

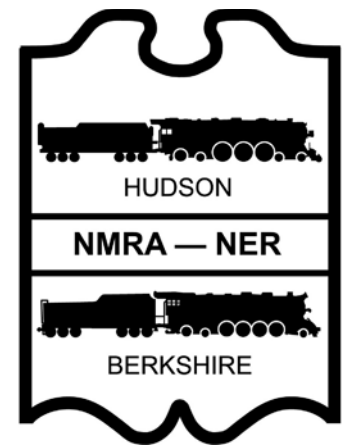
FORM 19



Order Number 353

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

February 2020



Next Division Meeting
Saturday, February 22, 2020 9:30am-12:30pm!
Clifton Park Library
475 Moe Rd, Clifton Park, NY



This month we want you to come and show us what you have for memorabilia!! Railroads such as the New York Central, the D&H, Rutland, Boston and Maine, Union Pacific, Northern Pacific, and the Great Northern, just to name a few- all had time tables, pins, buttons, lanterns, and much, much more. Most of these items had their own distinctive labels or ID marks. Here for example is a New York Central Dietz Vesta Lantern. More specific it is a Wire - Bottom Lo - Top model made from 1926 to 1960. These items are all a part of our railroads history. So if you have something from your favorite railroad that you would like to share it with us, we would love to see it! Come and tell us about it, what it is, where you found it, and the story behind it. Perhaps it was handed down from a relative that worked for the railroad? Or maybe you would just like to display it on one of our tables along with a description and

your name, it's up to you. Whatever the case may be, it's time to "SHOW and TELL" what you have been hiding in your basement or keeping a secret. We are all part of this group so come and enjoy meeting up with old friends or making new ones because in the end, that's what it's all about!!

NOTE: If you have something very valuable PLEASE keep it safe at home but if you have something you don't mind sharing with the rest of your fellow HB members then please do so. You are more than welcome to bring pictures of those more valuable or larger items to share as well. HBD is not responsible for any lost or damaged items.

www.hudson-berkshire.org





Form19

The *Form19* is published nine 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 Ready Line

By Irwin D. Nathanson

It looks like we've starting 2020 in a great way:

- Bottom line results are in from our November Open House: a total of eight new members joined the NMRA as a direct result of this event! Three are from the same family...this could well be a first for us. *Thanks, again, to Ben Maggi for organizing and Mike Hachey for hosting!*
- Final numbers are in from GTE and we did, indeed, make a profit -- albeit less than we would have made had the weather cooperated! *Thanks, again, to James Lauser for being our GTE Manager!*
- Our bus to Springfield for the mega Amherst Model Train Show was almost full, a good testament to the fact that so many HBD members value this membership benefit. This time the weather did cooperate -- no snow or rainstorm as had been predicted *Thanks, again, to Artie Krass for organizing this great activity!*

Speaking of the Amherst Show, I drove there Friday night for two reasons: 1) to attend the show both days (as I do every other year) and 2) to attend a Northeastern Region (NER) Dinner Meeting for NER Officers and NER Division Presidents/Superintendents. It was well attended with all but two divisions not being represented. I've not seen the written Minutes yet, but I can report that it was worthwhile and, as I've noted before, relative to other divisions in the NER:

- HBD is mid-size
- HBD is in a very strong financial position
- HBD holds 10 meetings/events each year while other divisions do so quarterly
- Our Form 19 is published 9 times a year while other division newsletters come out only four times a year

There was some discussion about the support received by the Region and Divisions from the National- the Region will try to help with more support. This month we're meeting on a Saturday morning instead of our more usual Friday night. Let's see how



this might impact attendance. Our VP, Doug Dederick, has put together what promises to be a very interesting "show and tell." So, if you have any interesting railroad memorabilia, please bring this with you to share with your fellow members. I have some interesting New York Central documents I plan to show... examples: an Employee Handbook and a dining car menu (with great prices).

