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Our Next Meeting

October 24th

10:00 AM

Doug Sandmeyer
NCE Lighting

Clark Kooning
Modeling with the
Masters

Using FreeConfer-
enceCall.com

The Lantern

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 7 JULY/AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2020

We were busy



Our September newsletter will cover the summer months as well as events in September. So, let's get started. In July, we did have a summer picnic at [Mud Creek Central](#). Do to the Pandemic; our attendance was lower than expected. But all who did make it had a great time. Mud Creek Central Railroad is a non-for-profit club. On their grounds, the club has 3 scale model railway lines, allowing club members to build and operate models of trains in G/#1, 4 ¾, and 7 ¼ gauges.



Upper left photo: Bud Hartwig Mud Central and Gary Reynolds WNY Division AP Chairman discuss casting parts. **Upper Right photo:** Dave Durr and his wife, Dave, is the LakeShores Division Superintendent. **Lower Left Photo:** Matt Bierl, NFR, American Vice President, and Gary Reynolds, WNY Division AP Chairman. **Lower Right Photo:** Engineer and his train. *All Photos by Frank Pastore*

In August, we had a great deal of administrative work to get done. Frank Pastore headed up our effort to get some WNY Division polo shirts, hats, and name tags.

So far, we can take orders for the shirts and hats; he is still working on the name tags and will most likely be ready right after publishing this edition of "The Lantern." See page 4 for more information.

I asked Ron Tober to get his Election Committee ready for our November Election. Ron, Fred Snyder, and Paul MacPherson will be contacting you; look for them.

Working with Dave Meyer from [Gatorfoam](#), we have developed some unique Thank you Awards for those who presented a Clinic or have helped the Division. More to come on them.

We have added a "NEW" method to contact the membership when you need to know something quickly, Called a News Brief. When a News Brief is sent out, it will trigger an upgrade to our webpage also.

WWW.WNYDivisionNMRA.com

In September, we had two great clinics on the September 26th Zoom meeting. Bill Brown, NER AP Chairman, give us a clinic on "Assorted One Evening Projects." Ron Kemp, WNY Division Chief Clerk, gave a clinic on PanPastel®; both were just amazing jobs by these two great clinicians. I can't thank them enough for sharing their expertise with us.

For our October 24th meeting, we will be VOTING on an amendment to our By-Laws. So please try to attend. Section 2 is being considered for addition to the By-Laws. See page 4 for the addition.

Wow, were we busy or what.

High Ball
Andy

From the Back Seat

by Gary Reynolds



IGA on Browns Avenue

Article and Photo by Author

Every Sunday, we have homemade spaghetti and sauce. My mom starts the sauce before church and lets it cook all morning. In the afternoon, some of my cousins come over for a visit and a plate of pasta. Today is Saturday, and my dad is taking mother out shopping for our Sunday feast. My mother says the best place to get the pork hocks and pigs' feet for the sauce is the IGA on Browns Avenue. My parents are inside shopping. I say I am bored so I can stay in the car. This IGA is

right next to a busy Erie railroad main line, and I hope to see a few hotshot freights as they pass by. After a short wait, I feel the rumble of an approaching train. I hear the horn, two long blasts, one short, followed by another very long blast as the engine approaches the road crossing. This Saturday morning, luck is with me as I spot one of the new Alco FA/B units pulling a seemingly endless line of refrigerator cars. Fresh fruit and vegetables from the west are coming to be unloaded at the transfer station on the other side of town. Ah, this makes the wait in the car the best part of the shopping trip.

Update

Gatorfoam Part Two

How can I mount switch machines under my GF modules?

Easier than you think! Purchase some 3M, VHB, Very High Bond, double stick, foam tape. (If you can't find it at your local craft store, check your local sign shop or automotive supply). After cleaning the plastic, apply 4 strips onto the base of your switch machine (I'll call a Tortoise). Install your turnout and locate where the Tortoise will be installed, assuming you punched the hole for the rod. Remove the release liner and CAREFULLY align the Tortoise to the underside of the GF. Press firmly, and you're done. And no, it won't fall off.

How do I mount large backdrop photos to Gatorfoam?

