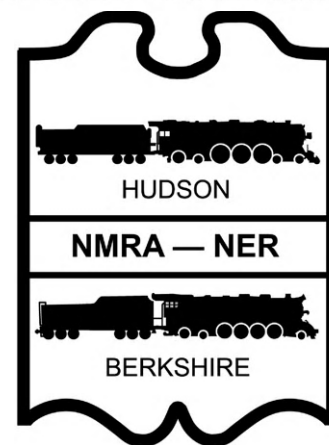


FORM 19

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



Order Number 396

April 2024

April Division Meeting

**Joe Martinec - HO Layout Visit
Friday, April 19, 7pm to 9pm
1245 Sumner Ave.
Schenectady, NY 12309**

From the Editor By MARK SKLAR

Some members have been getting virus warnings when opening the Form 19. The virus warnings seem to be caused by the clickable links. I am removing the clickable links so now you will have to copy and paste the link into your browser. Let me know if you are still getting virus warnings.

This month we will be visiting Joe Martinec's HO scale layout. Joes's layout is a great example of a small switching layout that has operating capabilities. See page 3 for the meeting details on visiting the layout.

Last month the Division meeting was hosted by Dennis Hultay. See page 4 for some pictures.

On page 5 there are two event announcements. ScaleTrains will be visiting here on May 1, at RPI. and the Cohoes library will be celebrating the hobby of model railroading on May 18. See the flyer for the event details and spread the word.

Rich Smith submitted another great Milwaukee Road article. Rich shows how he backdated Walthers Hiawatha cars by repainting them. See page 6 for the first of 2 parts. Thank you Rich!

See you here next month!
-Mark



Form19

The *Form19* is published ten 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.

**Hudson Berkshire Division
PO Box 83**

**Clifton Park, NY 12065-0083
trains@hudson-berkshire.org**

President

Benjamin Maggi
602 Albany Shaker Road
Loudonville, NY 12211
585-506-2680
BenLMaggi@hotmail.com

Vice President
Doug Dederick

32 Van Dyke Drive South
Rensselaer, NY 12144
518-283-5063
dougdederick7@gmail.com

Treasurer

Benjamin Maggi
602 Albany Shaker Road
Loudonville, NY 12211
585-506-2680
BenLMaggi@hotmail.com

Form19 Editor

Mark Sklar
121 Brandon Ter.
Albany, NY 12203
(518) 229-9421
mark4527841@gmail.com

Bert Pflagl

Associate Editor
bpflegl@gmail.com

GTE Manager

James Lauser
1814 Park Blvd
Troy, NY 12180
james@jlauser.net
(518) 528-5453

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The President's Corner

By Ben Maggi

As the weather gets nicer I am finding it harder to stay indoors. Harrison now has a simple Lionel layout in the basement so I let him run "his train" while I am nearby working on my own projects. Still, it won't be long before the sunshine overtakes me and I will put everything on hold until fall.

As for what I am up to, I am currently deep into a kitbashing project involving an O scale Troop Sleeper express car which is being modified into a Bangor & Aroostook Railroad bay-window caboose. Talk about something unusual. It sounded like a fun project but I have discovered the BAR did about a dozen of these conversions and every one was different. And over time they were further changed. Windows, doors, underframe details, even paint schemes (I am aware of at least five)... nothing is the same! Try finding two pictures of the same caboose without conflicting details. But, the hunt for research is one of the things that I enjoy so much about this hobby. How about you? It has been fun and I am happy with my progress.

As a reminder, there is still time for you to send a picture or an article describing a project you are working on to the *Form 19* to be entered into a drawing to win a Division hat. Even if we don't publish it right away you will still be entered in. A winner will be drawn in the future.

A big "Thank you" to Dennis Hultay for inviting us over to his house to see his developing S scale layout. If there ever was a person with a vision for what he wanted his layout to look like, it is Dennis. If you didn't make it up there you missed out, but it sounds like he may have trains operating by the end of the year so hopefully in the future we will all be invited back to see his progress.

