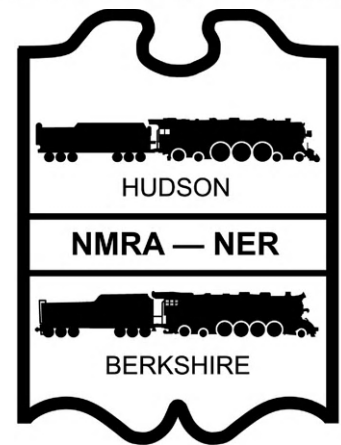


FORM 19

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



Order Number 390

October 2023

October Division Meeting

Saturday October 14th

10:00AM to 1:00PM

Chester Railway Station & Museum

10 Prospect St, Chester, Ma 01011

PLUS

Tom Beck's Layout Tour

From the Editor By MARK SKLAR

This month we will be having our Division meeting at the Chester Railway Station and Museum, and also visit Tom Beck's layout nearby. To learn more about the museum visit <https://www.chesterrailwaystation.net>. Our vice president Doug Dederick has planned this event and would like to see more members attend. We hope you can join us. See page 4 for the meeting details.

Mike Hachey has a write-up on the September Joint division layout tour. See page 4 for the article. Thank you Mike.

Election ballots must be in by November 11. See page 8 for instructions on casting your ballot.

Last month I visited Steam Town and we stayed at the old Lackawanna Railroad Station in Scranton, Pennsylvania. My wife and I stayed at the station which is now a hotel. The ornate lobby was restored as original. See page 9 for the pictures.

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

Welcome to October! You may notice that this month's *Form 19* seems a bit early, but there is a very important reason for this: unfortunately, our October meeting is being moved up a week to Saturday, October 14. I am really looking forward to this event. A friend of mine recently visited the Chester Railway Station and Museum and had a good time. But even better, at least for me, is their unique opportunity to rent a caboose for an evening! We will talk about that more at our October meeting, but I think that is such a really great idea. Also part of our October meeting involves a nearby HO scale model railroad tour. Plus... the station museum is located on still-active railroad tracks. So, you might get to: talk with a lot of your Division friends, tour a neat museum, visit a nice model railroad, and perhaps railfan all in the same Saturday!

Our fall schedule of activities just keeps on rolling. In November, we are having a special treat: Otto Vondrak, editor of *Railroad Model Craftsman* magazine and author of several railroad books and magazine articles, will be giving a live presentation just for us! We are meeting at the Bethlehem Public Library on Friday night, November 17, and he will be joining us remotely to give a presentation titled: "*The Enduring Influence of the Virginian & Ohio*" regarding Allen McClelland's innovations in layout design and operation, and the practical applications many of us

still follow today. Anyone who follows model or prototype railroading in the past twenty years has run across Otto's name before, and I have always found him to be insightful and entertaining to listen to. A special presentation on the V&O model railroad will be a lot of fun. We have other Division business to conduct at the November meeting too (such as elections and GTE planning). It will be jam-packed, and I really hope you will come out and join us.

December is the annual Great Train Extravaganza, and this year should be really exciting because it will be our second year back from the Covid-created break in shows. By now I think most things are "back to normal". Last year was a great show, and this year is promising to be even better. But, we need two things for a great train show: trains, and YOU! Believe me, there will be trains galore in all shapes and sizes packed into and around the Egg. But, without volunteers like you we can't pull it off. So, when we start sending around emails or putting out notices for volunteers to help us out for the GTE please put your hand up or respond to the email. We have all sorts of needs, and I am positive that we can find something for you to do. A lot of hands make light work is certainly true, but more importantly: a lot of hands make for a great train show.

As noted before and elsewhere, there are two Board member positions up for election this year:

(Continued on next page)



(Presidents Corner Continued)

Vice President and one of our two Directors. The terms are only 2 years. If you have any interest in running for either position please reach out to me and let me know. If you aren't sure what is involved and would like to sit in on one of our Board meetings just to get an idea of what we do and how we do it, that is super easy to arrange as well. Working on the Board to make the Division fun is really rewarding and mostly comes down to maybe an hour or so a month. We all work together to try and make our events fun, but we sure could use new ideas and opinions... yours!

Finally, one last note about January. We are already working on the Springfield Bus Trip this year so start making plans about all of the great trains you want to look for or take pictures of now. January will sneak up on us in no time.

See you at the next meeting!

Ben

Upcoming Meetings/Events

October Meeting

Saturday October 14th

10:00AM to 1:00PM

Chester Railway Station & Museum

10 Prospect St, Chester, Ma 01011

PLUS

Tom Beck's Layout Tour

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

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](#).



