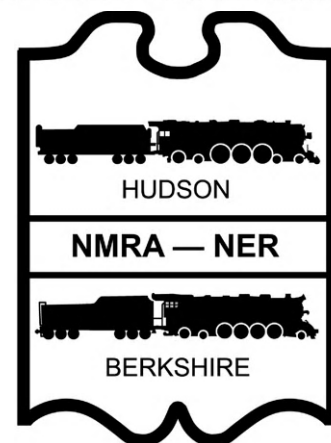


# FORM 19

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



**Order Number 389**

**September 2023**

## **Next Division Meeting**

### **September Meeting**

**Saturday September 16th from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM**

See the [August 2023 SPECIAL EDITION Form 19](#) for details and  
[Layout Information.pdf](#) and [Map Information.pdf](#) for updates.

**Central, Lakeshores, and Hudson Berkshire Divisions Joint Meeting  
Open House Layout Tours in the Syracuse Area.**

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

September is here and I hope you all had a great summer. Your leadership team has been working hard for us by planning activities for the rest of this year. See page 3 for future meetings and save the dates.

Our division will have elections for new leadership in November. Ballots will be included in the October Form 19. See the candidate statements on page 4.

Founding HBD member Jeffrey Martin sent a great letter to Ben Maggi about the history of our Hudson Berkshire Division. Our division is now 53 years old! See page 5 for the letter.

HBD member Bob Mohowski has sent a very unusual railroad related picture. The picture was used in a magazine article that Bob had published. See page 7 for the picture.

Irwin Nathanson has arranged with Jelsma Graphics a way for HBD members to easily order Hudson Berkshire Division shirts, caps and jackets. See page 8 for details.

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

It is the first of September as I write this, and the coolness of fall weather is in the air. However, we are supposed to have 90-degree days next week, so it is hard to figure out what is going on. But, I am already starting to make plans for my fall modeling projects. If you are like me, you have a pile of kits in a box (or on a shelf, or under the layout, or somewhere else) waiting for the "perfect time" to work on them. I am going through mine and picking a few out that actually stand a chance of being completed in the near future.

I then need to check my paint supply and determine which paints still are good and which are dried out and must be replaced. Time to purchase some more knife blades too... you can never have too many sharp blades. Then, I can begin. I am the most productive when I can listen to football on the radio, and I think it is because it gives me 3 hours of modeling time. You can accomplish a heck of a lot when your workbench is prepared and you have set aside a block of time. What are your strategies for getting modeling projects finished? I would love to hear them, so please feel free to pass them along.

Speaking of paint, it doesn't matter how much I wipe the cap clean or put a barrier film of plastic on the bottle... they always get rock hard. And usually right before I need them for something

important. Many of my board-gaming friends buy paints in plastic squeeze bottles which they use for plastic miniature figures. I have never used any of these paints, but apparently they seem to last a long time and don't dry out like paints in glass jars. I guess the cap seals better. I can see how their runny texture might be suitable for airbrushing, but what about brush painting larger areas like the side of a building? Have any of you used them before? Can you recommend a brand to me? I would *love* to know more about them, so if you have any experience please let us know at the *Form 19*.

September always involves lots of fun things going on, but one of the biggest has to be the western New York layout tour in the Syracuse area. We have mentioned it over the past few months, and recently we sent out a special August issue of the *Form 19* with the details, but if you have any additional questions about it please feel free to reach out to Doug or myself and we will help you out. Sadly, I cannot attend but I hope some of you will take lots of great pictures we can use in our newsletter. However, we will have an actual business meeting during our October meeting. That will be fun too.

By the way, there are two Board member positions up for election this year: Vice President

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and one of our two Directors. The terms are only 2 years. As featured elsewhere in the *Form 19*, two people have volunteered to serve in these positions again but we would love for new members to also put their hand up and offer to join us. I would be lying if I said it was easy, but it is fun and rewarding. We all work together as a team, so you would never have to do anything by yourself. Plus,

each of us brings new skills and experiences to the Board and I am sure we would value your contributions. Specifically, I know Doug puts in a tremendous amount of work to setting up fun activities for us to do each month and we don't say "Thank you" to him enough. So, the next time you see him, please make sure to let him know if you have been enjoying our meetings. And if you have any

ideas for future places to go, or clinics to host, or layouts to visit, please tell him or someone else on the Board.

Safe travels to and from Syracuse, and enjoy the last bit of summer that is left!

Ben

## Upcoming Meetings/Events

### September Meeting

See the August 2023 SPECIAL EDITION Form 19 for details.