Our April meeting will be at Joe Martinec's house to see his HO layout. Layout visits are one of the best perks about being in the Division, because it is so interesting to find out how other people designed and built their layouts. May has two events coming up: the ScaleTrains road trip visit and our Cohoes Library display (See elsewhere in the *Form 19* for details.)

Our June meeting will hopefully be our Family Picnic up at the Adirondack Live Steamers on June 22, with a rain date of June 23. ALS is still working on finalizing the date(s), but please pencil it in on your calendar for now.

Speaking of coming up, our family is going to Toronto at the end of the month for the "Great British Train Show". Held biannually, I have wanted to attend this show since 2018 but some unusual circumstances (Covid in 2020, Harrison's birth in 2022) have prevented it. British model railroads are usually limited in physical space because homes are much older and

(Continued on next page)



(Presidents Corner Continued)

smaller across the pond, and common layout themes are Engine Depots and branch line terminal stations (both usually connected to non-visible staging). It will be fascinating to see what direction Canadian modelers building British-themed layouts take.

One final thing: last May the

Division went to Voorheesville for our monthly meeting and we saw the very early stages of the reconstruction and restoration of the connecting track between CSX and the old D&H (now to be used for Norfolk Southern double-stack trains). It is my understanding that this will be fully operational soon, so

this is a good chance to catch history in the making and see trains operating on this trackage again.

See you at the next meeting!
Ben

Upcoming Meetings/Events

April Division Meeting

Friday, April 19, 7PM to 9:00 PM

Joe Martinec - HO Layout Visit

1245 Sumner Avenue, Schenectady, NY 12309

Division Event

ScaleTrains Meet & Greet

Wednesday, May 1, 7pm

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

1301 Peoples Avenue, Troy, NY

Division Event

Celebrating the Hobby of Model Railroading

Saturday, May 18, 10am to 3pm

At the Cohoes Public Library, 10 Cayuga Plaza, Cohoes, NY 12047)

Joe Martinec HO Layout Visit

By: Joe Martinec

When I wanted to build a layout I looked at track plans in several books. I found a plan I liked and found a business in Tennessee and contacted them. They modified the plan and made full size sheets. All my locomotives are first generation diesels and the rolling stock are 40

feet. The industries are old local businesses including our family business, which closed years ago. I don't have a particular name for the railroad. Most of the the buildings are named for real businesses or friends. The towns are all local and I don't have a name for it, as it is a

generic eastern railroad.

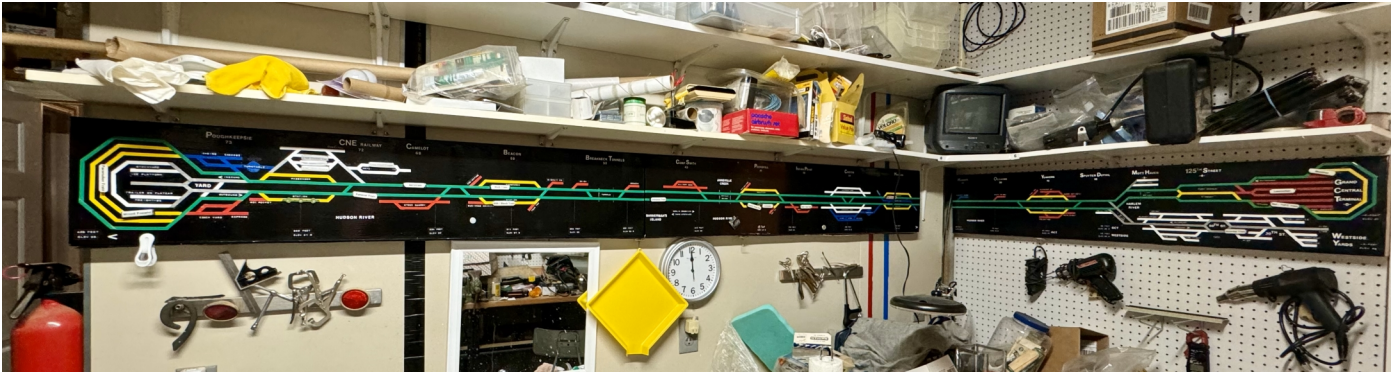
Since we have several dogs, it would be better for people to go to the left side of the the garage, through the gate onto the patio, into the garage. The inside door is on the left and leads directly to the basement.



