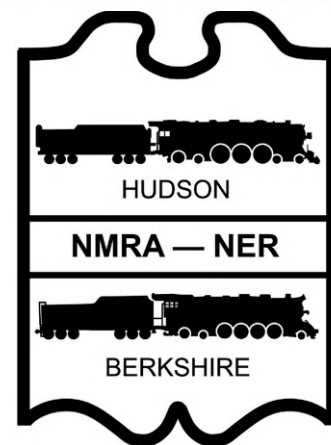


# FORM 19

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



**Order Number 392**

**December 2023**

## **December Division Meeting**

**No meeting this month**

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

Our Great Train Extravaganza is over and was successful. We had about 1950 paid visitors and 600 under 12 years old, which was a little higher than last year. There will be more details on the GTE next month in the January Form 19. Remember to read Ben's Presidents Corner for the free giveaways, and submit something to the Form 19. 2023 is nearly over as I write this, so I wish everyone happy holidays and Happy New Year for 2024!

This month we will not have a meeting since the GTE was our activity for the month of December. See page 3 for future events and activities.

Last month our HBD meeting was held at the Bethlehem Public Library. Otto Vondrak gave an interesting presentation on Allen McClelland's Virginian & Ohio layout. See page 4 for a short report.

A revised price list for HBD clothing is on page 5 and 6. These items are available at Jelsma Graphics. Denny Jelsma will be at Springfield again this year if you would like to talk to him and order something. I plan to visit Denny to try on some items to find the correct size. See pages 5 and 6 for details.

Mike Hachey has kit bashed two Walthers Ashmore Hotel kits to create the huge Emerson Hotel. Mike said he named the Ashmore Hotel to Emerson Hotel because it is the name of his grandson. He is 5 years old and can tell people that he owns a luxury hotel. See Mike's article on pages 7 and 8. Thank you Mike!

The Amherst Train Show in Springfield Massachusetts is January 27, 2024. Our Division is sponsoring the bus trip again this year. Details for signing up for the trip is on pages 9 and 10. This is a great deal for members.

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.

**Hudson Berkshire Division  
PO Box 83**

**Clifton Park, NY 12065-0083  
trains@hudson-berkshire.org**

President

Benjamin Maggi  
602 Albany Shaker Road  
Loudonville, NY 12211  
585-506-2680  
BenLMaggi@hotmail.com

Vice President  
Doug Dederick

32 Van Dyke Drive South  
Rensselaer, NY 12144  
518-283-5063  
dougdederrick7@gmail.com

Treasurer

Benjamin Maggi  
602 Albany Shaker Road  
Loudonville, NY 12211  
585-506-2680  
BenLMaggi@hotmail.com

*Form19* Editor

Mark Sklar  
121 Brandon Ter.  
Albany, NY 12203  
(518) 229-9421  
mark4527841@gmail.com

Bert Pflegl

Associate Editor  
bpflegl@gmail.com

GTE Manager

James Lauser  
1814 Park Blvd  
Troy, NY 12180  
james@jlauser.net  
(518) 528-5453

Copyright 2023, Hudson Berkshire Division

# The President's Corner

By Ben Maggi

By the time you read this our Great Train Extravaganza show will be over. It is always a tremendous amount of work and a lot of it goes on behind the scenes where only James and Sarah can see it. They work really hard to get everything set up so that we can put on a high-quality event, and I want to thank them both for their dedication to the G.T.E. I also want to thank every one of you who came out and helped with it, whether it was taking tickets or assisting vendors load in and out or just serving as guides to point the public to where they had to go. It was very much appreciated and I am happy to say that the show was a success.

As we enter the holiday season I am sure many of us can look back on memories of playing with a train set. Maybe it was a treasured gift, or something that you could only pull out at this time of year. Trains were fun then, and they still are fun now. I can now start to see it through the eyes of my own son as he plays with his train (well, more like "our" train for now). And certainly at train shows like the G.T.E., it is wonderful to see how excited the kids are to watch the trains go around and around. Sometimes I feel like a kid myself when I get excited after discovering just what I was looking for in the most unexpected place- underneath the tables in the junk box, or buried in a box of books, etc. Trains are magical.

