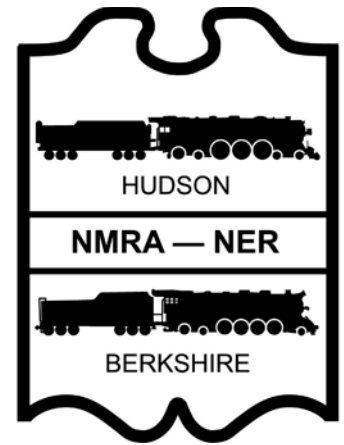


FORM 19

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



Order Number 348

June 2019

Next Division Meeting Saturday, June 15, 2019 at 11am
Division Meeting & Picnic
with the Adirondack Live Steamers
Saturday from 11:00 to 3:00 at the ALS site in Saratoga Springs
Directions on Page 7

Begun in 1983, Adirondack Live Steamers is a 1½ inch scale, 7¼ inch gauge railroad running in the woods near Saratoga Springs, NY. Engines include live steam and diesel style, running on both gas engine and battery power. Several HudsonBerkshire Division members were part of the starting group back in 1983. Train rides around the amazing layout will be available during the day thanks to ALS members.

Once again, the Division is grateful for being able to join ALS for a picnic, and for ALS providing the food and staff for cooking.

A brief **Safety Review**- Everyone will be required to sign an ALS form upon arrival. Please remember to be aware of your environment, especially uneven ground. ALS members own and provide rides on their equipment, which can be VERY expensive- please follow all directions and requests so as to maintain a safe environment. Children are welcome but should be supervised at all times. Bug spray may come in handy!

Flip flops are not recommended for what are hopefully obvious reasons!

Be sure to extend your personal thanks to the ALS members staffing the engines and the site operations.

www.hudson-berkshire.org



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Form19

The *Form19* is published eight 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

HBD Holds Event at Schuylerville Library

On Saturday, May 11th Board Member Greg Whittle and I were at the library in Schuylerville celebrating National Train Month and promoting our hobby and the NMRA. We had a steady stream of youngsters and their parents. All the kids got a chance to run the trains we brought with us. It was nice to see their enthusiasm!

As I get older, time seems to fly by faster and faster, kind of like a Doppler Effect. I was always worried about being bored once I retired, that certainly is not the case! And here we are already, getting set for our last HBD activity before our Summer break during July and August.

HBD Family Picnic at ALS Coming Up!

Following tradition, Adirondack Live Steamers (ALS) will be kindly hosting us for our semi-annual HBD Family Picnic. This will be a 'rain or shine' event so please plan on coming regardless of the weather. To me it seems like accelerating Climate Change is real...I just saw on the evening news Tornado Warnings for New York City! When was the last time this ever happened? Please look for additional details regarding this event elsewhere in this Form 19. And many thanks to our Vice President, Artie Krass, for making all the arrangements!

Building/Maintaining Our HBD Membership

As I mentioned in my last column, our membership has declined over the last two years. It seems like one key reason is that several of our members have simply forgotten to renew their NMRA membership! *If you are one of them, please renew today!*

Since writing my last Ready Line column, your Leadership Team held a special meeting focusing on building our membership. We had as our guest speaker Christina Ganzer-Zambri. Christina works half time directly for the National NMRA leadership. (Actually, it seems like she gets *paid* half time but really *works* full time!) Although she reports to National, since she lives in New Jersey she was able to join us for our meeting.

Following a working dinner, we adjourned to Board Member Paul Hoffman's house for a formal clinic presented



by Christina entitled "How You Can Help Market & Grow Your Division."

Her clinic covered:

- Benefits of membership
- Welcoming new members
- Mentorship/buddy system
- Monitoring reports
- Getting on social media
- Communicating
- Staying up to date
- Special cases

Now, it's generally known that most model railroaders, for various reasons -- some real and many imagined -- are not NMRA members. So, I expected Christina to advise us to focus on recruiting those folks as our #1 Priority. Instead, she said our first priority should be *retention*, keeping the members we already have. Now, that makes a lot of sense, especially since, as noted above, some of our members have simply forgotten to renew! All we need to do is to identify them (and we get reports from National via the Region giving us that information) and then contact them with reminders. This is an easy fix we're already implementing.

But we could, should, and will start taking other positive steps as soon as possible.

For example, we just updated and re-printed our **HBD Membership Brochure**. Supplies will soon be delivered to all the model train stores in our area. We will have them with us at ALS on June 15th.

A major undertaking will be the **HBD Open House** at Mike Hachey's house this coming November 2nd. *The objective will be to celebrate our hobby and HBD, and to build our membership.*

The Open House will be a social event, not a business meeting. It will be a great opportunity for all our members to socialize...not just those who regularly attend our meetings and events, but also for those who've been relatively inactive. And perhaps we can even entice some whose memberships have lapsed to re-join the NMRA and our Division.

The Open House will be well publicized in advance to the general public -- as an opportunity to learn about our hobby, the NMRA and our Division.

Every one of you is encouraged to bring a guest!

Ben Maggi is the Chair of our Open House Committee. If you'd like to help him plan, organize and manage the event then please call him at (585) 506-2680.