**Central, Lakeshores, and Hudson Berkshire Divisions Joint Meeting**

**When: Saturday September 16th from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM**

**What: Open House Layout Tours**

**Where: Syracuse, NY Area**

### October Meeting

**Saturday October 21st (time to be determined )**

**Field Trip to Chester Railway Station Museum**

**and Tom Beck's Layout tour, Chester Mass.**

**Details will be in our October Form19**

### November Meeting

**Friday, November 17th @ 7PM**

**Bethlehem Public Library, 451 Delaware Ave, Delmar, NY**

**Guest Speaker**

**Otto Vondrak, Editor of "Railroad Model Craftsman Magazine"**

**More details to follow in upcoming issues**



## Hudson Berkshire Division Candidates Statements

Two members are running for HBD leadership positions, both unopposed.

Doug Dederick is running for HBD Vice President and James Lauser is running for a board of directors position. Ballots will be included in the October Form 19 and the elections are in November..

Please read the candidates statements in the following paragraphs.

### **Doug Dederick; position: HBD Vice President**

By now I am sure most of you know me so I will keep this brief. In the past two years I have devoted my time and effort to serve our Hudson Berkshire members in the best way possible. It was difficult at times due to the pandemic but we kept moving

forward. I would like to continue as your VP for another 2 years if you will have me. I am willing to devote my time and effort to bring all our members the best possible experience I can for upcoming meetings and events. I promise to promote our organization and to serve each of you as members to the best of my ability. I am hoping

to grow our organization, not only in new membership but as a family. I am willing to do whatever I can personally to improve on what we have, I only ask one thing from all of you, PARTICIPATION!

Thanks, Doug Dederick

### **James Lauser; position: HBD Board Member**

Hi everyone. My name is James Lauser and I'm running for a position as a member of the Board of Directors of the Hudson-Berkshire Division. I was previously provisionally appointed as a Board Member in 2019 and was elected to the

position formally in 2020 and held the position through 2022.

Additionally, I have been and will continue to be the Chairman of the Great Train Extravaganza since 2018. I am a strong advocate of the NMRA and believe its greatest benefit to its members is through the local Divisions. I feel that I can continue to contribute

to the growth and long-term health of this organization as part of its leadership. I appreciate your support and look forward to continuing to serve you however I can.

Thanks, James Lauser

[www.hudson-berkshire.org](http://www.hudson-berkshire.org)

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](#).



## Hudson Berkshire Division History

By Ben Maggi

When I was elected President last November, Irwin brought over to my house a large bin filled with miscellaneous club paperwork. In addition to old newsletters, correspondence, financial records, and the like, I found the Division's certificate of incorporation from June 1970 which was displayed in this June's Form 19 newsletter. In response to seeing it, member

Jeffrey Martin reached out to me and filled me in on some historical information of the Division. I found it very interesting and asked if I could share them with the entire Division. He agreed, and I hope that you enjoy it as much as I did. Thanks again Jeff!

Ben

Dear Mr. Maggi:

While our division may have received its permanent charter from the NER at North Conway in 1970, we had been provisionally recognized since the fall of 1967. An informal group had formed earlier in that year for the purpose of putting on an NER convention in Albany that fall and, as I understand it, that core group morphed into the organizing committee for the Hudson-Mohawk (yes, "Mohawk") Division. Provisional recognition may have been announced at the convention.

The division was firmly established and meeting regularly by the time my father (Arthur Martin) and I joined in the fall of 1968. As a significant number of early members came from the Pittsfield area, the name had already been changed to "Hudson-Berkshire." I'm attaching a copy of the membership roster dated October 21, 1968; how many (or how few!) of us are still around?

At that time, the big area train show was held each fall at the Chatham High School, sponsored by the Harlem Valley Model Railroad Club. I came home from college for that weekend each year and attended the show with my father and other members of the Tri-County Model Railroad Club (centered in the Glens Falls area). H-B had a table there and, as dues were only \$1, we joined. I remember meeting and having a lengthy conversation with Glenn Wagner, who at that time had just finished his terms as NER President and was currently the H-B President. Glenn was a freelance writer and photographer from Albany and I had seen his work for many years in the hobby section of "Boys Life" magazine, which was distributed to all Boy Scouts.

Dave Messer, another of our founders and a long-time division officer, was also at the H-B table. He had recently hosted an H-B meeting at his home layout (the Pennsylvania Northern, featured in Railroad Model Craftsman both as built originally in Averill Park and later in the Philadelphia area) and, when he learned of our club, invited us for a visit. Dave was one of the early winners of the NER's Baldwin Trophy and went on to become one of the NMRA's early MMRs.

