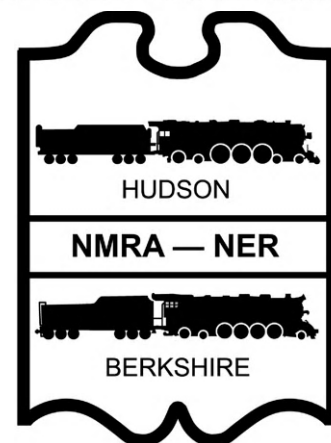


FORM 19

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



Order Number 391

November 2023

November Division Meeting

November 17th @ 7:00 PM Friday

Presenter: Otto Vondrak

Editor of "Railroad Model Craftsman Magazine"

Location: Bethlehem Public Library

452 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, NY

From the Editor By MARK SKLAR

There is a lot of information in this issue of the Form 19, so please review all the content for this month.

Remember to send in the election ballot you received in the October Form 19. If you need a copy of the election ballot it is available at <https://hudson-berkshire.org/Form19/Oct2023F19.pdf>.

This month we will be having a guest speaker Otto Vondrak. See page 4 for the meeting details.

Last month our HBD meeting was held at the Chester Railway Station & Museum with a visit to Tom Beck's Layout. See page 4 -6 for a review of the event by Doug Dederick. Our division made a donation to the Chester Railway Station & Museum. The museum sent a letter of thanks to the Division. See the letter on page 7.

The GTE train show is December 3rd this year. Volunteers are needed on December 2nd and 3rd. The show flyer is on page 8. Make copies and pass them out to promote the show.

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.

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The President's Corner

By Ben Maggi

We all start somewhere in the hobby. As a child I read magazines and built my 4x8 HO layout on my own. I assembled kits with tube glue- the stuff that gets everywhere and smells horrible. My trains had horn hook couplers and went round and round through scenery made from green "grass paper" with a blue construction paper "pond", with a few bright yellow and orange Life Like trees scattered around. I even discovered that I could spray paint some of my trains with cheap brown paint and slap on Conrail decals to make my own custom rolling stock. It was all crude, but I was happy.

Then, in early 1997 I saw a tiny notice in a magazine for the nearby RIT model railroad club (RITMRC). I was almost 16 and figured it was time to expand my modeling skills. So, I called the number and talked to some guy named Otto. He invited me to visit, and after asking my Dad for a ride we went to see the club. Wow! Here was a real train layout in all its bare plywood goodness with lots of track and switches and wires. I showed them some of my custom-painted trains which I had brought along and they seemed impressed (I now suspect they were just being kind).

They invited me to join in on a "special activity" of searching the college campus buildings at night for bottles and cans to redeem for a nickel each. Apparently, this was how a college train club got funds. A later visit found me learning how to make puff-ball trees by the dozens

(an activity I still don't enjoy). Still, I stuck with the club and when it came time to pick a college, I selected RIT.

By now, the club was teaching me skills such as layout design; decoder installation and electrical wiring; and how to maintain and troubleshoot locomotives. When they voted to switch to DCC in the early 2000s I was one of two people who opposed (we both had large collections of Athearn engines) but progress couldn't be stopped. I quickly saw the advantages of DCC, especially when the club started doing prototypical operating sessions. My favorite job was running staging yards, controlling trains entering and leaving the visible layout. I served as Secretary for the club for four years and learned a lot about club dynamics and successfully putting on model train shows. It was all a great experience.

Fast forward to today. Otto Vondrak went on to bigger and better things. He is currently the editor of *Railroad Model Craftsman* magazine and Managing Editor of *Railfan & Railroad* magazine, and he is also active in the railroad preservation scene. He is a great teacher, an extremely knowledgeable resource for anything involving north-east railroading, and his graphics design background allows him to create all of those useful maps and charts found in train magazines. And I am very pleased to say that he will be

(Continued on next page)



(Presidents Corner Continued)

our guest speaker this month (see elsewhere in the *Form 19* for details).

We also have other club business to take care of, such as elections for our two open Board positions and discussions about the upcoming GTE show. I encourage all of you to come out to attend our meeting. I learned long ago that there is a tremendous value in joining organizations and learning new model railroading skills, and I hope you are getting as much

out of the Division and having as much fun as I am with model railroading. If not, please let me know what we can do to make it better for you. We are always looking for new ideas for clinics, new layouts to visit, and new members to run for our Board.

See you at the next meeting!

Ben

Upcoming Meetings/Events

November 17th @ 7:00 PM Friday

Presenter: Otto Vondrak

Editor "Railroad Model Craftsman Magazine"

Location: Bethlehem Public Library

452 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, NY

December 3rd

GTE Train Show

Empire State Plaza

Albany, NY

January 19th @7PM Friday

Presenter: Charles Newton

Location: To Be Determined

White Elephant Table

- The White Elephant Table is a free service for all division members who have unwanted model railroad items to sell at the GTE. *****LIMIT 24 ITEMS PER PERSON*****
- Volunteers are needed to help at the white elephant tables. Please call Ed Skowronek at cell phone 518-421-6188. If no answer, please leave message.
- In addition, any questions about either form can be addressed by calling Ed.
- Fill out the forms and bring them with you either Saturday during setup day or Sunday am (at least one hour before show starts). There are editable pdf versions of the form on our HBD website: <https://hudson-berkshire.org/Documents/White%20Elephant.pdf>



Details For The November Meeting Event

This month on November 17 at 7:00PM we are having a special guest speaker presentation. Otto Vondrak, editor of Railroad Model Craftsman magazine, will be appearing remotely to give a presentation titled "The Enduring Influence of the Virginian & Ohio" railroad. His talk will focus on Allen McClelland's innovations in layout design and operation, and the practical applications many modelers still use today. Otto has been researching this topic for more than a year and

is very familiar with it. If there is time left there will be an opportunity for questions and answers.