As mentioned in my last Ready Line, the Open House will be held during National Model Train Month 2019. Hopefully, with a lot of advance planning, we can do even more to promote our hobby, the NMRA and HBD during National Model Train Month November 2020.

Upcoming HBD Elections

Two Board of Directors (BOD) positions are coming up for re-election this coming November: Greg Whittle's Board Member position and Artie Krass' Vice President position.

Greg has graciously volunteered to run for office once again (thanks so much, Greg!). But as Greg himself pointed out to me, it sure would be nice to have others run as well, to give the membership a choice and perhaps to get someone new in the position, to get new ideas and to spread the workload so to speak. So, if



anyone is interested in running, or in nominating someone else, please let us know by either calling me at (518) 668-9892 or Artie at (518) 899-6268 or by sending an e-mail to

HUDSON.BERKSHIRE.NMRA@GMAIL.COM

After many years of service to HBD – as President, as Vice President and as Chairman of a major (Northeastern Region) Convention – Artie has decided to step down and give someone else a chance to help lead the Division forward. I’m confident that Artie will remain a very active member of HBD, and that he will continue to pursue his certification as Master Model Railroader, towards which he has already made significant progress. Many thanks for all you’ve done, Artie! Much appreciated!

As of now, *no one has expressed interest in running for this very important position!* I have personally approached several potential candidates about running – without luck.

As has been noted in the Ready Line many times in the past, *the NMRA is an organization run by volunteers.* There are about 125 Divisions nationwide, and HBD has proven to be one of the most active. For example, many Divisions hold meetings just four times a year whereas we hold 10. The great majority of Divisions don’t host model train shows, let alone events the same size and scope as our very popular Great Train Extravaganza (GTE). I believe that our Form 19 newsletter is one of the best out there. But *we can’t continue to accomplish all this without members stepping up to fill important leadership positions!*

Anyone interested in running -- or in nominating someone else -- please let us know ASAP by calling me or Artie at the numbers previously listed, or via email.

Recap

Well, that about does it for this month. I hope to see as many of you as possible at ALS and, please:

- *If you’re interested in running for either the Board Member or VP position, or wish to nominate someone else, please let us know ASAP!*
- Consider attending the September NER Convention in Syracuse!!
- Call Ben if you can volunteer to help him with the HBD Open House this November
- Call me if you’re interested in volunteering to help plan HBD active participation during National Model Train Month November 2020

Enjoy the Summer and happy model railroading, everyone!

Irwin

WELCOME ABOARD!

This is a space that we used to run periodically to welcome new members of the Division and decided to revive it. If you see these new folks please be sure to introduce yourself and make them feel welcome!

Michael Blasl	Kinderhook, NY
Richard Raczkowski	Altamont, NY
H John Damino	Watervliet, NY
Matt Cannon	Johnsonville, NY

Welcome aboard everyone!



HBD Fall Open House Information

By Ben Maggi

As was briefly mentioned in the April meeting and May Form 19, the Hudson Berkshire Division is planning a special event for this coming November. I know what your are thinking... why are we telling you about something that is six months away?? That is an excellent question! The answer is because we need YOU to help us make it a success!

Mike Hachey, general contractor and master builder of the S&D Railroad located in the basement of his house in Schenectady, has graciously agreed to host a party that we are throwing there as part of the NMRA's "National Model Railroad Month" celebration. You might have seen his layout when we visited in April 2017, and if not, the online Form 19 from that month is still available to read.

Who is invited? YOU are! That includes all the regular Division members who come to our regular monthly meetings and make them so great. That **also** includes our shy Division members who are sometimes too busy to attend the events, or are concerned that they won't know anybody else, or think that we are a boring group of people. We want to get to know you better, and hope that you will want to get to know us regulars a bit better too. And, it also includes anyone who is interested in learning more about the Division but isn't a member..... yet.

This won't be just a regular meeting. Oh sure, there might be a little regular business discussed. But, it is going to include visiting Mike's fantastic layout. You won't want to miss it. It's **huge**.

It's filled with tons of craftsmen structure kits and features the initial stages of some great scenery. It is a chance to meet Mike and some of the other Division members who are just like you. Plus, we are going to have free food. Pizza, desserts, snacks, soft drinks, etc. Come with your appetite, come with questions about the Division, but most of all just *COME ON OUT* and have a great time with us. Like all of our regular membership meetings, there is no extra cost to attend!

If you know someone who isn't a Division member but have wanted to bring them along to a meeting, this is the perfect opportunity to do it. Don't worry, this isn't a timeshare scam and we aren't going to pressure them to join us or commit to building benchwork or anything like that! But, if you have a friend who is also into model railroading we would encourage you to invite them as well. The more people we have in the Division, the more great layouts we can visit, the more interesting clinics we can present, and the more insightful discussions we can have during the meetings.

So Save the Date... November 2nd. And save the time slot of 12-5pm. It's a Saturday in November, so you won't have any summer chores keeping you busy. And it is centrally located in the Capital District, which should be easy for everyone in the Division to get to. The weather will be getting colder and this will be a perfect time to discuss your winter plans for your layout. And did I mention that free pizza is involved?

