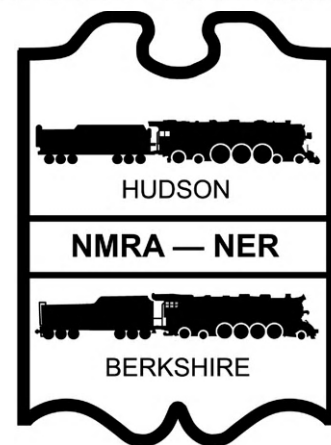


FORM 19

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



Order Number 394

February 2024

February Division Meeting

Friday, February 16th, 7PM to 9PM

Location: David R. Meager Malta Community Center

“Show and Tell”

PLUS

“Filling out paperwork for AP Program”

From the Editor By MARK SKLAR

I had a great time attending the Railroad Hobby Show in Springfield, Massachusetts last month. This is the largest railroad-themed trade show in America. It was a pleasant trip as I went with other HBD members on the bus provided by our Division. The show on Saturday was very crowded, showing me the hobby is not dying. Thank you goes to Artie Krass for organizing the trip!

We hope you can join us at our February meeting as we will be doing a “*show and tell*”. Please bring a project or pictures to show what you have been working on. See page 4 for details on the meeting.

Ben Maggi has submitted an article on building flat cars called “Scratch building two HO scale Flat Cars”. See page 5 for the second and final part. Thank you Ben!

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 2024, Hudson Berkshire Division

The President's Corner

By Ben Maggi

I am still decompressing from the Springfield train show and wish that I had more time there to see everything. Even if I were there for both days I doubt I could take it all in. It truly is the largest model railroad show in the world. For those who joined me on the bus trip over, it went surprisingly well (the bus didn't take any "funny detours" to get there and parking was remarkably quick and easy). Plus, lucky rider Aiden Adam won his very own Division baseball hat. Congrats!

I picked up a couple of model train cars that I wanted, one item I needed (gear grease), and a lot of brochures for railroad museums and tourist rides which I would like to visit in the future. I also bought something that several years ago I would have sworn I would never even look for... children's train socks. In previous years I never paid much attention to the vendors selling kids books, toys, puzzles, etc., but now that I am in a different mindset I searched around to find something special to bring home for someone special. But enough about me. What did you get? You can always bring it to show and tell at the upcoming meeting.

We have a lot of great things going on with the Division in the next couple of months, and I hope you are coming out to join us in person or watching our meetings remotely. Our January meeting and presentation about the cross-country

trip of former Delaware and Hudson Alco PA by Charlie Newton was fascinating. And coming up in February we have a show and tell event. I encourage all of you to bring something, model or prototype, to talk about and display. It is a lot of fun to find out what other people are doing, and I always come away with a couple of new ideas. **Also, anyone who participates will be entered into a raffle and someone will be winning another Division baseball hat!** Plus, for those who want to work on the Master Model Railroader program I will give you some strategies about what I did which might help you along.

This spring we are touring a couple of local model railroads for our March and April meetings. I have never seen a basement S scale layout before and am pretty excited about that. We aren't sure yet what we are doing for May or June but hopefully they will involve something outside like railfanning and our annual family picnic.

There are many ways to keep up with what we are doing. Check out our website for current events, which we try to keep updated as quickly as possible. However, I always highly recommend reading the *Form 19* newsletter from cover to cover. We stuff as much information in it as we can, and I know Mark Sklar (editor) and Bert Pflegl (associate editor) put a tremendous amount of work into it every month. How they take my

(Continued on next page)



(Presidents Corner Continued)

ramblings and make them look like something presentable is amazing (well... it still ends up being my ramblings... they aren't magicians!). I am sure that they would love any pictures, articles, or recent events which you might have that you think others would be

interested in. If you are enjoying the *Form 19* as much as I am, please let Mark and Bert know the next time you see them. **Plus, anyone who submits something to the *Form 19* through the month of April (even if it isn't published right away) will be entered into a free raffle and**

someone will win a Division baseball hat! How about that?

Oh well, the countdown to Springfield 2025 begins...

See you at the next meeting!
Ben

Upcoming Meetings/Events

February Division Meeting

Friday, February 16, 7PM to 9PM

David R. Meager Malta Community Center

Located at #1 Bayberry Dr, Malta, NY off of Rte 9.

(For GPS use Ballston Spa, NY 12020)

“Show and Tell” PLUS “Filling out paper work for AP Program”

Bring a project you are working on or have completed or anything you would like to share with the group.

