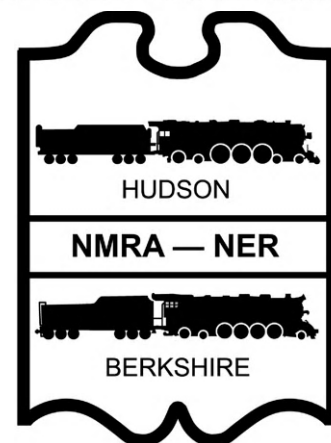


FORM 19

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



Order Number 405

April 2025

**Friday, April 25th HBD Meeting 7pm - 9pm
Malta Community Center
1 Bayberry Dr, Ballston Spa, NY 12020**

Sudoku for a Retired Railroader. . . .By Charles Newton, Editor

The days of considering designs involving mushrooms, dog bones, folded dog bones, point-to-points, shelves, peninsulas, loops, helixes, blobs, duck-under's, lift outs, etc. are 'mostly' behind me. Truth to be told, so far a 'round the room shelf plywood central' railroad exists with bench work built 50" high off the floor, a nicely painted 'Masonite' sky backdrop and about 500 feet of mainline track secured on 1/4" foam roadbed on 3/4" plywood. The last 15 feet of mainline track is being laid now to connect the big loop. A 48 inches long deck bridge supported on trestle piers is ready to be built using a support system consisting of 1-1/2" thick pink foam and a foam grade riser section. All of these new techniques to me. I have spent several days recently 're-learning' how to correctly lay flex track (after being away for 5 weeks) with super elevation and laid over the lift section of the duck under.



Re-learning includes measure three times, cut four times and throw away money. Since this last segment involves curves coming at each other at an angle, a new conundrum developed: build bridge or curves first? I submit the attached cartoon and 'where I don't want to be' for next months column.

This month's division meeting in Malta will include a presentation by Kevin Macomber, who is a member of the Susquehanna Division NER NMRA and models in On30 scale. His railroad is the Fitchburg RR which is influenced by both the D&H and East Broad Top railways. Now in his 3rd year, his layout is about 40% completed and has 600' of track and almost 50 turnouts. While preferring to scratch build and kit bash, he embraces styles developed by Frank Ellison, John Allen and a UK modeler, Edward Beal. If not using parts from existing kits, he uses materials at hand to include card, paper, wood, plastic, foam, and even 'Cheerios' boxes. He calls this "1940's Style" and it has a folk art appeal to it. He has begun writing articles and most recently one of his models was selected as a finalist by the PA State Museum's "Art of the State 2025" competition.



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.

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The Division Point

By Artie Krass

Greetings All – Looks like winter still wants to make its presence felt here in upstate New York, which is good in a way as I don't have to start doing outside yard work.

Thanks to John VanDenburgh for hosting our March meeting and allowing us to take in his impressive HO Boston and Maine – Fitchburg Division layout. We had a good turnout that Saturday morning and discovered, what Doug referred to as “a hidden gem”.

This month (April) we will be meeting at the Malta Community Center for a remote presentation by Kevin Macomber demonstrating old school scratch building techniques – “The House That Cheerios Built”. More details in this edition of the Form 19.

Our May meeting will be a visit to Division member Mike Phelan's home layout/open house – more to follow.

In June we are planning to have our annual Division Family Picnic at the home of ALS (Adirondack Live Steamers) during their Spring Weekend Meet. We have been rained out the past two years so hopefully “the third time's a charm”.

Another NERx has come and gone. We had a really good mix of

clinics and layout visits this year, along with some impressive models in the Model Showcase portion of each evening's presentation. If you missed any of it you can go the NERx website (NERx.org) and pick and choose what you care to watch. I would like to see some more Division models on display in next year's NERx – how about it folks – I know there are some very impressive models that have been built by HBD modelers! How many of you enjoy reading the NER Coupler magazine? Unfortunately, the number of subscribers to the print edition has dropped off since the NMRA no longer supports subscribing to the NER Coupler when you renew your membership. I personally enjoy reading the print edition over the digital edition (but very glad there is also a digital version). You can subscribe by going to the NER website (NERNMRA.org) and click on Coupler Subscription on the top right-hand side of the page. The NER will soon be sending out a survey to all members asking about the NER Coupler and your subscription so please take the time to respond – thanks! As I alluded to above Doug has once again lined out some great activities for us for the months to come.

Registration is now open for the NER Fall convention – the

(Continued on page 8)



John VanDenburgh's Layout Visit

By Doug Dederick

A Hidden Gem

Last month we were all invited to visit John VanDenburgh's HO layout in Rotterdam NY.

I think I can speak for everyone when I say what a pleasure it was and what a wonderful layout John is constructing. John's railroad depicts the Boston and Maine between Mechanicville New York and North Adams, Massachusetts in 1944.

John has done a tremendous job in capturing the feel of eastern New York and western New England in Autumn. Most of us spent a lot of time admiring his scenery and taking pictures. John was also a terrific host and was quite pleased to talk to a great number of us as well as with providing drinks and snacks. For us it goes to show that there are *hidden gems* within our community that we know very little about, if anything at all.

I think there might be some more hidden gems out there, maybe you know of one? If you do please let us know as they may be willing to invite our group to their layout like John did. Below are some pictures of John's beautiful layout for those that where unable to attend and for those of us that were there and unable to get enough!



Photo by Charles Newton, March 22, 2025 Rotterdam NY

All following photos by photographers as marked.

Continued on page 6



Both Photos by Mark Sklar





John VanDenburgh's Layout



James Lauser, both photos





CHARLES NEWTON



CHARLES NEWTON



MARK SKLAR



JAMES LAUSER



Rob Dennis

Jam



Mark Sklar



All photos this page by Rob Dennis.

(President's Corner Continued)

Concord Flyer '25. If you haven't yet booked your hotel accommodations, click on the Overflow Hotel '25 on the Convention webpage as the primary Convention hotel is already booked up. The Overflow Hotel – the Fairfield by Marriott is just down the road a few miles. Hope to see you there. That's all for this month – enjoy!

Artie



Upcoming Meetings/Events

Friday, April 25th HBD Meeting 7pm - 9pm

Malta Community Center

1 Bayberry Dr, Ballston Spa, NY 12020

Presentation by Kevin Macomber

Saturday, May 24th - at the home of Mike Phelan for a layout visit - more details to follow

Saturday, June 7th - Division Family Picnic at ALS - more details to follow

NMRA National Convention - Station No. VI - Novi, Michigan July 14th through July 19th

NER Fall Convention - Concord Flyer '25 - Concord, NH - September 11th thru the 14th

Division Badges Are Available

If you do not have a Hudson Berkshire Division name badge or have lost your original one and would like it replaced, contact:

Bert Pflagl at bpfagl@gmail.com, phone 518-235-8496

or

Ben Maggi at BenLMaggi@hotmail.com, phone 585-506-2680

Please provide your name as you want it to appear and the place of residence that you want - just community or city and state.

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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