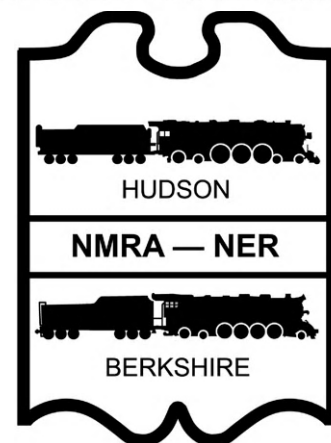


FORM 19

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



Order Number 378

September 2022

**Next Division Meeting
Saturday, September 10, 2022 10am to 1pm**

(Rain date Saturday September 24)

**Joe Kavanagh's
Luzerne Valley Railroad
579 Lake Avenue (Route 9N), Lake Luzerne, NY 12846**

Scale: 1" (outdoor railroad, 1 inch to the foot, 1/12 full size)

From the Editor By MARK SKLAR

The summer is nearly over and the Hudson Berkshire Division is starting a new season with this issue of the Form 19 newsletter. We will be planning interesting monthly meetings and activities now that we are getting over the pandemic. Our September meeting will be at Joe Kavanagh's place in Lake Luzerne, NY. Joe's layout is an awesome work of modeling. It is an outdoor multi-acre layout where you ride the trains! You can be the engineer or a passenger, either is a unique experience if it is your first time. **See the information on page 8.** Hope to see you there!

Our division president Irwin Nathanson will be stepping down after two full terms and is looking for a volunteer to step in. Please read Irwin's Ready Line starting on page 2.

During the summer break I found an article that Bill Doyle had submitted to the Form 19. Bill passed away one year ago this month, so in honor to Bill, his story about a visit to the Tri-State Model Railroad Club in Mineral Bluff, Georgia starts on page 6.

John Valachovic gives advice in his column "Using Social Media as Another Tool in You Toolbox". See page 9 for John's column.

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 Ready Line

By Irwin D. Nathanson

HBD needs a new president!

This may be the most important Ready Line column I've ever written... First, please *stop reading* this, find Doug Dederick's article elsewhere in this issue "The Hudson Berkshire and You" and then come back and read the rest of this column...



OK, are you back? Good! Let's begin...



Despite numerous announcements, thus far no one has stepped up to express an interest in running for HBD president this coming November. Brainstorming with the Leadership Team, the consensus was that perhaps our members aren't quite sure just what the President does. So, this will be the focus of this month's column.

Let's start with what the president *does not* do!

Does the president plan, organize and manage monthly HBD meetings and events?

No! This is the job of the vice president. Our incumbent, Doug, does a great job which he enjoys doing and has agreed to continue doing. From my experience as vice president, I can attest that this is the

most time-consuming position on the Leadership Team. Of course, Doug confers with me and the other members of the team, but the vast majority of the leg work is undertaken by Doug.

Does the president plan, organize and manage our Great Train Extravaganza (GTE)?

Nope! GTE is very effectively managed by James Lauser, assisted by his wife Sarah. This too is a very time-consuming role, but for six not 12 months a year. Again, James confers with me and the other members of the team, but this is very top-level, and all the details are handled by James. (Now, I do manage the advertising for GTE. But this is separate from my role as president. Even when a new president takes over, I will continue being the GTE Advertising Manager for the foreseeable future.)

Is the president responsible for the Form 19?

Except for writing these Ready Line columns, Mark Sklar as our able editor is fully responsible for editing and producing our great newsletter! For distribution, he is assisted by Artie Krass (electronic versions) and Bert Pflegl (hard copies). But all I do is write these columns.

Does the president manage the day-to-day division finances?

No, yet again. Our very able Treasurer Benjamin Maggi takes care of this. At a top level, I am very cognizant of my role of ensuring that the division remains (as it is currently) on a sound financial

(Ready Line Continued on next page)



(Ready Line Continued)

footing. But I get excellent reports and other tools from Ben which makes this rather straightforward. And of course, I have the full support of the rest of the Leadership Team.

Does the president make all the tough decisions?

As president, I am the coordinator for the Leadership Team. In addition to those noted above, we have two Members of the Board. One is James (double-hatted with his role as GTE Chairman. The other is John Valachovic. Finally, there's Sarah Lauser (double-hatted with her role assisting James with the GTE) who is our Recording Secretary. As a Team, we voice our opinions and make decisions; typically, we arrive at a consensus without much hassle.

In addition to the formal Leadership Team, over the years I've had tremendous support, guidance and coaching from former HBD leaders such as Paul Hoffman, Greg Whittle, and Artie Krass.

