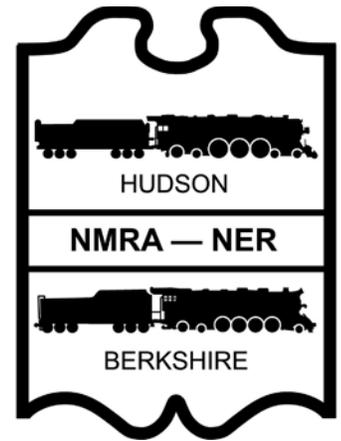


FORM 19

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



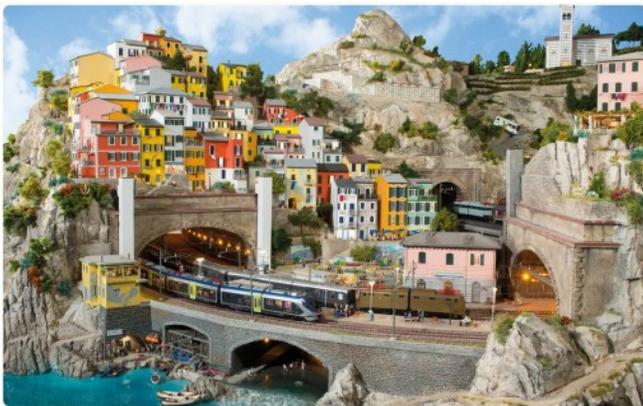
Order Number 340

September 2018

September Division Meeting - Friday September 21, 2018 7:00pm

Irwin Nathanson Introduction to Miniatur Wunderland & Gulliver's Gate

Malta Community Center, 1 Bayberry Drive, Malta, NY



Miniatur Wunderland in Hamburg, Germany is likely the largest model railway in the world; it is certainly the most famous. But there are other major attractions like this in other countries, such as in England and in France. And one coming in Toronto in 2019. Now, we have Gulliver's Gate, right in New York City. In this presentation Irwin will introduce Wunderland and Gulliver's, including helpful hints for visiting each location. Based on his personal experiences, he will also compare both attractions. Presentation will be PowerPoint with maps, floor plans, photos and videos.



Irwin will also give us a run-down on the NER Regional Convention The Erie Limited, in Mahwah, NJ, September 13-16, 2018. Irwin's presentation at the NER Convention (on this subject) will be rather pertinent as the planned bus trip for Convention attendees to visit Gulliver's Gate had to be canceled because the entire exhibition will be closed for maintenance on that day.

Very few Division members have visited both Miniatur Wunderland (above, left) in Hamburg, Germany and Gulliver's Gate (lower left) in NYC. Irwin has visited both, has pictures, and experiences to share. This is an opportunity to hear a bit about each and to ask questions.

The exhibition near Toronto will feature trains running the entire width of Canada. The modeling of the Toronto area has already cost \$4M.

Come join your friends at this kick-off meeting of the Divisions 2018-2019 year.

www.hudson-berkshire.org





Form19

The *Form19* is published eight 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 Ready Line

By Paul Hoffman

Welcome back from the summer hiatus! I hope your days were filled with friends, family and trains.

The GTE Show chairman has been very busy this summer as was our VP. Both have some exciting new wrinkles for the 2018-2019 season.

In GTE news, we are proud to say that we now have an on-line, advance sale, ticketing order system in place. Head on over to www.gtealbany.org and click on the link to buy tickets online. Safe, secure and no need to wait in the lines. Show your ticket at the door for instant entry! One of the many ways we are putting the "Great" in Great Train Extravaganza! Look for this and other enhancements as the show gets closer.

Irwin Nathanson, our VP, has been working overtime to line up some great events for this year. We will start out with a couple of clinic nights in September and October, leading up to Election Night in November. From there we will begin the layout tours and he hopes to bring you some surprises! Speaking of layout tours, we are always open to suggestions on new places to see and visit. Don't hold back, write the editor, see a board member, catch us at a train meeting. If you have seen something that merits a greater look or that you found interesting let us know and we'll do the rest. Contact information and/or introductions are always welcome. Share those ideas, all are welcome!

