

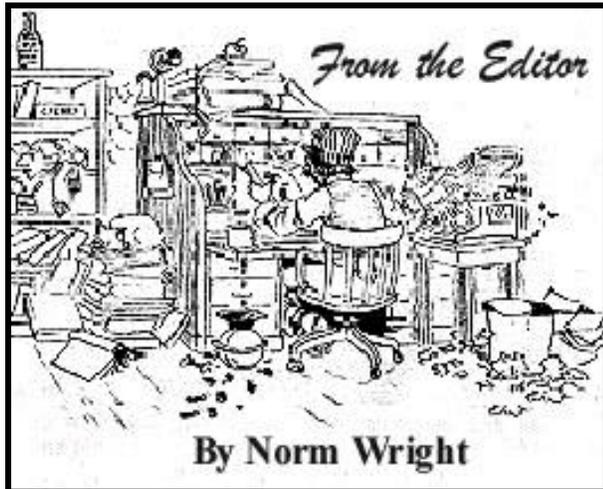
Rochester Model Rails

Dedicated to enhancing the enjoyment of area model railroading...

VOL. 1, NO. 1

ROCHESTER, N.Y.

MAY 2002



Please allow me to introduce myself.

I am Norm Wright, the “designated” editor of this new publication, which is being launched by a consortium of model railroad enthusiasts in the Greater Rochester area.

I have been a model railroader since 1964, and a member of the NMRA for much of that time. I have built several layouts and/or partial layouts in N, HO and O scales – but my preference has always remained with the “big stuff” (toy, tinplate, hi-rail and scale). Although my layout building and scratch modeling has slowed down in recent years, I continue to acquire just about anything which appeals to me that is related to trains and railroading (if you don’t believe me, just ask my wife).

Some of my past and previous journalistic “exploits” have included editing various military publications while in the Air Force during the Korean War, and several weekly and daily newspapers in Connecticut and New York State. I was at one time director of publications at Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), and I have edited, co-edited and authored several handbooks on the subject of Railway Philately (stamp collecting); I continue to compile and publish annual supplemental updates to these books.

You may learn more about me and my railroad interests at:

<http://home.online.no/~jdigrane/normaned/index.htm>

Goals and Objectives Sought to Improve Model Railroading

“What can be done to improve Model Railroading in Rochester?”

Deciding to move seriously ahead toward finding an answer to this concern, a number of model railroaders in the area have agreed to combine their collective energy in a united, positive effort to “make a difference.”

This effort is motivated by a goal-oriented desire to improve model railroading in Rochester and bring closer together some of the (at times) seemingly unrelated model railroad groups, clubs, dealers and individuals throughout the area.

The **goal and “mission”** of this publication is “to improve the quality of model railroading in the Rochester New York area by providing a local single source of information for the railroad modeler. The newsletter will include an events calendar, club data, modeling articles, layout pictures, and commercial information.”

Initial objectives are said to be:

"1. To promote greater fun and friendship among all participants

"2. To provide information about both fundamental and more advanced skills, so that all participants can experience quality return from their association with the consortium.”

Initiation, publication and distribution of this newsletter is among the first steps being taken to “get the word out” to the model railroading community that all those who share in this concern are welcome to “come aboard.”

The *RMR* newsletter is totally independent, not sponsored by any club or group. Although available free to readers, the crew would not mind an occasional polite donation to go towards costs.

In addition to the editor, present staff members are Associate Editors **Richard Senges** (business and distribution), and **Otto M. Vondrak** (graphics).

RESOURCES:

Model Railroad Contacts in 'Upstate' N.Y. Areas

**NMRA - Niagara Frontier Region**

In the United States the NFR serves parts of Western New York State and a strip of Pennsylvania (from Erie, PA north along the New York State Border). <http://www.drgwrr.com/nfr/>

President: C. Richard Roth, PhD

P.O. Box 309, Waterford, PA 16441-0309

[814] 796-0133 edinmetr@stargate.net

Trustee: Clark Kooning

6989 Glory Ct., Mississauga, Ont. Canada L5N 7E2

[905] 824-6247 NFR1@hq.nmra.org

Achievement Program Coordinator: Tom Tarpay

39 Church St., Lancaster, NY 14086

[716] 685-4386

Editor, FLIMSY:

Craig Dunn

Craidunn@enoreo.on.ca

NER Webmaster:

Lex Parker, MMR

lex@drgwrr.com

Lakeshore Division (LSD)

In New York - Cayuga, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Stuben, Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming, & Yates counties.