So, what the heck does the president do???

Hmm, this part of my column is somewhat of a challenge. Why? Because, as Paul recently reminded me, *"I served in every position on our Leadership Team short of Treasurer (Board Member, Form 19 Editor, VP, President) and I will say that while three of those four positions have very clearly-defined job duties, the president's position is a tad more nebulous."*

As pointed out by Artie, *"There is no formal playbook for the office of president. Yes, there are some*

givens/tangibles - a column for the Form 19 each month (as noted above), presiding over (usually remote) quarterly Leadership Team meetings, representing the division during quarterly (remote) NER meetings, and helping to keep the division financially viable."

Artie continues: *"A lot of the more specific 'duties' of the president are really dictated by the times and current events. For example, Paul oversaw the division going to an all-NMRA membership division. Paul also worked a lot with the 'other half' of the GTE show organization, guiding our involvement and eventual ownership of the show. When I was president the bulk of my time was overseeing the 2016 NER Convention (with a great team I might add)."*

For my part, my priorities turned to keeping the division alive and well during two years of the COVID pandemic. I was also much involved in the difficult decision to cancel GTE 2020.

Some divisions have specific Membership Officers. This is something HBD's president has typically taken care of. If the new president (and the Leadership Team) decide to create such a position, I am willing to step up to the task and take this workload (which really isn't that much) off his/her shoulders.

If you do decide to think about putting your hat in the ring for president, from Paul's perspective *"As new President, your first job would be to define and set the agenda for your administration and then work to achieve that. My*

agenda (and each President's is different) was twofold:

"1) Make the Hudson Berkshire financially viable and independent. "2) Create a unified 'product' and process that would allow us to grow and/or maintain membership in the NMRA"

Summing up, Paul believes *"That is the job of the President: set the goals and tone; work towards them; and excite the Leadership Team (and in turn division members) to follow through on that vision. The President doesn't have to be an organizational genius".* Especially since the existing Leadership Team is so strong. *"The job of President would allow you to put your mark on the division and fashion it in your vision. Yes, there is plenty of help. And the time commitment is only as big as you want. I want to stress, you don't need to be a super people person (yes, it helps), nor an organizational genius, you just need an idea and the ability to get people behind it."*

What did I get out of being president?

Looking back over the past four years, I guess my biggest "takes" were:

1. Getting to know so many members I might never have connected with otherwise.
2. Having the privilege of working with an amazing Leadership Team as we worked together to keep the division alive, active, and financially sound during COVID times.
3. Interacting with regional leaders and other division presidents and superintendents.

(Ready Line Continued on next page)



(Ready Line Continued)

4. The overall feeling of accomplishment I believe the Leadership Team well deserves.

As I've said before, after four years as your President, I won't be running again in November. It's time for fresh blood, new ideas. And to be perfectly candid, I'm in my mid-70s and am beginning to be a little forgetful. I think these 'Senior Moments' are normal, but they

are there. I'm not the same Navy Captain/Commanding Officer I was before I retired from the service in 1995...

In closing...

So, please think about this. The division needs you! If you have any questions, please reach out to me or anyone else on the Leadership Team. I'm sure Paul and Artie would also be happy to answer your

questions, to address any concerns, and if desired, I would be happy to be a "Shadow" or informal "Co-President" to work alongside the new President for, say, three to four months, to help him/her settle into his/her new role.

OK, that's it for this month

I'm signing off now. I hope you had a nice, safe summer, and see you at Joe Kavanaugh's on September 10th!

Irwin

Upcoming Meetings/Events

Saturday, September 10, 2022 10am to 1pm

(Rain date Saturday September 24)

Joe Kavanaugh's

Luzerne Valley Railroad

579 Lake Avenue (Route 9N), Lake Luzerne, NY 12846

Scale: 1" (outdoor railroad 1 inch to the foot, 1/12 full size)

Layout Description:

The railroad is outdoors. The main line is 4,440 feet long. Total trackage is close to 10,592 feet (just over 2 miles). There are two yards and nine towns with passing sidings and industrial spurs for switching freight cars. Main line switches for route selection are electrically operated. The railroad is fully signaled.

Special requirements: Must be in good physical condition. Riding on the train requires you to safely balance yourselves on the riding cars on that narrow gauge. In order to ride safely riders are to sit still, not lean over to either side, and not turn around while moving. One must also be able to sit down and get up from a seat 6" above the ground.

