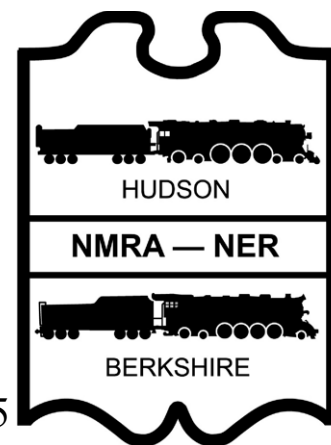


FORM 19

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



Order Number 315

November 2015

Next Meeting Friday November 20 at 7:00 PM

Upstate Model Railroaders

190 Glen Street in downtown Glens Falls, NY

Located in the basement of the former Aimie's Dinner and Movie



It doesn't look like this anymore. Although the UMRR members are dismantling their layouts, they have once again extended welcome to the Division's members.

The November meeting is at Upstate Model Railroaders at their location at 190 Glenn Street in downtown Glens Falls for the last time. The Upstate Model Railroaders have hosted our November meetings quite a few times in the past several years. The meetings have seen the announcement of election results and the selection of new officers, recognition of service and achievements, and we have witnessed the expansion and growth of the several gauge layouts that the UMRR members are noted for. We have also experienced their warm hearted welcomes and friendships.

But as we have reported to you in recent Form19s, the UMRR has to find a new home. Their website has this statement-

"Our building has been purchased by JMZ Architects and Planners. The new owners have indicated they would like us to vacate our space by February 1, 2016. They say they need storage space immediately. JMZ stated that they could use a portion of the space for storage and rent us the remainder for \$1,500/month. Our entire year's budget is about \$4,500. What this ultimately means is that the club is being forced to seek a new home in the Glens Falls area. We have several leads and are currently evaluating them. If anyone has any suggestions or knows of space that might be suitable for our club layouts, please let us know by emailing the President, Mike Burke, at mrburke49@gmail.com. Thank you."

So come and join us one last time at the basement location at 190 Glenn Street, but don't expect it to look like it did the last time. The members have already begun the many tasks of dismanteling the layouts and moving them to storage pending the location of a new home.

www.hudson-berkshire.org





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 Division Point

By Artie Krass

First off a big thanks to Ken Nelson for hosting our October Division meeting and letting us visit and operate on the Poco Valley Railroad. I was encouraged to see many of you that I/we have not seen in a while, and also to meet some of the ALS members who were also in attendance. On that note I will make it a point at future meetings to recognize those attending as guests and any new Division members.

This month we are heading up to Glens Falls for our November meeting – Friday night November 20th at 7 pm. In addition to visiting our friends and hosts at Upstate Model Railroaders (UMRR) we will also be casting ballots for the Office of the Vice-President and for one member of the Board of Directors. In addition we will have a raffle to benefit Toys for Tots and the UMRR. You will also have the opportunity to donate to our annual Toys for Tots fund. I have already started to make arrangements to purchase train sets to be delivered to the local Capital District Toys for Tots Team.

Looking ahead to December we will be having our annual Great Train Extravaganza in conjunction with our partners at the UTA. This year the GTE will be held on Sunday December 6th from 10 am until 4 pm at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center. Rich Smith has things well in hand and Greg Whittle and Erik Denny will be coordinating the distribution of the GTE road signs. Rich has also been soliciting volunteers to help on the day of the show along with seeking help on Saturday December 5th with the show set up. Please see Rich if you haven't already signed up to help again this year – without all of the volunteers the show would not be the success that it has become over the years!

January will find us visiting the F-scale Crown Point Iron Company Railroad of John McBride on Friday night January 15th 2016. For those of you who have not yet had a chance to see the CPI Co RR, you are in for a treat – an impressive layout to say the least. And for those who have been there before, there always seems to be something new to see. So plan on joining us in January.

Also at the January meeting we will be voting on a proposed change to the Hudson Berkshire Division Constitution. You can see the proposed change and the voting procedure elsewhere here in this edition of the **Form19**.