Several companies are recommending Gatorfoam as the surface to mount their scenic photo/backdrops on their layouts. Bill Brown of LARK Products and Dave Burgess of Backdrop Junction both offer beautiful backdrops.

The most popular size is the 3/16" thick, 24" x 48". Gather your GF, photo, and some spray adhesive. (I like 3M 77Spray adhesive). It's recommended to do this outdoors or in a well-ventilated area! Spray your Gatorfoam AND the back of the photo with the adhesive and let sit for the recommended time.



On a flat surface, lay a plain sheet of paper over the GF, leaving about 1" exposed on one end. This is called a "slip sheet." Do NOT use the newspaper...ask me how I know this!! The waxed paper also works well too. You only get one shot at this...CAREFULLY line up the photo onto the GF and keeping it elevated, slowly remove the slip sheet as you press the photo down down onto the Gatorfoam. Once finished, squeegee the entire piece with an old credit card or piece of styrene.



Gatorfoam *continued*

Gatorfoam bridges?

You bet...but just for the base. I like the RIX highway overpass kit and assemble per instructions included in the kit...BUT substitute the styrene sheet in the kit with a 3/16" piece of Gatorfoam and use AILEEN'S Tacky glue or CA in place of the plastic cement to attach the pieces.



This gives you a thicker profile, especially at the edge of your layout, and it's easier to simulate

the broken concrete and asphalt.

OK, I have GF models on bases, how do I get them into the layout?

I get this a lot...there are several different ways to integrate your models into your layout. The easiest is to just place them onto the layout and disguise the edges with a wall, fence, building, or other vertical fixture to hide the seam. You can butt the models together to create a whole street scene. If you're installing them onto a blue or pink insulation board, simply cut out a section and "drop" your model into place. For scenery, place the model on its base onto your layout. Use SCULPTIMOLD or my favorite, Lou Sassi's "Ground Goop" to spread along the edge, tapering down to the layout surface once it's dry, paint, and scenic as usual. The 3/16" thick GF makes a natural curb. Paint your base concrete and the road asphalt.

THE LANTERN

On my layout, I use 1/16" craft foam sheets as a road surface in my towns, and the bases fit like puzzle pieces. Please use your imagination and let me know what you come up with. You can paint the GF and sprinkle ground foam and dribble glue/water without fear of the base warping or delaminating.

What's the easiest way to cut Gatorfoam?

I have a tech sheet dedicated to cutting GF. We'll go into it here, but if you feel you need in-depth info on it, ask me for a tech sheet. GF cuts great with any woodworking tools, but they're not necessary. I cut all my larger sheets on a panel saw and on my table saw with a regular combination blade. You get a really smooth finish. If you're cutting irregular shapes, use a jigsaw with a metal cutting blade for a smoother edge. A FINE DUST IS CREATED FROM THE STYRENE FOAM SO USE YOUR HEAD



AND A MASK!! The most popular way to cut GF for modeling is with a Xacto knife. Even though the veneer is only 1/32" thick, it's pretty tough.

The trick is to go slow and make several passes with your model knife using a little more pressure with each pass. After you have cut through the veneer, continue cutting until you are scoring the back sheet. Then you can "snap" it like a sheet of dry-wall. This will leave a very sharp edge on the back veneer. Be sure to sand that edge to keep from getting a paper cut...again, ask me how I know this? Once you get used to using GF, it becomes much easier.

Gatorfoam Module Tops

(see me for a detailed tech sheet)

Final thoughts...

A few final thoughts... I've used Gatorfoam in my sign business and in modeling for the last 40+ years. There isn't much I HAVEN'T done with it! I'm certainly not the only source where you can buy Gatorfoam, but I'm pretty sure there aren't many people as experienced at using it. If you've never tried GF, give it a shot! It's time to move away from paper coated FOME-COR and plywood. And lastly, PLEASE call or e-mail me with any questions or thoughts you have. I'm more than happy to help any way I can, no matter where you purchased your GF. That's what makes this hobby so great, ask questions, swap information, get the materials, build that kit, start that layout. I tell folks, "Our life expectancy is in direct proportion to the number of unbuilt kits on our shelves," but for heaven's sake, get started!

