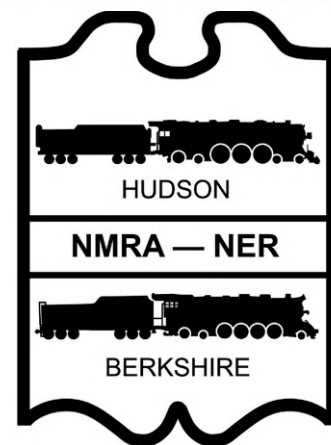


FORM 19

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



Order Number 387

June 2023

June Division Meeting

Saturday, June 24 10am to 2pm

Family Picnic at Adirondack Live Steamers

See pages 3 and 4 for detailed information.

From the Editor By MARK SKLAR

This month we are having the last meeting of the season at the Adirondack Live Steamers in Saratoga Springs. I have had a great time there in the past, riding the trains and eating great food. This is a family event so bring the family and enjoy the day. See page 3 and 4 for details. Thank you to the ALS for hosting us!

We had a great time last month at the Albany County Rail Trail Pavilion in Voorheesville. The member turnout was good and the weather cooperated. See page 5 for the report and pictures.

Irwin Nathanson is looking for help with advertising for the GTE train show. See page 6 to see if you would like to help him.

This month in our “Derailed” column John Valachovic discusses problems with not having enough room to complete a scene and how he fixed it. See page 7 for John’s story. Thank you John!

The last item this month is an article written by Sarah Lauser titled “Touring The Old D&H Headquarters Building”. See page 8 for the story. Thank you Sarah!

This is the last issue of the Form 19 for the season and will return in September. Have a great summer and see you here in September!

-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

June is here, which is the time we traditionally abandon our basements and train layouts for the sunnier activities outdoors. I sure didn't get enough accomplished over the winter though I did build the (hopefully) last structure for my Master Model Railroader structures certificate. I also finished the last structure for one side of my layout. I weathered some freight cars and did a bit of scenery work. And I managed not to break anything important. Even better, my 1/3 scale Welsh live steam locomotive chassis ran on compressed air for the first time after 10 years and about 1,000 hours of work. So, all in all I am pleased with myself.

Did any of you make accomplishments on your layout? If so, I would love to hear about them. Send me emails, send me pictures, send me whatever... and include the *Form 19* on your email too!

Later this month we will have our family picnic up at the Adirondack Live Steamers. All are welcome to attend, and it usually proves to be a day filled with fun, train rides, coal smoke, hamburgers, and comradery. Similar to previous years, we will provide the hamburgers and hot dogs and drinks including soda, water, and iced tea. But, we are asking you to bring something. A side dish, a salad, some brownies, a bag of chips.... As my wife would say, "bring what *you* like to eat". Last year at our picnic I tried something that was so good I had to have the recipe. It was very popular then. Maybe this year, your

special dish will be the hit of the party! Look elsewhere in the *Form 19* for further details.

And speaking of last year, I sure hope the weather is warmer than it was that day. Who would have thought Thatcher Park would get so cold that we would need to start a bonfire just to keep warm... in June! Oy.

We had a great turnout at Voorheesville last month, the weather held off long enough to enjoy being outside, and three trains went past during the two hours we were there. John V. brought along his research binder and gave a great impromptu presentation on some of the local industries that at one time were located within a quarter mile of the place (a hay barn... a metal casting foundry... a lumber yard... a CIDER VINEGAR factory... Say what? I had no idea all of that stuff was here). And, we were able to see the existing connector track which someday soon will host Norfolk Southern double-stack trains. It's been a while since that track hosted a train.

Speaking of a long time, here's a pop quiz for you: what significant event occurred fifty-three years ago? No need to ponder it for long as I will tell you. In June 1970, in Conway, New Hampshire, the NMRA granted the Hudson Berkshire Division its charter. Yup, we are fifty-three years old this month. Elsewhere in the *Form 19* is a picture (page 9) of our certificate of incorporation. I am sure we would have done something to celebrate

(Continued on next page)



(Presidents Corner Continued)

our big 5-0 in June 2020 had the pandemic not rudely interrupted things. But, at least we know that in 2025 it will be our 55th anniversary. What should we do to commemorate the occasion? I for one think a trip to ride the North Conway Scenic Railroad (a mere 4.5 hours each way from Albany) would be fun. We have

a couple of years to figure it out, but I would love to hear your ideas (even if I am not the President then).

See you at the next meeting up at ALS, and save me a brownie!

Ben

Upcoming Division Meetings/Events

June 24 10am to 2pm

Family Picnic at Adirondack Live Steamers

HBD Members are asked to please bring one of the following:

Any snacks such as chips, any side dish, or any dessert

All other food and drinks will be provided by ALS

See page 4 for detailed information.