If you have any questions about it, or want to find out how you can get involved with it, please reach out to Ben Maggi (his contact info is elsewhere in the Form 19).

Let's make it a great event!



THE EDITOR'S CORNER

Well, folks, we will be taking our summer hiatus for a few months, but while you are enjoying all the summer fun, please keep us in mind!

Are you planning a trip by rail somewhere, or to a rail themed location? Take some notes, some pictures, put together some thoughts and send it over to us, we'd love to publish it. Even if not, drop us a line and let us know where you went, we'll publish a list of adventures in the fall.

We look forward to seeing everyone in the fall and reading about everyone's summer adventures!

Erik & Bert

Operators for the S&NC RR

by Bert Pflagl, Associate Editor

Warren County (NY) officials have received four responses to their requests for proposals to resume passenger service and provide freight service on the line from Saratoga to North Creek, until last year operated by the Iowa Pacific Holdings. Submissions came from United Rail out of Las Vegas, Denver based Omnitrax, and Railnet International. Warren County owns the section of rail from Hadley to North Creek. It has partnered with the town of Corinth, which owns the section of the line to Saratoga.

The Omnitrax proposal is centered on marketing and removing the tailings from the mine at Tahawus, operated by National Lead until it closed in 1989. Passenger and other freight operations/development would be secondary.

The United Rail proposal focuses on tourism and would market rail excursions into the Adirondacks and work to develop sites in addition to North Creek as attractive destinations. Jack Kelley, the Saratoga County real estate and economic development executive credited with helping to bring the Global Foundries computer chip plant to the region, and Steve Fisk, a former business development manager with CP Rail, are

assisting United Rail with its program definition, including business development, especially at the former International Paper site in Corinth.

These two local men see tourism as being able to restore the economy of the area and able to generate sufficient, year-round financial support for the railroad operation. The Warren County Administrator, Ryan Moore, has said that the county has wanted to have a passenger service operating on the line, but admits that such service alone has not been sufficient to support the rail operation.

Railnet International proposed a purchase of the rail line have not been made public, nor has the company made any formal statement about its intentions.

The fourth company, RailStar Corporation of Cape Vincent, submitted a proposal that was deemed "non-responsive" to the county's request and is not being considered.

County officials have said that the full proposals could not be released to the public because they contain proprietary information,

Iowa Pacific still owns the line from North Creek to Tahawus and has negotiated with Omnitrax for exclusive rights to its purchase.

Those Hudson Berkshire Division members who attended the Essex Steam Train and Riverboat Ride activity last June may remember the Conductor's presentation to the group in which he said that between Thanksgiving 2017 and New Years Day 2018 over seventy-five thousand people had taken the train and boat ride- that's a lot of tourists' dollars and enjoyment. Passenger revenue supports the operation and brings considerable tourist money into the local area. The maintenance operation necessary to support the railroad also takes in a considerable amount of maintenance and restoration work from other steam operations around the country.

Warren County officials hope to make a decision by the end of June. Working out the details will probably take considerable time after that. One would not expect operations to begin this Summer.

***LATE BREAKING NEWS: Omnitrax withdrew its proposal, leaving only the United Rail proposal as the lone active proposal under consideration by Warren County.

(Consolidated from reporting from the Albany Time Union, April 30 & May 30 2019)



Directions to the ALS Picnic

Please note that these directions are provided to HB members to get to the meeting. **Please DO NOT share this information with anyone outside the Hudson-Berkshire Division.** Adirondack Live Steamers is concerned about 'un-authorized access' to their facility and requests that this information be 'held close.'



Directions: Exit I-87 (the Northway) at Exit 15 and head east (away from the City of Saratoga Springs) on Route 50. Just east of the Exit is a McDonalds on the right - turn off Route 50 to the right **just before** the McDonalds. This is Louden Road. Just passed the McDonalds is a traffic light at Weibel Road. Continue ahead along the back side of the shopping mall. You will cross three more roads and then you should start looking for the signs that ALS has placed along the road to direct you to their location. Follow the signs and park in the field as designated. If you reach Route 29 again, you have gone too far.



As stated at the top of the page, the directions are sufficient but somewhat vague by intent. Should you feel you need more information you can call Hudson-Berkshire and ALS member Ben Maggi prior to Saturday at 585-506-2680 or on Saturday if you do get lost and can't find where we are all hiding.

Coming in the fall- a ride on the famed Orient Express!
A ride on the California Zephyr!



SAVE THE DATE

HBD Open House

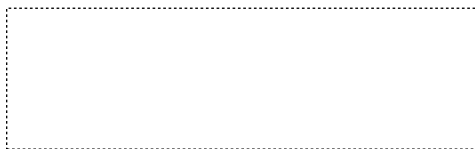
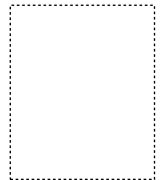
**Celebrate the Division and
National Model Train Month!
Socialize with fellow members,
recruit new members**

**Saturday, November 2nd Noon to 5
Schenectady**



FORM 19

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First Class Mail