was taken down with my collection of cars, the detailed engines, and accessories stored in anticipation of a

new layout that never happened as my life got in the way at the time. All the accumulated model railroad stuff was retained forever, hoping for a future someday. Railfanning continued over the years while my model railroading interest lay dormant. Sometimes I rail fanned by myself on business and personal travels, sometimes with my son and, fortunately, with both my son and his son.



**Continued on page 13**

## Member Profile (cont.)

Two years ago, Andy MacVie extended a gracious invitation to attend a monthly NMRA division model train meeting. From being friends, Andy knew of my interest in real trains, and I knew of his interest in model railroading. The restored North Tonawanda Erie Freight House was the meeting location, and the speaker's topic was Coke production. Since the meeting location and speaker's subject interested me, I attended to learn how coke was made, viewed the restored freight house, and enjoyed the friendliness of the model railroaders. So I took a chance to become an NMRA member, knowing nothing else. No regrets whatsoever now about this decision!

Two months later, over dinner, Bob Maskrey, Andy, and I chatted about model railroading when I first learned about "DCC," which really sparked my interest in model railroading. I thought how cool DCC is as compared to AC operation, eliminating the need for isolating tracks, the numerous Atlas control switches, the complicated wiring, etcetera hassles versus DCC's realistic operation of engines with sound and lights with multiple engines capable of operating simultaneously on the same track. WOW!!!

This got me seriously thinking! I am okay with the fact that I do not have space for a layout, but maybe I could install DCC decoders into my stored detailed engines. I enjoy new learning and am comfortable with technology. So with YouTube, I said, "Why not!" and jumped into doing DCC installs.

From that dinner conversation and doing DCC decoders, an unintended neat consequence is that my son and grandson became interested in model railroading. My grandson now has all my cars, track, and other stuff fortuitously saved in the last century. He has a small switching layout. He and his dad are planning a layout in their basement. He also has, as his favorite railroad, several Lehigh Valley engines, and cars whose tracks coincidentally were located near to where they live in Rochester.

My workbench has a detailed Athearn switcher now painted in Lehigh Valley, "Cornell Red," and it is just waiting for a decoder installation. You can correctly assume who will use this completed engine in the future. So model railroading has begun anew for me, so different from the last century but more enjoyable and cooler than then! **Glad I am the NMRA!** 🚂

**Editors Note: Tom serves the Division as Steven Cotton's Assistant Membership Chair-thank you Tom!**



## 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.



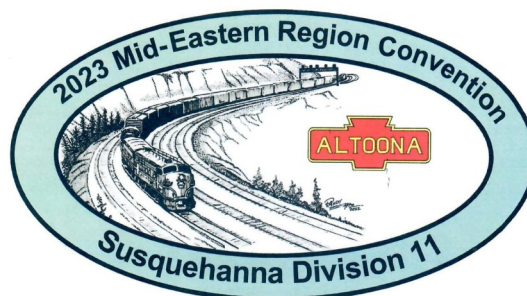
Oct 28 for Niagara County

Oct 29th for Erie County

Great Layout to see.

Mark your calendar

Go to [WNYLayouttours.com](http://WNYLayouttours.com)  
after Oct 1 for the line-up



Round the Curve to Altoona

October 19-22, 2023

<http://mer2023.org/index.html>

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

Those 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](http://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](http://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!

<b>*NScaleWorks</b>	NScaleWorks offers N-scale scenery and rolling stock detail items, as well as custom designed and printed decals.	<b>Showcase Miniatures</b>
<b>*Tichy Train Group</b>	Manufacturer of rolling stock and structure kits in N, HO, S, and O, as well as a wide array of detail & structural parts.	<b>Team Track Models</b>
<b>CatsPaw Innovations</b>		<b>The N Scale Architect</b>
<b>Clever Models</b>		<b>The Train Show, Inc.</b>
<b>Deluxe Materials</b>		<b>Train Installations, LLC</b>
<b>East Coast Circuits</b>		<b>Trainmaster TV/MRH Store</b>
<b>Great Decals</b>		<b>U-Gears</b>
<b>Green Frog Productions</b>		<b>Unreal Details</b>
<b>Hot Wire Foam Factory</b>		<b>USA Airbrush Supply/</b>
<b>Jason's Brass Poles</b>		<b>Badger Airbrush</b>
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\*Indicates newest Partner

[Click here for Partnership Pro-](#)





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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.