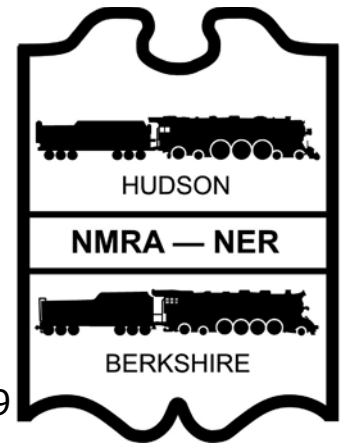


# FORM 19

## The Official Newsletter of the Hudson-Berkshire Division of the NER NMRA



Order Number 344

February 2019

Next Division Meeting Friday, February 22, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Hudson Berkshire Member **Charlie Newton**

Will Present

### **The Genesee & Wyoming Railroad in the 1984 era**

Malta Community Center, 1 Bayberry Drive, Malta, NY

Hudson Berkshire Division is pleased to have member Charlie Newton will give a presentation of the prototype Genesee & Wyoming Railroad in the 1984 era as represented by some photos and some thoughts for a modeling empire. He will show the prototype landscape, structures and equipment and a map of the line from that time period. The G&W's had a mostly Alco roster and, with those engines and some of their unique cars, service two (2!) customers on a 12 mile long railroad through Livingston County NY. The railroad interchanged with Conrail (former LV, NYC, Erie, EL) and the B&O at Caledonia NY, and the EL, later D&H at Greigsville NY. The primary commodity is rock salt hauled in covered hoppers. He will also have a potential model layout drawing based for that time and the later expansion by the G&W to Mount Morris, NY.

Charlie worked for the D&H from 1976-1979 out of Buffalo. He was a brakeman and was on the first D&H salt job into Greigsville in January 1977 (a day with horrific weather), when the D&H began direct interchange with G&W at Greigsville, NY, a station on the former Lackawanna Mainline. The D&H salt job GV-1 and GV-2 was a three day a week train that provided road salt to New England and Pennsylvania. Prior to this date, CONRAIL operated the Salt Train and interchanged it to the D&H in Buffalo.

He finally got to take a few pictures of the G&W Railroad in about 1984.

There will also be a very short presentation on a novel means of efficiently and safely cleaning track. Free samples will be available for attendees at the meeting.

[www.hudson-berkshire.org](http://www.hudson-berkshire.org)





## Form19

The *Form19* is published eight times per year for members of the Hudson Berkshire Division.

The opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Division. Products and publications mentioned in *Form19* in no way constitute an endorsement by the Division.

### Contributing to the Form19

The *Form19* staff welcomes all contributions. Letters, articles, photos, and other items may be mailed or e-mailed to the editor. Please include a note if you would like materials returned. Suggestions also welcome.

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# The Ready Line

By Irwin D. Nathanson

I'd like to begin this column with a special 'thank you' to John Doebling, President of the North East Region (NER) who was our special Guest Speaker at our January meeting. He took the afternoon off from work to drive about four hours (each way) from Massachusetts to our meeting in Malta!

Bert Pflagl, Paul Hoffman and I had a nice dinner with John before the meeting. It was a good opportunity for us to get to know each other. Interestingly, although we didn't know it then, John and I both worked for EXXON at the same time, way back in the 1980s. He was a geologist working for EXXON USA and I was working for EXXON International, involved with financial management of their international fleet of ocean-going tankers.

Here's a re-cap of the Division meeting that followed, for those who did not attend:

The first half of the meeting was presented by our guest speaker. First, John summarized the findings of a recent Member Survey. Then, based on what was learned from the Survey, he focused on the NER's *vision, goals and objectives* for the future. Most importantly, John shared six specific *strategies for success*, all aimed at realizing that vision and for fulfilling those goals and objectives:

1. Strong fundamentals. Build a sustainable region through strong leadership, effective management, and great governance
2. Annual Convention. Host an outstanding regional convention each and every year, and add other events members want
3. Coupler newsletter. Publish the best newsletter in the association
4. Rich website. Create a great web site that is a hub of useful and relevant information and activity
5. Outreach and membership. Engage activity in the model railroading community and grow the membership
6. Division training and leadership. Provide divisions with expertise, best practices, and team support – and expect leaders to rise up

My first **take away** from our meeting is that John answered the question that was most pressing to me:



What does the Region bring to the table; what do they do for us at the Division level? The Answer I heard was: plenty (we just need to be open-minded)!

