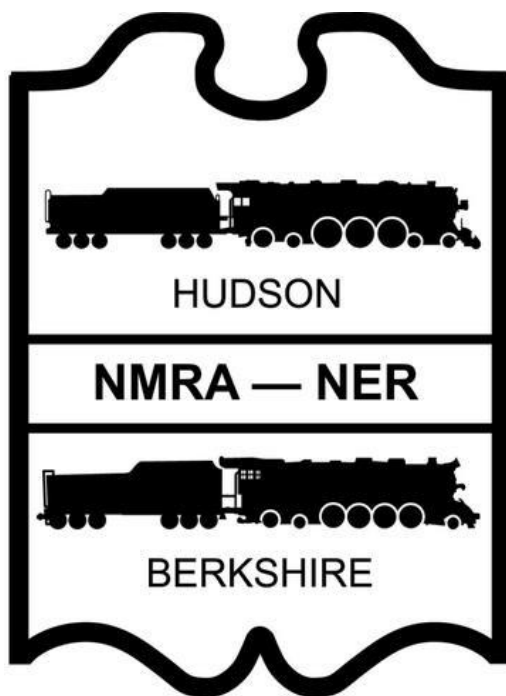


# HUDSON BERKSHIRE DIVISION



NORTHEASTERN REGION (NER)

NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION (NMRA)

## NEW MEMBER INFORMATION

**Original title: Membership Directory**  
**Originally Edited/Maintained by Rich Smith and Jack Cutler**  
**New Edition/Title Edited by Irwin D. Nathanson**

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*Revision 3.0*

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IT IS NOT INTENDED TO BE USED FOR  
COMMERCIAL PURPOSES

## INTRODUCTION

We are a 100% National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) Division. When you join the NMRA, you are automatically a member of the Hudson Berkshire Division as long as you live within our assigned geographic area. Information on joining the NMRA is available in each issue of the division newsletter, the *Form 19*, from our website [www.hudson-berkshire.org](http://www.hudson-berkshire.org), as well as from any of the officers.

Current *elected* officers of the Hudson Berkshire Division are:

- President: **Irwin D. Nathanson**
- Vice President: **Doug Dederick**
- Directors: **James Lauser** and **John Valachovic**

Current *appointed* positions are:

- Treasurer: **Benjamin Maggi**
- Recording Secretary: **Sara Lauser**
- *Form 19* Editor and Assistant Editor: **Mark Sklar** and **Bert Pflieg**
- Webmaster: **Artie Krass**
- AP Coordinator: **Kevin Surman** \*
- Great Train Extravaganza Chair: **James Lauser**

\* The AP Coordinator is appointed by the NER AP Coordinator; all other appointments are made by the HBD President.

Collectively, the elected officers + the appointed positions constitute the HBD *Leadership Team*.

## DIVISION ORGANIZATION AND ACTIVITIES

The Hudson Berkshire Division (HBD) is a *division* of the Northeastern *Region* (NER) of the *National* Model Railroad Association (NMRA). Geographically, we cover New York State from the Canadian border south to Greene & Columbia counties and west to Schoharie and the middle of Fulton, Montgomery, Hamilton and St. Lawrence counties. We also encompass Bennington county, Vermont and Berkshire county, Massachusetts. While most of the members reside in the Albany-Saratoga Springs-Schenectady-Troy, New York vicinity, additional contingents are from Adams-Pittsfield, Massachusetts area, Glens Falls, New York and Plattsburgh, New York.

Principal HBD activities include eight meetings a year held in the homes of members, area clubs, and various public locations for the purpose of viewing layouts, displaying models, attending clinics, showing slides and videos, and general fellowship among the members and guests. Other activities include hosting regional conventions, group trips to out-of-area layouts, family train rides on tourist railroads, annual bus trip to the largest model train show in the world held in Springfield, Massachusetts and more. HBD also plans, organizes and manages the annual Great Train Extravaganza, the largest model train show in the Albany area ( [www.qtealbany.com](http://www.qtealbany.com) ).