The Springfield Bus Trip is also coming up in January. Our annual trek to the Amherst Railway Society Railroad Hobby Show on January 30, 2016 at the Eastern States Exposition grounds in Springfield, Massachusetts is, to me, one of the major benefits of belonging to the HB Division. You cannot beat the convenience and the cost of the trip, along with the camaraderie of your friends and guests on the bus. Look for the information sheet and sign-up form in this edition of the **Form19**.

Please make sure to keep the Division up-to-date with your contact information – especially your email address. Please make sure you send any changes to the NMRA, but also copy either myself or Jack Cutler with these changes so we keep current.

Enough said for now – hope to see you at our upcoming meetings and events!

Artie



Proposed Change to the Hudson Berkshire Division Constitution

At the last Board of Directors meeting, held on Monday night, October 19th, 2015 the following change/ amendment was submitted in writing to the Board by Jack Cutler in regard to Article VI - Section 3 of the Constitution:

Current verbiage:

ARTICLE VI Newsletter

Section 3: The Form 19 shall be available to members of the HUDSON BERKSHIRE DIVISION and the general public as prospective members by subscription

Proposed change to the verbiage:

ARTICLE VI Newsletter

Section 3: The Form 19 shall be available to members of the HUDSON BERKSHIRE DIVISION as part of their Division membership.

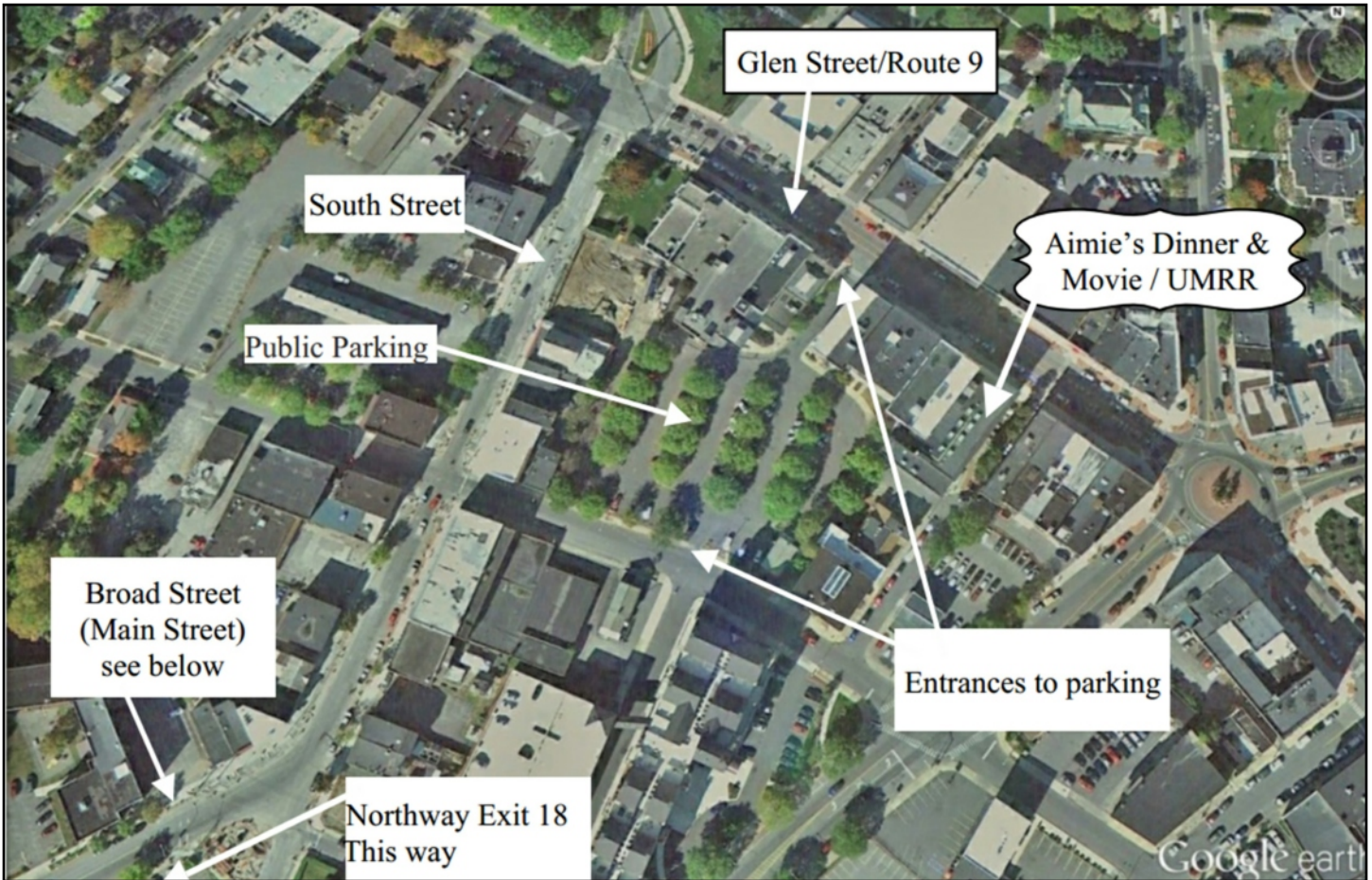
As per Article V Amendments - Section 1 (cited below) the proposed amendment is being published in this edition of the Form 19 for membership review. Due to the thirty (30) day notice requirement a vote by the membership will not be scheduled until the January 2016 Division meeting. This notice will also appear again in the January 2016 *Form 19*.

