

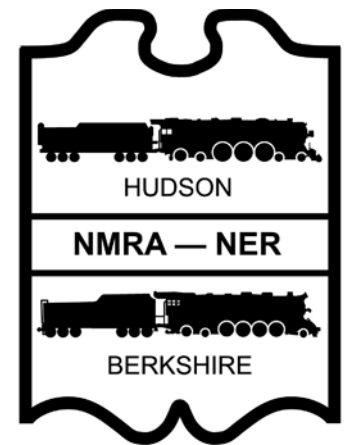
FORM 19



Order Number 352

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

January 2020



Happy New Year!!!

Next Division Meeting
Friday, January 17, 2020 7pm!
John McBride's Crown Point Iron Co Railroad
10 Plaid Place, Clifton Park, NY



As you can see in the photo, the workmen have engine number 1 all ready to go for our visit. The engine has received coal from the coaling tower and water from the tank behind the tower. Workmen are getting ready to drop some coal from the car into the coal elevator hopper so the tower can be refilled and ready for servicing the next engine. And these workmen are not the only ones who have been busy on the Crown Point Iron Company Railroad, no sir. John, himself, has been very busy making changes and upgrades since the last time we visited two years ago. He has added new structures and scenery, moved some of the electronics around for better cooling and made other changes to his layout. Be sure to look and ask about what has changed in the two years since our last visit. John's large "F-scale" layout represents the Crown Point Iron Company narrow gauge railroad in upstate New York. "F-scale" is at a ratio of 1:20.3 and uses number 1 gauge track to represent the 3' narrow gauge railroad.

The CPICo RR was built in 1873 and removed in 1896, after the mining operation ended. This railroad, 13 miles long using 46 pound rail, was built to bring iron ore down from the mines around Hammondville (the village created around the mine) to the furnaces at Crown Point on the shore of Lake Champlain. In 1882 it was operating with four locomotives, two passenger cars, four boxcars and 110 small ore cars. The iron pigs from the furnace were a major source for the iron makers in Troy and Albany. And before they took out the railroad, they used it to take out all of Hammondville. (Additional pictures and directions are found on page 4)

www.hudson-berkshire.org





Form19

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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

Much Division activity has happened since my last Ready Line!

We started November with our very successful Open House at Mike Hachey's. The weather really cooperated, the turn-out was good (HBD members and visitors). We signed up four new members on the spot and we expect a few more visitors to sign up soon. Thanks again for hosting, Mike!

Elections were held at Mike's and the results appear elsewhere in this Form 19. I'd like to personally thank Doug Dederick and James Lauser for stepping into their new leadership roles and to thank Greg for agreeing to continue as Board Member for yet another two-year term. Finally, I'd like to thank Artie Krass and Paul Hoffman for staying on the Leadership Team as Honorary Members. Their many years of experience as Vice Presidents, Presidents and Board Members uniquely position them as very valuable and much-appreciated assets!

Finally, our biggest event of the year, GTE 2019 took place as usual on the first Sunday in December, which, this year, came early and fell on Thanksgiving Weekend. The weather (and especially the dire weather forecasts) really impacted this year's event.

In terms of table-count, approximately 10% of our vendors either cancelled or no-showed. Sadly, one vendor passed away en route to Albany. (See separate tribute elsewhere in this issue.)

Visitor turn-out was interesting. The show was very busy in the morning, and most vendors reported brisk sales. But by one o'clock, the hall was rather empty – much like at 3 PM in prior years. It seemed that the serious hobbyists showed up early, before the anticipated start of the snowstorm. Attendance was primarily down among families with young children. I suspect two factors were at play here: the weather forecasts and the fact that parents didn't have the Tree Lighting and other family events to take their kids to that day.

In round numbers, attendance was down by about one third. As most of you know, GTE is our most important fund-raising event. We certainly did not lose money, but the profits were lower than anticipated. So, we on the Leadership Team will be extra cautious when it comes time to making discretionary expenses this year.

We start off 2020 in a big way, with our annual HBD Bus Trip to the Amherst Railway Society's Railroad Hobby Show at the Big E fair grounds in Springfield on Saturday January 26th. Although not billed as such, I believe this is – by far – the largest model train show in the world with over **nine** acres of displays and vendors. Artie reports that the bus is filling up fast, so if you're reading this and have not signed-up yet, I suggest you do so ASAP. As always, many thanks to Artie for organizing this great trip each year.

