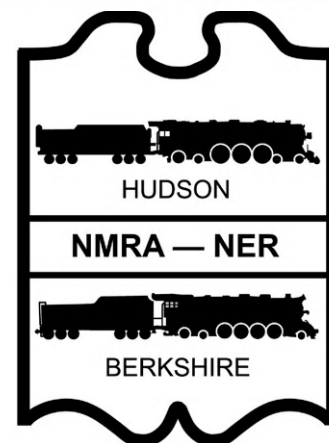


# FORM 19

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



**Order Number 400**

**October 2024**

**October Division Event  
Special Division Event Bus Trip  
Friday, October 18 (All Day)  
Visit to George Sellios's Franklin and South Manchester Layout  
and North Shore Model Railroad Club**

## **From the Editor . . . . By MARK SKLAR**

Fall is here and this month our Division has planned a bus trip to Massachusetts. Thanks go to Doug Dederick for planning out this trip. Please consider going as this trip is a great opportunity for members. I wish I could go but I will be away. For the trip details go to page 9.

HBD elections are next month. Our President Ben Maggi is stepping down so we need someone to step up and take this position. Talk to Ben if you would like run for HBD President. Mike Hachey is running again for director. See the ballot on page 6.

If you would like a Division name badge, see page 4 for details.

I am still looking for member layout picture contributions to include in the Form 19. Please email your pictures to me at [mark4527841@gmail.com](mailto:mark4527841@gmail.com). This month's pictures are from Doug Dederick's N scale, Great Northern Railroad. See page 7.

It's not too early to volunteer to work the Great Train Extravaganza (GTE). Please contact Sarah Lauser at [volunteer@gtealbany.com](mailto:volunteer@gtealbany.com) if you can help. You can print out the flyer on page 8 as a hand out.

Note that there is no October meeting because of the trip to Massachusetts.

That's all for now.  
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

"I don't think this is going to be a five-star review" my wife starts out, but I quickly cut her off and respond "I know, we should be able to give them six stars!" She flashes me a well-known look that says "that's not what I meant" and then we both stare outside the window as a long freight train rumbles by. The sun is rising through the windows and Harrison awakes.

Last October, the Division went to the Chester Railway Museum for a station tour. In addition to some boxcars and a tank car, they had a former-Rutland caboose painted up for the Boston and Albany that could be rented for the night. We even raffled away a night in it this past spring. It's been on my list of places to go since then and I finally made it over for a Friday night. Being a train event, Harrison had to come. Sarah tagged along too, perhaps because she didn't want to miss out on all the "fun".

When I called to confirm with Dave, the friendly caretaker, a few days before I asked how many trains he usually saw. He told me that trackwork had led Amtrak to bus passengers between Albany and Boston, and daytime freight trains were slow.

It was discouraging but sleeping in a caboose is still good. We arrived at 3:45 on Friday, and within an hour an Amtrak train rolled by. We waved to it and walked next door to the only pizza place in town for dinner. While waiting for our food, another Amtrak train flew by in the opposite direction with two engines, a diner, and three coaches. Go figure.

When we got back Harrison kicked a large ball around the yard and Dave showed us all that they were doing to repaint the outside of the caboose. They received a railroad grant and were putting it to good use. Some boxcars had been repainted by the Sheriff's Office, in a program similar to road-cleaning crews.

After an evening of smores, which Harrison managed to wear as much as he ate, we went into the now-empty station to clean up. We literally had the place to ourselves, and I imagined it was just as a station master of old felt every single night.

After reconfiguring the bunks into a "double" bed so that Harrison was corralled into a corner, we sat down to watch some *Curious George*. He was sleepy around 8PM, so we turned it off and went to bed. What we

*(Continued on next page)*



*(President's Corner Continued)*

didn't figure on was the 8:03 westbound, but we had a blast looking out the window as the moon lit up the cars. The whole caboose shook too, adding to the experience. Harrison was jumping up and down on the mattress with excitement. He wasn't going to be sleeping anytime soon. It got quiet again and we heard "Are you?" over and over as Harrison called out asking where the train was. We hoped he would fall back a sleep, but he didn't. I can't blame him. The 9:27PM mixed train didn't help either. No point in counting cars when all it does is wake him up more.

The next train was either closer to midnight or 1AM, but both my wife and I can't remember. She says I was sleeping, and I say the opposite. We may have each seen a different train as we were both exhausted by then. I didn't even bother to sit up and note what direction it was heading.