Due to a poor WiFi connection at this location we will NOT be able to provide the meeting virtually

March Division Meeting

Friday, March 15, 7PM to 9:00 PM

Dennis Hultay

S scale layout visit, Saratoga Springs

April Division Meeting

Friday, April 19, 7PM to 9:00 PM

Joe Martinec

Please visit:

Facebook Pages:

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

Hudson-Berkshire NMRA Group

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



“Show And Tell”

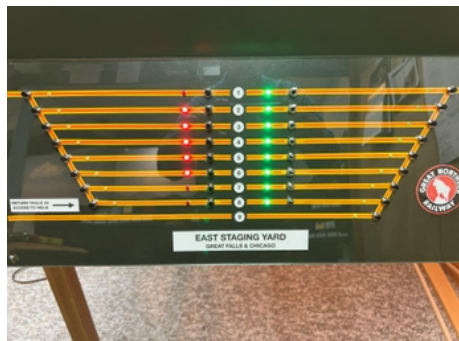
By: Doug Dederick

This month we will be at the David R. Meager Malta Community Center located at #1 Bayberry Dr, Malta, NY (for GPS use Ballston Spa, NY 12020) off of Rte 9. For this meeting I am asking each of you to bring something you have been working on this past winter or whenever to share with the group. Nothing crazy such as a life-size locomotive but something you can carry in and out. We have done something similar in the past such as our “memorabilia show and tell” but this time I would like to keep it to modeling or something to be used for

your layout or perhaps diorama. Maybe something you found that you plan to model, such as a picture of a structure or a drawing. Whatever you would like to share with other members related to modeling. Each person will be given a few minutes to talk about their item and to answer any questions others may have (10 minutes or so tops). Sometimes when we see what others are doing it can inspire us to work on our own projects that we have been putting off or a new one we didn't even think about.

Here is something I worked on

in recent weeks and is now installed on my layout. This winter's project has been to build my “East Staging Yard” which needed to be completed before I built the town of Shelby above it. Because it's a hidden yard I needed a control panel to show the align turnouts and what tracks were occupied or empty. I also needed to kill power to the tracks once a train was “parked”. I won't get into all the “meat and potatoes” because it would take too long but it has taken me several months to complete.



So this was my brief “TELL” of my project and here is my “SHOW”. I am looking forward to yours!!

Treasurer's Report

by: Ben Maggi

The following table is a quick look at our Division balance:

	Checking & Savings	Toys for Tots	GTE
Balance on 1/01/2023	\$8,533.02	\$1,126.18	\$11,136.01
Total Income	\$5,583.50	\$655.46	\$31,993.87
Total Expenses	\$4,180.28	\$1,381.25*	\$28,264.45
Balance on 12/31/2023	\$9,936.24	\$400.39	\$14,865.43

*Purchased 12 sets for \$1,381.25



Scratch building two HO scale Flat Cars - Part 2

By Ben Maggi

The stake pockets were formed from two pieces of C-channel glued together into a long rectangular tube and then sliced into pieces. I really struggled part-way through attaching them until I realized I had mistakenly refilled my MEK solvent bottle with lacquer thinner and that was why nothing was sticking together. Once I corrected that, things went smoothly.

My next step was adding all of the necessary brake gear which generally isn't visible unless you are having your model judged or really having a bad day and derail your car upside down! The plans explain where to install the various pieces and piping but they assume that you can cut holes easily in the maze of girders and braces you already installed. The truth is that you can't. So I took a different approach.

I used Details West (#DS-2012) metal brake gear set, as well as some Athearn styrene parts. I much preferred the styrene castings over white metal parts because MEK bonds to it better than superglue.

Piping was formed using 0.030" brass rod and even finer 0.015" brass and styrene rods. Some crossbraces were gently notched to allow rods to pass through (and later patched with more styrene strip on top) but most of the long runs were done with pieces I individually cut to fit between each brace. They had to be trimmed/filed exactly to length, and then lined up perfectly straight end to end. It wasn't hard, just fiddly. From a foot away they look like one piece of brass rod running the length of the car through the braces.

A few other brake parts were made from styrene, mostly to tie all of the brake casting together. I used car underframe plans to do it.

Stainless steel 0.015" wire was used for forming grab irons and stirrup steps. I didn't bother with a forming jig or anything like that; I just used my serrated-jaw pliers and put the wire in the same serration notch every time and the grab irons came out identical. If I needed longer ones I just used a different notch. It worked pretty well, and the metal was surprisingly strong. I made lots of extra ones just in case.