Let's shoot for a good turn out at the next HBD meeting at Jack McBride's for an open house on Friday January 17th! I think it should be quite interesting.

I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and/or Happy Hanukkah! Wishing you all the best for health and happiness in 2020. I'll sign-off here.

Irwin



GTE Recap

by James Lauser,
GTE Chairman

As I'm sure you all know, this year's Great Train Extravaganza didn't turn out exactly as we expected. However, despite challenges from our schedule and from Mother Nature, we still had a great show. I want to thank all of our dedicated vendors, exhibitors, and of course all of our volunteers for making that happen.

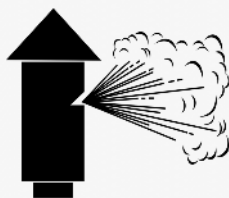
Overall, we took about a 40% hit in attendance compared to last year, and about 10% of our vendors, mostly those that travel the furthest, were unable to attend, but we still made a reasonable profit. Also, the overwhelming response I heard from the vendors was that they did well at the show anyway. Given the challenges we faced, I really couldn't ask for a better outcome than that.

Lastly, I wanted to mention a few of our long-time vendors who sadly passed away over the last year - Ron Rosenberg of Ron's Books, Joseph Barrett of Joey B's Trains, and Christian Rossbach of Restoration Train Parts (while on his way to the Show on Saturday). Their presence will be missed not just by us at the GTE, but by the whole model railroad community.

Thanks again, everyone, and we're all looking forward to next year.



Welcome Aboard!!



We'd like to welcome aboard the following new members to the Division. We will post new members from time to time as we learn of them!

(Did we mention the speed of which National sometimes processes applications?)

Glenn Oliphant, Gansevoort, NY
William Loutrel, Stockbridge, MA
Jim Prazak, Petersburg, NY
Joe Martinec, Schenectady, NY



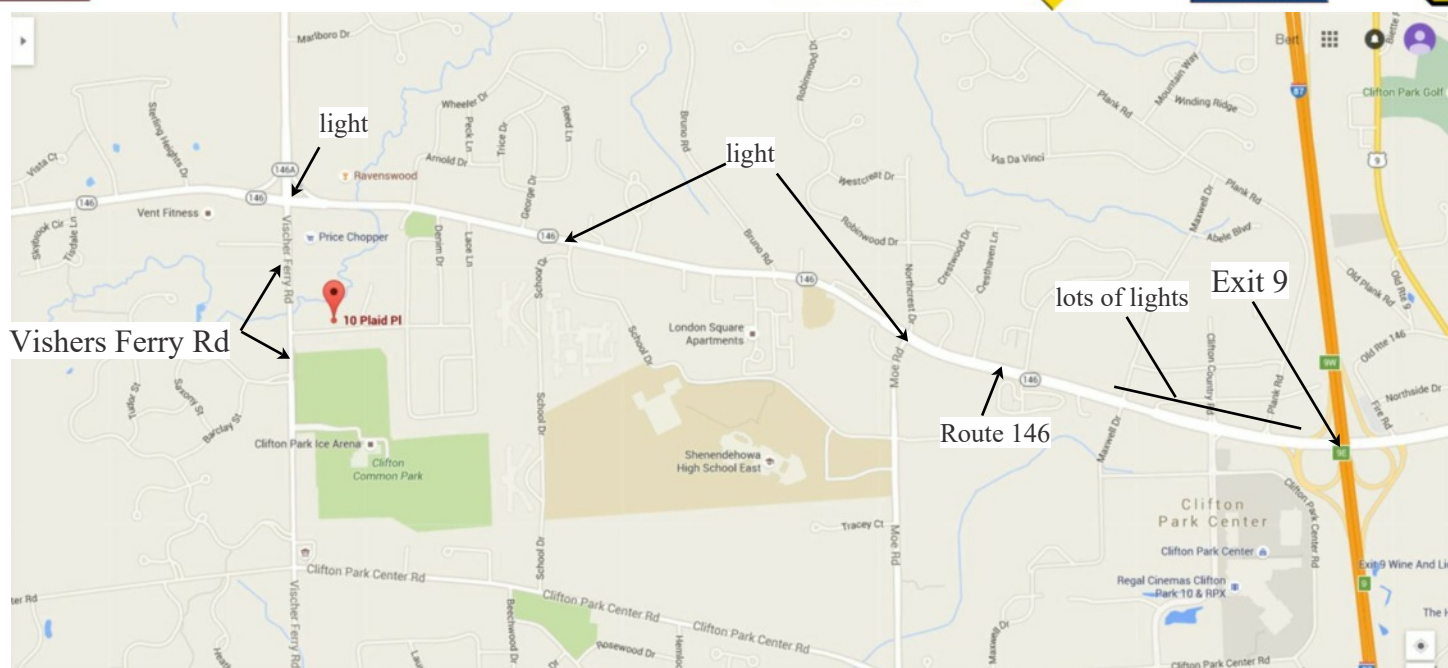
If you see these folks out at a function, please introduce yourselves to them and make them feel welcome!