There are no regional or local dues, nor any subscription cost to NMRA members for the Form 19 newsletter. Your NMRA membership covers it all. Although HBD meetings are for members, guests may attend up to two meetings to see if they would like to join the NMRA and hence the NER and the HBD. You are encouraged to invite potential members to our meetings; please tell them about promotional membership offers, such as the NMRA nine month "Rail Pass," available via the NMRA website: [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org).

## LAYOUT ETIQUETTE

It is a lot of fun visiting other layouts and learning from what our fellow model railroaders are doing. However, when visiting other layouts, please keep these points in mind.

1. Call ahead for a mutually agreeable date and time, and then be punctual. Chances are that your host has spent some time getting ready for you.
2. Many hosts have Guest Books. Please DO sign-in.
3. It is always a good idea to ask permission before taking photos or videos. Take extra care that camera equipment does not bump or damage the layout or prevent others in your group from enjoying the layout.
4. NEVER pick up someone else's model. If you desire a better look, ask the host.
5. Never lean on a layout, especially one that has scenery. ELBOWS OFF!
6. Look with your eyes, not your hands. Touching, scratching, and feeling items on the layout can damage delicate models.
7. Don't be quick to point out a "better way." The difference between a "helpful hint" and a "put down" is defined not by how it is meant, but by how it is received. Be tolerant of different levels of skill, ability, and accomplishment.
8. If you are with a group, don't dominate the host's time. Others may have questions or comments too.
9. Conclude your visit after about one hour. Stay longer only if the host invites you to do so.

## DIVISION HISTORY

The Division was formed at Glenn Wagner's house in December 1966 by a group of 14 area model railroaders which included, in addition to Glenn: Dave Messer, Jim Odell, George Herbert, Tony Steele, and others. A constitution and by-laws were written, and it was named the **Hudson Mohawk Division**.

Early Division mailings consisted of post cards. By December 1967 the *Form 19* was born and Order No. 1, the first issue, was sent out. George Herbert was the organization's first Editor. At the December 1967 meeting the first elections were held. Dave Messer was elected President, George Herbert, Vice President, John Hollner, Secretary-Treasurer, and Jack Schramm, Director.

Order No. 2, issued in March 1968, shows the Division as being recognized by the NER and NMRA with full Division status. By Order No. 4, issued in September 1968, the name had been changed to the **Hudson Berkshire Division** to better reflect the geographical distribution of its members.

In 1969, Bill Carter was elected as a Director for the Berkshire area establishing the tradition of having two Directors as part of the leadership. *When possible*, the Division attempts to have one Director from the Adams-Pittsfield, Massachusetts area, and one from the Albany-Schenectady-Troy, New York area.

Election of officers was held typically in November approximately every year starting about 1970. However, since 1973, officers have been elected for multi-year terms, and the frequency of elections has been by consent of the membership. We no longer “elect” a *Form 19* Editor. Rather this is done on a volunteer basis with suitable volunteers then being appointed by the President. The table on the following page chronicles the ensuing changes in leadership as recorded in the *Form 19*.

