

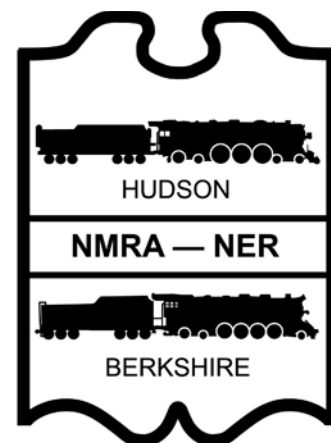
FORM 19



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

Order Number 356

May/June 2020



All Division events canceled until? Keeping our Family Safe

As we all know, things are in a great state of flux in our communities, our State, and Country. One minute everything is opening, the next....nope.....no gyms or malls. Masks? Masks aren't needed.....and then we jump to 50,000+ cases a day of new infections. Maybe masks and social distancing are a good idea after all? We have the answers, but of course none of us like what we have to do to keep ourselves safe- we are tired of all the isolation, the fogging glasses from wearing masks, etc. Just keep doing as the professionals have been telling us to do and we will keep NY on the right side of the curve until treatments and vaccines are available!

The Division is dedicated to doing everything we can to keep our members and their families safe. Discussions are held regularly about options for staying in contact with our members, and farther-out items such as the GTE. Everything is in flux, but we will keep you in the loop as best we can. If anyone is in need of help or fellowship, please let one of the Leadership team know and we can see if we can help.

For now please remain safe and keep your families safer!

Look for emails from the Division in your inbox and keep tabs on our website,
<http://hudson-berkshire.org/> and Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/HudsonBerkshireNMRA/>

From the Editor- I must apologize, profusely, for the delay in this issue. We decided to still produce 9 issues this year (we normally skip July, August, and December) but decided to spread them out a bit for the summer- May/June and July/August. Well, Life interrupted and I wasn't able to get this issue out in May/June as I expected. I appreciate the contributions from various members, and please keep them coming!

Please try to keep safe- check on your family, friends, and neighbors as we move through this Pandemic.

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

Sad as it is, COVID-19 is still very much a dominant factor in all our lives...

As New York carefully re-opens, and at least one possible vaccine shows some "glint of hope," life may soon start to return to something resembling normalcy.

We still plan on holding Face to Face Division meetings starting in September. (Small groups are already holding M2M meetings – Mask to Mask.) But we may need to institute new procedures for everyone's safety, largely based on the rules of the venues we will be using to host these meetings.

The NER Regional Convention is still on as I write this, but I personally believe there is a good chance it may be pushed-back one year.

Your Division Leadership Team is already considering what to do regarding our next GTE (Great Train Extravaganza). Although December is a long way off, lots needs to be done in advance, starting in July. We are anxiously awaiting Guidelines from the New York OGS (Office of General Services) which manages the Empire State Convention Center where we hold our GTE. When issued, their Guidelines could possibly totally rule out *all* major events (i.e. those that draw big crowds) for the remainder of 2020. Or their Guidelines might allow some events, but with restrictions such as mandatory wearing of masks, social distancing on ticket lines, maximum number of people allowed inside the venue at any specific time, etc. We just need to wait and see. We do not even know when OGS will be issuing these Guidelines!

Although GTE is a lot of fun, and is our major source of income, safety must dictate what we will do. Above all else, we must protect our members, our vendors and those visiting GTE.

By the way, your Leadership Team met (remotely) to consider holding a virtual Division meeting. But for various reasons we decided against this. One reason was there are already many available options, such as the virtual NMRA National Convention X. And lots to see on many YouTube channels. We also needed to consider that many of our members are not really into the digital/on-line world.

On a personal note, the marinas on Lake George are now open (with restrictions) and our boat should be going in this week. DEC (NY Department of Environmental Conservation) is installing docks on the public islands and shorelines, but overnight camping is still not allowed. Soon it will be warm enough to also go kayaking, and dry enough to go hiking (we are still in Mud Season in the Adirondacks). So even with COVID-19, my time spent on model railroading will soon diminish somewhat.