Directions: North on I-87. Take Exit 21 (Lake George, Lake Luzerne) Take the left fork along the exit and then a left turn at the intersection with Route 9N. Go south about 8 miles. The 400 foot gravel driveway is on the right (west side of the road). A sign for MARDON Sport Shop is on the opposite side of the road.

Access: Park your vehicle around the driveway circle if there is room or along the driveway. Leave room for other vehicles to pass. The railroad is accessed by a path between the house and the garage.

October Event

Watch for details in the October Form 19.



The Hudson Berkshire and You

A Message from the HBD Vice President

Where do I begin? How do I relay to our members what is needed to make the Hudson Berkshire function as an NMRA Division. This is what I am thinking as I sit down to write this article. How can I convey the importance of any good organization's structure and the people that make it run?

I guess I will start with myself. Years ago, I joined this organization because of the people associated with it and the wealth of knowledge and experience that was available within this group. I was working at the time and went to meetings when I was able to. As time went by, I started to realize and understand that there were other members that were more than just fellow members. They were board members, treasurers, editors, vice presidents, and presidents. All the things vital to run any good organization. I came to respect what they all did for my enjoyment and for all its members. I wanted to give back and contribute to the bigger picture so I volunteered when I could. In 2016 the HBD held the regional convention here in Albany and in 2014 I volunteered to help organize that convention. Yes, it was a lot of work, but it was also very rewarding to be part of a "team" and I got to work with some fellow members who were

just awesome. Now I hold the position of VP which is something I really enjoy doing.

So, what's this got to do with you: EVERYTHING. For the past 4 years Irwin Nathanson has served as President (and for several years before that, VP) and has done a fantastic job but, his second term is up in November, and he is stepping down. Now, that position needs to be filled in order to keep the HBD moving forward. I know what you are thinking but before you say "oh no, not me" think about it. Yes, like any position there are traits that one should have to help be successful. Good business sense and some organizational skills would be very helpful, and I know that not everyone fits this bill. But I can tell you that if you do decide to give it a go, you will not be alone. Past Presidents will always offer to help and show you the ropes as I am sure Irwin will do. There are still others from other divisions and from the region that are always willing to help and provide guidance. If you would like more information on the duties of the president, I would urge you to contact Irwin and talk with him. He would be more than happy to share his last 4 years of knowledge with you.

Having an organization without the people to guide it and

to move it forward would not be a good outcome. We need people like YOU to be a part of the bigger picture. I am hoping that by reading this article YOU understand that the HBD needs people, members, volunteers like YOU.

HELP WANTED: Wonderful opportunity to work with a great team of fellow model railroaders, all members of a local organization of like-minded individuals seeking enjoyment in a truly fulfilling hobby! Plenty of additional support from regional and national leaders. Hours flexible. Compensation: the satisfaction of giving back and helping others while developing and nurturing your own skills.

Obviously, there is more to being president of this organization and there is a commitment to it. The intent of this article is to hopefully inspire one of YOU to seriously think about it, ask questions, talk to past presidents, and gather information. Also, please see Irwin's Ready Line column in this issue of Form 19.

Doug Dederick VP



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 or by phone at 518-235-8496.

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

Tri-State Model Railroad Club

by Bill Doyle

Several years ago, our best friends retired and moved to western North Carolina. They settled in Murphy - 2 hours west of Asheville, 10 miles from Tennessee, 5 miles from Georgia and near the Smokey Mountain National Forest. Murphy was once an interchange between the Southern Railroad and the Louisville and Nashville Railroad. The Southern tracks are still in place but in ragged shape. The eastern part of this line is utilized by the Great Smokey Mountain tourist railroad operating between Bryson, NC and the Nantahala Gorge. The L&N tracks have been removed down to the state line with Georgia where the Blue Ridge tourist

railroad uses the remains of a wye to turn and store equipment. Our friends graciously look for train/railroading related places of interest for us to visit while we are there. I'll be writing about the Blue Ridge and Great Smokey Mountain tourist railroads, but first a visit to the Tri-State Model Railroading club located in Mineral Bluff, GA.

The layout is located in a beautiful old L&N depot that has been lovingly restored by the club. Remnants of the single track from Blue Ridge end just past the depot so that the club can offer track car rides during their annual "Ride the Rails" activities during the summer. The layout is a 22' x 37' HO scale loop to loop operation depicting the L&N tracks from Marietta, GA to Copperhill, TN with a separate peninsula for the Murphy Branch. The single track mainline is 200' long using code 83 flex

track, 30" radius (27 3/4" in yards and staging) and #6 and #8 switches (#5 in yards). Digitrax DCC is used to run the railroad. A number of structures have been crafted to reflect those along the actual right-of-way. Since the modeling year is circa 1952, both steam and early diesels are used in the operations.