Superintendent: Bill Cialini

1851 Clark Rd., Rochester, NY 14625

Southern Tier Division (STD)

In New York - Schuyler, Chemung, Tompkins, Cortland, Tioga, and Broome counties.

International Division (ID) (<http://www.drgwrr.com/id/>)

In New York - Erie & Niagara Counties

ID Webmaster: Lex Parker lex@drgwrr.com

Allegheny Highlands Division (AHD)

In New York - Allegheny, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua counties. In Pennsylvania - McKean, Warren, Erie, Crawford, and Potter counties.

Superintendent:

Dave Shaw

2184 4th Ave., Cottage Park, Lakewood, NY 14750

[716] 763-6211

NMRA - Northeastern Region

(<http://pages.cthome.net/kenmay/NERHOME.HTML>)

President:

Glenn Glasstetter

655 Hillview Rd.

Richmond, VT 05477

[802] 434-3316

NERPREZ@hq.nmra.org

Tustee:

Stan Ames

8 Higate Rd.

Chelmsford, MA 01824

[978] 256-3062

NERT@hq.nmra.org

The Central New York Division serves NER members living in the Central part of New York State east of Syracuse. The CNY Division holds regular meetings about every six weeks at a location within the Central New York area. These meetings are announced in the Division newsletter Red Markers, and the CNY Division Website "When & Where" page:

(<http://www.cnymra.org/>).

Superintendent:

Donald K. Andrews

454 Stone St., Oneida, NY 13421

[315] 363-8403

Model Railroad Organizations in the Area:**G/F Scale Model Railway Club**

Rochester, NY

Contact:

Genesee Ontario N Ontario Club

Rochester, NY

Contact: all@rochester.rr.com

Genesee Society of Model Engineers

P.O. Box 75

Oakfield, NY

Contact: Mike Pyszczyk pyzek@iinc.com

RIT Model Railroad Club

127 Lomb Memorial Drive

(College-Alumni Union Bldg.)

Rochester, NY 14623

[585] 475-2227

(<http://www.ritmrc.org>)

Contact: Mike Roque, President:

president@ritmrc.org

(Contact for newsletter participation: Otto Vondrak)

ovondrak@yahoo.com

Rochester Model Railroad Club

Rochester, NY

Contact: Peter Darling peter.darling@att.net

Toy Train Collectors Society

Rochester, NY

Contact:

Toy Train Operating Society

Contact: Norb Dewolf, 4516 State Rd. 14, Sodus, NY

14551-9525; [315]-483-6715

Tuesday Night Gang

Rochester, NY

Contact: Lou Nost louis.nost@usa.xerox.com

Contact: John Klahn john.klahn@excellus.com

Williamson Model Railroad Club

Williamson, NY

Contact: Bob Lootens RAL@FLTG.net

Prototype Railroad Organizations & Museums**National Railway Historical Society, Rochester Chapter**

Rochester, NY

(<http://www.rochnrhs.org/>)

Contact: Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum

Industry, NY

(<http://www.rgvrrm.mus.ny.us>)

New York State Museum of Transportation

6393 East River Rd., Rush, NY

P.O. Box 136

West Henrietta, NY 14586

(<http://www.nymtmuseum.org/>)

Contact: Jim Dierks

Medina Railroad Museum

530 West Ave.

Medina, NY

[585] 798-6106

Contact: Hugh James at rrmesuem@wnyisp.com

'O' SCALE CORNER

National Convention

The 2002 'O' Scale National Convention will take place from Thursday, June 13 through Sunday, June 16, at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare, 9300 West Bryn Mawr Ave., Rosemont, Illinois.

