

The Lantern



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WESTERN NEW YORK
DIVISION OF THE
NMRA



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Our Next Meetings

Jan 21, 2023
Lee Street
10:30 AM

From the Cab

WOW! What an end of a great year we have had. We have our Division's first Master Model Railroader (MMR). Gary Reynolds is now MMR #722. The Western New York Division's first on what I hope will be many MMRs. Gary has worked hard to achieve this award but will not rest on his laurels. He is committed to helping this Divisions' members achieve the same thing. There will be an upcoming article about his journey to achieve this honor in a future Lantern issue. Look for it. Congratulations, my friend.



The WNY Division is also boasting two, not one but two authors of train books. Walter Simpson and Mark Klingel, both Division members, have authored some great books. Check out the article about them on page ten of this issue. They have agreed to speak to us about their books at one of our future meetings. How cool is that?

Page six has an article on our Division's field trip to J. L Innovative Design in Salamanca in early November. What a fun trip, we are looking for another outing; if you have an idea, please tell someone on the executive committee.

I have initiated a new award for the Division. It is called the **Superintendent's Award**. You, the Division members, are eligible for this award. I have watched executive board members step up to bat many times for the Division, but that's what they get paid for. I also watched as regular members have stepped up to the plate, some many times, so it's these members that I want to recognize. I will present the Division's first Superintendents Award at our Christmas Party.

Speaking of our Christmas Party, Frank is still taking RSVPs for the party. Party information is on page eleven of this issue.

I want to shout out to our Division's great friend Chuck Diljak, MMR from Northern New Jersey. Chuck designed our Lantern's New Masthead. What a fantastic look. Thank you, my friend, from all of us.

Finally, I wish each of you, whether you are an active modeler or an armchair modeler, no matter what gauge, whether you watch on Zoom or come to the meetings or are a snow-bird away from us, a **Very Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year** 🎄

My Best

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andy'.



From the Cabin Car

Note from Gary Reynolds, MMR

Well, this is the last issue of the Lantern this year. It was a great year (except for the November Hamburg Train Show being canceled due to 7 feet of snow). Our summer picnic was a phenomenal success. Frank Pastore's two-day October layout tour was well attended and had over 20 magnificent layouts. Our division meetings were excellent as we continued with

zoom and live presentations. If you missed the last meeting, we had Gordy Robertson, our NMRA National President, speak to us from his home in Scotland, and Bruce Heatley discussed how he built his creeper to work on his N scale layout.

You may have seen the steel mill layout upgrades. You can read the article on the current state of the diorama by Bruce Heatley, Steve Berezinski, and Caryl Youngers in this issue

of the Lantern. These guys have been busy upgrading the layout and have done an excellent job.

I look forward to seeing you all at our annual Christmas party in December. It seems like it is going to be a fantastic affair. Frank Pastore has lined up a magnificent buffet that should meet the demands of hungry model railroaders.

Finally, I would like to put out a request for some help with our newsletter. Don't hesitate to contact me if you are interested in becoming an associate editor to work with me in putting out this newsletter. Thanks📧



From the Back Seat

By Gary Reynolds, MMR (photos by the author)



I was out for a ride with my dad the other day. We were in the Allegheny forest going to visit some relatives in central Pennsylvania. As we rounded a bend I saw the strangest rail car I ever saw. I asked my dad what it was and he said it was a snow plow. Being the mid of September, I had no idea what a snow plow was doing on the railroad. He laughed and said these plows were made at the Russell Car & Snow Plow Company located in Ridgway, Pennsylvania just a few miles down the road. Obviously this plow was recently purchased and was making its way to the Erie Railroad yard at Olean for use this coming winter. Boy, I thought I'd seen everything, but this was new to me. One of the strangest rail cars I ever saw was built right in my backyard. What a day this has been.

Now the bad news. This issue will be the last installment of "From the Back Seat" for a while. I hope to resurrect the article sometime next year, but I am taking a break as I have run out of pictures and ideas 📷

Lackawanna Steel Plant at the Heritage Center

by Bruce Heatley (photos by Bruce Heatley and Steve Bereziuk)

Pete Martin, who owned a Hobby Shop in North Tonawanda, owned a HO Scale model railroad of a Steel Mill that was donated to the Heritage Discovery Center by Peter's family after his passing. The section was part of a much larger layout built by members of the NOME Model RR Club in Niagara County, then moved to Pete's home. When it was donated it was decided to place it at the south end of the 1st floor near the Steel Museum displays.

The Western New York Division of the NMRA stepped in with four volunteers to help with the expansion and detailing of the layout, which needed work to finish the area where the town would be and other areas of the layout that were either lacking scenery or repairs required. The layout era will be based in the sixties and seventies before Bethlehem Steel closed.



Steve Bereziuk, Caryl Youngers, Mike FiFolt and Myself (NMRA) all volunteered and were responsible for most of the scenery and details that were added or repaired. I was responsible for most of the electrical aspects including a two cab DC system with electrical blocks so a train could operate on the outside loop and a switch engine could work in the Mill itself and the storage tracks. I donated the block wiring and also parts for the sliding Power Supply tray under the layout.