Around 2:30AM I had to answer the call of nature (don't get old) and as I unlocked and walked into a perfectly still train station that morning it was eerily quiet. Too quiet. Ghosts of trains from a hundred years ago rolled by. Or perhaps it was my imagination. What was real was the 3:00AM train that they both slept through but I dutifully looked out to watch.

We all remember the 5:56am CSX train that served as Harrison's wake up call. There was no going back to sleep now. We sat on the beds and ate fruit and then got up for the day. I began packing while Harrison was running around looking for trains. We decided to wait for the next one and then go to breakfast, which is located on the "other side of town". In Chester, that means a two-minute drive.

As we talked with Dave we heard a train horn in the distance. Harrison and I ran to the caboose and climb into the cupola to wait for it to pass. It took forever, and we heard horns from both directions. Confused, we watched as one rolls down the hill at 8AM while another train in the other direction slowed to a stop. We sit and wait in the cupola, hungry for breakfast but not wanting to miss the train. I didn't check the track arrangement before coming so I wasn't sure it was parked for another train, waiting for a crew change, suffering some mechanical issue, or ran out of fuel.

We wandered back to the station and they started to paint it some more. Thirty minutes later the train finally begins to move. Harrison climbed onto my shoulders and we waved to it. The engineer responded by turning on the ditch lights and blowing the horn several times especially for

us. As it crawls by I saw a flatcar carrying pipes followed by two with steel plates loaded on them. I am writing an article for a magazine about modeling both so I asked Sarah to take pictures of them for me. She agrees, but as they come close enough to shoot a westbound auto train blasts through out of nowhere and completely obscures the shot. Oh well.

After, we went to breakfast and when we get back we played with Dave's dog Major. He likes to fetch but apparently has lost a lot of balls in the ditch. Case in point, I threw a red ball and he knocked it into a gully. I dug it out for him, but it was actually a pink ball. The red ball is still down there somewhere. Dave said this happened all the time. We enjoy the weather and watch a 10:15 train go by, and then we head for home.

In the course of eighteen hours we saw, heard, and felt a dozen trains. I got to experience cabin camping at its finest, Harrison got to eat marshmallows and watch trains, and Sarah got about four hours of sleep. Can you believe all of this costs only \$70 a night, or \$120 for the weekend? I can't wait to go back!

Hopefully I will see you on the bus trip to Boston.

Ben



## Upcoming Meetings/Events

### Special Division Event Bus Trip

Friday, October 18 (All Day)

Visit to George Sellios's Franklin and South Manchester Layout  
and North Shore Model Railroad Club

Dinner at the Steaming Tender

*See pages 9 and 10 for details.*

**Friday, November 15 HBD Meeting 7pm - 9pm**

**Malta Community Center**

**1 Bayberry Dr, Ballston Spa, NY 12020**

Presentation by William Gill

"Trains at Night" Project

**GTE Train Show**

**December 8<sup>th</sup>**

Empire State Plaza

### **\*\*\*Division Badges Are Available\*\*\***

If you do not have a Hudson Berkshire Division name badge or have lost your original one and would like it replaced, contact:

Bert Pflegl at [bpflegl@gmail.com](mailto:bpflegl@gmail.com), phone 518-235-8496

or

Ben Maggi at [BenLMaggi@hotmail.com](mailto:BenLMaggi@hotmail.com), phone 585-506-2680

Please provide your name as you want it to appear and the place of residence that you want - just community or city and state.



## November 15<sup>th</sup> HBD Meeting

By James Lauser

William Gill was drawn to the railroad landscape at night years after watching out the window of the family car as it paced a train traveling through the Berkshires at night. In the twelve years since starting his "Trains at Night" project, lighting scenes with strobes have become complicated, multi day projects.

Gill will share recent works, his process and a new component: building HO dioramas representing locations he has photographed, and photographing them at 'night' on the bench.



Charlemont, Massachusetts - 2016

Watching a westbound Norfolk Southern train on the Boston & Maine

William Gill Photo



# 2024 Hudson Berkshire Elections

Please print out this page and bring the ballot below to the next meeting or mail it to:

**Hudson Berkshire Division  
P.O. Box 83  
Clifton Park, NY 12065-0083**

**HUDSON BERKSHIRE DIVISION, NATIONAL MODEL RAILROADERS ASSOCIATION  
Fall 2024 Ballot**

Mark an 'X' in the space after the name or write in a qualified\* member's name

**President:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Director:** Mike Hachey \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

\* A qualified member is any current full NMRA member residing within the Division.