NER CONVENTION
October 9-12, 2020
Westford, MA



MillCity2020.org





John McBride and his CPICoRR reside at 10 Plaid Place in Clifton Park, New York. To get there, turn south on to Vishers Ferry Road from Route 146 at the light that is also the intersection with route 146A. This is about 2 miles west of the Northway (I87) at Exit 9. Plaid Place is the first left off of Vishers Ferry Road. 10 Plaid Lane is the 5th house on the left. It has a rail-road crossing sign near the mailbox.



To the left, the men are working the cars over the small hump in the yard at Crown Point. The CPI RR interchanges here with the Delaware & Hudson RR. Behind them and to the right can be seen part of the furnace complex of the CPI works. The iron mine at Hammondville was a deep tunneling mine with one shaft following a vein out under Lake Champlain. Mining ended when ore started coming from the Mesabi Range



To the right, some men are working the sawmill in Hammondville to cut timbers for use in the iron mine. The mine produced high quality ore that was used during the Civil War to make ship cladding. It was also used for bridges and even the rails of the CPICo RR itself; ore having been hauled out by wagon.

The conductor is helping the engineer spot the ore cars on the siding.

The railroad operated 1873 to 1893.



Hudson Berkshire Division Sponsored Bus Trip to Amherst Train Show Springfield Massachusetts January 25th 2020

Please fill out the attached form and make your checks payable to the **Hudson Berkshire Division** for the correct amount to reserve your place on the bus. Please **mail** your form and check to our Division PO Box, as indicated below. The cost, including show admission ticket, for a Hudson Berkshire NMRA member is **\$25**, and for a member invited guest it will be **\$37**. The bus will make stops in Wilton, Clifton Park and Albany to pick up and drop off riders. We will be making one stop on the Mass Pike each way - there will be no stop for a formal dinner on the way home. The bus will make a stop at a rest area on the Mass Pike and refreshments may be purchase at that time.

Seats on the bus are on a first come, first serve basis starting at the November Meeting and we need to have 50 seats sold by December 15th or we may need to cancel the trip. If the Division does cancel those who signed up will get a full refund, although we cannot refund individuals who sign up and then cannot make the trip.

Pickup: 6:00 AM - at the Wilton Mall north end by Dick's - light pole C2

Pickup: 6:30 AM - Clifton Park Exit 9 - at The Crossing bus shelter, across the parking lot from Big Lots and the Tower (this is not the Park and Ride Lot!)

Pickup: 7:00 AM - Albany Crossgates Mall - lower level lot near JC Penney's

Rest stop on the Mass Pike in-route to Springfield

Arrive at Springfield approximately at 9:00 AM

Depart Springfield at 5:00 PM sharp!

We will stop at a rest stop/area on the Mass Pike on the way home.

- Please make checks out to the **HUDSON BERKSHIRE DIVISION** in the amount of **\$25.00** for each member and **\$37.00** for each guest which includes admission to the show. This is a first come, first serve event with a signup/payment deadline of December 31, 2019.

- Please send payment and signup form to:

**Hudson Berkshire Division
PO Box 83
Clifton Park, NY 12065-0083
Attn: Artie Krass / Bus trip**

**A few seats remain!!!!
Contact Artie for more info!!**

- You will be contacted upon the receipt of your signup form and check - if you do not hear from Artie within 10 days of mailing your form and check - please contact Artie (ajkwings@yahoo.com or 518-229-6080).
- Bus will depart on time - we cannot wait for individuals!

Any questions please contact Artie Krass at 518-229-6080 or ajkwings@yahoo.com



Updates from around the Region!

On January 19, There will be a Toy Train Show at the Utica Station. <https://www.facebook.com/TTCSUticaTrainShow/>
January 25 & 26, the Amherst Railway Society presents the Springfield Train show!
<http://www.railroadhobbyshow.com/>

In October, the NER Convention, being held this year in Eastern Massachusetts! <https://www.millcity2020.org>

Upcoming Division Events

January 17th we have our meeting at Jack McBride's in Clifton Park.