ARTICLE V Amendments

Section 1: This Constitution may be amended at any Division meeting by a two thirds vote of the membership present, provided that such proposed amendment has been submitted in writing to the Officers and Directors, and with published notice to members thirty (30) days before the next Division meeting.

Hudson-Berkshire Division NMRA Treasurer's Report for November 2015

	Checking & Savings	Toys for Tots
Balance on 12/31/2014	\$ 17,238.98	\$ 1,698.98
Total Income	\$ 5,213.57	\$ 451.34
Total Expenses	\$ (2,836.56)	\$ (0.00)
Balance on 10/31/2015	\$ 19,615.99	\$ 2,150.32



To get to Upstate Model Railroaders at former Aimie's Dinner & Movie, take Exit 18 of the Northway (I 87) towards Glens Falls. This is Main Street that will later be labeled Broad Street. Follow Main Street/Broad Street until it intersects South Street. Bear left at the intersection. If you take your first right turn off South Street, you can then take the first left into a parking lot. If you take the second right off of South Street, you will be on Glen Street/Route 9 and Aimie's/UMRR will be on your right before the next intersection.



The picture at left is of a structure on display at the 2015 Railroad Hobby Show in Springfield. It seems pretty amazing to me (The Editor), but what seemed more amazing was that there were FREE clinics and open classes by noted modelers that everyone (you) could attend to enhance your modeling skills and/or motivation to create structures like this for your layout. Be sure to use the form in this issue to sign up for the bus trip.



The Traveling Railroad -

End of Summer

Geoffrey Zahn Kelley, President, The CA&B

Well, the end of the summer is here. It is time to bring in all those summer projects and start working inside. For the Catskill, Adirondack and Berkshire Railroad Club, it means the end of our summer project schedule. We are fortunate as a club to have a nice place to work on and test the modules. But, it now it is time to pack it all up and start our traveling.

No different than any other yesterday, we started our summer with a laundry list of projects. It probably sounds familiar to most of us. We make a plan to complete this summer, project A, and project B, etc. But, with the nice weather, our minds tend to wander to barbecues, family picnics, camping trips, swimming, or just a simple walk in the park. Before we know it, it is fall, and that nice weather is just a recent memory.