March 2024 Meeting at Dennis Hultay's S Scale Layout

By: Mark Sklar

The March HBD meeting was hosted by Dennis Hultay. 21 members were in attendance to see the progress Dennis has made on his New York Central themed S scale layout. Thank you to Dennis for hosting and thank you to Charles Newton for the pictures.



O Scale Track Available to Members

The Division was given a generous donation of several boxes of used O scale, three-rail Lionel style tubular track. There are an estimated 40 pieces of standard straight track, 30 pieces of standard curved track, and around a dozen of the large-radius curved track pieces. There are also about a dozen

tinplate switches, some 0-27 and some 0-31, which all need a little TLC and maintenance. Control switches, operating accessory controls, and some Lock-ons are also available. If you have any interest in the track please reach out to Ben Maggi (BenLMaggi@hotmail.com) and let him know.



Attention: Model Railroad day at the Cohoes Library!

On May 18, the Cohoes Public Library (located at 10 Cayuga Plaza, Cohoes, NY 12047) will be celebrating the hobby of model railroading, and the Hudson Berkshire Division will be participating. We will be setting up a table with literature about the hobby, similar to what we have at the GTE Show. Also, we are working with the

Albany T-Trak club (whose efforts are being led by Mike LaCasse) to have an operational layout present for the public. In addition, we are working with another gentleman to have a Marx O gauge layout present as well. But, we need your help!

The library opens at 9:30AM, but we are going to show up around 9 to help set-up. Officially, we want to

have people from the Division present to answer questions from 10-3PM. We would love anyone who is available and wants to come interact with the public and talk about model trains or answer questions to show up.

Please contact Ben Maggi if you have an interest in participating. Thank you.



MEET & GREET

NMRA Hudson Berkshire Division Hosts
SCALETRAINS™

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2024 · 7PM

**LOCATION: RENSSELAER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
HEFFNER ALUMNI HOUSE · LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM
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- Meet the SCALETRAINS team
- Hear the amazing SCALETRAINS story
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- Question & answer session
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Poor Man's 1948 Hiawatha Project (Part 1)

By: Richard J. Smith

I was certainly very happy when Walthers came out with the 1952 Hiawatha passenger cars and accompanying EMD E7 locomotives. That was probably the best business decision at the time because 1952 is when the Milwaukee Road added the Superdome car to the consist and the same cars could also be released later in Armor Yellow and Mist Gray Union Pacific scheme (that's a whole different story!).

But I always wanted to own the passenger car set that came out in 1948, Milwaukee's first departure from those rib-sided cars post war. It's basically the same cars as Walther's 1952 set, so I have been bugging those Walthers guys at the Big E for years to do the 1948 paint scheme. Why? It is simply the most beautiful paint scheme the Milwaukee ever came up with, but my requests to the Walthers guys fell on deaf

ears. Even when I pointed out they produced the Proto E6 No's 15a and 15b in that very paint scheme, they looked at me like I had two heads.

So rather than waiting, I decided to paint my own. But, I also decided to cheat a bit and not start from scratch and paint a bare plastic (or brass) unpainted model. I started from the Walthers 1952 model which looks like this:



This is one of my finished models with grabs attached, tinted windows and people in the Skytop lounge. Notice the paint scheme has a black roof and only one maroon band along the windows. The lettering above the windows is also maroon in color.

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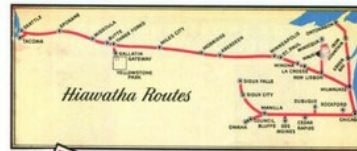


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Here is an old ad showing a variation of the Skytop (made by Pullman) in the 1948 color scheme:



It's a Hiawatha Year!