OK, that's all for this month. Stay home as much as possible, maintain good social distancing and wear face masks when around other people,

Moving things from point “A” to point “B”

By Erik Denny

So, we’ve all been going stir crazy at home. The retiree’s don’t have to go to work, but don’t want to go anywhere as you don’t want to be exposed- maybe you have medical conditions, making you more susceptible to sickness. Maybe you are providing child care, or conversely, adult care. Maybe you are suddenly thrust into being your child’s primary teacher.



What do people do when they are stressed? Eat. Watch TV/Movies. And Shop!! Obviously you also shop when there is a pandemic going on and why would you go out to shop for certain things when with a few mouse clicks things can magically and mysteriously appear at your doorstep?

A friend of mine is married to a UPS driver in the Stonington CT area. He says he has been busier now than during Christmas!!

Package movement is almost an art form. A friend ordered masks that were coming from China about 2 months ago. Took some time and they finally arrived in Jamaica NY. The package then proceeded to travel to California, then BACK to Jamaica NY before coming to Albany. The package decided to take a week-long detour around the country! That’s not the norm, of course, but everyone has a story like it I’m sure! My daughter wanted a new bookbag and lunch bucket combo like a friend recently purchased. It was delayed, like many items had been as it was not an “essential” item. Finally shipped from California and reached Connecticut the next morning. Transferred to a location in Massachusetts, and then...mysteriously....returned! Apparently the package was damaged and they switched it to “return to sender”. Needless to say, my 10yo wasn’t happy!

Let’s face it, Amazon has revolutionized the supply chain system by forcing their suppliers to



upgrade all facets of their processes (IT, tracking, delivery, etc). They have also started to take over more aspects of the delivery process to keep the costs lower and maintain better

The Ready Line (Con’t)

OK, that’s all for this month. Stay home as much as possible, maintain good social distancing and wear face masks when around other people, enjoy the extra model railroading time at home while you still have it, and please keep sending us your “what you’ve been working on” stories for the Form 19, our web site and our FaceBook page!

Stay safe,
Irwin



control. You may have started to see ads showing Prime delivery trucks. I expect to soon see these in the Albany area once Amazon opens their new local warehouse in Schodack (1 million sq ft!!). You'll be able to have some items delivered same-day, within hours!

Did you know Amazon has chartered cargo planes called "Amazon Air"? They currently lease close to 50 Boeing 767's for their fleet. Drones? Being tested!

Here's a new one- Containers? Yup! Didn't see that coming, but I

should have! My family traveled to Amsterdam to pick up a package from Kohls recently and passed a train headed west next to the Thruway. We made it to Amsterdam far enough ahead of the train that we could make it down to Route 5 and park beside the tracks to see it in it's entirety.

I thought I had seen the Amazon logo and wanted to see what that was all about!

The train was made up entirely of intermodal of every variety you can imagine. Containers, trailers, and all variety of car combinations to haul them, and virtually all vendors represented.



Railex Closes!

We will do a short story on the closing of the local Railex facility in the next issue, but at it's peak, it employed over 300 people in Rotterdam with several non-stop trains arriving every week from the West Coast with fresh food (and other goodies, like wine, etc) and likewise sending back west local products to the last West Coast markets.

Union Pacific purchased the company in January 2017, but pulled the plug in May of 2020. Railex hosted tours for the last 2 Division-hosted Conventions.





ACE is the place for....cabooses??

By Bill Doyle

Several years ago, my wife and I returned to Springfield in southeastern Pennsylvania for my 50th high school graduation reunion. In between planned events, we explored the Brandywine Valley which had been a favorite region for Sunday drives when I was growing up. It is home to Andrew Wyeth, the painter, Kennett Square with its noted mushroom industry, and Longwood Gardens on the grounds of one of the DuPont family estates. As we drove through the area, we crossed a track that I later learned belonged to SEPTA (Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority) and passed a beautifully restored station at Glen Mills.