Here is how we did with our 'To-do' list:

- Module Alignment Pins: Probably the single biggest effort this summer, with the biggest impact, we were able to complete this prior to the end of the summer. Starting in May, with the help of the entire membership, we were able to place small alignment pins on all modules that will help us setup the layout in half the time. This effort took each of the members to help align, drill and install the pins, as well test them.

- Corner Scenery Box: One of the highlights of our layout is the beautiful scenery on the club corners. These small pieces, crafted on a piece of pink foam, depict unique sceneries such as town, farm or NASCAR race track. Being a traveling layout, these delicate pieces get banged around. The completion of this box, by two of the members working side by side, helps protect our investment.

- New Track: Just like other portable clubs, something will be damaged. The most common item is the track. As a club, we decided that our corner pieces needed some track-work. With the assistance of three of our members, we were able to re-lay all off our track and ballast it too.

We had a really successful summer this year with our projects. We were able to complete some of the heaviest lift items and help move the club forward. However, none of this would have been possible without the participation and enthusiasm of each of the members. The CAB RR is lucky to have hard work members who want to build something nice. But, it is not just all work, we had fun. We were able to laugh and even further the bond of the friendship between the members in the club.

Without a great team like this, our layout would still be plywood and legs. Now, we are ready to load all this into our trailer and start our annual model train show tour. If you are interested in being part of this great team, and assisting us at the upcoming train shows, please visit us online at www.cab-rr.org. Or join us that the Orchard Tavern on November 10 at 6:30pm in the Train Room. We would love to have you aboard.

Upcoming Events

Great Train Extravaganza
Sunday December 6, 2015

GTE Setup
Saturday December 5, 2015

Division Meeting Friday January 15, 2016
John McBride's Crown Point Iron Co. RR
Vote on change to Constitution

Bus Trip to Amherst Railroad Hobby Show
Saturday January 30, 2016

The Chateaugay Railroad was created by the Chateaugay Iron Company in 1879 to build a narrow-gauge rail line from Lyon Mountain to Dannemora to move ore and charcoal for its iron-making operations. The line was extended to Standish in 1885, to Loon Lake in 1886, and to Saranac Lake in 1887. The Delaware and Hudson railroad financed the section to Saranac Lake, and then organized the dual-gauge Saranac and Lake Placid Railroad in 1890, opened in 1893; the standard-gauge section was run as a branch of the New York Central.

The D&H took control of the railroad in 1901, and in 1903, combined the Lake Placid line with the main line as the Chateaugay and Lake Placid Railway, and converted the entire line to standard gauge. The Saranac Lake to Lake Placid section was sold to the New York Central in 1946, and finally abandoned in 1972.

Source Hilton, George W., *American Narrow Gauge Railroads*, Stanford University Press, 1990.



Great Train Extravaganza

2015



Public model train show and sale.

Bigger and Better Than Ever!

Sunday, December 6th
10 am - 4 pm

Adults only \$7
Children 12 and under free



- Operating model railroads
- Sales of model trains, train sets, parts and accessories, building kits, scenery items, books, videos, DVDs, photographs... everything related to model trains and railroadiana
- Free educational seminars
- Roaming Railroad train rides
- Refreshment stand
- Giant Lego layout for kids of all ages

Empire State Convention Center
Albany, NY

From I-787 heading south, take Exit 3A.
Heading north, take Exit 3. Follow signs to
Empire State Plaza to Visitor Parking.

Many other family activities
same day/same location.

www.gtealbany.com

Sponsored by the Hudson Berkshire Division
of the National Model Railroad Association
and the Upstate Train Associates



The perfect
place to do
your holiday
shopping.



Positive Train Control Legislation

In the last issue of the *Form19* we told you about the dilemma facing the railroads because of the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008 that required them to have approved Positive Train Control systems in place and functional by December 31, 2015 or face substantial, crippling fines. The railroads across the country, including Amtrak, had been telling Congress that, although they had already invested nearly \$6 billion into the effort, they would not be able to meet the deadline and they were asking for legislation that would provide and extension of at least three years.