THE MILWAUKEE ROAD

The distinctive, glass-roofed Skytop Lounge shown in the illustration is a new type of observation room for trackside to mountain top scenic views. Skytop Lounges are carried on the Morning and Afternoon Twin Cities HIAWATHAS and soon will appear on the Olympian HIAWATHA. These cars typify the advanced styling of other Speedlined equipment included in The Milwaukee Road's extensive car building program.

New cars now on the rails have permitted the presentation of improved and new Hiawathas now operating nine thousand miles a day. Additional new cars, scheduled for early delivery, will result in the further amplification of Hiawatha service.

All the new cars embody the latest design and engineering improvements to make your travel hours even more pleasant on "the friendly Railroad of the friendly West". H. Sengstacken, Passenger Traffic Manager, 708 Union Station, Chicago 6, Illinois.

The roof is a shade of light gray and an additional maroon band along the edge of the roof shows "The Milwaukee Road" in gold leaf lettering. These seem to be relatively minor but yet profound changes in the look of

the train. First step in the conversion is disassembly. Use the Walthers instructions which show where the 4 or 5 roof tabs are located and use an X-acto No. 11 Chisel blade between the roof and the body. If you break

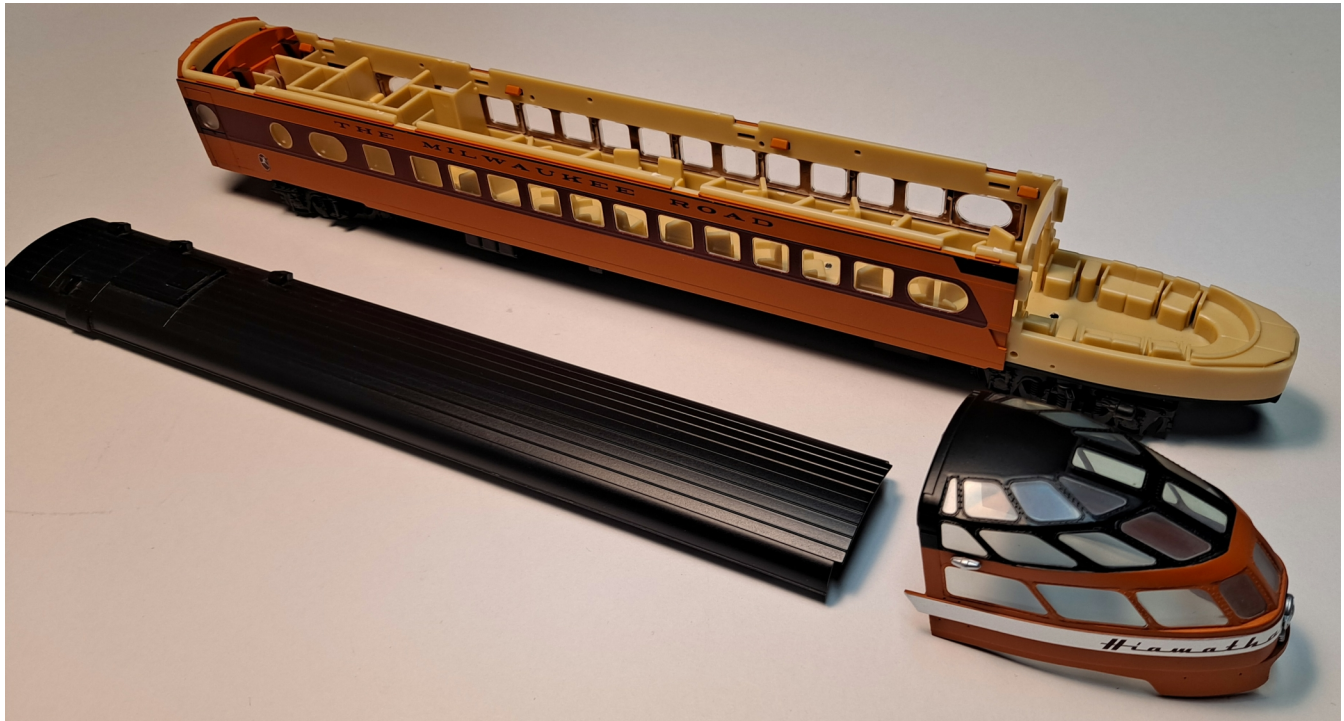
a tab, simply re-glue it with liquid cement (I use Tamiya). The glass section of the Skytop also snaps out by releasing tabs, leaving 3 sections:

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You have probably received an email from the Northeastern Region office announcing that the latest issue of the Coupler is now online. The NER website is - <https://nermra.org/ner-couplers/>



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The next step is to mask 18 separate windows using a product called “Mr. Masking Sol – neo”. I tested it on one window, then let it dry and made sure I could pull it up because most people I talk to say getting the liquid mask off is the hardest part. But not with this stuff, so I masked all the windows and taped off the rest:

Be sure and tape the inside to

avoid overspray on the glass. Also, notice I used liquid mask along the top of the marker light too. Next step is to paint the roof and the Skytop section gray. I was trying to match the same shade of gray as those Walthers Proto E6s, so that takes trial and error and the use of color swatches painted on white plastic. I found ½ Floquil CN gray plus ½ Floquil Reefer gray was a

pretty good match. Of course, Floquil is dead flat and I wanted a semi-gloss to match the locos. So after the Floquil was dry, I sprayed a coat of ½ Scale Coat Gloss and ½ Scale Coat Flat to give that semi-gloss finish I was looking for. Here is the result with liquid mask removed.



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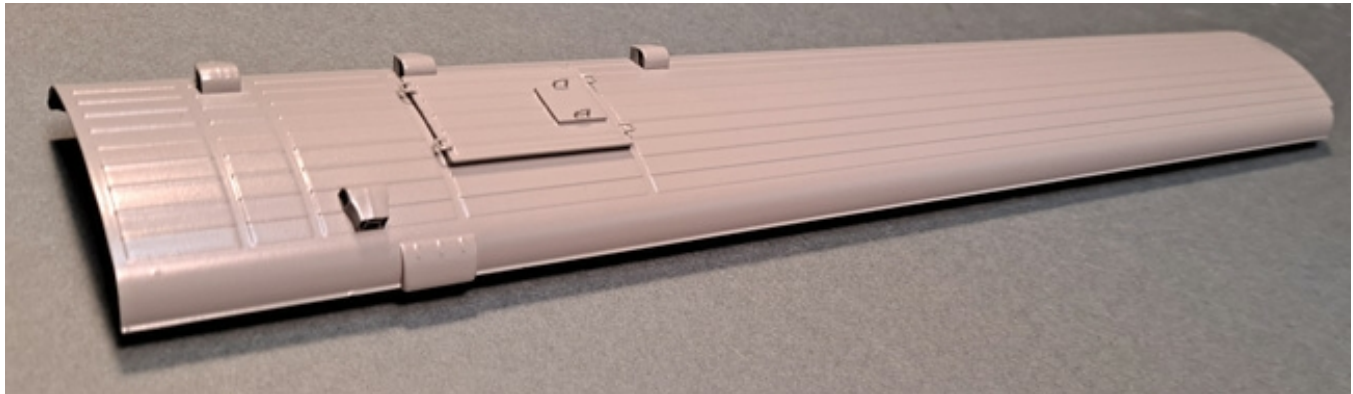


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The next step is to tape off that thin maroon stripe along the roof line. Now if this were a contest model I would never just paint over

the maroon lettering but would likely sand it down. But remember, this is the Poor Man's 'Hi', so I figured the gold leaf lettering I will

be applying will cover up any raised lettering. Notice I also cover the inside of the model so over spray doesn't get on the inside windows!

