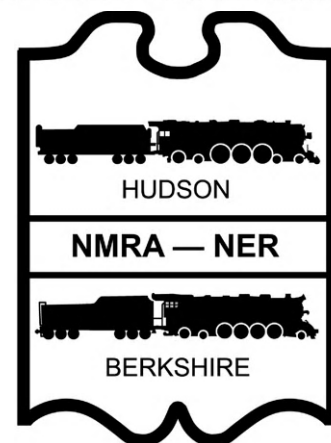


FORM 19

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



Order Number 384

March 2023

March Division Meeting

Friday, March 24, 2023 7pm to 9pm

**Mike Hachey's S & D Railroad
4026 Ryan Place, Schenectady NY 12303**

From the Editor By MARK SKLAR

The February meeting was an open forum to find out from the members what they want for future activities, trips, newsletter topics, meeting topics, train show ideas, etc. I thought the meeting went very well, with some great ideas being discussed. We will publish more on this in the future. I am looking forward to this month's meeting at Mike Hachey's great layout. It is a must see!

Our new feature called "Derailed" continues with another "oops" story by Mike Hachey about a structure he was building. See page 5 for the story.

During the GTE show Mike Lacasse told me a story about an N scale box car set labeled "Alfred's Specialty Meats". The story behind these cars is what you could say is "unique", and as Mike says "You can't make stuff like this up!". I asked Mike to write an article and he did. See page 6 for story. Thanks Mike!

Please, if you have completed a project that you would like to share, then send me a few pictures and a brief description so all of us can enjoy seeing it. Send it to mark4527841@gmail.com.

The New York Central Historical Society is having a Modelers Mini Convention in Albany on April 29. Since I am a member I thought HBD members would be interested in attending. See page 7 for more information.

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.

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The President's Corner

By Ben Maggi

What an unusual winter we are having! Usually the snow and the cold forces me into the basement where I can work on my projects without guilt, but the sun and warm(er) weather has led me to focus on other projects. However, as I type this the snow is coming down so perhaps things are getting back to normal.

Speaking of normal, during the pandemic I had several "Covid projects". I am sure many of you did as well. One of them was a new layout project: a Japanese-themed T-Trak module. While HO is my primary scale, the chance to do some *very different* modeling in N scale seemed like a great idea. One downside though was that many of the structures and details I needed had to come from Japan, and the pandemic slowed all international shipping.

Randomly and months later the items I ordered would arrive and I would work on my project. It was slowly coming along but I had no real motivation to push through with it. Until recently, that is, when I offered to include it with the local T-Trak club at an upcoming train show. With only two months to go, I had to make some significant progress. Despite being only 14" x 36", it includes a bustling city scene and an adjacent forest

complete with historic inn at the top of a winding trail.

I had left off working on a farmer's market and festival scene. This involved cutting out, painting, gluing, and posing lots of really tiny bits of styrene into fruit stands, ramen carts, tables, and the like. It was a lot of fun to work on but it really took up time. And time wasn't something I had a lot of. When completed, it barely covered a space about the size of a mailing envelope!

Trees were another challenge, because I didn't want to make my own. I found a commercial brand that looked pretty good and were durable and I ordered 60, but they too didn't cover a lot of ground (no pun intended). Nor did the sixty figures I had purchased. In N scale, you can create large scenes but small details just seem to disappear. I can now appreciate the efforts of N scale modelers, including many in our Division with really excellent layouts.

I realized my module won't be finished by the train show, but I'm okay with that. It is presentable as is, and over the next few months I can continue to chip away at it when I am not working on other models. After all, this is just a hobby. It is easy to see people with gorgeous, finished layouts and get

(Continued on next page)



(Presidents Corner Continued)

discouraged because your own efforts are not as complete or of the same quality. But it is a journey. I am constantly learning new techniques and frequently go back to make changes as my skills improve. That is what makes this hobby great. So if you have any

projects that you are working on which have taken a long time, don't worry. When the time is right, you will work on them again.

