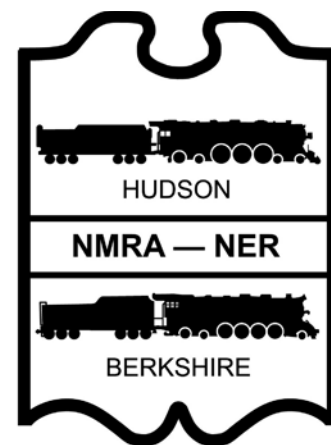


FORM 19

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
HUDSON-BERKSHIRE DIVISION
OF THE NER-NMRA



Special Edition

December 2013

Hudson-Berkshire Division, NMRA Special Edition - End of Year Review



The amazement, wonder and joy of a
model railroad

Photo taken at 2012 GTE by *Form19* staff photographer

The Hudson-Berkshire Division Officers and Members of the Board of Directors wish to thank all of the members for their participation and support during the 2013 year.

This special issue of the *Form19* is a look back at the 2013 events that have been created to help all of us enjoy the hobby of model railroading. There have been six opportunities to visit other modelers' layouts and see what and how they have created their railroads. There were three clinics presented by members along with a slide show presentation. There was also a bus trip to the Amherst Railway Society's Railroad Hobby Show in West Springfield, MA and a Summer Picnic with the Adirondack Live Steamers where we got to ride on their model trains. Representatives of the Division were present and promoting model railroading at the Columbia-Greene Toy and Train Show at Columbia-Greene Community College and at the Boy Scout Pow Wow for Scout leaders at Siena College, both in March. And the year is being capped off by a large number of members volunteering their time and efforts to make the Great Train Extravaganza a success for the community, as well as the Division, as they have done for several years.

This *Form19* is also very special as it is the first issue of our 47th year of continuous publication. Issue Number 1 of the *Form19* was published in December of 1967. Think about what you were doing then, what you knew of model railroading and how much the hobby has changed in nearly a half-century. And yet one thing remains the same – our fascination with trains! Our January issue will have an interesting article about how one boy's excitement at seeing a toy train lead to a career and an amazing model railroad.

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Form 19

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The opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Division. Products and publications mentioned in *Form 19* in no way constitute an endorsement by the Division.

Contributing to the Form 19

The *Form 19* 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 Paul Hoffman will return next issue

A Brief Summary of Division 2013 Events

January 2013 a visit to John McBride's F-scale Crown Point Iron Co. Railroad and the bus trip to the Railroad Hobby Show in West Springfield, MA.

February 2013 a clinic night at the Colonie Youth Center Building with John Tyndall, Sr. coming all the way from Plattsburgh to present a clinic on the use of foam board to create and enhance a layout, a clinic by Kevin Surman using material from Chuck Dijak of Garden State Div on the creation of a 'beer bottle' water tower, and a slide presentation by Bill McChesney.

March 2013 a visit to Rich Smith's two layouts – the completed Wauwatoga Railroad and the in-progress, multi-level Milwaukee Road Lacrosse and River Divisions.

April 2013 a visit to Frank Adamec's free-lanced D&H branch line with the fantastic self-designed and built large arch bridge.

May 2013 a 'State of the Division' meeting at which President Hoffman described the Division's operations and plans and was open for all questions. Following was a presentation by Rich Smith in which he showed how the technique of 'dry-brushing' can be a way of painting a structure as well as providing a weathered look.

June 2013 a picnic at the Adirondack Live Steamers site at which we all feasted on great food arranged, prepared, and served by Vice-President Kevin Surman and his wife, Sandy. There were rides all day long on the trains thanks to the ALS members.

July & August 2013 we were all left to visit as many scenic railroads and railfan sites as we could.

September 2013 we visited Dick Elwell's renowned Hoosac Valley Railroad in Adams, MA.

October 2013 a visit to Vic Roman's Hudson River Division of the New York Central with the City of Albany and its neighborhoods.

November 2013 a visit to the Upstate Model Railroaders G, O, HO, N, and Lego layouts and election of officers.

December 2013 participation in and visits to the Great Train Extravaganza at the Empire State Plaza in Albany.

Many members are also in one or more small groups of modelers that hold operating sessions on a somewhat regular basis. This is a great way to get experience and learn about elements of the hobby that may not be your primary interest.

Cover photo of boy intently enjoying Dick Hosmer's layout is by Bert Pflagl. All photos & writing by Bert Pflagl, the *Form 19* staff, unless otherwise noted.