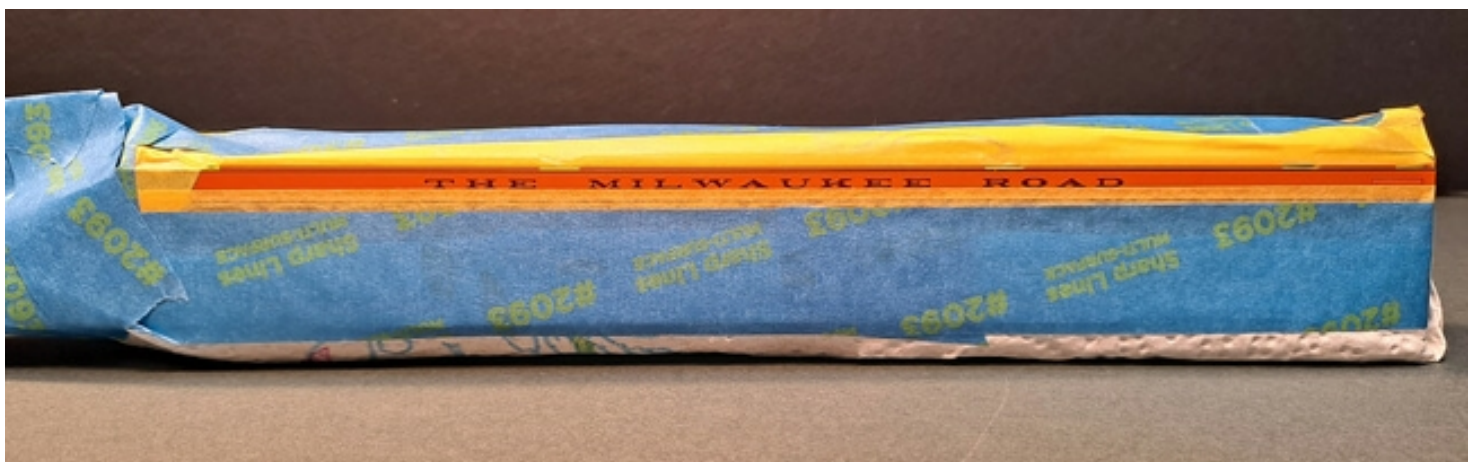


Like with the gray, I was trying to match the maroon color of the window band of the Walthers model. I found 1/2 Scale Coat LV Cornell red and 1/2 Scale Coat B&M Maroon, with just a "smidge" more of the LV red satisfactorily matched the Walthers color. These Scale Coat colors are high gloss, which is perfect for decaling. After drying, I applied MicroScale Gold Leaf lettering (psst, don't tell anyone, but

I used Milw. 1939 - 1946 decals. Why? Because that is what I had lying around!) After decaling, I sprayed Scale Coat flat.

I "tinted" my 1952 Hiawatha set with green windows. First, the actual train had tinted glass, and second, this hides the fact I did buy \$1000 worth of Preiser figures to fill my trains. But the Skytop section is just too cool to not show some passengers so those windows

remain clear. I use green radio control model airplane shrink plastic simply cut into strips that fit into the window recesses inside the car. If you cut them right, you don't even need glue to install. The next photo shows the clear green plastic cut to size and ready to install. The right side already has the tinting done. A few drops of canopy glue here and there does the trick.



Watch for part 2 next month.

Please visit:

Hudson Berkshire Division Website:

<http://www.hudson-berkshire.org/>

Facebook Pages:

<https://www.facebook.com/HudsonBerkshireNMRA/>

Hudson-Berkshire NMRA Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/809686920433872/>

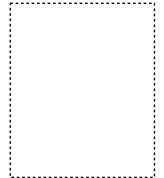
“Hudson-Berkshire Division of the NMRA” YouTube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCE4Em3wMYwj5Z3ynfNsla8g/featured>



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Hudson Berkshire Division
PO Box 83
Clifton Park, NY 12065-0083



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