My participation in division events was rather limited at that time as I was away

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at college, but I became more active after graduating in 1970. Seeing our permanent charter reminds me that I was there in North Conway when it was presented at the banquet and passed around our table. Actually, the big thing I remember about that banquet was the waitress refusing to serve me a drink; I was 21, about to turn 22, but she claimed my driver's license looked fake. My frustration just added to everyone else's enjoyment of the evening!

Reviewing this early roster sure brings back a lot of memories. Bill Kennedy was an electrical engineer with General Electric in Pittsfield, working with fiber-optic cable at a time when most of us had never heard of such a thing. He had made a presentation to the powers-that-be, with photos, drawings and charts of proposed applications for this amazing new technology and, as an attention-getter, he had installed it in the marker lights of an HO-scale caboose. When he brought it to an H-B meeting (probably in 1970 or 1971), it certainly got our attention. He laughed and told us that, at his GE presentation, the big-wigs spent more time examining the caboose and talking about model railroading than discussing the major applications.

While my attendance at division events has been rather limited for the past 20 years or so (job changes, other competing interests and now health limitations), I still consider the Hudson-Berkshire Division to be the primary benefit of NMRA membership and some of the friendships made back in those early days have now lasted well-over 50 years (dare I say over a lifetime?).

Those of us who were around back then consider the birth of our division to be that NER convention held in Albany in the fall of 1967 and provisional recognition from the NER. I can't claim to be among the founders or early active members, but those who got things going back in 1967-1968 deserve to be recognized.

Thanks for your time.