'Early Bird' activities will begin on Wednesday, June 12, with early registration, an escorted tour of the Chicago CTA Rapid Transit System, free clinics and layout tours, and a free welcoming reception open to all registrants.

The Convention this year will be hosted by Ron and Sue Sebastian of Des Plains Hobbies, and The Chicago Area 'O' Scalars. Registrations and inquiries may be addressed to:

'O' Scale National Convention 2002, c/o Des Plains Hobbies, 1468 Lee St., Des Plains, IL 60018; phone [847] 297-2118; Fax [847] 297-4976.

e-mail: <dphobbies@earthlink.net>

website: www.oscalenational2002.com

Hotel reservations may be made by calling 1-800-233-1234 and asking for "National O Scale" special rates.



New Magazine

O Scale Trains

O Scale Trains is a new 48-page, full-size, self-covered magazine with 16 pages in full color, published bi-monthly by Joe Giannovario in Lionville, PA. The first two issues are on the streets now at the single copy price of US \$8.

The magazine focuses on modeling and model-building craftsman skills. Joe reports there are plans to include lots of "how-to" articles, along with regular features and lots of color photos of 'O' Scale models. He states the magazine will also look at the "crossover" market of Hi-rail or "Scaleplate" trains.

Subscriptions are available by mail, phone, fax or online for \$36 for six issues. Addresses are:

O Scale Trains, PO Box 238, Lionville PA 19353; voice: [610] 321-0858; Fax: [610] 321-0859; e-mail: publisher@oscalemag.com; website: www.oscalemag.com

**TELL YOUR MODEL RAILROAD FRIENDS
ABOUT
Rochester Model Rails**

About our 'Name'

The title, *Rochester Model Rails* seems to give a neat and easy-to-remember name to this newsletter and what we are trying to do with it.

The name distinguishes us from other efforts in the area, lets people know we are Rochester-based, we are modelers, and that we are interested in all of the various groups and activities pertaining to model railroading.

Calling a person a "model rail" is a term that harkens way back, kinda like calling your layout a "pike." It's a fairly common term, and it makes the whole operation sound friendly and inviting – recalling those former days when model railroaders smoked pipes and made scenery with asbestos cement powder.

So welcome to *RMR*, and sit back and enjoy!

* * *

Lakeshore Division Spring Meet

The National Model Railroad Association's Niagara Frontier Region, Lakeshore Division (LSD) held its Spring Meet on April 13 in Oakfield, N.Y. The meet was hosted by the Genesee Society of Model Engineers in Oakfield.

The morning clinics were well done. Dave Coon gave a great clinic on how to construct a basic benchwork for a modular layout. Mike Psyzczek presented a splendid clinic on how to install your track and switches. Dave Mitchell taught the group his *Goop* method of scenery. It was exiting to see the scenery develop right before your eyes! Also, the presentations were video taped and broadcast on large screen TV so all could see.

Models were on display and the popular choice contest was won by Richard Senges. Richard also had his 1800s Oil Creek Rail Road gondola judged by the NMRA folk. It scored 105 points and an NMRA Merit Award.

Nominations were held for Fall 2002 LSD officers. Nominations were: Superintendent, Dave Mitchell; assistant superintendent, Richard Senges; Treasurer, Dave Coon, and clerk, Rich Wagner. Nominations will remain open until the fall meet.

The layout tours were really spectacular. First was Red Wittman's Uintah Railway Co. circa 1935. Red models a real railroad that hauled a product called gilisonite to the D&RGW. One section of the layout has a 7% grade up a mountain. Scenery is 100% complete and is really breathtaking. Layout #2 was that of Rich Wagner who models the BR&P, circa 1932. Rich runs his layout using DCC Digitrax. He has great interior detailed buildings and nice operations, and is planning a newer and revised track plan in the future.

A fall LSD meet is being planned and it will be a combined meet with the RIT Model RR Club in Rochester. Details will follow as plans are completed.