Since we all love to receive gifts this time of year, I want to tell you about three opportunities for Division members to win something free (yes, I said free!). Thanks to Irwin's hard work, we are now able to order custom merchandise such as hats, shirts, and windbreakers with the Hudson Berkshire Division logo on them. You probably saw me wearing one of the baseball caps at our November meeting. And maybe you were a bit jealous because it looked so snazzy? While you can certainly go online and order one yourself, *if you want to win a free one you are in luck because the Division will be giving three of them away as prizes in the next few months!* Here is some more information on how to win one:

1.) **Project Pictures:** for those who like to stay in their basement and work on their models, anyone who sends a picture or an article describing a project they are working on to Mark at the *Form 19* from now until the end of March 2024 will be entered into a drawing. Even if we don't publish it right away you will still be entered in. However, there is a limit of one chance per person no matter how many items you submit. I will draw a contributor's name at our April meeting to win the hat.

2.) **Show-and-Tell:** for those who like to show off what they are working on in person with other

( Continued on next page)



(Presidents Corner Continued)

members, this winter or spring we will have a “show and tell” portion of one of our meetings where you can bring and display something railroad related (real or model) and tell us a little bit about it. Anyone who participates by bringing something will be entered into a drawing (same rules as above), and I will draw a participant’s name at the end of the meeting to win the hat.

3.) **Springfield Bus Trip**: all members or guests who sign up to ride the Springfield bus trip will be entered

into a raffle and one participant’s name will be drawn on the bus ride there to win a baseball cap. It’s that simple.

I wish all of you a safe and happy holiday season. Further, I hope that in the next few months when the snow comes down you take advantage of the down time and work on some great model projects.

See you at the next meeting!  
Ben

## Upcoming Meetings/Events

**There is no December meeting because of the GTE.**

**January 19<sup>th</sup>, Friday 7PM to 9PM**

**Presenter: Charles Newton**

**Location: Bethlehem Public Library**

**451 Delaware Ave, Delmar, NY**

**Slide and video program showing the sole operable Alco PA locomotive's more than 3000 mile 40 day journey from Portland OR to Scranton PA by the locomotive escort, Charlie Newton. This engine was originally built for Santa Fe in 1948, sold to D&H in 1967, sold to NdeM in 1978, and recovered by Dyle McCormack from Mexico in 2000, and sold to GVT Rail in Scranton this past March 2023.**