Crown Point Iron Co. Furnaces at Crown Point, engine service, and the 0-4-0 picking up a tank car at Bennett's Wood Chemical Company on John McBride's Crown Point Iron Company Railroad.

January 2013

Bus trip to the Amherst Railway Society's Railroad Hobby Show.

The bus took us right to the door and a Society representative came on board to hand out wristbands, programs, and pens.

The bus was open at noon for the stowage of purchases and rocks.



All photos this issue by Form19 staff unless otherwise noted.



February 2013 Clinic night: John Tyndall, Sr. came down from Plattsburgh to talk about the benefits of using Gatorfoam board in layout construction. This strong and dimensionally stable material can be used as the base for lift-out sections of scenery and even for a layout base. An approximately 2' by 6' panel with minimal wood stiffeners is easy to lift. Foam panel ribs add stiffness. Wiring is easy when the panel can be moved around.

Unfortunately the Form19 staff photographer did not take pictures of the beer bottle water tower presentation by Kevin Surman. Kevin showed how a one ounce liquor sampler bottle can be used to create a model of the iconic Pabst Brewery tower (above right) seen from the New Jersey Turnpike. The bottom tower (like the one Kevin made) is for the Stegmier Brewery. Photographer did not get pictures of Bill McChesney's presentation, either. Bad photographer.



March 2013: Two for One Night at Rich Smith's. His Wauwatoga layout with awards and mementos (below and center).



Above shows some of the research and planning that Rich is doing for his new Milwaukee Road Lacrosse and River Division. He's using actual track plans and old photos.



April 2013: Visit to Frank Adamec's D&H branch line with the large (count the cars) self designed, stick built bridge that was the first thing he made - even before he had a layout or space for it. There is an interchange with the B&M and a cemetery tucked away on a hilltop - that & the antenna tower not often seen on layouts. Great lighting with fixtures and reflectors that Frank designed and built.



May 2013: State of the Division followed by dry brush clinic



Following the presentation by President Hoffman, Rich Smith presented a clinic on the art and technique of dry-brush painting. Rich showed that this method can not only be used to apply a weathered look but that it is a method of painting a structure, car, etc. He showed how to do the prep and then apply the paint in various layers to get a finished look.

President Hoffman had a full discussion of the Division starting with a brief history, a list of past and possible future activities, challenges to the division and the hobby, a full financial report and a 'Q&A' on his exchange of letters with NMRA Pres. Getz (published in the March Form19). One thing he repeatedly emphasized was greater cooperative interactions with the surrounding Divisions and the NER organization. See the meeting summary in the June 2013 Form19.



June 2013: Picnic with the Adirondack Live Steamers



The Officers of the H-B Division arranged at picnic with ALS and there were train rides all day. Some H-B members are also ALS members. The fun was abundant and the bugs were not making for a great day.



That's a GE D9-44CW sitting on the rack. Beautiful.

VP Kevin worked on burger prep while Greg did the grilling. When the grill flared, Kevin was worried. "Is my shirt on fire?"



There was great food available in great quantities in the dining area of the ALS site.

And, yes, that is an operational, unrestored, original 1919 Model T.

And a big 'Thank You' to all the Adirondack Live Steamer members who made this possible and drove the trains for so many hours and trips around the tracks.

Special thanks to Sandy & Kevin Surman who arranged all the food, prepared much of it at home, delivered & served it with a great smile.



Sept 2013: Dick Elwell's Hoosac Valley



A visit to Dick Elwell's Hoosac Valley Railroad is awesome. It inspires and brings a sense of joy and amazement - and it is fun! Thank you Mr. Elwell.

October 2013: A visit to Vic Roman's Hudson River Division of the New York Central. Vic has created the feel of the city of Albany - its vastness and yet its intimate neighborhoods. There are streets that one just wants to walk along.





November 2013: at Upstate Model Railroaders, Glens Falls



Clockwise from top left: large N-scale, good attendance, election results, large industry, warm & inviting. UMR has G, O, HO, N, Z, and Lego layouts



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Upcoming Events

The *Form19* always has a list of events that might be of interest to modelers and railfans. From the Division meetings and clinics to model train shows and special railroad happenings, The *Form19* tries to keep the readers informed and up to date.