(from Dick Senges)

READERS' VOICES

This newsletter, **Rochester Model Rails**, welcomes letters-to-the editor from readers on almost any subject relating to model railroading. The briefer the letters, the more of them we will be able to print in each issue. Although we require a signature and address with such material (for our files), a pseudonym suggested by the writer may be used in print if requested. We reserve the right to edit all material submitted for publication.

Also, we would like to hear about everyone's progress, clubs and individual modelers alike. Maybe we can start a regional model railroad listing -- posting monthly updates about your railroads something like these sample examples:

Seneca Valley Lines - progress on town of Victor coming along nicely.

Rochester & Irondequoit Terminal - the construction of new engine terminal progressing nicely. Our project to represent a fictional Rochester Commuter Rail to be implemented shortly, with crews building stations "as we speak."

Oil Creek Rail Road - Jed brought a few more oil lamps down to the depot.

The Normaned Railroad - new bums, hoboes and lovers are starting to overpopulate the "jungle" and the "biffies" near the low-rent districts.

Material may be submitted to the editor by e-mail at normanw2@att.net, or by postal mail to "Editor, P.O. Box 18615, Rochester NY 14618-8615."

☎ [585] 461-9792

MEDINA RAILROAD MUSEUM

530 West Ave., Medina, N.Y.

See Railroad History in the Largest Freight Depot built by NYC&HRR in 1905-06. The largest HO scale model train layout and diorama in the USA, all on one floor, is under construction & running. We also have an extensive fire fighting exhibit. Open Tue. Thru Sat. noon to 6 p.m. & to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Call 585 798-6106 for information.



(image enlarged 300 percent)

Rochester is 'First Day' Site Of New Toy Train Stamp Issue

Rochester will be the site for the first day release of the denominated 37-cent "antique toys" U.S. postage stamps on Monday, July 22.

Specific plans are being worked out, but the site will be the Strong Museum, where some of the depicted toys are housed. One of the stamps (above) depicts a toy tinplate locomotive which will certainly be of interest to toy and model train collectors. There may also be a special "first day" cancel for Rochester, which might contain a depiction of the train stamp.

USPS officials from Washington, DC met in Rochester on May 3 with museum officials to discuss arrangements. (Non-denominated versions of the stamps will be issued in Washington in June).

* * *

The 'Tuesday Night Gang' Reported 'Alive and Well'

The Tuesday Night Gang (which of course meets Tuesday nights) is reportedly "alive & well."

It is a loosely networked model railroad group headed by Lou Nost of Penfield and John Klahn of Fairport that meets on a round-robin basis. It has about 30 members that range from Sodus on the north to Lima in the south, and east to Palmyra.

Operations are on the menu most of the nights, but activities vary from track planning to construction. Socializing and video watching is always popular.



'EARLY MORNING STEAM' – A photo essay in black and white by Ned Wright

Model Train & Circus Extravaganza

A Model Train & Circus Extravaganza has been scheduled for June 1 and 2 in Medina, N.Y. Three major events are planned:

- Model Circus Builders Show and Exhibit at the Medina Middle School
- Model Train Show, Railroadiana, Swap Meet at Medina High School, 11235 Maple Ridge on N.Y. Rt. 31 in Medina.
- Medina Railroad and Fire Museum, 530 West Ave. Medina, including viewing of the largest HO scale layout on one floor (measuring 14x200' feet) with operating trains.

For information on the Extravaganza, call: 1-585-798-6106

Also operating that weekend will be the **Niagara & Western New York Railroad's** excursion tourist train. For information call 1-716-434-2400.

THE CALL BOARD (Schedule of Events)

May 26: TTOS N. E. Division Toy Train Show and Swap Meet - Logan's Party House, 1420 Scottsille Rd. 9am - 2pm, \$3. Norb Dewolf, 4516 State Rd. 14, Sodus, NY 14551-9525; [315]-483-6715.

June 1-2: Model Train & Circus Extravaganza [585] 798-6106; Niagara & Western New York RR excursion train [716] 434-2400, Medina, N.Y.

June 13-16: 2002 'O' Scale National Convention - Hyatt Regency O'Hare, 9300 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Rosemont, Ill. [847] 297-2118.

July 22: First Day of Issue, 37-cent "antique toy train" postage stamp - Strong Museum, time and other details to be announced.