| <i>Month<br/>Year</i> | <i>President</i>   | <i>Vice President</i> | <i>Treasurer</i> | <i>Form 19 Editor</i> | <i>GTE Chair</i> | <i>Directors</i> |                   |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1967                  | Dave Messer        | George Herbert        | John Hollner     | George Herbert        |                  | Jack Schramm     | Bill Carter ('69) |
| 1970                  | Dave Messer        | George Herbert        | Bill St. John    | George Herbert        |                  | Bob Karl         | Bill Kennedy      |
| 1972                  | Bill Kennedy       | George Herbert        | Bill St. John    | Jeff Martin           |                  |                  |                   |
| Nov. 1972             | Bill Mischler      | Jim O'Dell            | Bill St. John    | Jeff Martin           |                  | Dave Messer      | Don West          |
| Nov. 1973             | Bill Mischler      | Jim O'Dell            | Lou Wasserman    | Bill Kennedy          |                  |                  |                   |
| Nov. 1977             | Bill Mischler      | John Misiaszek        | Ed McLaughlin    | Bill Kennedy          |                  |                  |                   |
| Nov. 1978             | Tony Steele        | John Misiaszek        | Ed McLaughlin    | Bill Kennedy          |                  |                  |                   |
| Nov. 1981             | Tony Steele        | Jim O'Dell            | Ed McLaughlin    | Bill Kennedy          |                  |                  |                   |
| Nov. 1984             | Paul Delasco       | Dick Elwell           | Bob Hamm         | Tony Steele           |                  |                  |                   |
| Sept. 1985            | Paul Delasco       | Dick Elwell           | Bob Hamm         | Lou Sassi             |                  |                  |                   |
| Apr. 1988             | Bill Mischler      | Ken Nelson            | Don Buesing      | Lou Sassi             |                  |                  |                   |
| Feb. 1992             | Ken Nelson         | Bob Hamm              | Don Buesing      | Bill Mischler         |                  | Jeff English     | Dick Elwell       |
| Apr. 1994             | Bob Hamm           | Jeff Martin           | Geoff Wood       | Bill Mischler         |                  | Ken Nelson       |                   |
| Jan. 1997             | Bob Hamm           | Henry Propst          | Dick Hosmer      | Bill Mischler         |                  | Ken Nelson       |                   |
| Oct. 1997             | Henry Propst       |                       | Dick Hosmer      | Bill Mischler         |                  | Ken Nelson       |                   |
| Sept. 1998            | Ken Nelson         | Henry Propst          | Dick Hosmer      | Bill Mischler         |                  | Bob Hamm         |                   |
| Sept. 2000            | Henry Propst       | Bill McChesney        | Dick Hosmer      | Bill Mischler         |                  |                  |                   |
| June 2003             | John Valachovic    | Doug Dederick         | Dick Hosmer      | Stephen Lamora        |                  | Vic Roman        | Paul Delasco      |
| June 2004             | John Valachovic    | Stephen Lamora        | Dick Hosmer      | Diane Steele          |                  |                  |                   |
| May 2005              | Greg Whittle       | Vic Roman             | Dick Hosmer      | Diane Steels          |                  | Dave Hoadley     | Tom Delasco       |
| April 2007            | Greg Whittle       | Paul Hoffman          | Dick Hosmer      | Tony Bucca            |                  | Dave Hoadley     | Paul Delasco      |
| Nov. 2007             | Paul Hoffman       | Richard Smith         | Dick Hosmer      | Tony Bucca            |                  | Greg Whittle     | Dave Hoadley      |
| Nov. 2011             | Paul Hoffman       | Kevin Surman          | Jack Cutler      | Tony Bucca            | Rich Smith       | Greg Whittle     | Dave Hoadley      |
| Mar. 2012             | Paul Hoffman       | Kevin Surman          | Jack Cutler      | Bert Pfflegl          | Rich Smith       | Greg Whittle     | Dave Hoadley      |
| Nov. 2013             | Paul Hoffman       | Artie Krass           | Jack Cutler      | Bert Pfflegl          | Rich Smith       | Greg Whittle     | Dave Hoadley      |
| Sept. 2015            | Artie Krass        |                       | Jack Cutler      | Bert Pfflegl          | Rich Smith       | Greg Whittle     | Dave Hoadley      |
| Nov. 2015             | Artie Krass        | Irwin D. Nathanson    | Jack Cutler      | Bert Pfflegl          | Rich Smith       | Greg Whittle     | Dave Hoadley      |
| Nov. 2016             | Paul Hoffman       | Irwin D. Nathanson    | Jack Cutler      | Bert Pfflegl          | Rich Smith       | Greg Whittle     | Artie Krass       |
| May 2018              | Paul Hoffman       | Irwin D. Nathanson    | Benjamin Maggi   | Bert Pfflegl          | James Lauser     | Greg Whittle     | Artie Krass       |
| Nov. 2018             | Irwin D. Nathanson | Artie Krass           | Benjamin Maggi   | Erik Denny            | James Lauser     | Greg Whittle     | Paul Hoffman      |

## THE NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

The National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) was formed in 1934 to develop interoperability standards for model railroad products. And these standards are constantly evolving. For example, the NMRA sets standards for Digital Command Control (DCC). The most up to date information on DCC, and your ability to use it with confidence can be attributed to the NMRA standards. In fact, these standards have become the de facto *international* standards. Through these efforts, our hobby has been made more fun, less expensive and less stressful. No matter what scale and gauge or gauges you choose to model, it is possible to purchase an article from any manufacturer which will fit, look good, and operate with any other such item from any other manufacturer.