The club appears to be very active with monthly open houses and operating sessions. They also have a great web site - www.tsmri.org - that has a video tour of the layout and a brief glimpse of the track plan. I enjoyed my visit to this friendly model railroading club and learned a lot about the copper mining industry that I didn't know existed in Tennessee.

Hope you enjoy the pictures too.

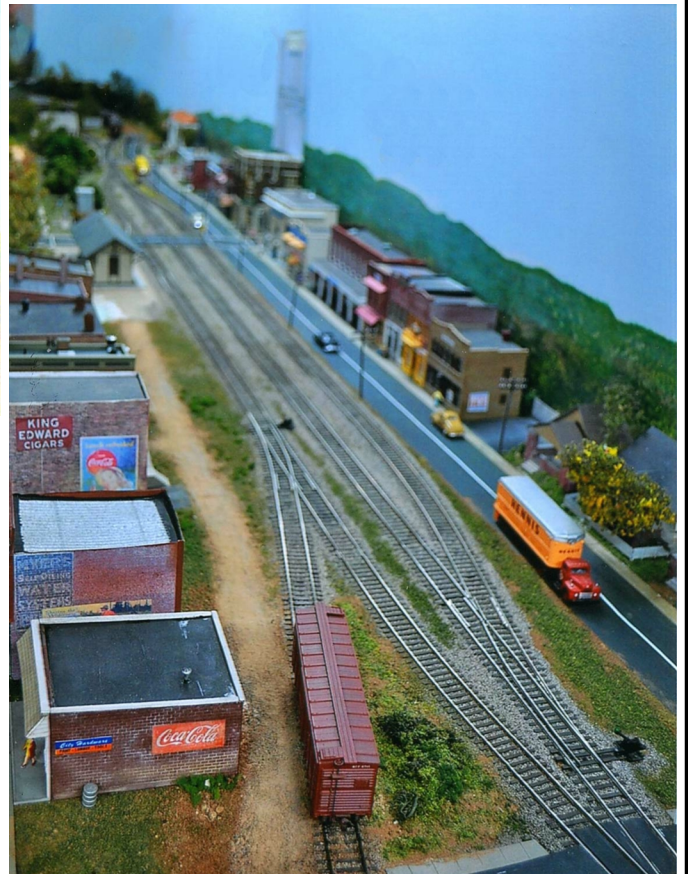
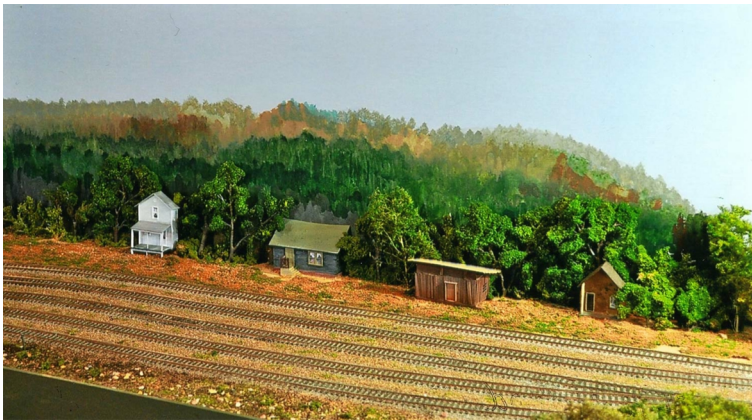


Tri-State Model Railroad Club (Continued)





Tri-State Model Railroad Club (Continued)



The End



Using Social Media As Another Tool In Your Toolbox

By John Valachovic

Hey everyone, summer is slowly winding down and we will all be returning to our cold weather hobbies. I for one have not been in my train room all summer except to empty the dehumidifier. The social media side of the hobby has been fairly quiet lately although many content providers have been posting all summer. I have recently shared a few things on the Hudson Berkshire Group including some inspirational photos taken at Kennebunkport

that illustrated some interesting weathering. As you start working on your hobby later this year, be sure to share your projects with the group.

Also, if you see something interesting on the web or Facebook, share that too. One of my favorite YouTube sites and Facebook sites is Jason Jenson Trains. He has picked up the mantle of George Sellios and has run with it. His weathering and painting techniques are

outstanding. Keep an eye out on his posts shared on our Group. If you are interested in starting your own Group to chronicle your own projects and need help, please reach out to James Lauser or I and we will be glad to help. See you on the web!

See the links below.

John

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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