

The Lantern

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 5

SEPT / OCT 2022

WESTERN NEW YORK
DIVISION OF THE
NMRA



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the cabin	2
Back Seat	3
Car Brake	4
Flat Car Loads	5-6
Member Profile	7-8

Our Next Meetings

Oct 15 meeting at Lee St
Nov 19 meet at Hamburg
train show

From the Cab



Hello Everyone,

Lots of news for you. Our October 15th meeting at [100 Lee street](#) will be our elections presided over by Ron Tober, followed by two clinics and a special guest with some exciting news. Plus, some Hot Dogs and Hamburgers complements of the Division and Wardynski Meats.

The next day is the Batavia Show (See the [Batavia Show Flyer](#) on our website, under Upcoming Events). We could use some more volunteers for that show. See you there.

Please mark your calendar for Frank Pastore's Western New York Layout Tour on October 22nd and 23rd. Check his website for details. [Click here](#)

The WNYRHS [Hamburg Train Show](#) is on the 19th and 20th of November. We need some more clinics and displays for that show. Please get in touch with me if you can help. Your display can be something you are working on in any scale. Think about it. Don't forget to use our coupon on [our website](#).

As a Note: At the Batavia and Hamburg Train Shows, we will be hosting an NMRA table, and our sister Divisions will be there with us again. Division 12 from Erie Pa and LakeShores from Rochester.

Lakeshores are hosting [Ops-around-the-Clock](#) on October 29th and 30th; check out their website.

On November 12, Division 12 invited us to join them on a tour of the JL Innovation Design Facilities in Salamanca, New York. Don't miss this incredible trip. We need a count of members who are coming so please Email me if you would like to make the trip.

Finally, regarding some new Board appointments, I have asked Ron Tober and Bill Wiedenbeck to join the Executive Board. Ron handles our elections and is a great advisor to me. Bill will assist us with some upcoming surveys and will lead a committee to provide help for the Boy Scouts of America Model Railroad Merit Badge program. If you would like to help him, please feel free to contact Bill directly. (*See the last page of this newsletter for contact information*)

Also, Darby Marriott has agreed to be the Division's Director of Information Technology, a Board position. He is very skillful with Technology and will help us provide you, our members, with a way to always staying in touch with the Division and our activities. I am very grateful to each of these guys for saying yes to my request for help.

Lastly, December 17th will be our Christmas luncheon. More information to follow.

High Ball

From the Cabin Car Note from Gary

With this Lantern issue, we are back to publishing on the correct schedule. The member profile is extremely interesting and I am sure you will enjoy it. There are two interesting how-to articles you may find interesting.

Boy, are we fortunate; we live in Western New York, enjoy a wonderful summer, have a great football team, and belong to one of the best NMRA divisions in the country. We have access to two other divisions: Lakeshore in Rochester and Division 12 in Erie. Our division has great monthly meetings and some of the best layouts in the area. You can credit our success to Andy MacVie and Frank Pastore, who have worked tirelessly to make our division what it is.

Given that, I would like to paraphrase two famous quotes about our division. The first comes from President John F Kennedy, who said something like, "Ask not what your division does for you; ask you what you can do for your division." In other words, don't expect Andy and Frank to do everything forever; get involved. Work on a committee, become a committee chair, do a clinic, volunteer, and write an article for the newsletter. **DO SOMETHING.**

The second comes from a motivational muse Rikki Rogers who said, "Strength and skill don't come from what you can do; it comes from overcoming the things you once thought you couldn't do." We are all model railroaders. This is exactly what the Achievement Program is all about. Each AP program takes one aspect of the hobby and forces you to become an expert in it. Give it a try, talk to your AP chairman and start working toward a certificate. Each certificate is not set up to be easy, but something you can be proud of once you earn it. **TRY IT, AND YOU WILL BE HAPPY YOU DID.**

From the Back Seat

By Gary Reynolds (photos by the author)