But setting standards is now just the tip of the iceberg regarding the many benefits of NMRA membership...

*Regional* and *National* Conventions are organized by the NMRA on an annual basis, and attending one brings truly memorable experiences to those who attend. Typical Conventions include clinics on various model railroad and prototype (real) railroad topics, hands-on model making sessions led by Master Model Railroaders, tours to nearby prototype railroad facilities, visits to local model railroads in peoples' homes and at model railroad clubs, banquets, model contests, model train shows (sales), and more!

Those who wish can take part in the NMRA Achievement Program, offering educational value to the modeler in the form of new ideas, and workable solutions to modeling problems. Modeling contests and judging, offered under this program, offer the modeler an opportunity to get recognition for his or her experience in the hobby. Active participation in the Achievement Program can lead to the widely acclaimed certification as Master Model Railroader. We are fortunate since we have highly qualified and motivated AP Chairmen to work with us – at the *Regional and* Division levels.

Members may subscribe to *NMRA Magazine*, the monthly publication that compliments the commercial model railroad magazines. This is the best way to keep up with the latest association news, to stay current with the latest NMRA activities, and to find the most up to date information on regional and national conventions. The NMRA Magazine is supplemented by two great electronic publications: the monthly NMRA Turntable and the bi-monthly eBulletin. Each of these is chock full of interesting information with links to members-only content such as professional videos on a wide variety of related topics and copies of clinics recently presented at *Regional and National* Conventions.

Members also get the annual NMRA Calendar featuring spectacular photographs of members' model railroads as well as dates for that year's *National and Regional* conventions.

The Kalmbach Memorial Library located near the national headquarters in Soddy Daisy, Tennessee, houses thousands of articles, books and other reference materials on model and prototype railroading. The use of this vast library is available to NMRA members. In addition, the NMRA publishes reference books, Data Sheets, Clinic Notes from national and regional conventions, Standards, Recommended Practices and more. Much of this information is available on the NMRA Archives which contain more than 10,000 photographs, slides, plans, drawings, paint schemes and more. There's also an online video library of helpful "how to" videos produced by professional video companies as well as videos of clinics presented at National conventions.

At the NMRA "Members Only Company Store" members can purchase Standards Gauges (in all major scales), Data Sheets, Turnout Templates and more – all at substantial discounts over retail prices.

Other benefits include the Partnership Program where a growing number of model railroad suppliers offer special discounts – as much as 20% -- exclusively to NMRA members and a very useful Beginners' Guide.

It makes good sense to belong to such an organization which does so much for our hobby and joining could not be easier. If you have access to a computer, go to the NMRA website. Otherwise write or call the NMRA (information below) and indicate your interest in joining.

When you join the NMRA (National) you automatically become a member of the Region and Division in which you live. You may elect to become a member of a different Region and/or Division if you so desire. Region and Division newsletters are typically by subscription. Why not join today? You can go to the NMRA website or contact anyone on the HBD Leadership Team at [HUDSON.BERKSHIRE.NMRA@GMAIL.COM](mailto:HUDSON.BERKSHIRE.NMRA@GMAIL.COM) .



**MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**  
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E-Mail: [nmrahq@nmra.org](mailto:nmrahq@nmra.org)  
Website: <http://www.nmra.org>

**Membership Dues:**

|   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| Regular, One Year (includes <i>NMRA Magazine</i> )  | \$75.00/year       |
| Regular, One Year (does not include <i>NMRA Magazine</i> )                                  | \$47.00/year       |
| Student (age 18 and under or student between 19-25)   | \$40.00/year       |
| Family<br>Spouse or minor child of above member, no additional copy of <i>NMRA Magazine</i> | \$ 8.00 each/year  |
| Railpass (trial membership for nine months)   | \$19.95/one time * |

**Subscriptions:**

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Northeastern Region newsletter ( <i>The Coupler</i> )<br>New members, first year | \$ 6.00      |
| Renewals   | \$10.00/year |
| Hudson Berkshire Division newsletter ( <i>Form 19</i> )                          | FREE         |

\* Full membership benefits except no voting rights. Only for those new to the NMRA or for those who have not been members for at least two years. Renewal will be at regular rates.