Enjoy this issue of the *Form 19* and I look forward to seeing you in September.

To those that have filled out the member information form, THANK YOU! I have left the link below for the convenience of those of you who haven't had the chance yet. Please take the time to fill out this form and return it us. It is vitally important.

You will find a copy of the Member Information form on our website-

http://www.hudson-berkshire.org/Documents/MemberInfoSheet_030318.pdf

As President of this organization, the buck stops with me. If you have a problem or an issue, please work with your fellow members and do all that you can to help solve the problem. Feel free to contact me directly and I will do all that I can to help. Our doors and thoughts are always open to a fellow member and we welcome all to become involved. Please remember to renew your membership in the NMRA and to encourage anyone interested in trains to climb aboard.

On occasion, I like to feature one of our local modelers who does fantastic work but is a little shy about sharing - so be sure to see the pictures of Karl Butler's creation on the next page.

Have an unsung hero in the group that you'd love to see featured? Let me know and we'll get them in our pages and I promise there will be no pressure on our "hero".

Paul

Continued from Paul's Column on the previous page

On occasion, I like to feature one of our local modelers who does fantastic work but is a little shy about sharing. Here are some photographs of member Karl Butler's most recent structure. In addition to model trains, Karl also has a passion for old cars including his Chevelle and a Model A project

he has been working on. Karl retired from GE where he spent his career as a master electrician. And oh yeah, Karl is colorblind, which just makes his modeling that much more impressive. Enjoy!

Have an unsung hero in the group that you'd love to see featured? Let me know and we'll get them in our pages and I promise there will be no pressure on our "hero".



Karl Butler's project started out as a craftsman kit... but Karl seems to have 'an alternative view' than what the kit's creator had in mind. It appears to have started with the idea of being an old (farm?) house, as seen at left. But someone added some large doors to the structure (were those in the kit) and a loading dock. Note the stucco walls. Picture at left seems amazing.

But then some 'car guys' got hold of the building and it became a commercial venture - complete with requisite signs. And then they added some sort of facility under a shed roof.

And then there is the structure on the other side and it all turns into a diorama - perhaps for a contest (?). See the picture on the next page.





The Form 19 staff insisted on a large size picture so that more of the details show. The Editor agrees. Congratulations Karl.

THE FINE SCALE MODEL EXPO 2018
@ The Hilton ALBANY, NY
NOV 1-3*
***VENDOR SHOW NOV 2-3**

THE ONLY SHOW DEDICATED TO THE ART OF SCALE MODEL STRUCTURE BUILDING

\$1000 CASH PRIZE MODEL CONTEST

CLINICS & WORKSHOPS
 AWARDS DINNER
 DIORAMA DISPLAYS
 LAYOUT TOURS
 FINE SCALE MODEL VENDORS

REGISTER TODAY!

The Fine Scale Model Expo is in Albany November 1 -3. This is a great opportunity to see structural modeling at this level for a modest cost and without having to drive (or fly) great distances.

Check out the website at <http://modelrailroadexpo.com/>

Note the different registration levels and the list of layout tours. A 'First Class Pass' gives 1 day access plus 'bennies' for a very reasonable price.

(Neither the *Form19* nor any staff member receives remuneration from the Expo.)



The June issue of the *Form19* had information about the Division trip to the Essex (CT) Steam Train & Riverboat Ride. Well twenty adults and an excited 4yo granddaughter took that ride. Some Division members from Vermont and Massachusetts attended and that was nice. Here are just a few pictures to give you a taste of the event.

Top to bottom: A 1914 coach of happy travelers. James & Sarah Lauser of GTE fame. VP Irwin Nathanson checking travel progress on his iPhone. *Form19* Editor Bert Pflugl with his grandson Jonathan posing at the 1920 Alco 2-8-2. First time the young fellow had ever seen a steam locomotive.



The train and riverboat ride is a popular experience. Businesses in the greater area charter an entire coach for an employee outing. Between Thanksgiving 2017 and New Years Day 2018, The Essex steam train transported over 85,000 visitors. The day was misty but that didn't dampen spirits.

Well worth the 6 hrs of driving for the Editor & grandson.