January 25th is the bus trip to the Springfield Train Show

February 22nd (A Saturday!) Is the Train Memorabilia morning at the Clifton Park Library!

**FREE,
FOR SALE,
(HELP) WANTED**

We haven't had much call for this in the Form 19 in recent memory, and all of a sudden, we have quite a few!

This month I added the Help Wanted aspect. We already had one from Joe Martinec last month, but we have another request from him this month! I wasn't sure if any or all of these had been taken care of so we are leaving these in for another month. Please let me know if they should be removed (-ED)

First up, we have a member that is looking for a good home to Model Railroader, Railroad Model Craftsman, and Trains magazines.

Model Railroader - 7 boxes with a few random magazines starting in 1951, but the main collection from 1979 on
Railroad Model Craftsman - 6 boxes with a few random magazines starting in 1971, but the main collection from 1978 on.

Trains - 3 boxes with a few random magazines starting in 1994, but the main collection from 2002 on.

I think the collections are fairly complete, but I am sure that a few issues are missing here and there. We have moved multiple times, I have pulled a few out for a

reference and they may not have made it back to the box, etc.

Floyd & Sue Barwig can be reached at either couchrock@nycap.rr.com or at 518-283-1604.

Joe Martinec needs some help in determining the best way to put in a piece of track to make a large curve with correct end alignments. Joe is at 1245 Sumner Ave, Schenectady, NY (near Ellis Hospital). He would very much appreciate someone contacting him at 518-688-7280 or joefmartinec49@aol.com

Joe is also looking for assistance with his DCC setup. He's ready to install his bus wires and other DCC components and he would like someone to come by his house just to do a 'sanity check' to make sure he's doing things right. He'll be using NCE for his DCC system.

Wanted: Ben Maggi is looking for a new, un-assembled kit of the Mechanicville XO Tower (kit #601) that was produced about five years ago by CHR Structures. CHR Structures is not producing any more kits and the local hobby stores do not have any. I am not sure how many of these kits were produced but the numbers were probably low. The kit originally sold for \$79.99. If you have an un-assembled but fully intact kit and are willing to sell it please contact him at (585) 506-2680. Thank you.



February's meeting will be a little different!!

First, it will be on a Saturday, not unusual but not our regular time!

We will be at the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library

475 Moe Rd, Clifton Park, NY 12065 on February 22, starting at 9:30am.

This will be a fun filled morning to share among fellow Hudson Berkshire members so remember to bring your own stories and railroad memorabilia along with your cash for that new addition to your collection. More details will be available in the February edition of the Form 19.

BUT WAIT, there's **MORE!!!!**

SPECIAL "TOYS FOR TOTS" RAFFLE

During our **Train Memorabilia Event**, we will be holding a special raffle- all the proceeds of which will go to our 2020 annual "Toys for Tots" campaign. There will be a number of railroad memorabilia items raffled off during the evening. The **grand prize** being a :

NEW YORK CENTRAL lantern. This is a Dietz Vesta, made for the New York Central. It has NEW YORK CENTRAL spelled out around the lid and the red globe is cast NYCS (New York Central System - the NYCRR used the name "System" between 1935 and 1968). To be more specific, this is a Wire-Bottom Lo-Top model, manufactured sometime between 1926 and 1960. It is complete, sound and in wonderful clean condition. The globe is an original Vesta globe. The red color was used to signal a warning.

According to "The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Railroad Lighting, Volume 1 "The Railroad Lantern," by Richard Barrett, the R.E. Dietz Company introduced the "Vesta Tubular Railroad Lantern" in 1896. The earliest were bell bottoms, but a wire-bottom style (like this one) was introduced about 1907. Wire bottom Vestas were made until 1960. Also of

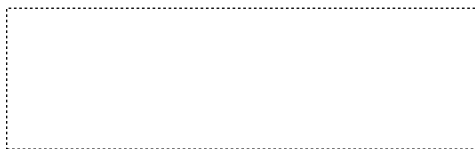
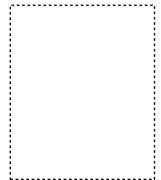
interest is the height of the top: In the early 1920s Vesta lanterns were made in a "Hi-Top" model (a taller smoke dome) and then in "Lo-Top" models, with the Lo-Top first appearing in the 1926 catalog. This lantern was kindly donated to us by Jane and Harold Silvernail from Time's Treasures LLC.





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First Class Mail