Details For The October Meeting Event

Saturday October 14th

10:00AM to 1:00PM

Chester Railway Station & Museum

10 Prospect St, Chester, Ma 01011

PLUS

Tom Beck's Layout Tour

For our next event we will all meet in the parking lot of the Chester Railway Station & Museum @ 10:00 AM. From there we will split up into two (2) groups.

NOTE: Please try and arrive by 9:45 in order to start on time.

Group #1 Will go into the station where they will meet their guide and local historian Dave Pierce for a tour of the station. Dave will also include some of the local history as you visit the station and some of railroad equipment located on the property.

Group #2 Will car pool to Tom Beck's Layout located about 10 minutes from the station. Tom's layout is a Freelance full size basement layout located somewhere in the Northeast. The late Dick Elwell helped mentor Tom in designing and building this wonderful layout.

Each Group will spend about an hour at each location and then the two groups will switch. Once each group has been to each location we will meet back at the Station for a brief HBD meeting regarding the GTE train show and upcoming events and other business.

We look forward to seeing everyone at this next event.

PLEASE NOTE: Travel time will depend on your location so please plan accordingly and allow yourself enough time to get there safely and on time.





Central, Lakeshores, and Hudson Berkshire Divisions Joint Meeting

By Mike Hachey

On September 16, 2023, the Hudson Berkshire was invited to a joint meeting with the Central and Lakeshores divisions in the Syracuse area. There were nine layouts to see. There were about 12 members from the Hudson Berkshire and a total of at least 50. There is a brief description of all the layouts in the August Form 19. This is my reflection of the layouts I visited.

The first layout we visited was Bob Wilkins's Mohawk Valley Central. One of the towns on the layout was Oneida. Someone mentioned that they remembered being on that street in the past. I guess that means that it was very well modelled. One neat thing on

the layout was when Bob turned the layout lights off, by saying something like "it is night". We saw stars on the walls. Some were projected on the wall. Some were actually small holes in the wall with lights behind them.

Next, we visited Bill Brown's Leadville & Red Cliff and D&RGW Narrow Gauge. That's right, it is actually two layouts in one. The narrow gauge one based on the early 1900s. The other part was a modern railroad designed by Bill's son. The computer-driven lighting was awesome. As it turns to night, several building lights come on. Bill showed us that an HO version of Bob Hamm is on the layout fishing.

Next was Dave Martini's CSX Northeast. This is a modern layout. I was impressed with some of the scenes that blended in with the backdrops. This looks like a real fun layout to operate.

The last layout we visited was Drew James's Canada Spokane & Pacific. This is a large layout based in Western US and Canada. I was worried that I didn't have my passport with me. There is a very impressive CTC machine that operated the layout.

We ended the day with a Pizza buffet at Twin Trees Pizza and a meeting.



Bill Brown Layout



Bill Brown Layout with Mike Hachey and Mike Phelan

(Continued on next page)



Bill Brown Layout



Bill Brown Layout



Drew James Layout



Drew James Layout



Drew James Layout



Drew James Layout

(Continued on next page)



Bob Wilkins Layout



Dave Martini Layout



Dave Martini Layout



Dave Martini Layout

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>



2024 Hudson Berkshire Elections

Please print out this page and bring the ballot below to the
next meeting or mail it to:

Hudson Berkshire Division
P.O. Box 83
Clifton Park, NY 12065-0083

HUDSON BERKSHIRE DIVISION, NATIONAL MODEL RAILROADERS ASSOCIATION
Fall 2022 Ballot Mark an 'X' in the space after the name or write in a qualified* member's name

Vice President: Doug Dederick _____ Other: _____

Director: James Lauser _____ Other: _____

* A qualified member is any current full NMRA member residing within the Division.

In order for your completed ballot to be valid, you must be a full NMRA member and write your name and NMRA membership number on the back of the ballot. If you receive in print form, cut off this section; your name is on other side. 'Rail Pass' membership does not confer voting rights during the trial period.

To vote: Mail the completed ballot in an envelope, marking the envelope "ballot enclosed," to:

Hudson Berkshire Division
P.O. Box 83
Clifton Park, NY 12065-0083

All ballots sent by mail must be postmarked by November 11 to be counted.
Ballots may also be delivered in person during the HBD meeting on November 18th.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Greg Ricciardi - Schenectady, NY

Matthew DiGennaro - Clarksburg, MA

Todd Burdick - North Adams, MA



The Ex-Lackawanna Railroad Station which is now the Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel in Scranton Pennsylvania. Mark Sklar photos.



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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