My “Norway in a Nutshell” Adventure

By Irwin D. Nathanson

In May, 2018 I made what might well be my last business trip to Norway since I am retiring end June after working non stop for 50 years. So, I decided to arrive a day early and take a unique railway journey which has long been on my ‘bucket list.’

Norway in a Nutshell, as it is called, is one of the most popular tourist attractions in the country. If you plan on going, book well ahead! You do this on-line at: www.fjordtours.com. (This company can customize the tour for you.

The adventure can begin in Bergen or in Oslo. I chose Oslo where I had my business meetings with AVINOR, the FAA of Norway. I booked on-line a week before my arrival in Oslo. Taking the express train from Gardermoen to downtown, I went right to the NSB ticket office where I collected my tickets. I just happened to notice an 80-page, English “Norway in a Nutshell Travellers Guide” on a display rack. It proved quite useful and informative.

The first leg of the journey is by modern, main-line train from Oslo to Myrdal. The coaches were quite comfortable although quite crowded. I had a nice lunch in the dining car which is very similar to Amtrak’s CaféCars.

The Bergen Railway is Northern Europe’s highest stretch of railway, roughly 100km of which runs through wild mountain country. We passed through Finse, the highest elevation at 1,222 metres. Even in early May, it was blowing snow and people were still out skiing. Myrdal is the transfer point for the scenic and famous Flåm Railway. Flåm is known as the “Twenty Line:”

It’s 20 KM from Myrdal to Flåm

There are 20 tunnels (most excavated by hand, one of which contains a 180° switch-back!)

It took 20 years to build (from 1924 to 1944 when the line was finally electrified)

It cost NOK 20 million

The grade is 1:18 (5.5%) and it’s all adhesion, no racks. The scenery is breathtaking...Norwegian mountain landscape, rivers cutting through deep ravines, waterfalls (there’s a brief stop at one of

them), snow capped peaks, farms clinging dizzily to sheer slopes and, finally, the natural beauty of the Flåm valley. One of Norway’s top tourist attractions, the Flåm Railway carries more than 760,000 passengers each year.

This leg ends at the village of Flåm. In addition to several restaurants and gift shops is the small but nice Flåm Railway Museum (entry is free). The museum provides an insight into the construction of the Flåm Railway, the technical development, and the people responsible for its undertaking. The exhibition holds an authentic 1944 EL9 electric locomotive and a nice HO layout of the Flåm Station and surrounding area. There’s a small gift shop selling the normal souvenirs as well as a few HO models.

After about an hour and half lay-over in Flåm, the next part of the adventure is a two-hour cruise from Flåm to Gundvangen on the Aurlandsfjord, a branch of one of the world’s largest fjords, the Sognefjord. Even though it was cloudy with some rain, the scenery was still quite spectacular.

At Gundvangen, the journey continues by bus. Again, the scenery was awesome. Water and mountains everywhere. There was one really harrowing (sharp and steep) switch back which the driver navigated very carefully and slowly. The bus connects to the main line station at Voss where I boarded for the final – and long – leg to Bergen. By this time it was dark so I can’t report on the scenery...but according to the Travellers Guide the scenery was also quite nice.

By the time we arrived in Bergen, it was already 2200 and I was quite hungry. Everything in the station was closed. But I walked a few blocks into the city and immediately found a few open restaurants. After a quick meal I boarded my train for the overnight journey back to Oslo. Even though the train didn’t depart until 2300, it looked like I could have checked-in (in the dining car) well before departure which I would have done had I known in advance.

Overall, a really great adventure, in every sense of the word!



Norway in a nutshell®

Tour highlights

- The scenic Bergen Railway
- The breathtaking Flåm Railway
- Fjord cruise on the world famous UNESCO-protected Nærøyfjord and the magnificent Aurlandsfjord

Duration

- Train Bergen-Myrdal, approx. 2 hours
- The Flåm Railway, approx. 1 hour
- Fjord cruise Flåm-Gudvangen, approx. 2 hours
- Bus Gudvangen-Voss, approx. 1 hour
- Train Voss-Bergen, approx. 1.5 hours
- Train Voss-Oslo, approx. 5.5 hours
- Train Oslo-Geilo, approx. 4.5 hours
- Train Oslo-Finse, approx. 4.5 hours
- Train Oslo-Bergen, approx. 4.5 hours
- Train Oslo-Myrdal, approx. 5 hours



Modern, mail-line train from Oslo to Bergen, stops at Myrdal for transfer to Flam Railway. Five hours from Oslo to Myrdal.