As I told John, I'd really like the Region to organize cross-Division activities. For example, I'd love to see a day of layout visits on the Hudson Berkshire Division's far Western border and on the Central New York Division's far Eastern border. The objective would be to facilitate participation from our respective members who live in that area and who don't routinely participate in events far from their homes.

A complete copy of President Doehring's PowerPoint presentation is being posted on our HBD website.

The second half of the meeting was presented by me, Treasurer Ben Maggi and GTE Chairman James Lauser. In effect, this was a State of the Division presentation.

From this presentation come my next three **Take Aways**:

- We have a great new Leadership Team (elected Board of Directors + Treasurer, GTE Chairman, Form 19 Editor and Associate Editor)
- GTE was a great success from every measure
- The Division is in a very solid financial situation

Feedback obtained during the State of the Division presentation leads to my next **Take Away**: Our members would like more clinics; those aimed at helping us become better modelers. I also think that my idea of making at least some of these hands-on, modeling with the masters-type clinics, aimed at helping our members make progress towards MMR Achievement Awards, was well-received.

For a long time, I've longed to organize a Division bus trip to Exporail, the national train museum of Canada. It's located just

across the border, south of Montreal. A straight shot up I-87 which connects to Canada 15. But my fellow Leadership Team members and I made a false assumption that very few of our members hold Passports or Enhanced Driver's Licenses needed in order to cross the border (really required by U.S. Immigration to get back into the USA!). Well, a poll taken during the meeting indicated that 95% of our members do hold one or both documents! So, my last **Take Away** is: let's go ahead and plan this event! (See: <https://www.exporail.org/>)

A complete copy the State of the Division PowerPoint presentation is also being posted on our HBD website.

See you at our February meeting!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday March 22nd  
Mike Romanowski  
layout visit

Friday April 26th  
using Arduino  
for model railroading  
Artie Krass  
site TBD

May Friday May 24th  
clinic by Bruce Johnson  
site TBD

Saturday June 15  
Family Picnic at ALS





## 2018 GTE Summary

By Form19 Staff  
from Data Provided by  
**James Lauser, GTE Manager**

The 2018 Great Train Extravaganza was bigger than ever, indeed at near capacity for the space available at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center. In fact, sixty-eight vendors 'purchased' two-hundred and forty-four tables for their displays. There were more than seventy-five additional tables provided to exhibitors - those individuals and organizations with displays but without anything for sale - such as the Hudson Berkshire Division and the NER, NMRA. The arrangement of tables was somewhat altered from previous years to accommodate all of the requested space.

There were twelve layouts, including some on the plaza level which had increased space available because the Plaza management had put up glass panels to more clearly (pun intended) expand and delineate the exhibit area. This held the Lionel Collectors' 'Kid's Creek Layout,' which was kept low (at eye level for children) and was mobbed throughout most of the day. This area also was home to the Albany Free-Mo layout, the Lego layout, and the large diesel engine and freight car brought in by Adirondack Live Steamers.

Vendors and volunteers worked diligently during the day on Saturday and with haste before opening on Sunday to set everything up. Vendors often setting out for display hundreds, perhaps a thousand or more, items. All of this for the 3,071 guests (2,314 adults and 757 children) who were looking for a good time, a particular item, or that one thing they would know when they found it. Indeed, one vendor was observed putting twelve car kits in one large bag while a gentleman with cash in his hand waited with a very happy smile on his

face. The vendor was smiling, also. There were 171 tickets sold online via the website purchasing feature that GTE Manager, James Lauser, set up for the show.

James, with the assistance of his wife, Sarah (also the HB Division Recording Secretary), contacted all the vendors starting mid-Summer, providing them with information and appropriate forms (the GTE is in a New York State facility), but also recruited the wonderful Division volunteers, assigning tasks, keeping them informed, and providing them with official, bright green GTE t-shirts, as can be seen in the photos. These shirts readily identified the people who could provide help and answers to both vendors and guests.