Our next meeting is in March and will be at Mike Hachey's house. Believe me, his layout is not to be missed. The amount that he

has accomplished in the past couple of years is remarkable. Look elsewhere in this issue for details.

See you at the next meeting!

Ben

Upcoming Division Meetings/Events

March Division Meeting

Friday, March 24, 2023 7pm to 9pm Mike Hachey's Layout

See page 4 for more information.

April Division Meeting

****Save The Date****

Our April meeting will be on Saturday, April 22, between 10-12

Look for details in the April Form 19

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 - [NER Coupler](#).



March HBD Meeting

Friday March 24, 2023

Mike Hachey's S & D Railroad

4026 Ryan Place, Schenectady NY 12303

Park in the driveway or the road. Enter through the front door and follow the signs to the stairway to the basement.

I have built several layouts and portable modules, but in 2011 I bought my present house mainly for the basement. The realtor told me I should really look at the kitchen before buying. I spent a lot of time and effort remodeling the living space - and really liking the basement. My layout is a freelance railroad based in the Northeast. It occupies the basement of roughly 2,000 square feet. The layout is controlled by NCE DCC wireless and features several towns and industries. The

layout is designed for operations using car cards. The era is early diesel, but you may see an old steam engine.

My favorite part of the hobby is building structures. There are several kitbashed craftsman kits, and scratch-built structures installed or to be installed on the layout. Doug Dederick, Kevin Surman and Artie Krass spent several evenings helping me set up the layout for operation. The first step was to remove about half of the buildings because there was no room for tracks.

If you were at my last open house in 2019, I've made these changes since then:

1. Added a staging yard.
2. Added scenery in various places.
3. Set the layout up for car card operations.
4. Did a lot of work in the city of Port. I think it was just foam then.
5. I added new track in several locations.
6. I added lighting to a lot of buildings.
7. Most likely, things I can't think of right now.
8. And yes, I added some new buildings.

Hope to see you then.
Mike

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>



Derailed

By Mike Hachey

Prior to moving to my present home in 2011, I started building the Heljan Brewery Malt House. I moved some of the back walls to the front to make a larger structure. A larger brewery can never be a bad thing. I added it to my present layout as a sort of stand in. Recently, I decided that after at least 12 years, it was time to complete it. My worst fears were realized when I could not find the remaining parts. They could have been lost in the move or who knows where they are.

I decided to buy a second kit. I searched the Walthers website to discover that the kit had been discontinued and no longer being produced. Fortunately, I found one on E-bay. I ordered it. It came without the original box and several parts loose and not on the sprues. Fortunately, the parts I needed were there.

The main lesson I learned is not to procrastinate. I am a little nervous. I have a few other buildings that I started and need to finish.

I finished the building and it is installed on my layout. Hopefully, you can visit on March 24 and see it.

The End



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Mathew DiGennaro - Clarksburg, MA

Greg Ricciardi - Schenectady, NY

www.hudson-berkshire.org



The Fun of Collecting

By Mike LaCasse

It is probably safe to say the majority of us modelers are collectors in some form. Ives and Lionel trains are the grandfather of collecting trains.

I model in N scale and it has become one of the most collected of all scales. It's small size and clear plastic packaging lends itself well to display and safekeeping. It has the N Scale Enthusiast organization to share and support this activity along with www.trovestar.com, a database with over 100,000 N scale items identified.