One of the new members mentioned at the beginning of this column is a young man named Corey. He's interested in all facets of railroading: models and prototype. His enthusiasm is truly infectious! And, he has his own YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC81OkHqGStKQh5OjI4j5v2A>

If you want to see his coverage of last month's HBD meeting at John McBride's house, it's there. He also produced his own video coverage of the Amherst Show! Highly recommended viewing!

OK, folks, that's all for this month. Hope to see many of you on the 22nd.

Irwin



In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that the Division announces the passing of Member Henry Propst of Burnt Hills, NY after a long illness.

Henry was an active member of the Division, including serving as Vice President and President



1997-2003. He modeled the Mohawk Division of the NYC System

with a very large basement layout. No additional information was available as the Form 19 went to press, but we wanted to at least pass along the news of our departed friend.

More information will be provided in the March Form 19.

NER CONVENTION
October 9-12, 2020
Westford, MA



MillCity2020.org





The Hunt by Doug Dederick

This month we are having a kind of "show and tell" on train memorabilia, which got me thinking about my own prize possessions. One of these possessions is not so much a railroad memorabilia item but a picture of a picture. Ah now I have you thinking! Let me start from the beginning.

As a train modeler I wanted to build my own dream layout. The first step was to decide which railroad I wanted to model- which ended up being the Great Northern Railway somewhere in Montana. After doing some research, I chose to model from Whitefish, Montana to Shelby, Montana passing through Columbia Falls and following along Glacier National Park. This would allow me to model some nice scenery, along with a few industries I had uncovered in doing my research. By the way, if you are researching a particular railroad, I would recommend joining that railroad's historical society if they have one. Most of these organizations are a great resource of information and have members that are happy to share what they know. One of the industries that I "had to have" was a lumber mill in Columbia Falls. It was located in a section of track called a "wye" and it is still there today. The problem was that I was modeling the late 1950's and the mill had gone through many changes. The "HUNT" was on. I needed to find some pictures of what the mill looked like during that time period but, despite my best efforts, I could only find a few not so good black and white photos. On top of that, they were photos of one or two buildings, but not the whole complex. I resigned myself to the fact that this might be all I could find and I would have to make do with what I had.

As I stated, I joined The Great Northern Historical Society, or the GNRHS, to help me with my research. As it turned out, they were holding their annual convention in Kalispell in 2006, which happened to be the area I was modeling. Wow, sign me up! Better yet, they had planned a tour of the now modern lumber mill at Columbia Falls. Perhaps I could learn more about the operations during the 1950's? So that summer I attended the convention with open arms and open mind, hoping to gather more information on many fronts.

The morning of our tour had finally come and I was excited to board the bus with my note pad and camera. We arrived at the mill and had our safety briefing and went off with our tour guide. I would ask lots of questions and take many pictures but I was still missing what I really needed. As the tour was coming to the end, I had mixed emotions. I was happy I went on the tour and the guide was very good but I didn't have that one thing to put it all together. In a last ditch effort I asked our guide one more question, "Do you know if there are any pictures of what the plant looked like in the 1950's?" He thought for a moment, then he said, "Come with me." We walked into one of the buildings and down a hall and into an old office. My guide telling me along the way that he thought there were some old pictures on the wall but couldn't be sure. When we walked in, my eyes lit up and my heart soared. Not only were there pictures but there were aerial pictures taken sometime in the 50's. I had found "the treasure" and the hunt was over. Sometimes we get lucky and on that day I was the "king of the Jungle."



The Hunt (Cont'd)



This Picture is a picture of an early 1950's picture that was hanging on the office wall.



This one is late 50's early 60's most likely



Updates from around the Region!

The Annual HBD sponsored bus trip to the Amherst train show was a hit as usual! Special thanks to Coordinator Artie Kass for putting all the pieces together! Reports are that the weather held out until the return trip, which had approximately 40 people taking the ride. Plans are already underway for next years trip! Stay tuned for more info in the fall!