Then, out came the #72 (0.025") drill bit and pin vise to drill all the holes. Despite being an extremely small bit, I only had one break and that was because I got careless. The trick for me was to hold the drill horizontal and support the bit with my index finger of the left hand while turning the pin vise with my right. The styrene was thin and cut easily. The grab irons were secured with superglue.

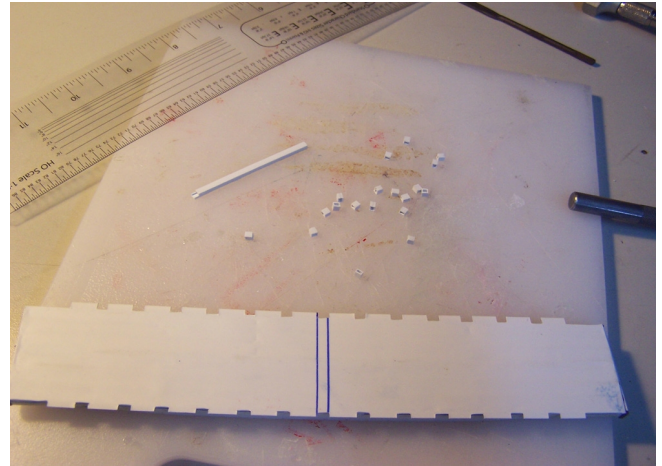


Photo 11: attaching the stake pockets. The long tube made from C-channel is visible.

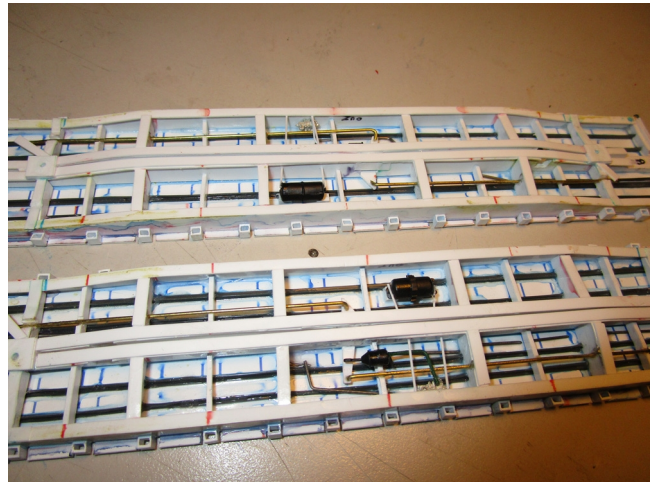


Photo 12: assembling all of the brake gear castings and connecting them with brass rods.

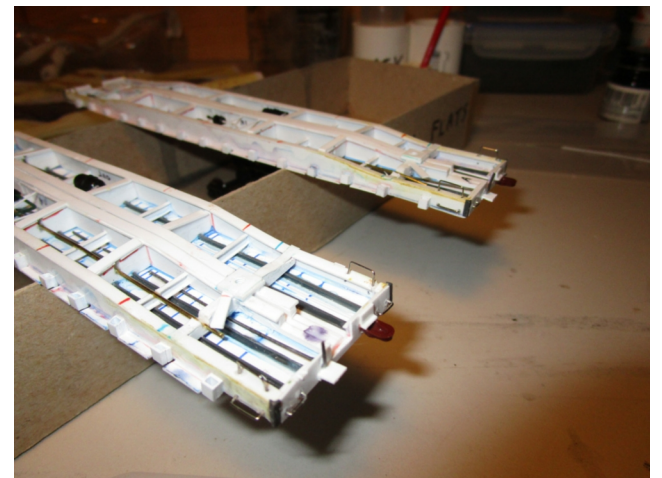


Photo 13: attaching the hand rails and grab irons.



(Continued from previous page.)

Speaking of bits, I was worried that I would break a lot of them so I ordered a 6-pack of #72 bits from Micro-Mark. They cost \$7.95, and \$18.26 total with shipping and tax. That is over \$3 a bit. Ebay has 10-packs of #72 bits for less than \$6 delivered. Are they just as good? Who knows, but they are much cheaper. I doubt the difference matters much when drilling styrene. In the future I will use the cheap ones until they prove unreliable.

Next, I worked on the cut levers for the couplers. The prototype has a cut-lever design that works from only one side of each end of the car. The cut bar goes under the coupler and pulls the pin from the bottom. Since my cars will have Kadee couplers and draft gear boxes, I only modeled the cut levers up to the point where they enter the coupler shank area. I used more 0.015" stainless steel wire for the cut levers themselves, but for the wire support brackets I used cut down Athearn metal handrail stanchions (*something I found to be really convenient... I use Athearn handrail stanchions for all sorts of things.*) I held off adding the brake staff and brake wheel until the very end to prevent damage.