Dave Myers, 3471 Waterbury Stowe Road, Waterbury Ctr, VT, 05677

WWW.GATORFOAM.NET

MAIL-GATORBOARDS@AOL.COM





Directions:

Ctrl & Click Here for a Map



Great job Jim Torgeson

Show your Division, Pride.

Available to all members are polo shirts with our Lantern logo embroidered on the front of an ash-colored polo shirt. In addition, grey ball caps with a blue brim and an adjustable closure are available embroidered with WNY Division and NMRA lettering.

- Polo Shirts with logo
- Small to XL price.....\$20
- 2XL add.....\$2
- 3XL add.....\$3
- Hats with Lettering.....\$11

Note: All shirts and hats include NYS sales tax
 In order to place an order at one time, please email Frank Pastore with your shirt size and if you also wish to purchase a hat as well. Frank's email address is frankcpastore@yahoo.com

Links and Notes

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



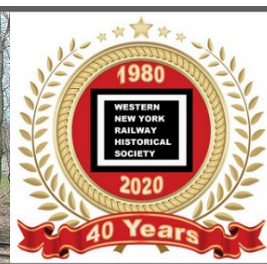
Mill City is hosting a Virtual Event this Fall!

December 1-4

The NER Convention Committee is hosting a virtual event that will help us to celebrate all your accomplishments this past year. Please stay tuned to this website for more information on clinics, contests, and an awards celebration coming to a computer near you!



Both the Mill City Virtual Event and the Northern Express are looking for Clinicians and video tours of your layout. Please give it a thought; you can do it.



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



On September 19th, the National Steel Mill SIG presented a Zoom meeting called Steel Talk; of the 36 people in attendance, four were from our Division. So, we will host a Mill Talk Group (Divisional SIG) for those interested. Contact Superintendent@WNYDivisionNMRA.com if you would like to attend any of our discussions.

For our October 24th meeting, we will be VOTING on an amendment to our By-Laws.

So please try to attend. Section 2 is being considered for addition to the By-Laws

ARTICLE III - ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 1. Officers shall be elected at the annual meeting in even-numbered years.

- a) The candidate receiving the highest number of votes for an office shall be declared elected.
- b) In the event of a tie, the Superintendent shall cast the deciding vote.

Section 2. The Superintendent and the Assistant-Superintendent may only serve two consecutive terms of their respective titles.

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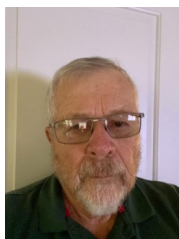
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The best part of being a member of the NMRA is the friends you meet along the way.



Member Profile



I only started in this hobby three years ago. I spent the first two years just reading.

There is so much to know. I had to decide all of the usual things, what scale, what kind of a power system I was going to use, Prototype or freelance, how to build benchwork, and more. I am now starting to make some choices. I decided to model in HO, N was a little tuff on the eyes, and O just took to much space, so HO it is.

In the late forties and fifties, I lived in Lock Haven, Pennsylvania. Lock Haven is just North of

Williamsport, Pennsylvania. My friends and I would play on a pedestrian bridge that went over the train tracks, and we played in the steam as the engines went by. It was not hard to decide to model a freelance railroad based on the Buffalo and Susquehanna Railroad that ran through Lock Haven and then on to Renovo with those memories. My next move was to read up on building benchwork, my grandson helped me with the construction, and I was ready to select a power source and start laying track. I chose the HO Scale Bachmann Trains Snap-Fit E-Z Track system. For a new guy to the hobby, this system is easy to install, and with a little planning, everything just snaps together.

More importantly, after the benchwork went up, I had track down and trains running in quick order. As a beginner, I am happy with my progress. I now have to study more about building structures, scenery, weathering, and lighting. I joined the NMRA to meet people and expand my knowledge, and so far, so good.

I am the NMRA.

Fred Snyder

Happy Birthday to the following missed June

Birthdays

Matt Bierl, Ken Akerboom

None in July

Happy Birthday to the following August

Birthdays

Michael Fifolt

Paul Weber

Robert Maskrey

Happy Birthday to the following August

Birthdays

Timothy Love

Ronald Tober