And the bottom line results are a gross revenue of \$23,751.20, with total expenses of \$15,500.00 (estimated) and a net profit of \$8,251.20 (estimated). The 'estimated' label is due to the fact that the final bill from NYS OGS had not been received prior to press time.

And when asked by the *Form19*, "Are you willing to direct the GTE again this year?", James' answer was "Absolutely."

And that is music to our collective ears. Thanks, James and Sarah, for a job very well done.







Some more photos of the 2018 GTE taken and provided by Charlie Newton, our speaker for this month's Division meeting. The one to the right shows the good crowd that the show draws. And this year, thanks in part to good promotion and online ticket sales, the attendance was 10% higher than last year.



To the left is Bob Hamm (front) showing model details to an interested visitor with a potential modeler looking on. Behind the roof is Wendy Stebbins, from Pittsfield, MA, working on her model, and third in is Tom Plesnarski, also working on a model rail car. These three were here most of the day, interacting with people and showing them that the hobby can be/is more than 'just running trains.'

At right you can see a woman watching a young girl operate the 'time saver' module under the encouragement and direction of Jack Cutler. A boy watches, waiting his turn. The 'time saver' gives children the opportunity to operate a scale model train and to experience moving and switching cars - something beyond watching them travel in a continuous path. The GTE works hard (twelve layouts) to show people that model railroading is more than a train running under the Christmas tree, something we are all encouraged to do.

That's Artie Krass staffing the Division table in the background,





## Exquisite 1/87 Scale Tractor Trailer Models for Sale

By Richard J. Smith

Those of you who have attended the Great Train Extravaganza over the past 30+ years will remember a gentleman with two exhibit tables of beautiful 1/87 scale model trucks. He was a regular exhibitor at the show ever since the show first started at the Empire State Plaza but in 2016 and 2017 you may have noticed this unassuming man was not at the show. I am terribly sad to report Mr. Glen Sauter died in May of 2018. This year his son and his grandson (Glen II) came back to the show in honor of Glen Senior and displayed his (and their) favorite trucks. It was not an easy task to pick two table's worth of trucks to display. Why? Because the Glen Sauter collection has over 400 trucks and semi tractor trailer models!

I spoke with Glen Senior at every show while I was Chairman. He was a nice and interesting gentleman and I enjoyed talking with him very much. He was a Schenectady native and worked as an electrician for 42 years after serving in the US Army in Korea. He is also survived by his wife Eleanor, who (like all our "model railroad wives") is a saint tolerating his hobby. In Glen's case the acquisition of an entire bedroom is required to house 400+ trucks, display cases and modeling table ... everything neat and tidy and in its place. Now Mrs. Sauter is ready to sell all but 50 pieces of the collection that she, her son, and grandson want to keep.

Glen Senior's trucks and tractor trailers are exquisite die-cast, plastic and resin kits that are highly detailed with custom paint jobs, lettering, reflective jewels, brake cables, rear view mirrors and more. Please see the various photos included in this Form 19 and look at Glen Senior's attention to

detail. Some of his work was even shown in Toy Trucker and Contractor magazine. These trucks are works of art and now they are available to purchase. Of the ~350 trucks for sale most are more modern scale models, say 1970s vintage to the present. There are limited pieces that are "transition ear" (1950s) or older models. About 40 pieces are construction equipment. But even if your train layouts are not on the modern side, you may want to see if there is a truck that interests you or catches your eye, just to display. I live in Saratoga Springs and got a Saratoga Water semi that I now proudly display!