The big hook

My uncle took me trout fishing this morning at one of my favorite spots. There's a rail line right next to the stream, and I can watch for trains while sitting on a rock fishing. There is nothing better on a Saturday morning than listening to the babbling creek and watching a train pass by. It has been a good morning since I already got two small rainbow trout. Around 9:00 AM, I hear a distant rumble. I perked up since I figured it was slow-moving coal or freight train. All of a sudden, the most unusual train was passing. It was all gray and had strange-looking cars. At the end was a crane, I asked my uncle what it was, and he explained that it was a work train. The crane at the end was called a "big hook." He said there must have been some accident down the line, and the train was going to help straighten things out. Wow, what I thought was a good day turned out to be great.

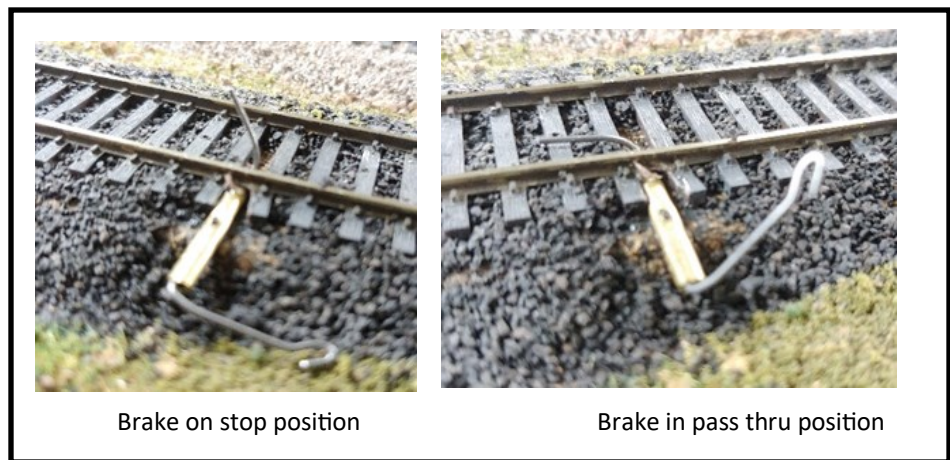
Car Brake on a Hill

By Gary Reynolds (photos by the author)

I was operating at Gary Pagels's layout a few weeks ago when I had to leave a few cars parked on a slight incline. The cars kept rolling back, and I couldn't find anything to put on the track to keep the cars in place. Gary came over and showed me what I thought was the neatest little thing. He threw a small lever, and the cars stayed right where they were. When I backed the train in to pick up the cars, the lever reset itself, and I was on my way. Boy, I thought I could use this on my layout. I have an interchange track that has a slight incline. I use a rock to keep the cars from rolling back onto the main line. Not very prototypical, but it works (until you misplace the rock, then you are back to square one).

So here is how I made the device. I cut a two-inch piece of 0.032 music wire (you can get this at Hobby Lobby). Be sure to use a special cutter for

the music wire. Cutting music wire with a standard wire cutter will ruin the edge. I formed a little loop on the end of the wire and bent the wire 90° about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch from the loop. I then cut about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch of $\frac{3}{32}$ inch brass tubing (again, this can be obtained from Hobby Lobby) and placed this over the wire. I then bent the wire 90° up at the end of the brass tubing.