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday September 16th “Joint Division Meeting”

Layout tours

With The

LakeShore and Central Divisions

More information will be provided as we get closer to the date

This will be an all day event and car pooling is recommended.

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](#).



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May HBD Meeting Report

By Mark Sklar

Our May meeting was held at the Albany County Rail Trail Pavilion in Voorheesville. The pavilion is located at the site of the D&H passenger station.



The rain held off and a good number of members attended. John Valachovic had historical maps that showed all the tracks, structures and activity that was in the area. The two tracks where we gathered were coming out of the Selkirk yard and were once part of the New York Central. Three large freight trains came through, impressing the crowd.



Division President Ben Maggi discussed the June 24 end-of-season barbeque at ALS (Adirondack Live

Steamers). Irwin Nathanson announced that he is going to be getting costs for HBD shirts, jackets and caps. Members will be able to order from a website rather than the Division ordering quantities of items and not being able to sell them. Bob Hamm also talked about leaving New York and having one last open house for members on June 3.





Help Wanted Assistant GTE Advertising Manager

As many of you know, Irwin Nathanson has been managing the advertising for our Great Train Extravaganza for more than 15 years. In about five years he will be moving to California to be near his sons and grandson. So, he's looking for someone to take over. Five years is a long way off, but he's looking for an Assistant *now*, to learn the ropes and – most importantly – *to inject new ideas and fresh approaches*.

Overall, GTE publicity comprises:

Plastic road signs. This is managed by Greg Whittle so the Assistant GTE Advertising Manager would not be involved unless he/she wanted to be.

Social Media ads. This is managed by our GTE Chairman, James Lauser. However, if the Assistant GTE Advertising Manager knows about this form of advertising, or wants to learn, James would be happy to pass this on to him/her.

Print Advertising. Currently only in the “Albany Times Union.”

Classified Ads/Event Listings. These are all in model train magazines, mostly for free. Also, on their web sites.

Events Listings Websites. These are typically free. Currently, Irwin has about 36 on his list.

Upcoming Event Press Releases to Local Newspapers. About half are sent electronically, the rest by snail mail. These are typically weeklies and are issued during the final stages of our advertising campaign.

The advertising campaign starts in July since the Classified Ads/Event Listings need to be submitted well in advance of the magazines' submissions deadlines.

We have tried paid TV advertising, but the results were somewhat disappointing. But, who knows, if the Assistant GTE Advertising Manager can inject a new “angle,” then who knows where we will go!

And, just to clarify, this is a volunteer position. The rewards come when we see the big crowds of model railroaders and families packing our show every December!

If interested, please contact Irwin directly at:

(518) 727-2009

irwindnathanson@fastmail.fm

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Victor "Vic" Roberts - Burnt Hills, NY



Derailed

By John Valachovic

We, in our pursuit of our hobby, often face challenges and setbacks. Sometimes they are unavoidable and sometimes they are unforeseen and only reveal themselves later. Often, no matter how well you try to plan out your railroad, issues creep in that you didn't take into account.

When I designed the Raquette Lake Railway, the area around Carter was taken into consideration for its interchange with the New York Central Adirondack Division. I was focused on it being the point where all freight cars destined for online sidings or their interchange back out to the rest of the system would occur. On the periphery I knew there were a few buildings such as the station and the general store and its attendant bungalow. I hadn't really fleshed out what the area was going to look like, and this came back to bite me 5 or 6 years later.

I had designed the benchwork to be minimal to not consume a larger amount of space. It contained the Adirondack Division Mainline, the two passing sidings and the Wye for the Raquette Lake Railway. I also included the "Oil Track" off the Wye. The "Oil Track" was, I believe, added slightly after my era for fueling the New York Central locomotives on the Adirondack Division. I added it anyway to give a little extra interest to the area, since I was laboring under the supposition that there wasn't much going on at Carter.

I am a prototype kind of

modeler, my research continues, and I am constantly adding to my knowledge base. Due to my membership in a couple of Facebook Groups dealing with Adirondack History and my own personal Facebook Group for the Raquette Lake Railway, more information keeps being acquired. A fellow historian, Tim Mayers, has been providing me with mapping and architectural plans and Matt Giordano from Milepost Hobbies is always good for some photos and information. Through these sources I was developing a clearer picture of Carter and I quickly realized I did not provide enough room for all the cool stuff going on there.