In order for your completed ballot to be valid, you must be a full NMRA member and write your name and NMRA membership number on the back of the ballot. If you receive in print form, cut off this section; your name is on other side. 'Rail Pass' membership does not confer voting rights during the trial period.

**To vote:** Mail the completed ballot in an envelope, marking the envelope "ballot enclosed," to:

**Hudson Berkshire Division  
P.O. Box 83  
Clifton Park, NY 12065-0083**

All ballots sent by mail must be postmarked by November 8 to be counted.  
Ballots may also be delivered in person during the HBD meeting on November 15<sup>th</sup>.

**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/>**



## Featured Layout Photograph

Doug Dederick's Great Northern N Scale Layout.

These amazing views of Doug's layout have not been photoshopped!



M. Sklar Photo



M. Sklar Photo



# Great Train Extravaganza



# 2024

## PUBLIC MODEL TRAIN SHOW AND SALE.

**Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**10am - 4pm**  
Adults only \$10  
Children 12 and under free



- 12+ operating model railroads
- Sales of model trains, train sets, parts and accessories, building kits, scenery items, books, videos, DVD's, photographs... everything related to model trains and railroading
- Door prizes
- Giant Lego layout for kids of all ages
- Over 300 tables!

**Empire State Convention Center**  
**Albany, NY** (underneath The Egg)  
From I-787 heading south, take Exit 3A.  
Heading north, take Exit 3.  
Follow signs to Empire State Plaza to Visitor Parking.

**Sponsored by the Hudson Berkshire Division of the National Model Railroad Association.**  
Skip the line, buy your tickets online: [www.gtealbany.com](http://www.gtealbany.com)



The perfect place to do your holiday shopping.





## “SPECIAL DIVISION EVENT” THE FALL BUS TRIP FRIDAY OCTOBER 18th

The HBD is proud to bring this Special Event to all its members and we have worked very hard for **YOU** to come and enjoy a day full of trains both large and small. This will include George Sellios’s Franklin & South Manchester RR, one of the most famous layouts in the northeast. If you are a model railroader this layout needs no introduction.

Also we will visit the North Shore Model Railroad Club, which fills a 95 X 40 foot space in HO and HO<sub>N3</sub>. It is a fictitious layout based on a merger between the Chesapeake and Lake Erie, the Cumberland Western, and the Chesapeake and Hudson railroads. It is set in Virginia / West Virginia during the 1950s. This is a club layout worth seeing!!!

Wait, there’s more! On our way home we will be stopping at the Steaming Tender Restaurant located inside the Palmer Train Station. When this station was built in the 19th century it was the 5th largest station in the US. Many famous individuals have gone through Palmer on the Albany and Boston trains, including Teddy Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln. The railroad was the most popular at the beginning of the 1900s—around 30 to 40 trains would stop each day at the Palmer station. **HOLD ON**, I didn’t tell you the best part. We will be dining in our own **private dining car** and taken care of by our personal conductor. Note, there is a limited menu and you are responsible for your own check.

Here are the details :

**Date:** Friday October 18th

**Time:** 6:00am (first pickup location) Til 10:00pm (last drop off location depending on traffic)

**Pickup locations:** Wilton Mall Saratoga, The Crossings Park & Ride Clifton Park,  
and Crossgates Mall Albany

**Tickets:** Seats are available for spouses and guests.

**Cost:** Members \$35 [Spouse \$40 Guest \$45 not available at this time.]

**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 – Outer Parking Lot behind Homewood/Suites Hilton lot.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Time is running out! Please Contact Doug Dederick by email,  
dougdederick7@gmail.com ASAP the cut off date is 10/14.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**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/>

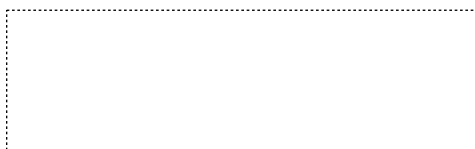
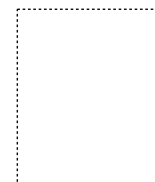
**“Hudson-Berkshire Division of the NMRA” YouTube Channel**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCE4Em3wMYwj5Z3ynfNsla8g/featured>



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10