Brake on stop position

Brake in pass thru position

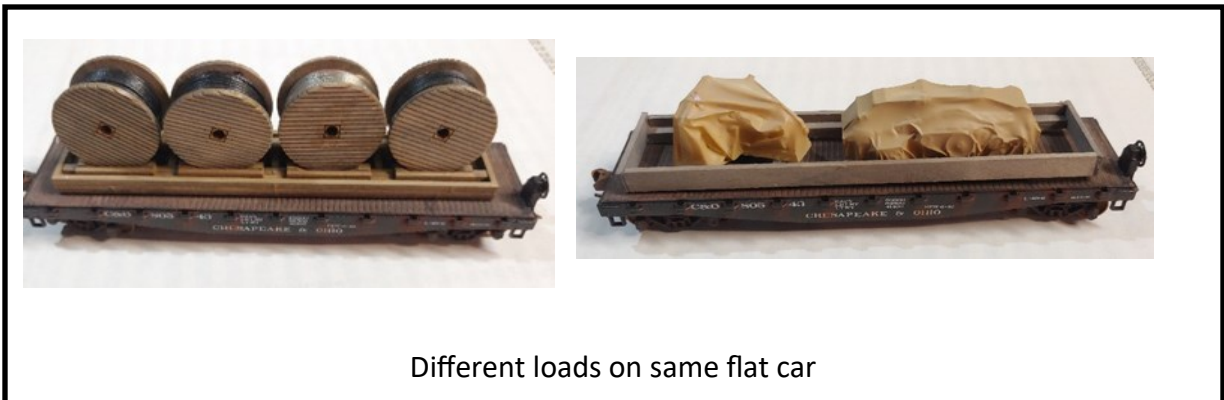
At this point, I figured out where on the track I wanted to install this device. I wet the ballast and scraped it away between two ties. I noticed that there was plastic between the ties under the rail. I used a small $\frac{1}{8}$ inch carbide cutting ball on my Dremel and slowly reamed out the plastic. I slid the device between the ties under the rail and moved it to its final setting. A few drops of ACC glue, and it was done.

Now cars can be delivered to my B&O interchange track,

Removable Flat Car Loads

By Gary Reynolds (photos by the author)

The NMRA magazine has a neat monthly article, “Love Those Loads,” by Bob Frankrone. Over the years, I have used this article to make some interesting flat car loads. Once one of these cars was dropped off at an industry, they were still on the car for the following operating session. I had to switch the flat car with an empty one for the following operating session. I started to think, how can I make the load removable. Clumsy, but it worked. The following is the



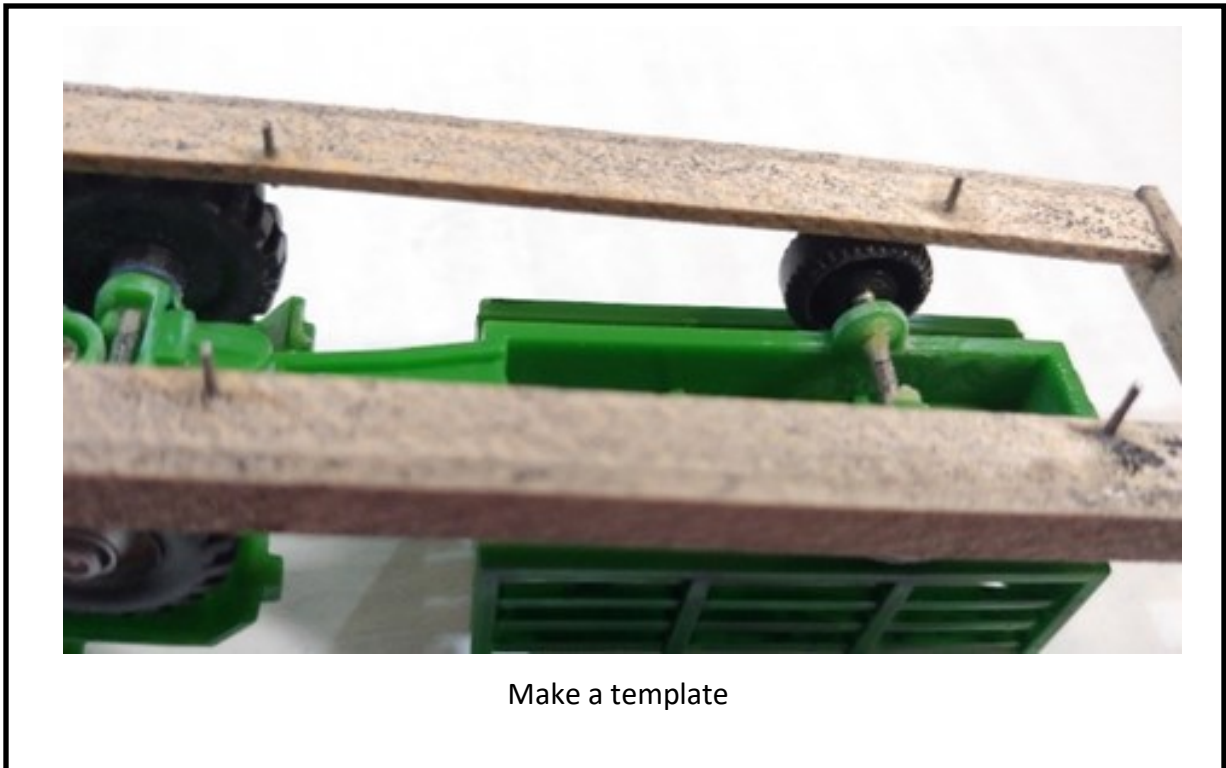
method I now use; maybe it can be adaptable for your shipments.