**February Meeting**

**“ Show and Tell ” something you have been working on.  
Time: (More information will be in the January Form 19.)**

**Please visit:**

**Facebook Pages:**

**<https://www.facebook.com/HudsonBerkshireNMRA/>**

**Hudson-Berkshire NMRA Group**

**<https://www.facebook.com/groups/809686920433872/>**





## November Meeting Report

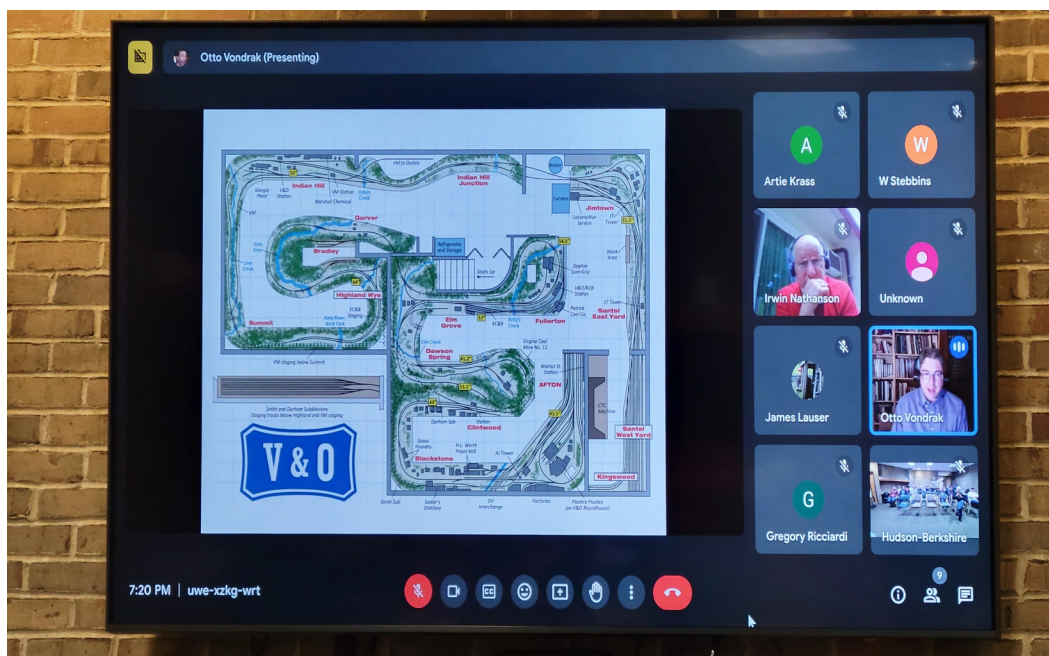
By: Mark Sklar

The November Division meeting was held at the Bethlehem Public Library, which is a new location for us. Division business was discussed, then Kevin Surman presented Ben Maggi with the AP certificate for Chief Dispatcher. Congratulations Ben!

After the business meeting, using Zoom, Otto Vondrak, editor of *Railroad Model Craftsman*

magazine gave a presentation on Allen McClelland's legendary HO scale model railroad. Otto explained how Allen McClelland made a profound impact on model railroading. His Virginian & Ohio is one of the hobby's best-known layouts of all time. It pioneered many concepts that later became standards in layout design.

Otto Vondrak gave a presentation using Zoom. (Sklar-photo)



Kevin Surman presents Ben Maggi with the AP certificate for Chief Dispatcher. (Sklar-photo)



HBD Members listening to Otto Vondraks presentation. (Sklar-photo)





## Hudson-Berkshire Custom Clothing

By Irwin D. Nathanson

As noted in a recent Form 19, it's been a long time since the Division offered polo shirts and other items embroidered with our HBD logo. Now, 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 since they specialize in custom clothing themed on prototype and model railroads.

These are the items that are available *now*. All are Navy Blue:

Ball Caps



Lightweight, Lined,  
Windbreakers



Poly, Short Sleeve  
Polo Shirts



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



Continued on next page.





Continued from previous page.

<b>Hudson-Berkshire Division NMRA Logo Clothing</b>							
All plus shipping							
<b>Light Weight, Lined, Windbreaker</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>XL</b>	<b>2XL</b>	<b>3XL</b>	<b>4XL</b>
Retail	\$34.90	\$34.90	\$34.90	\$34.90	\$39.90	\$44.90	\$49.90
With 20% discount	\$27.92	\$27.92	\$27.92	\$27.92	\$31.92	\$35.92	\$39.92
10% rebate to HBD for Tft	\$3.49	\$3.49	\$3.49	\$3.49	\$3.99	\$4.49	\$4.99
<b>Polo Shirt, Poly, Short Sleeve</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>XL</b>	<b>2XL</b>	<b>3XL</b>	<b>4XL</b>
Retail	\$31.90	\$31.90	\$31.90	\$31.90	\$33.90	\$35.90	\$37.90
With 20% discount	\$25.52	\$25.52	\$25.52	\$25.52	\$27.12	\$28.72	\$30.32
10% rebate to HBD for Tft	\$3.19	\$3.19	\$3.19	\$3.19	\$3.39	\$3.59	\$3.79
<b>Ball Cap</b>	<b>One size, fits all</b>						
Retail	\$14.95						
With 20% discount	\$11.96						
10% rebate to HBD for Tft	\$1.50						

Members pay the *discount prices* directly to the supplier. In addition to offering us these discount prices, Jelsma is donating 10% of all sales to the Division's Toys for Tots (Tft) campaign!