Caryl Youngers is the treasure of the Gowanda & Buffalo Model Railroad Club and President of the Western New York Railway Historical Society. Caryl worked to allow an entire width curve at the left end so an additional section of straight track could be added at the rear of the table. This section was just a single linear track (with the Mill tracks in the center) and a siding, so Caryl added a two-foot extension on the left end. The right end (unfinished when received) was cleared to make room for the town and that end of the loop return curve. With the longer siding, a 2nd train could be held while another train was on the 'main.' Caryl Youngers also donated Power Supplies, and the Peter Martin family donated some cars.



The layout requires more appropriate (for a steel mill) freight cars and switcher type of diesel locos. Also for the town, a few more houses and commercial buildings. Along with vehicles and figures.

Many thanks to Steve Kocsis of the WNYRHS Heritage Discovery Center for his help with the layout and furnishing supplies 🙏

Bruce Heatley NMRA 9/27/22

Lackawanna Steel Plant (cont.)

More pictures of the layout by Bruce Heatley



The layout is in need of more appropriate (for a steel mill) freight cars and switcher type of diesel locos. Also for the town, a few more houses and commercial buildings, along with vehicles and figures. Can you help?



J.L. Innovative Design Visit

Photos by Frank Pastore

In November, we had the opportunity to go to J.L. Innovative Design in Salamanca, NY. Division 12, the Alleghany Western Division MCR/NMRA, invited us to their trip to Salamanca. We had twenty of our Division members travel down there and five more from the Genesee Society of Model Engineers out of Batavia, NY (The guys who run the Great Batavia Train Show). It was a great event, and everyone



Chris Costello discussing plant operations with WNY members Bill Wiedenbeck and Ken & Kathy Akerboom

had a wonderful time.



Mike Costello demonstrates how they make their detail castings.

Chris Costello, the new owner of J.L. Innovative Design, and his brother Mike rolled out the carpet for us. Chris even had a Polish Food Truck for our lunch, Kielbasa and Pierogies. The Chocolate cake for dessert was amazing. I knew it was good when I saw Chris had a refrigerator full of it. :) J.L. Innovative Design made small signs with our Division logos to remember our visit. Chris and his staff have a Free-Mo layout available for our viewing. This



J.L. Innovative inventory room

layout is generally at the Hamburg Train Show. They hope to have one of every kit on that layout in the future. Of course, we were able to purchase some of his kits and detailed parts during the tour at a very nice price, I might add. Thanks you, Chris and your staff, for a fun day 🎉



Polish Food Truck

Division 12 and Western New York Division memento signs.



AP Report

By Gary Reynolds, MMR (photos by the author)

I want to go into a bit more depth on the AP Structures certificate. As you may recall from a previous discussion, you must earn a score of 87.5 points or more on six of the twelve models in either an NMRA-sponsored contest or an AP Merit Award evaluation. This is one of the requirements that scares most modelers.

Let's take a look at the categories that are judged and how points are awarded. The five categories that are evaluated are"

All judging will be based on five categories:

CONSTRUCTION (40 points)

DETAIL (20 points)

CONFORMITY (25 points)

FINISH (25 points)

SCRATCHBUILDING (15 points)

Out of the 125 points possible, you must earn 87.5 points or better to qualify for a structure. This can be at either an NMRA-sponsored modeling contest or a home evaluation.

CONSTRUCTION focuses on the quality of workmanship or how well is the finished model put together. Things that matter are the corners square, no glue marks, and the complexity of the structure. A building with dormers and multiple appendages will score much higher than a square one. In other words, the more complex and neatly constructed will achieve the highest. Figure 1 shows the FSM model I entered in an NMRA contest in 2002. I was awarded enough points to qualify for this structure. Notice the various levels of the building, overall weather, and details around the structure.



Figure 1 – FSM Schramm Mfg. kit. I renamed Hart Mfg. and entered into an NMRA contest

AP Report (cont.)

DETAIL focuses on subordinate parts that are not part of the actual building. Components that are parts of the prototype to function (for example, dust collectors) receive more weight than details that are added for appearance (such as tools or clutter around a structure). Both are important; the more, the better. Figure 2 illustrates some of the detail I added to the structure. I was proud of the guys playing cards, and in the write-up, I explained how I modified the figures and cut pieces of paper for the cards. The judges noted that they were impressed with this detail.

CONFORMITY focuses on achieving a prototypical appearance. This is a tough one since the judges want to see what the actual building looks like to

compare it to what you built. If you built the structure from a kit, you might not have a picture of the original structure. Most kits include a picture or two of what the finished kit should look like. In that case, I would include a copy of these photos in your write-up.

FINISH Focuses on the general appearance of the structure. And the proper application of finish and lettering to achieve a specific effect.

Scratch building credit is given for quantity only; quality is judged elsewhere. These are things that you fabricated from basic wood, metal, plastic, or other shapes and materials that were not included in the kit. I always try to add something, such as a fence or another outbuilding. If you don't have something, you will receive 0 points. Figure 3 illustrates a scratch-built fence and sign I made for the Hart Mfg. Co 🏠



Figure 2 – Shows some of the detailed I added



Figure 3 – Scratch built sign and fence

Member Profile - Bill Wiedenbeck

Meet Bill Wiedenbeck, who became an NMRA member again in February of 2022, rekindling a friendship with WNY Division Superintendent Andy MacVie. Bill had joined the NMRA in 1982, but with his two young sons' interest in scouting and sports, his interest in railroading was put aside. Andy and Bill had been Boy Scout leaders together in the 1990s.