We will be going to a new meeting location for this talk: the Bethlehem Public Library at 452 Delaware Avenue in Delmar, a couple of miles southwest of Albany. Please make sure to show up on time because we will also have other important business to take care of such as the elections of two new officers and the upcoming GTE train show.

A Day filled with History and Model Trains

By: Doug Dederick

This past month we all gathered for our Hudson Berkshire Division meeting at the Chester Railway Station and Museum located in Chester Massachusetts. We would also visit Tom Beck's model railroad layout which was only a 12 minute ride from the station. Little did we know what kind of day it would turn out to be.

Dave Pierce, our tour guide, was very knowledgeable on the history of the railroad as well as the local community. Sometimes I think we forget how rich our area is when it comes to railroads and the building of these railroads. The impacts that changed the local communities surrounding the

railroads and eventually the country. We learned so much and there is no way I would be able to repeat everything or do it justice in this article. I would highly recommend visiting this local treasure on your own if you were unable to join us this past month. I know some of us plan on returning to take in more of what the area has to offer. By the way, the Station is right next to the CSX line and we had a CSX freight go by while visiting, what a bonus!

Not only did we visit the Museum but we also had the pleasure of visiting Tom Beck's model railroad. The layout is a freelance full size-basement

layout modeling New England. It is a double track main line controlled by NCE wireless throttles. Some of the beautiful scenery was done by the late Dick Elwell and Tom is well on his way to having a great model railroad.

This was a well attended event and what a great day we all had getting together with other HB members and some of their families. I hope that all of you and others will continue to join in on our HBD gathering and meetings.

Thanks.

Doug Dederick your VP

(pictures continued on next page)



HBD Members at the Chester Railway Station & Museum (Ben Maggi photo)



Chester Railway Station & Museum (Mark Sklar photo)



Our Host David Pierce, Chester Railway Station & Museum President (Mark Sklar photo)



Hudson and Chester Granite Works site across the street from the Chester Railway Station & Museum (Mark Sklar photo)

(Continued on next page)



Kevin Surman Presents HBD President Ben Maggi the Certificate of Achievement for Master Builder - Structures (Mark Sklar-photo)



HBD Vice President Doug Dederick (left) and host Tom Beck (Mark Sklar-photo)



Tom Beck Layout (Mark Sklar-photo)



Tom Beck Layout (Mark Sklar-photo)



Tom Beck Layout (Mark Sklar-photo)



Tom Beck Layout (Mark Sklar-photo)



The Chester Foundation

www.ChesterRailwayStation.net

P O Box 743, Chester, MA 01011

(413) 354-7752

Dave@chesterrailwaystation.net

October 19, 2023

Benjamin Maggi
602 Albany Shaker Rd.
Loudonville, NY
12211-2134

Dear Benjamin:

Just writing to express our gratitude for your recent donation of \$100.00 to Chester Railway Station. This is very generous of you and we will do our best to live up to your evident dedication to our cause. I heard a lot of kind comments from you guys, and it means more than usual because you are all experts in the field, not like the usual visitors.

The museum exists due to many such expressions of generosity. The artifacts available add greatly to visitors' understanding of days gone by in and around Chester and along the Boston & Albany (nee Western) Railroad. Chester Station came close to being lost in 1990. Numerous devoted citizens have made its renewed vitality possible.

Historically, it's hard to overstate what the Station, a National Historic Landmark, represents. This is like a story of Washington crossing the Delaware or the Moon Shot; big, bold American drama, but unknown. It's something every American should be aware of.

The station has also evolved to fulfill a need within the community as an event venue, apart from its value as a serious rail museum. We feel it has reached a place where it would be sorely missed if it were unable to function. In view of this, help such as yours supports not only the station proper, but helps maintain a service the town of Chester has come to regard as essential.

We offer our heartiest thanks and

Best regards,

David Pierce
President

www.hudson-berkshire.org

Great Train Extravaganza



2023

PUBLIC MODEL TRAIN SHOW AND SALE.

Sunday, December 3rd
10am - 4pm

Adults only \$10
Children 12 and under free



- Many operating model railroads
- Sales of model trains, train sets, parts and accessories, building kits, scenery items, books, videos, DVD's, photographs... everything related to model trains and railroading
- Door prizes
- Roaming Railroad train rides
- Giant Lego layout for kids of all ages
- Over 300 tables!

Empire State Convention Center
Albany, NY (underneath The Egg)

From I-787 heading south, take Exit 3A.
Heading north, take Exit 3.
Follow signs to Empire State Plaza to
Visitor Parking.

**Sponsored by the Hudson Berkshire Division
of the National Model Railroad Association.**

Skip the line, buy your tickets online: **www.gtealbany.com**



The
perfect
place to
do your
holiday
shopping.



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 27th, 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