Photo 14: the ends of the cars showing the coupler cut levers and brake attachment hardware.

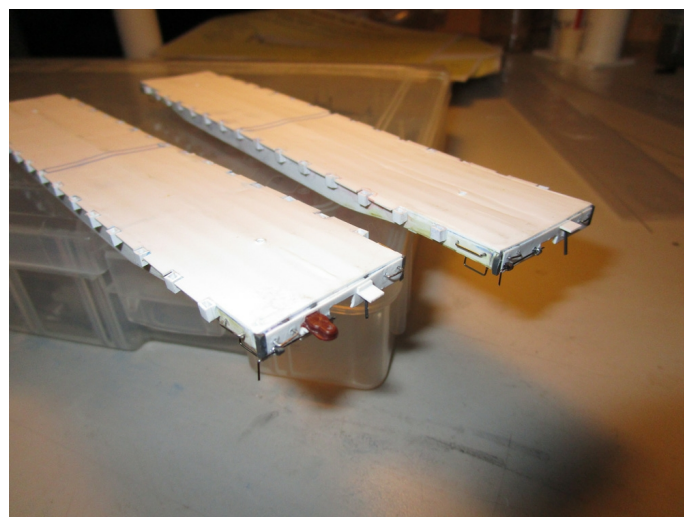


Photo 15: attaching the deck boards, two by two.



At this time, the cars were ready for painting. I washed them in soapy water and then let them dry for several days. I don't own an airbrush so I used Tamiya rattle cans. One flatcar was done in Burlington Northern green, and the other in Conrail brown, my two favorite Class 1 railroads as a kid.

After using primer on the underside to hide all of my layout ink, I painted the cars with their finished colors in multiple light coats. I didn't bother to focus on painting the top deck side because it would be covered with boards.

The flatcars looked pretty naked without their decking. I wanted to use real wood but didn't have any

stripwood handy, so I purchased laser cut individual wooden boards on Ebay from a seller named "Crescent Locomotive Works". He didn't have the length I needed, but we worked out a deal for him to custom cut them for me. It cost only about \$7 for enough boards for two cars, and each end cut is perfectly square. That is a bargain to me.

The boards were divided into five batches and added to a dark ink/alcohol solution at staggered times. The first group was in the stain for 12 hours and the last batch was only in for 4 hours. Then they were all left to dry overnight on some paper. There actually is a bit of a difference in the color of the

wood. Not so much as to be obnoxious, but enough that it looks pretty realistic.

Then, the boards were glued onto the deck two at a time with superglue gel. To hold them in place during the cure time I used some clothespins. I started in the middle using a metal square to ensure that they were perpendicular and then worked outward. I added two new boards every 20 minutes or so, and it took several hours to get them all on. I could have tried doing them all at once but couldn't think of a great way to clamp them all down. Remember to notch the boards around the stake pockets before gluing them on.

(Continued from previous page.)

To letter my cars I used custom decals made by Modern Rail Decals, a company I have worked with for over 20 years. The Conrail flat car was done normally, but the Burlington Northern flat car was based on a prototype where the car shop workers had mistakenly stenciled them on at an angle! This unusual look intrigued me so I copied it on my car. The decals were then sealed with flat spray.

With that done, I could work on the loads for the cars. I decided for maximum MMR points to scratchbuild the loads and wanted something different. I found a picture online of a flat car in Alaska transporting used railroad ties that looked like they were just scooped out of the ground (dirt, grass, ballast and all) and dumped on the car. Some really undersized steel bulkheads and chains on the ends supposedly held them on. This looked neat.



Photo 16: making a large batch of rust-stained ties.

I had a bag of 1,000 wooden HO scale ties in my stash so I used them. They were stained in a very dark ink/alcohol wash for 24 hours and then left to dry. I then made a fixture from balsa and posterboard to hold all the ties in a line, and masked off everything except

where the rusty tie plates were mounted onto the ties. Then, I brush painted the exposed tie-plate areas with rusty brown paint. Once the tape was removed, the ties were “rust stained” in all the right areas.



Photo 17: the finished Conrail flatcar with load.



The Burlington Northern flat car was loaded with a stack of steel plates based on an article in *Model Railroader* magazine from March 2016. I cut pieces of 0.060" thick styrene into several lengths (three of one size, and a smaller one for the top for variety) and then sprayed them with flat gray primer. Then, they were dusted with Rustoleum camouflage paint to give some tooth as well as a base rust coat. Finally, multiple layers of drybrushed brown and orange paint were added to give a patina of rust that was developing on the untreated "steel" plates.