I started by making a template from 1/16 inch sheathing the same size as a 40-foot flat car. Although my template is wood, you could also use 0.040 plastic sheet for the template. I trimmed 1/16 inch off each side. I then drilled six holes about 1/8 inch from the sides (see figure 2)—Mark one of the sides as “top.” Place the template over a flat car (top-up) and drill holes into the flat car. You will barely see the holes when the flat can is empty.



Removable Flat Car Loads (cont.)

For the loads, I started by making a frame from 1/16 x 1/4 and 1/16 x 1/8 strip wood. These pieces are glued together to form a frame the same size as the template. Once dry, place the frame on the top side of the template, flip it over and drill the holes. Cut six small pieces of 0.032 music wire, press fit into the holes,



flush the top of the frame, and stick out the bottom. A dab of ACC helps secure the pins.

Now the fun part was figuring out what the load would be. Right now, I have six different loads built. You can add cross braces, center posts, or platforms to support your load. Each operating session, new tractors, cable spools, general loads, or an empty flat are moving into or out of a freight house.

Member Profile - Frank Battaglia

Frank was born in Buffalo and lived with his family on Norwalk Avenue. As a kid, his aunt would take him for walks to watch trains as they moved through the Buffalo neighborhoods. Frank was



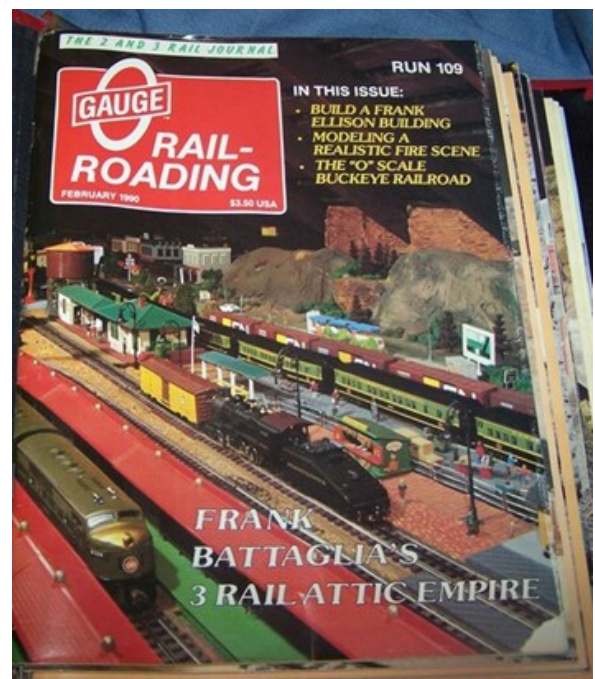
fascinated with the mighty steam engines as they transverse the streets near his home. He eventually got a small Lionel set which he set up in the attic and officially started his lifelong love of model railroading.