The Form19 is pleased to report that on October 29th President Obama signed into law H.R. 3819, The Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2015. This bill was originated in the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Chaired by Bill Shuster (R-Pa.), approved by the full House on October 27, and approved by the Senate on October 28.

The Act provides a blanket three year minimum extension of the completion date to December 31, 2018, with the additional provision that individual railroads can request a additional two year extension on a by case basis. That extension would be granted by the Transportation Secretary. That big, collective sigh that you heard on the 29th was the collective response of all the railroads management, employees and customers, including rail passenger and commuter service patrons.

Now, one can be forgiven for thinking that this Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2015 is something that our Congressmen did to meet the needs of the railroads, their customers and the American public. Well, “sort of.” You see the PTC portion of the bill was an add-on to the main feature of the bill – an extension of federal transportation funding of the Highway Trust Fund. This Highway Trust Fund funding was due to expire on October 31, thereby shutting down most highway construction and repair projects throughout the fifty states. This extension of this HTF funding is only good until November 20, 2015 by which time Congress will hopefully have worked out a two year plan for the extension of the Highway Trust Fund program.

The PTC portion of H.R. 3819 was identical to the language in H.R. 3763, the Surface Transportation Reauthorization and Reform Act of 2015, passed October 22 by the House Transportation and

Infrastructure Committee. The language of this bill was acceptable to Senator John Thune (R -S. Dak.) who is Chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, which has the responsibility of presenting such bills to the full Senate for approval. Sen. Thune and Rep. Shuster had been working in coordination to extend the PTC deadline but they both realized that introducing this effort separately would not be viable, i.e. , Congress might ignore it without additional motivation. Thus the PTC effort became “SEC. 1302. ENSURING SAFE IMPLEMENTATION OF POSITIVE TRAIN CONTROL SYSTEMS” of The Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2015.

The original PTC legislation of 2008 had as its motivation the prevention of accidents of passenger trains and any freight trains that transport toxic chemical that would present an inhalation hazard if released. As reported in the last issue of the *Form19*, the railroads had, individually and as an association, told their customers that they might shut down completely or at a minimum not transport any chemicals that might be considered a toxic inhalation hazard. Indeed, some railroads had stated that they would no longer accept such items for transport after December 15 with the intention to clear cars with such material off their property by the end of the month. The American Chemistry Council (ACC) had filed a lawsuit in federal court to stop the railroads' planned service embargo on certain toxic chemicals. After the law was passed and signed, the ACC released a statement commending House and Senate leadership “for recognizing the urgent need to address the PTC issue”. This group, the ACC, estimated that a one month shutdown of rail service would cost the U.S. more than \$30 billion dollars, lead to 700,000 lost jobs, and lead to such things as municipalities being unable to treat their water.

Heaven knows how much this issue has cost the railroads (in addition to the billions already spent) nor how much other industries and businesses have spent to address the possibility of a shutdown, but it certainly seems that a lot of people considered this threat real.

This article written by the *Form19* Editor based on information gathered from *Railway Age*, *Trains Magazine*, and www.congress.gov.



Hudson Berkshire Division Sponsored Bus Trip to Amherst Train Show

Springfield Massachusetts January 30th 2016

Please fill out the form on the nextpage and make your checks payable to the **Hudson Berkshire Division** for the correct amount to reserve your place on the bus. Please **mail** your form and check to our Division PO Box, as indicated below. The cost, including show admission ticket, for a Hudson Berkshire NMRA member is **\$25**, and for a member invited guest it will be **\$37**. The bus will make stops in Wilton, Clifton Park and Albany to pick up and drop off riders. We will be making one stop on the Mass Pike each way - there will be no stop for a formal dinner on the way home. The bus will make a stop at a rest area on the Mass Pike and refreshments may be purchase at that time.

Seats on the bus are on a first come, first serve basis starting at the November Meeting and we need to have 50 seats sold by December 15th or we may need to cancel the trip. If the Division does cancel those who signed up will get a full refund, although we cannot refund individuals who sign up and then cannot make the trip.