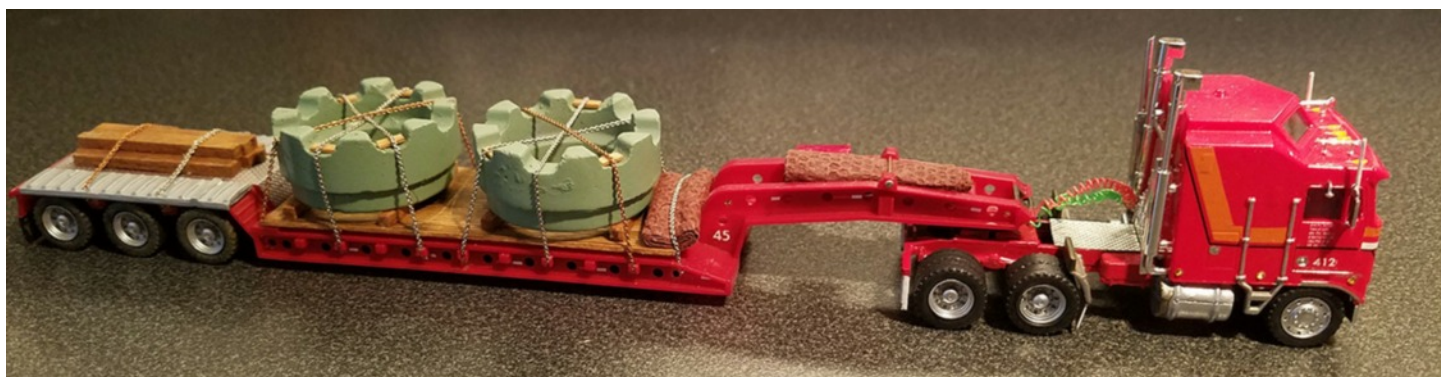
Viewings of the collection are by appointment only thru Glen II (email address [brickpiller@gmail.com](mailto:brickpiller@gmail.com)). The collection is located in Glenville, NY. Also for sale are a large D&H painted sign that was recovered from the Watervliet Yard Offices (see photo) as well as a diorama by Lou Sassi of a trailer park scene featured in a Kalmbach "how-to" scenery magazine.

There are photos showing just a few of these trucks on the next two page.





Here are photos taken by Richard Smith of just four of the more than four hundred trucks in the collection created by Glen Sauter. You can see the variety of styles and loads of these models and get a sense of the detail. But you really need to look at them in the online edition to see the amazing detail.



Each truck is unique and distinctive in type, color, and loads. Above are two load examples that could be used on a layout fitted to a modeler's own trucks. Good luck finding the tiny chain binders that Glen used.







A few more pictures of the trucks in the Glen Suater collection. As you look at these, remember that they are in HO scale - yes, 1/87 life size. That means that two of the trailers can fit on a flatcar. Putting these together and applying decals is a real challenge - and Mr. Sauter did it so well.

Most of the HO scale model trucks of Mr. Sauter's collection are for sale, along with the D&H sign seen below. See The article for details.



And if you have model items you want to sell or might be seeking, contact the Form19 and we will happily put that in the newsletter.







Congratulations to Benjamin Maggi (the Division Treasurer) upon receiving his AP award for Model Railroad Engineer - Electrical. The award was presented to him by Master Model Railroader Kevin Surman (left) at the January Division meeting. Ben certainly looks happy. A well deserved recognition for all the study and practice that goes into an AP certification.



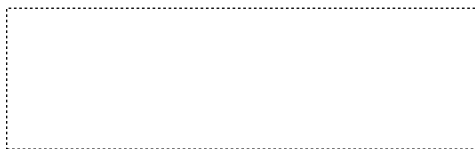
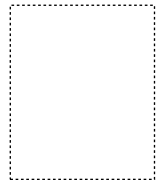
A fabulous scene, even though there are no trains in view at the moment. It looks like a painting at a much earlier time. And, indeed, it is - but a three-dimensional 'painting' of life in the early 1950's. Of course, many will recognize it as being part of the New England, Berkshire & Western Railroad of the Rensselaer Model Railroad Society. The NEB&W has been in the basement of the Davison Hall dormitory for more than three decades. But in January, the railroad was told it would have to be removed prior to renovation of the building this Summer. Specifics of the move and the final location for the layout are incomplete at this time.



At the GTE a smiling Artie Krass, who probably deserves the title of 'Mr. Hudson Berkshire,' nicely photographed by Charlie Newton, this month's speaker.

## FORM 19

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First Class Mail