Carter is an interesting place, and you can go by it on the Adirondack Scenic Railroad today. It is just a wide spot in a clearing with only a few of the former structures remaining. This includes the General Store and Bungalow, the New York Central Adirondack Division Section house, and the Raquette Lake Railway Section house. Both section houses are private camps now and, as I haven't found period photos or plans, I'm not sure what they looked like at the time. The station, tool houses and bunkhouses are long gone, as is the old hotel and camps on Clearwater Lake. There also may have been a sawmill in the area.

When you are at Carter today, it is hard to understand how there could possibly have been enough people to support a General Store. However, with two "Italian

Shanties" or bunkhouses there, one for the Adirondack Division and one for the Raquette Lake Railway (each with six to eight workers), two section houses, the station with the station agent's living quarters above and the hotel, there would be plenty of customers. The store also was a Post Office. I also discovered the name of at least one of the families that owned the store, the Bosquets. I had toyed with the idea of skipping the store and bungalow because I hadn't built the benchwork wide enough but now with all this additional information, I felt the story of the store needed to be told.

So, when the weather finally warmed up, I got the power tools out and made a small section of a shelf that fit into the curve of the benchwork. It only took a few hours to install and do the base plaster landforms. This little shelf allowed me to add the Adirondack Division Section House, the store, and the bungalow. I had room to even tell a little story in the scenery using an outhouse, doghouse, and a small garden. Those additions gave the scene a lived-in look and a hint of what it might have looked like "back in the day". It was an easy little fix to a small problem that paid off larger dividends.

The End



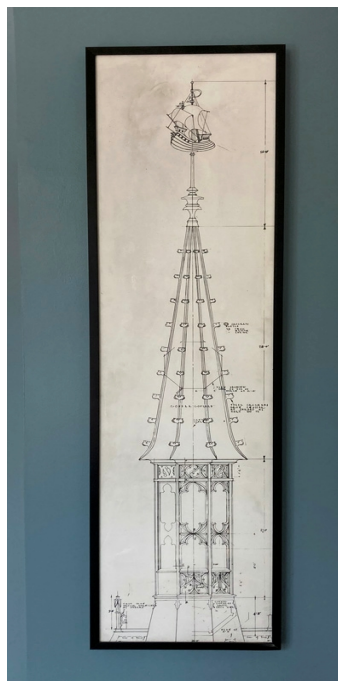
Touring the Old D&H Headquarters Building

By Sarah Lauser

Have you driven by Albany's "castle" on I-787 lately? Many local railroad fans know that the beautiful building to the right of Exit 3A southbound was once the headquarters for the Delaware & Hudson Railroad. On Thursday, May 18, 2023, a few members of the Hudson Berkshire Division and I were lucky enough to get a tour of the building. It has served as the State University of New York (SUNY) System Administration building since the late '70s, and a number of amateur historians have put in a large amount of work preserving the building's history and researching its past.



I am indebted to Sara Saplin, Director of University Life and Opportunity Programs Operations, who was our tour guide. Ms. Saplin has not only collected and created the tour, but she also got permission to invite



other SUNY staff to learn more about their building and has even expanded to public tours starting this summer. She took this on as a passion project and her enthusiasm for the history of the building was contagious.

On the tour, we learned a lot about the building. It was initially built as headquarters for the Delaware & Hudson Railroad in 1914-15 and only consisted of the central tower and the north wing when it was first built. A south wing was added from 1915-18, including a connected but separate building housing the Albany Evening Journal. The Journal was a newspaper owned by Billy Barnes (William Barnes Jr.), a powerful political figure of the time. The south end of the building bears testament to its separate history with engravings related to printing and even engraved stonework text near the top of the tower reading "Albany Evening Journal."



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It's amazing all the details that I never saw even when I worked downtown and walked by the building regularly. Two other neat things to look for are: the replica of the Half Moon, Henry Hudon's ship, which serves as a wind vane at the top of the central tower (it actually moves!) and the beavers between the upper windows of the north wing which honor Albany's Dutch trading post roots where beaver pelts were integral in helping the city prosper.

Anyone interested in the history of the building can find some photos and further information at <https://www.suny.edu/plaza-centennial/photos/>.

I'm looking into whether we will be able to host another tour at some point (hopefully with more notice for members!) and will be sure to keep the division updated.

Sarah Lauser

**NMRA
Hudson Berkshire
Division Charter**

June 6, 1970

**See the "President's
Corner" for details
about the charter.**



THE NORTHEASTERN REGION OF
The National Model Railroad Association, Inc.



Be It Known That The

HUDSON-BERKSHIRE DIVISION

Has Been Granted This Charter By The Northeastern Region,
National Model Railroad Association

On JUNE 6, 1970

At NORTH CONWAY, N.H.

President

Richard E. Towle

Secretary

David J. Marlowe

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

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