Having retired after a fifty-year career in broadcasting this past May (aka Bill Lacy), interest in a basement layout took center stage. Joining the NMRA seemed like the perfect first step. You might not recognize Bill initially, but you will recognize his voice as he was one of Buffalo's longest-running morning show personalities on WBEN (930 AM) and WHTT (104.1 FM) radio.

"I've met some great people who share my interest in trains," said Bill. "I've also taken part in my first operating session on Gary Reynold's Grand Allegheny Railway. I toured J L Innovative Design, a manufacturer of model railroad kits and parts, with other WNY Division members and visited home layouts during Frank Pastore's layout tour weekend. The clinics and fellowship at the monthly meetings have been wonderful."

This is a great hobby and sharing it with like-minded NMRA friends makes it even better 🎧



Author, Author

Who knew that we had two authors in our midst? Mark Klingel and Walter Simpson. Mark's first book just came out, and Walter's second book has been out for a while. We are working on getting both authors to give the Division presentations on their books. So, let's support our fellow Division members and buy a book for Christmas.



Mark Klingel

Mark's book features original photography and documents the following:

Buffalo Southern and New York & Lake Erie (Erie/Erie Lackawanna Buffalo & Southwestern Branch)

Buffalo & Pittsburgh (BR&P/B&O between Buffalo and Salamanca, NY, to Johnsonburg, PA)

Falls Road (New York Central Falls Road Branch)

Depew Lancaster & Western (Batavia Division - New York Central "Peanut Line")

Arcade & Attica

Mark has a second book underway now on the railroads of the Finger lakes. Look for it.

https://www.amazon.com/Buffalos-Railroad-Legacy-America-Through/dp/1634994418/ref=sr_1_1?crid=AUBSCK6OUAAF&keywords=mark+klingel&qid=1670108091&srefix=mark+klingel+%2Caps%2C156&sr=8-1

Walter Simpson

Walter has three books already, one on Diesel-Electric-Locomotives, his 2020 book on turbine powered locomotives and Steam-Locomotive-Energy-Story. Great reads.

<http://diesel-electric-locomotives.com/>
<https://www.amazon.com/Steam-Locomotive-Energy-Story/dp/B09C2FRRB1>
<https://www.amazon.com/Turbine-Power-Walter-Simpson/dp/1627007350>

Author By

Mike Pyszczek and Andy MacVie ©

Links and Notes



Heritage DiscoverY Center

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.



Division Christmas Party

Saturday, December 17, 12:00 PM to 2 PM
Santorio's Pizza Pub & Grill
1402 Millersport Highway
Williamsville/Amherst

Menu

2 Varieties of Pizza, Large Garden Salad, Pasta with Sauce, Roast Beef with Kimmelweck & Plain Rolls, Coffee & Soft Drinks (Alcohol available at the bar)
The price per each is \$25.00
Tax and Gratuity by the WNY Division
The Division is subsidizing the Christmas Party cost.

I hope that you can join us for our Christmas party. It will be a great time and we can spend some time together visiting and talking trains. If you can't make it Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your family.

My best



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

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

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<p>*NScaleWorks NScaleWorks offers N-scale scenery and rolling stock detail items, as well as custom designed and printed decals.</p> <p>*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.</p>	<p>CatzPaw Innovations</p> <p>Clever Models</p> <p>Deluxe Materials</p> <p>East Coast Circuits</p> <p>Great Decals</p> <p>Green Frog Productions</p> <p>Hot Wire Foam Factory</p> <p>Jason's Brass Poles</p> <p>K.I.S.S. Method Inc</p> <p>LARC Productions</p> <p>Logic Rail Technologies</p> <p>Micro-Mark</p> <p>MinuteMan Scale Models</p>	<p>Modelers Decals & Paint</p> <p>Model Railroad Benchwork</p> <p>Model Train Catalogue</p> <p>Motrak Models</p> <p>MRC (Model Rectifier Corp)</p> <p>OK Engines/Streamliners</p> <p>Old West Scenery</p> <p>Rain Track</p> <p>RR-CitKits</p> <p>Rusty Stumps</p> <p>Scale Model Plans</p> <p>Scalecoat Paint</p> <p>Scenery Solutions</p>	<p>Showcase Miniatures</p> <p>Team Track Models</p> <p>The N Scale Architect</p> <p>The Train Show, Inc.</p> <p>Train Installations, LLC</p> <p>Trainmaster TV/IRN Store</p> <p>UGears</p> <p>Unreal Details</p> <p>USA Airbrush Supply/</p> <p>Badger Airbrush</p> <p>WIFI Model Railroad LLC</p>
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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.



Happy Birthday to the following

December and November Birthdays

Gary Reynolds, MMR

Robert Scheib

Joe Kubik