Recently VW Doug, a capital region buyer and seller of all things N-scale, handed me a four

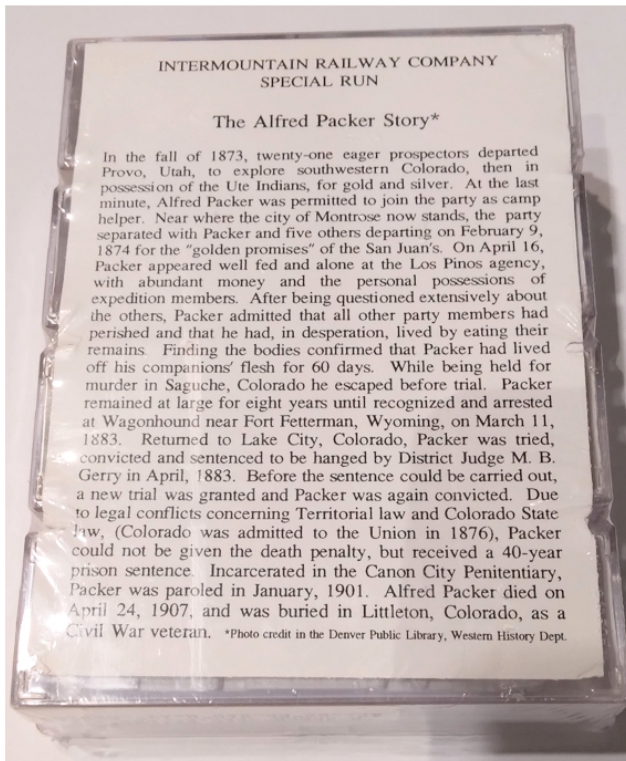
car blister-pack of Intermountain R-40-23 reefers and inquired if I had ever seen this item or had any knowledge about it. The set is a four pack of special run Alfred Packer Meat Company "Specialty Meats". They are decorated with Alfred's likeness and two different slogans: "Have A Friend For Dinner" and "Serving His Fellow Man." After looking it over and shaking my head, Doug instructed me to flip it over and read the back.

Holy Cow! Alfred Packer was one of the more notorious characters from the Colorado gold rush days and had apparently survived a harsh winter in the

mountains by cannibalizing his group of prospectors. You can read the macabre "blow by blow" accounting of this episode on Wikipedia.

I set to "digging" for more information on this collector set and found it was commissioned by Caboose Hobbies in Denver, Colorado in 1996. Three hundred four-car sets were produced by Intermountain and were sold only through Caboose Hobbies for \$74.95.

You can't make stuff like this up!





NEW YORK CENTRAL SYSTEM
HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.



NYCSHS Albany, NY Modelers Mini Convention Saturday April 29, 2023 Albany, NY Wolf Road Holiday Inn Express

This is an opportunity for you to meet other NYCSHS modelers, bring some modeling friends, learn some new skills, understand what is available for modelers from the NYCSHS archives, and provide input to the NYCSHS modeling program. Last year's Mini was a great success.

Schedule:

7:30 am – 8:25 am “Registration”

8:25 am – 8:30 am “Welcome”

8:30 am – 9:30 am “NYC/Westshore’s Chenango Branch for the Modeler” – Alex Warshal

9:30 am – 10:25 am – “Albany Union Station In N-Scale” – Joe Ahearn

10:25 am – 10:35 am – Break

10:35 am – 11:30 am – “Rescuing NYC S-1#6000/100 & NYC T-3a # 1178/287 Electrics” – Dave Pickett

11:30 am – 12:00 pm – “Memories of the NYC West Shore” – Newton Sweet

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm – Lunch

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm – “Logging Railroads Connecting with the NYC in the Adirondacks” – John Barth

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm – “The Ulster & Delaware Branch” – John Ham

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm – “Design & 3D Printing a NYCS Signal Bridge” – Mark Sklar

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm – “Modeling a NYCS Bay Window Caboose in 1/1 Scale – Joe Burgess

5:00 pm – ??? – Collinwood Shop – Selected Items Available For Sale

For more information and to sign up, go to the NYCSHS website at:

https://www.nycshs.net/NYCSHS-Mini-Convention--Albany-NY-April-29-2023_p_3084.html

Layout Tours Model Showcase

Tips 'n Tricks

Clinics

NERx.org

Website

NER

Nerx.org

March 20-23
6:30 - 10:30 PM Eastern

NER

MARCH 20-23
6:30-10:30 PM
EASTERN TIME

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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>

FORM 19

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