After graduating from Buffalo State, Frank taught social studies in Troy, New York. In 1965, he got an offer to teach at Starpoint Central in Buffalo. Frank grabbed the offer and moved back to his hometown and childhood home. Since he was working and making money, he bought Lionel trains and expanded his attic layout. He retired at age 55 but remained a substitute teacher

for the next 13 years.

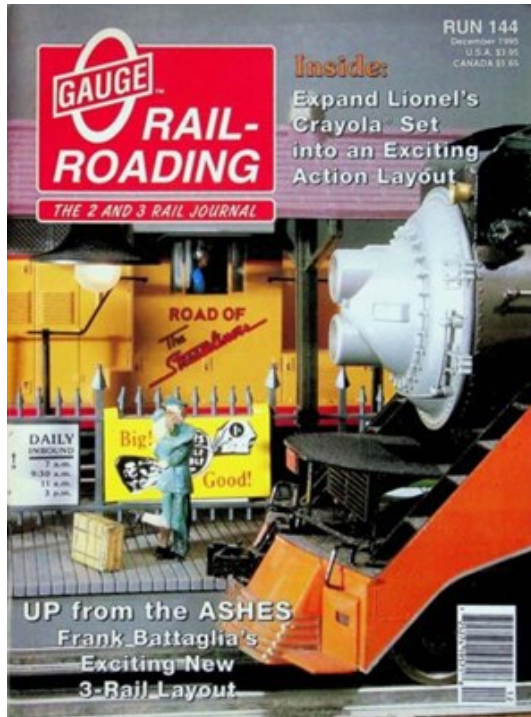
In 1988, his neighbor came over to see his layout. Being an insurance salesman, his neighbor talked him into buying a policy to cover his trains. Frank was a little hesitant because the policy cost a lot; nevertheless, he bought the policy. Shortly after this, Fred Dole of the O Gauge Railroading Magazine talked to Bob Shuh of Kval Hobbies and asked him if there were any excellent layouts in the Buffalo areas. Bob mentioned Frank's layout, and Bob Dole came to Buffalo and photographed the layout. The layout was featured in the February 1990 O Gauge Railroading Magazine issue. It was the first attic layout they ever featured, and he made the issue cover.

Frank was thrilled; he bought over 50 copies and gave everyone he knew a copy (since I was not in Buffalo then, I was never given a copy). Frank's excitement, however, was short-lived. That summer, he decided to have some work done on the house. While the workers were fixing the front porch, a fire started while they were taring the edge where the porch met the house. The fire started in the walls and quickly spread through the attic. His layout was destroyed entirely.



Member Profile (cont.)

Along with the upper portion of the house. Thank God for that insurance policy. With that and his homeowner's insurance, Frank decided to rebuild. He spent four months living at a Residence Inn while his house was restored.