Later we crossed another track at Pocopson where an old station had been repurposed into living quarters. Across the road was an ACE hardware store...and a

collection of cabooses!! One was painted as advertising for the store while the others



appeared to be used for storage.

Clearly

the store owner had a thing for cabooses!

Now I don't know about you, but I too have a thing about cabooses and have acquired way more than I'll ever need and for roads that have no connection to the D&H - inspired layout I'm

building. What better way to get them out on the layout than to recreate a simple spur beside the hardware store (maybe a feed mill in its previous life) with an array of cabooses to grab peoples' attention.

I know you are all familiar with the Caboose Motel in Rooks, PA near the Strasburg Railroad which uses cabooses for individual rooms. There was



also a collection of privately owned cabooses in Tilden, NH that were stored on several tracks and occasionally taken out on tour by their owners.

Just a thought.



Updates from around the Region!

In October, the NER Convention, being held this year in Eastern Massachusetts!

<https://www.millcity2020.org>

Are you going to be attending? Take a week of vacation (if you aren't lucky enough to be retired!) And spend some time in New England leaf peeping, or take a walk on the Freedom Trail in Boston!

Please keep an eye on this site, as of NOW, the Northeast Regional Convention is still ON (the NATIONAL Convention that was supposed to take place this summer in St Louis was canceled.

Upcoming Division Events

Canceled until the fall (sad face)

Did you know????

**NMRA Members
get discounts
up to 45% from
over 30 companies
like these. Click for details**

NMRA Partnerships

Take a look at the NMRA's national website, located at

<https://www.nmra.org/partnerships>

The list of participating companies has been growing steadily, and while the size of the discounts varies, every little bit helps in this growlingly expensive hobby!

Micro-Mark, Gatorfoam, Model Rectifier, RR-CirKits, and various Craftsman structure manufacturers, to name a few. Consult the website for a more detailed list, and information on how to take advantage of the discounts.



What I've been working on

By Floyd Barwig

My HO railroad is based on the D&H from Ticonderoga to Port Henry with interconnections along the way. The era is the early to mid 1950s. The layout has two levels. On the first level, there is a staging yard in a room adjacent to the main train room. Trains can run north or south from this staging.

At Ticonderoga, there will be a branch line to the paper mill. North of Ti, there is an interconnection with the Champlain and Sanford Railroad, an electrified railroad from Addison

Junction to Tahawus that was planned in the early 1900s, but never built. Segments of a later post-WW2 version of this line (intended to avoid going through State land as the line from North Creek to Tahawus does) can still be found on Essex County property maps. The interconnection and a short segment of this line are represented on the layout. Next, the interconnection to the Crown Point and Ironville Railroad is represented as if that



railroad were still operating.



At Port Henry, the D&H had a small roundhouse. The interconnecting Lake Champlain and Moriah had a larger roundhouse, car shop and related facilities. I have compressed them into one larger shared facility. On the lower level, the D&H goes back to the



hidden staging after Port Henry.

The upper level of the railroad is the LC&MRR. It is reached by a 7' diameter helix from Port Henry to the upper level. On the upper level, an open pit mine is located within the helix. I eventually plan to model a good bit of the mining operations that the LC&MRR served.

At this point, much of the railroad is benchwork.

The photos show my most recent project while locked away from the virus, the Clonan mine head frame and powerhouse.



NER CONVENTION

October 9-12, 2020
Westford, MA

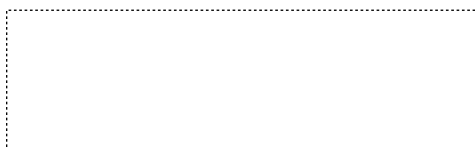
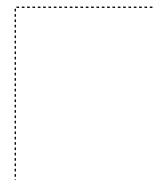


MillCity2020.org



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