I used stripwood to separate the steel plates to allow for forklifts to be able to move them. The blued-steel banding was created using thin strips of black electrical tape. I didn't trust the adhesive alone, so I superglued the ends of the bands under the load. The deck was lightly weathered with oil paint washes, but I didn't want it to look beat up like the Conrail car. The steel load was glued to the deck and then additional banding was added through the stake pockets. Stripwood was installed in other stake pockets to prevent the load from shifting completely off the car due to rough handling. After that, the trucks, couplers, brake wheel and shaft were attached and the car was complete.

It was a lot of fun to build these two cars, and I discovered that the process for fabricating the frames was easily adaptable for other cars. I later built a steel express reefer, a maintenance of way boxcar, and a Borden "butterdish" tank car all using similar methods. Once you have a set

of prototype plans, all you need is patience and a sharp knife to slowly build it up. It really is just adding one piece at a time until the frame is done.

The cars are quite light though, and hiding weight in contest models would be difficult without resorting to heavy loads. So, if you are just

building cars for fun you can omit some of the brake line work and use steel weights mounted underneath instead. Metal trucks sure would help too.

I hope you enjoyed reading this, and perhaps learned a trick or two in the process.



Photo 18: creating the steel plates from styrene and drybrushed cheap acrylic paint.

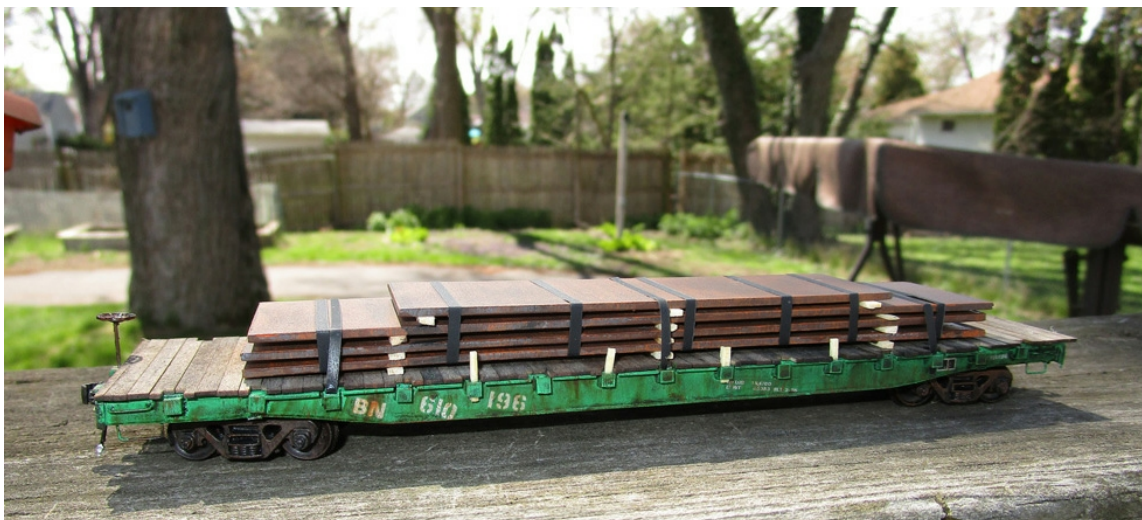


Photo 19: the finished flat car with "slant lettering".



NERx is Coming March 18-21

Back by popular demand, NERx, the virtual convention of the Northeastern Region, NMRA, is coming to a screen near you in March. The team is hard at work putting together another fantastic lineup of content, including Clinics, Layout Tours, and Roundtable Conversations. We will also be sharing your work in the Model Showcase and this year we are introducing Tips & Tricks, short video segments showing modeling tips that do not fit into a full clinic.

Check out the schedule at <https://www.nerx.org/index.html>

Clinic Highlights



Painting Scale Models

By: Chris Carfaro

Chris will show how he paints, decals, and weathers his scale models.



Building Craftsman Kits

By: John Feraca, MMR

Come learn about building the Cranberry Yard Freight House Craftsman Kit.



Up On The Roof

By Tom Oxnard, MMR

Tired of looking down on boring roofs? Learn about how to detail them.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

James Evans - Plattsburg, NY

John Schaub - Arlington, VT

Jeffrey Ouellette - Valatie, NY

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](#).

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>



FORM 19

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



First Class Mail