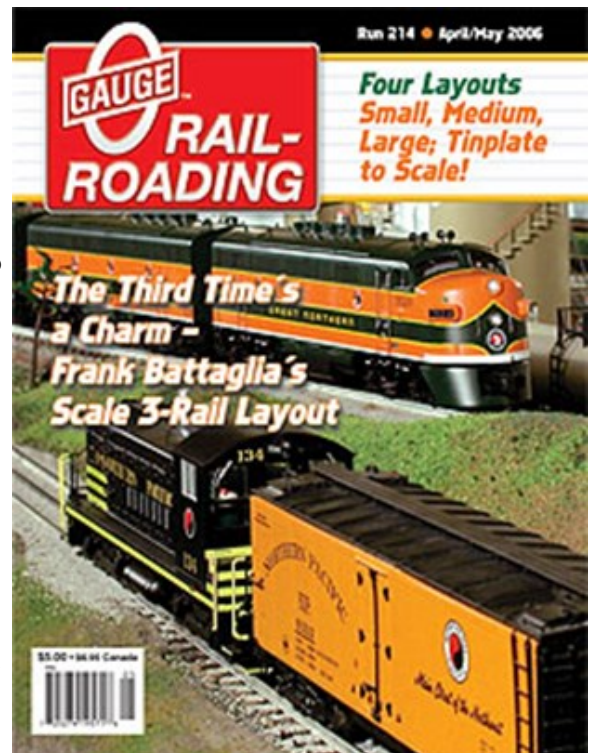


After work was completed and Frank moved back in, he started to build a new layout, bigger and better than the previous one. Bob Dole of O Gauge Railroading Magazine heard about his achievement and returned to Buffalo for a follow-up story. In December 1995, the magazine published another article entitled "Up from the Ashes."

Frank was happy in his new boyhood home and never planned on moving. In 2001, however, he found a beautiful ranch house in North Tonawanda with a large basement too good to pass up. He

moved in and transformed his old attic layout to an even larger one in the basement. You guessed it, O Gauge Railroading Magazine visited again in 2006 and published another article, "The Third Time Is the Charm." It featured an 11-page spread, the most extensive feature the magazine ever published.

Since that time, Frank's layout and collection have continued to expand since that time. He had another article written in March 2014 in Classic Toy Trains featuring his layout. You have missed something spectacular if you've never seen Frank's layout or his collection of motive power and rolling stock. However, you still have a chance since his layout will be on the Western New York layout tour on October 22. Don't miss it! Drop in and say "hi" to Frank.



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.

Frank Pastore's Western New York Layout Tour

October 22 and 23

Over 24 layouts

N, HO, and O scale

Saturday—Erie county layouts

Sunday—Niagara county layouts

All model railroaders are invited



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:



Those are the discounts that manufacturers and hobby shops in our Partnership Program are giving us (gill, low, Partners like Micro-Mark®, Model Rectifier Corporation®, Badger Airbrush®, Unreal Details®, Hot Wire Foam Factory®, Logic-Rail™ Technologies). Add over 20 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!



Batavia Train Show

See the Batavia Show Flyer on our website, under **Upcoming Events**). We could use some more volunteers for that show. See you there.

nmra.org PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

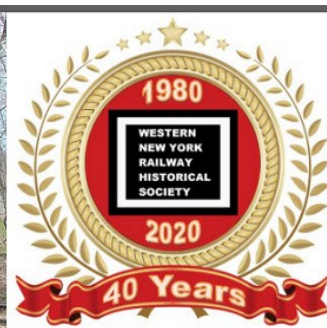
NMRA members can log in at www.nmra.org and click on the Benefits tab to view the NMRA Partnership Program. Please patronize all of our partners for some fantastic discounts as an NMRA member!

- *NScaleWorks NScaleWorks offers N-scale scenery and rolling stock detail items, as well as custom designed and printed decals.
- *Tichy Train 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 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-CiKits 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/IRN Store UGears Unreal Details USA Airbrush Supply/ Badger Airbrush WiFi Model Railroad LLC

*Indicates newest Partner

NMRA logo

Click here for Partnership Pro-



Western New York Division

Contact Information

Division Superintendent

Andy MacVie

Superintendent@wnydivisionnmra.com

716-445-6805

Assistant Superintendent

Frank Pastore

frankcpastore@yahoo.com

716-909-6898

Chief Clerk

Ron Kemp

rgkemp316@gmail.com

716-990-9903

AP Chairman

Gary Reynolds

Gar2rey@gmail.com

716-225-2269

Membership Chairman

Steve Cotton

geophys75@gmail.com

716-261-8231

Executive Board Members

Ron Tober

rontober@gmail.com

716-694-0875

Bill Wiedenbeck

radiobill@roadrunner.com

716-866-3732

Newsletter Editor

Gary Reynolds

Gar2rey@gmail.com

716-225-2269

Director of Information Technology

Darby Marriott

darby76x@yahoo.com

(469) 815-5324



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

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 .