Summary of the *Form19* for 2013

Each issue of the *Form19* brings Hudson-Berkshire Division members and subscribers information about the upcoming Division events, usually with pictures and directions, some more pictures of a recent past event, and (what the staff hopes are) some articles of interest to those interested in railroading. All writing is by the *Form19* staff (as is this issue) unless otherwise noted. Some articles may be about modeling, some about real railroading activities and how they relate to operations of a layout, and others may be just an item of interest. And, of course, we often provide a 'Puzzler.'

Now not to necessarily blow our own horn (no pun intended) here is a list of some of the items we have provided to present a bit of interesting reading and some useful information.

January 2013 when the layout visit was at John McBride's Crown Point Iron Co. Railroad there was an article from an 1874 Plattsburgh, NY newspaper describing a railroad and a ride on the cowcatcher of the locomotive – a 'fun thing' to do in those days. There was also the third article by Ken Nelson on how real railroad operation can be reflected on a layout. This issue also had a write up of Karl Butler's unique way of installing a tortoise switch machine to reduce the 'hang down' distance under a layout and to also add switch stand indicator motion. And there was a picture showing how Bob Chase created an inexpensive and very functional structure assembly jig from parts readily available at a hardware store.

February's *Form19* presented the fourth in the series of thoughts on operation by Ken Nelson, and article about being a modeler's wife (somewhat tongue-in-cheek but actually a good statement of what might be expected when living with 'one of us'), an information of an internet group that deals with re-powering and re-gearing of model railroad engines and a picture and statement of how the Saratoga & North Creek Railroad had resumed freight operations.

The March issue was dedicated to the email communications between Hudson-Berkshire Division President Paul Hoffman and NMRA president Charlie Getz.

In the April issue, the *Form19* carried Rich Smith's summary of the December 2012 Great Train Extravaganza experience; what worked well (all the volunteers) and what could be 'tweaked' for better results. We'll see how that all plays out shortly. There was the fifth and final article on thoughts on operation by Ken Nelson and a statement about the scheduled visit of the American style 4-4-0 locomotive Leviathan to the Saratoga & North Creek Railroad in September.

In May there was an article about the NMRA Achievement Program and its value to the individual modeler, some correspondence regarding interlockings and the associated interlocking towers prompted by the articles on operation, a short article on how the state of California is seeking investment in high speed rail service from The People's Republic of China and finally a picture of a Rotary turntable, i.e., a railroad turntable in New Zealand restored by the local Rotary organization to aid a tourist steam railroad.

In June the *Form19* had a summary of President Hoffman's State of the Division message presented at the May meeting, a picture of the 4-4-0 York produced by David Kloke's operation, a notice that Testors will stop producing Floquil and Polly Scale paints, and article discussing the 'conditioning' of model railroad rail (which has generated correspondence from as far away as Texas), and article on the Santa Fe's safety program being restarted by the BNSF, and an article (with picture) on how the Budd Company (yes, that Budd) presented the original idea for the Mustang to Ford and received no compensation or recognition.

In September the *Form19* had a short article about Dick Elwell in precursor to visiting Dick and his Hoosac Valley Railroad layout.

In October the *Form19* took notice of the publication of articles by HB Division member Mike Evans' (one each in *Model Railroader* and *Model Railroad Craftsman*) and a feature article in *Model Railroader* by and about Vice President Kevin Surman's New York and Long Branch Railroad. There were also pictures of the Leviathan on the Saratoga & North Creek taken by the *Form19* photographer.

In November we congratulated member Andy Clermont on his receiving his Master Model Railroader certification at the NER convention in Laconia, New Hampshire. And we also brought you some pictures of the conventions prize winning entries created by Hudson-Berkshire Division members with special thanks to Paul Hoffman for the pictures and the extra effort needed to make them available to the *Form19* staff. And there was the latest entry in the 'clean or condition' track discussion with an item that is used on track, switch points and axle/wheel wipers on locomotives.

And we end the year with this summary and a reminder of the Great Train Extravaganza wrapping up the year. The Division's next meeting will be January 2014.

The staff of the *Form19* wish all of you the happiest of holidays and a wonderful 2014.

Great Train Extravaganza December 2012



Each year members of the Hudson Berkshire Division, NMRA, volunteer to assist at the GTE. They help set up the show, staff the layouts, and are there to answer questions. The GTE promotes tourist railroads, railroad history, and collectors as well as vendors of items for modelers. The interest in railroading is shared by young and old alike. It was, and still is, the backbone of American life.