Modern, Flam Railway loco from Myrdal to Flam. Trip takes about 1 hour with lots of switch-backs!

Right: Vintage passenger coach on Flam Railway. Really nice interior woodwork.



First loco used on newly electrified Flam Railway, vintage 1944. Because of the steep descent of the Flam line, this EL9 was delivered with a special braking system, the first locomotive delivered with electrical resistance brakes. In all, this loco had five different braking systems. Served on the Flam line until 1984.



The Flam Museum also contained a nice HO layout of the Flam Station and surrounding area. HO model trains were also on display.

Right: The journey from Flam to Gudvangen was by two-hour cruise on the Aurlandsfjord. From Gudvangen to Voss was a two hour bus trip.





The Great Train Extravaganza

By Irwin D. Nathanson
Vice-President, Hudson Berkshire Division
and GTE Publicity Chairman

The largest model train event in the New York state Capital Region, the GTE has been a popular pre-Christmas annual event for the past 30 years or so. Starting with GTE 2018, the Hudson Berkshire Division (HBD) has taken over complete ownership and management responsibility for the show.

Although just a one-day event, GTE has attracted as many as 5,000 visitors, more than many shows attract in two days! Perhaps some of this success is because other family-friendly events take place in the same general location on the same day - such as the Taste of NY Fair, a craft fair, and the lighting of the NY State Christmas Tree.

And just because it is at Christmas time, the show is not just for kids. This show is also for serious modelers. Sure, there is a huge Legos layout and an a train ride, but this is in addition to some nice, prototypical operating layouts in most gauges. And although some vendors sell model train sets for newcomers, others offer everything from spare parts for old Lionel trains to HO and N scale craftsman kits.

Last year the show sold out more than 300 vendor tables of model trains, train sets, parts & accessories, scenery items, books, videos, DVDs, prints, railroad memorabilia and related items for sale. Actual counts for GTE 2017 included 270 vendor tables, 50 educational display tables and eight layouts. This included a table promoting the NMRA and some White Elephant tables where HBD members could sell their surplus items.

In addition, there are educational displays and door prizes. Refreshments are also available.

Under the new leadership of James L. Lauser, a team of four started working on the event in July; six

months in advance. On the day of the show, about 50 HBD volunteers help bring the show to life. GTE staff sends out letters to vendors and exhibitors starting in July and Irwin Nathanson, in charge of advertising, starts submitting advertisements at the same time, beginning with several monthly magazines that require a lot of lead time.

“This year we expect to sell out yet again” said Chairman Lauser. “As usual, the convention center Egg will be jam-packed with model railroaders and families as they admire the layouts and shop for various merchandise and this year we may even have more space available to us” he added.

Referring to the other events going on the same day, Lauser says he is pleased: “We plan intentionally for that. Having complementary events helps to create an exciting atmosphere and attracts newcomers to the show and – hopefully – to the hobby.”

Overall, GTE is a whole day adventure, with several awesome events eventually culminating with the tree lighting and caroling at 5:00 PM and with great fireworks immediately following.

Editor's Note: Yes, it is that time again - has been for several months - when some people think about and work towards the upcoming Great Train Extravaganza.

But it is different this year. The Division has total control and responsibility for the show. New people are in charge and shouldering the load. New technologies are being employed - Facebook and other online advertising, online ticket sales, etc..

And yet, somethings stay the same - *Form 19* staff assist with publications, printing, and promo photos. There are lawn signs to order and distribute. Ads in the T-U and other publications. Experience is being shared and new experience created.

And volunteers are needed for a variety of jobs. Speak to the GTE management to volunteer and offer a word of encouragement.