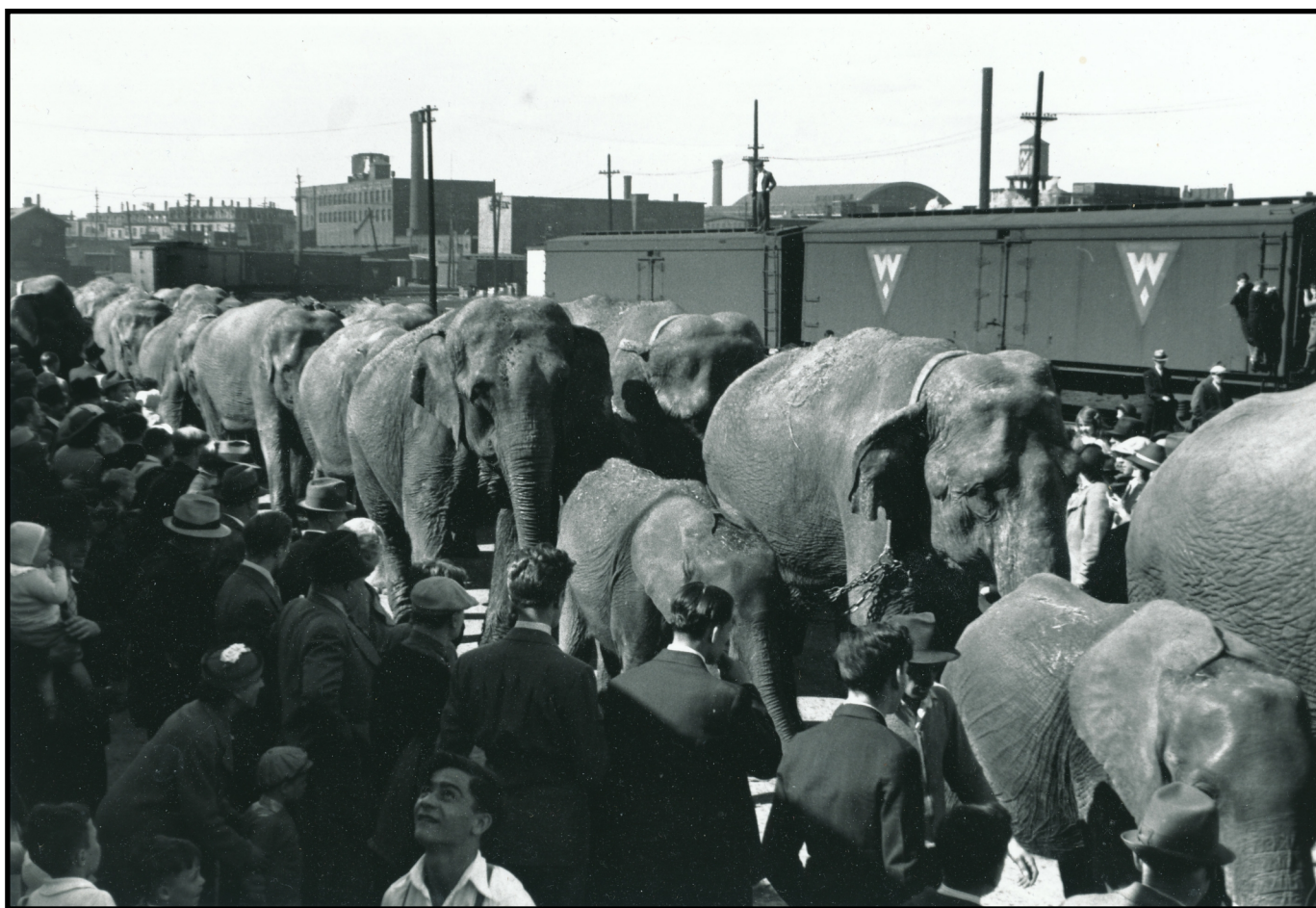
Jeffrey Martin

NMRA Life #1301, NER Life #32, Hudson-Berkshire since 1968  
Editor, Form 19 (1972-1973)

Jeffrey Martin also wrote the following:

*Attached is a picture I took on the Mount Washington fan trip at that 1970 North Conway convention; up into the clouds and visibility limited to several hundred feet! Over the years, not every trip was perfect.*





This picture was published in a magazine article by Robert Mohowski. The subject of the article was not about a circus train or elephants, it was the about the milk cars.

## **!!!HBD VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PUTTING OUT GTE SIGNS !!!**

We need volunteers for putting out our annual GTE train show signs. We would like to add some new locations along with our usual locations. PLEASE email Doug Dederick at [dougdederick7@gmail.com](mailto:dougdederick7@gmail.com) if you plan on volunteering this year.

**GET INVOLVED** and be a part of the team!



## Hudson-Berkshire Custom Clothing

By Irwin D. Nathanson

It's been a long time since the Division offered polo shirts and other items embroidered with our HBD logo. It was quite a challenge back then, trying to guess how many of each size to order in advance, laying out the money in advance, and never quite getting it right. This may have been the reason why the Division stopped trying – at least until now!

But with the help of newer technology, we've made arrangements with Jelsma Graphics of

Florida where members can order exactly what they want, directly from the supplier, and have those items shipped directly to them. Some of you may have seen the Jelsma stand at the Big E Show in Springfield. Seems like they specialize in custom clothing themed on prototype and model railroads.

These are the items that will be available starting immediately. All will be Navy Blue:

### Hudson-Berkshire Division NMRA Logo Clothing

All plus shipping

#### Light Weight, Lined, Windbreaker

	S	M	XL	2XL	3XL	4XL
Retail	\$34.90	\$34.90	\$34.90	\$39.90	\$44.90	\$49.90
With 20% discount	\$27.92	\$27.92	\$27.92	\$31.92	\$35.92	\$39.92
10% rebate to HBD for Tft	\$3.49	\$3.49	\$3.49	\$3.99	\$4.49	\$4.99

#### Polo Shirt, Poly, Short Sleeve

	S	M	XL	2XL	3XL	4XL
Retail	\$31.90	\$31.90	\$31.90	\$33.90	\$35.90	\$37.90
With 20% discount	\$25.52	\$25.52	\$25.52	\$27.12	\$28.72	\$30.32
10% rebate to HBD for Tft	\$3.19	\$3.19	\$3.19	\$3.39	\$3.59	\$3.79

#### Ball Cap

	One size, fits all
Retail	\$14.95
With 20% discount	\$11.96
10% rebate to HBD for Tft	\$1.50

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Ball Caps



Lightweight, Lined,  
Windbreakers



Poly, Short Sleeve  
Polo Shirts



Each will be embroidered (*not printed*) with the HBD logo.



Members will pay the *discount prices* directly to the supplier. In addition to offering us these discount prices, Jelsma has also offered to donate 10% of all sales to the Division's Toys for Tots (TfT) campaign! For now, the best way to order is to call D e n n y Jelsma directly at (904) 716-0436. His hours are 8 AM to 9 PM, Monday through Saturday, EST. Once you tell him what you want, and give him your mailing address, he can tell you exactly what your total will be. You can then give him your credit card

over the phone. Or, if you're not comfortable doing that, you can send him an email at [jelsma@jelsma.com](mailto:jelsma@jelsma.com). Jelsma's web site is currently being totally reconstructed and should be online in October: <https://www.jelsma.com>

You should also be able to order online by then. If not, please call Denny! What a great way to be "instyle" while promoting the Division and our great hobby!

Please visit the  
Hudson Berkshire Division Website:  
<http://www.hudson-berkshire.org/>

And Facebook Pages:  
<https://www.facebook.com/HudsonBerkshireNMRA/>

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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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