Pickup: 6:00 AM - at the Wilton Mall north end by Dick's - light pole C2

Pickup: 6:30 AM - Clifton Park Exit 9 - at The Crossing bus shelter, across the parking lot from Big Lots and the Tower (this is not the Park and Ride Lot!)

Pickup: 7:00 AM - Albany Crossgates Mall - lower level lot near JC Penney's

Rest stop on the Mass Pike in-route to Springfield

Arrive at Springfield approximately at 9:00 AM

Depart Springfield at 5:00 PM sharp!

Rest stop on the Mass Pike on the way home.

- Please make checks out to the **HUDSON BERKSHIRE DIVISION** in the amount of **\$25.00** for each member and **\$37.00** for each guest which includes admission to the show. This is a first come, first serve event with a signup/payment deadline of December 15, 2014.

- Please send payment and signup form to:

Hudson Berkshire Division

PO Box 83

Clifton Park, NY 12065-0083

Attn: Jack Cutler / Bus trip

- You will be contacted upon the receipt of your signup form and check - if you do not hear from Artie within 10 days of mailing your form and check - please contact Artie (ajkwings@yahoo.com or 518-229-6080).
- Bus will depart on time - we cannot wait for individuals!
- Any questions please contact Artie Krass at 518-229-6080 or ajkwings@yahoo.com



Hudson Berkshire Division Bus Trip to Amherst Train Show Springfield Massachusetts Saturday January 30, 2016

Name: _____ Cost \$25 - checks only no cash

NMRA # _____

Contact phone # or email: _____

Guest: _____ Cost \$37 - checks only no cash

If guest is an NMRA member need their NMRA # _____ and their cost is \$25

Contact phone # or email of guest: _____

Please check pickup location: Albany Clifton Park Wilton

If the Division does cancel the trip those who signed up and paid will get a full refund, although we cannot refund individuals who sign up and then cannot make the trip.

MAIL TO:

**Hudson Berkshire Division
PO Box 83
Clifton Park NY 12065-0083
Attn: Jack Cutler / Bus Trip**

Pacemaker Update

The Hudson Berkshire Division's NER "Pacemaker" convention is only 10 months away and your convention committee is hard at work firming up clinics, layout tours and fan trips. Since the last update, a fan trip to *Railex* in Rotterdam has been added and discussions are underway with SMS RR in the Northeast Industrial Park in Guilderland. Three modular layouts on display at the *Desmond* will also have operating sessions and a European railroading module will be on display.

The convention website will soon be up and running. Registration for the convention and sign-ups for fan trips, layout tours, clinics and operating sessions will begin in June. A convention T-shirt may be considered but a commemorative car will not.

Here's what we need from you, the members: Over the winter months, clean out that collection and check through your library for donations to the raffle/silent auction. Contact Tom Grant at tom.grant.ner2016@gmail.com for information.

Remember that all proceeds will go to the HB Division's *Toys for Tots* fund. Also are you a 'people person'? Want to help fellow modelers enjoy the convention even more? Volunteer to be a 'greeter' at the registration desk to provide convention information and tailor their layout visits and clinics to their interests and point out local attractions. A friendly helpful greeting will help insure a memorable convention experience. Contact Kevin Surman via email at spacity4@nycap.rr.com to volunteer or for more information.

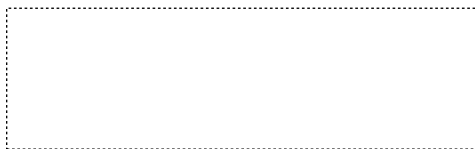
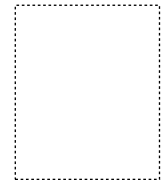




The picture above shows kids at the GTE watching the trains of the Albany N-Trak's layout with great interest. Kids like things that move – whether on tracks, TV screen or video games, so for many people the Great Train Extravaganza is the only opportunity that they will get to see model trains in operation. So please volunteer to help with the show in whatever whenever you can.

FORM 19

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Clifton Park, NY 12065-0083



First Class Mail