Nominations for President and one Board Of Director position

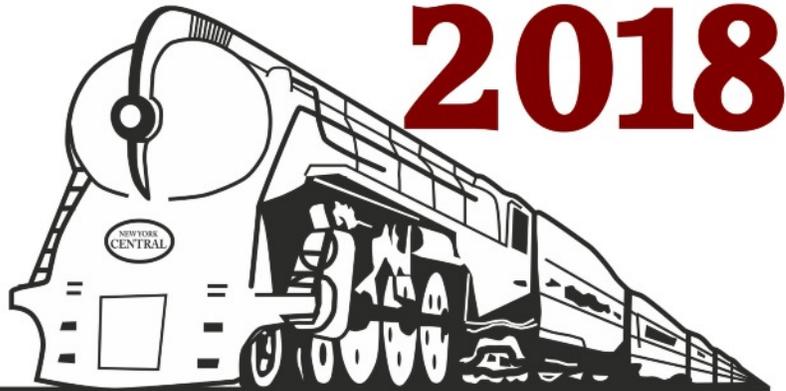
We will be holding an election in November for 1 Board member position (currently held by Artie Krass) and for the Office of President (currently held by Paul Hoffman). Please contact any Board member by the meeting on September 21, 2018, if you are interested in running. Nominations will be

CLOSED after that meeting so we can prepare ballots for the upcoming election.

Candidates may be existing officers or directors, members recruited by a selection committee, or a member nominated by at least two members. In the latter case the Board of Directors will contact the candidate to assure that he is willing and able to serve in that office.



Great Train Extravaganza



Public model train show and sale
Bigger and Better Than Ever!

Sunday, December 2nd
10am - 4pm

Adults still only \$7
 Children 12 and under free



- Operating model railroads
- Sales of model trains, train parts and accessories, kits, scenery items, videos, DVDs, everything related to trains and railroading
- Roaming railroad rides
- Refreshment stand
- Door prizes
- Giant Lego layout for kids of all ages

Empire State Convention Center, Albany, NY
 From I-787 heading south, take Exit 3A; Heading north, take Exit 3.
 Follow signs to Empire State Plaza to Visitor Parking.
 Many other family activities same day/same location.

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



Buy tickets online: www.gtealbany.com

Upcoming Events

September 21st

Irwin Nathanson: 'Miniatur Wunderland & Gulliver's Gate,' Malta Community Center, 7-9pm.

September 13-16

NER 'Erie Limited' Convention, Doubletree Hotel, Mahwah, New Jersey

October 19th

Kip Grant at The Mill in Round Lake.

Kip will present the talk he did for the Northeast Railroad Prototype Modelers. He will discuss: layout concept and creation, the Proto - Freelance "balancing act," the D&H "look," personalizing your layout with "memory scenes," and realistic operation.

Those who want to come for dinner (dutch treat) can show up at 6. Beverages and snacks can be ordered during the meeting.

November 1-3

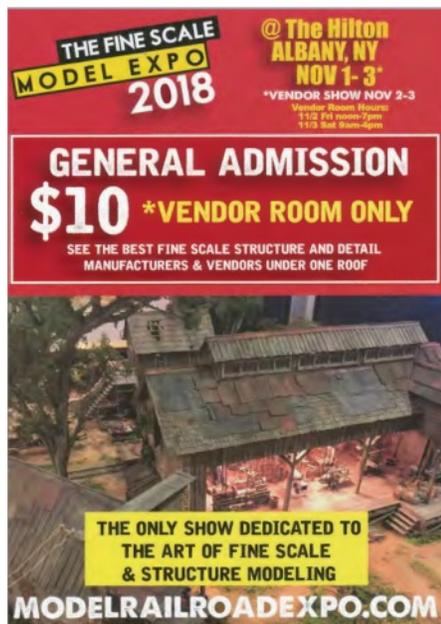
Fine Scale Model Expo, The Albany Hilton Hotel, Albany, NY. 'The only show dedicated to the art of fine scale & structure modeling.' (See page 4)

November 16th.

Annual layouts visit followed by Election of Division Officers. Upstate Model Railroaders, Glens Falls.

December 2nd

The Great Train Extravaganza, 10AM-4PM at The Egg at The Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY. Setup on Saturday, December 2nd. (See pages 8 & 9)



FORM 19

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First Class Mail