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!

Upcoming Division Events

March Division Meeting- Friday March 20th @7pm- Malta Community Center
Clinic by Joe Kavanagh on making molds!

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 Did This Summer by Mike Hatchey

No, this is not one of those reports we had to write every fall when returning to school.

At some time in the spring, I spoke to Doug Dederick about "Op"tober Fest. For those of you who don't know what that is, it is a weekend of operations. Several people open their homes and layouts so people both locally and from various locations can operate. He asked if I would like to have my layout as part of the 2019 "Fest". I innocently said yes, but that my layout was not really ready for operations. He said "no problem, we'll get some people and get you set up"

At that time, my layout was a long way from being ready to operate. I had all my bench work, the mainline tracks and some very limited siding tracks completed. My layout was set up to run trains around the room and mainly a place to store several structures. (Building structures is my favorite part of this hobby.) With all the buildings on the layout, there was no room for any other track. I had my work cut out for me.

Next thing I knew, Doug, Kevin Surman and Artie Krass were in my basement. They were checking out my layout, making notes and giving me advice. They began designing my layout to be operational. They came about once a month and gave me a bunch of homework to complete before their next visit. Doug and Kevin were planning for different trains and suggesting track plans for the towns. Artie was following behind making notes. I kept hearing things like "We need more cars" "This turntable is in the wrong spot" "There needs to be more spots for cars."

Throughout the summer and into the fall, I worked tirelessly to get the layout ready. I got help from a bunch of people. Jack Cutler, Lloyd Coon and G, Art Brearton, Gerry Monast, Ernie Netz, Tom June, Geoff Dunn and Jackie Howland. We added a yard in Howard, added tracks and 5 sidings in New Town, removed the turntable and reconfigured the track to create a runaround in Thomasville, Added all the sidings and other tracks in Uniondale and Saranac. I also added a 5 track staging yard. In my spare time, I checked and in some cases fixed, added weights or rebuilt about 200 freight cars. I purchased at least 3 locomotives. Removed several buildings that were sitting on the layout and did a bunch of scenery, track repairs and cleaning.

To prepare for operations, Artie created several versions of switch lists. With the layout constantly changing all summer, these lists needed to be revised several times. Thank God for computers and Artie's patience.

At some point during the summer, I was asked to have an open house for the Hudson Berkshire Division in November. This would also include anyone outside the division. This would be heavily advertised, including some national magazines. I finally got my name in Model Railroader. (Besides the address label)

It was a mad rush on Friday afternoon, the day of "Op"toberfest. Artie came over and we spent several hours restaging the layout and checking the switch lists. Oh and for some reason, looking for some lost cars. Where could they go??? We did the Saturday morning operating session and had a great time. There were a few minor issues with car and track problems. Also, there turned out to be 2 engines with

the same number. This doesn't work so well with DCC. None of these issues interfered with us having a lot of fun.

After "Op" toberfest, I had a month to prepare for the open house. This meant doing a bunch of scenery, sewing and installing curtains around the layout. (Thank you Jackie, who I worked like a rented mule) and general cleaning and stowing all my work tables and carts. The open house went quite well with about 50 or so visitors. Everyone seemed to have a good time and enjoyed the layout.

I spent a lot of my summer in the basement and worked really hard on the layout. I took a break from my favorite part of the hobby, building structures. As mentioned earlier, I got a lot of help and really

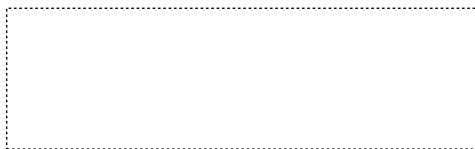
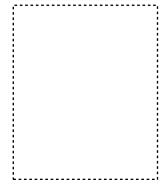


appreciate it. Thanks to all of you. I now have a much better layout for both viewing and operations. Model railroading can be a lot of work, but most important, it is a lot of fun!



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First Class Mail