Medina RR Museum – 50 West Ave., Medina, N.Y. open Tuesdays through Saturdays noon to 6 p.m., and to 5 p.m. on Sundays. Operating HO scale model train layout and diorama; also fire-fighting exhibit [585] 798-6106.

Submission Guidelines for Model Rails Articles

Anyone may submit articles for consideration. We are always interested in seeing material from readers. We are especially interested in new, fresh, unpublished material.

We are looking for articles from model builders, collectors, and enthusiasts who feel their models and/or modeling techniques and experiences would be of interest and benefit to other readers. In evaluating articles, we look at the quality of accompanying photos and illustrations (diagrams, drawings, etc.), content of the how-to-material, and to a lesser degree, the writing style. If the photos and content are good, the article can be reworked by an editor to enhance its readability.

Generally, readers seem to like "how-to" material; how-to paint, how-to scratchbuild, how-to kitbash, etc. Basically, readers want to know how to make their own models better. Therefore, any help or advice you can offer is what modelers want. Features on your own modeling projects make great articles. A step-by-step write-up with clear close-up photos can relay techniques and shortcuts to other modelers.

However, we will also do articles other than how-tos. Features on collections, layouts, track planning and operations, and profiles of area model railroaders will be welcomed. If we missed your favorite topic, send us a suggestion for an article.

Most articles should be brief; usually in the neighborhood of 750 to 1500 words. However, if you have a topic 2000 words or more, don't think we're not interested. We might turn it into a multi-part feature. Remember, though, readers won't stay with you for too much text unless it is interesting and illustrated. A short article focused on a specific model or modeling technique is best for a start.

This newsletter is not intended to be a literary journal. However, you should try to follow these guidelines:

If at all possible, give your article a hook –something to grab the reader's interest in the first paragraph. Then run with this theme throughout the whole article.

Let your personality come through in your writing and keep it simple and direct. Readers want a clear description of what you did, how you did it, and what tools and materials you used. The best way to do this is to write as if you were telling a friend how to duplicate your modeling project. Organize your article in a step-by-step manner. Start at the beginning and end at the end, but don't count words, make words count

Manuscripts should be typed using **upper and lower case** letters and may be submitted typewritten on paper or electronically on disk. If

submitted on paper, pages should be double spaced, and your name should be on each numbered page. Make sure the type is dark and readable. If using a word processor/computer, submit the file in ASCII (text only) or Microsoft WORD format. Don't waste a lot of time trying to format text with bold or italics (we'll do that for you).

Before submitting an article re-read it and make any corrections or changes before sending it. Are product names spelled correctly? Are your instructions in the correct order? Page space is limited; is the article "wordy" or is it to the point?

Photo quality and content are very important when considering an article for publication. An otherwise good article might be rejected because of poor photo quality. Take good, sharp, in-focus close-up photos. Send the glossy-finished prints and we will do the final scanning. Captions for photos should also be included.

For how-to articles, make sure to take pictures **during** the actual course of the project. It is difficult, if not impossible, to write and photograph a how-to article after the model has been completed. Photos should be taken on a plain background; white or light grey are good. Also, the more photos you send, taken from a variety of views, the better choice we have in selecting what to use with your article. Send more photos than you think is necessary to illustrate the article. You can't have too many photos.

For other types of illustrations, it is important to have a detailed drawing to work from. Make your drawings neat and clear, using a straight edge whenever possible. If you are able to supply camera-ready artwork that will help us.

How to mail a submission - If pictures are included, place a stiff piece of cardboard in the envelope so the photos won't bend. If you are sending a computer disk, please include a printout of the text so it can be cross-referenced when necessary. And finally, if you want any of the materials back, please include a large envelope with sufficient return postage.

Submissions may be sent by U.S. mail to **Dept. RMR, P.O. Box 18615, Rochester NY 14618-8615.**

(E-Mail inquiries to normanw2@att.net)

Rochester Model Rails

Editor – Norman E. Wright, Sr.

Associate Editors – Richard Senges

Otto M. Vondrak

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