You have two ways to order:

1. Call Denny Jelsma directly on (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 will 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)
2. Order via Denny's web site: <https://www.jelsma.com/>. It's pretty straight-forward but please note that our logo is found here: NMRA-NER-HB.

Thanks for ordering and thanks for promoting the Division and our great hobby!

**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/>



# Emerson Hotel

By: Michael Hachey

While I was shopping at Milepost Hobbies in Amsterdam, I found a Walthers Ashmore Hotel. It looked like a great building for the city scene I am starting to build. I got home and opened the box. I decided I want to go bigger. The instructions show a few ways to go bigger, either higher or wider, etc. None of them were big enough.

I picked up another Ashmore Hotel and started trying out different combinations. This will be up against the backdrop, so no wall sections will be needed in the back. I used black foam core instead. This meant I could go even bigger. As Earl Smallshaw used to say, "Only model what you can see."

After some cutting, sanding and gluing, I had the basic form of the building. Next, I spray painted the whole building with Krylon Flat Camouflage Khaki paint. The decorative trim and window sills were painted with gray craft paint. Next the building was weathered with Driftwood Hunterline Weathering Mix. Traditional India ink and alcohol could also be used. The window and door castings, a lot of them, were sprayed with Krylon Camouflage Brown, then dry brushed with Vanilla Craft Smart paint from Michaels. The building was too big for my paint booth, so I did the painting outdoors using a respirator, latex gloves and safety glasses. (Safety

first!!). The neighbors already think I'm weird.

Next came installing the window and door castings, glass and the curtains. These came with the kit and are printed on light card stock. I cut some random sections to allow the lights to be seen. Next, I cut and installed the black foam core for the back and the roof. I used lo-temp hot glue, high-temp glue could melt the plastic. Don't ask me how I know that. Black strips of paper were added to the roof, then the roof vents and other details.

I installed 16 warm white LEDs with a 1k resistor soldered to each one. These were soldered to magnet wire and powered with a 12-volt wall wart.



( Continued on next page)





( Continued from previous page)

The Walthers kit under construction.



The The completed kits mated together.



Night view of the Emerson Hotel.







## **Hudson Berkshire Division Sponsored Bus Trip to Amherst Train Show Springfield Massachusetts January 27th 2024**

Please fill out the attached form 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 (and any NMRA member guest) is **\$25**, and for a non-NMRA member invited guest it will be **\$37**. The bus will make stops in Wilton, Clifton Park and Albany (**NOTE: new pickup/drop-off location by Crossgates Mall – more details to follow**) 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 purchased at that time.

Seats on the bus are on a first come, first served basis starting at the November Meeting. We need to have 35 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 – Outer Parking Lot behind Homewood/Suites Hilton lot**

**We will stop on the Mass Pike enroute to Springfield**

**Arrive at Springfield approximately at 9:00 AM**

**Depart Springfield at 5:00 PM sharp!**

**We will stop at a rest stop/area 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 served event with a signup/payment deadline of December 31, 2023.
- Please send payment and signup form to:  
**Hudson Berkshire Division**  
**PO Box 83**  
**Clifton Park, NY 12065-0083**  
**Attn: Artie Krass / 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!

***Use the sign-up sheet on page 10.***

**Hudson Berkshire Division Bus Trip to Amherst Train Show  
Springfield Massachusetts Saturday January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

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**

**FORM 19**

Hudson Berkshire Division  
PO Box 83  
Clifton Park, NY 12065-0083

**First Class Mail**