GUIDE to HUDSON RIVER SIGHTS FROM THE TRAIN

On a train trip to Albany from New York City for a bar association activity, I said to my colleague, Spencer Compton, that I wished I could identify the sights we were seeing from the train as we rode up the beautiful Hudson River Valley. When we arrived at the Albany train station, I searched for a guide, but could only find a map (Hudson Valley Map by JIMAPCO). On line I found www.hudsonriver.com, but did not find a guide.

So I decided to make my own guide, which is on the following pages. First, there is a two- page chart showing the approximate mileage from New York City to Albany, the eight bridges, sights on the west bank and in the river and sights on the east bank. Principal sights are in bold type [those in brackets are not visible from the train]. Bridges and many train stations are underlined. Next, there are short descriptions of the principal sights that are visible from the train, including many of the seven lighthouses. My personal favorites are West Point, Bannerman Arsenal Island (castle ruins very close to the train), Saugerties Lighthouse (a bed and breakfast) and the Hudson-Athens Lighthouse (a beautiful brick structure). Next, there are short descriptions of sights not visible from the train. Finally, there is a code for train whistles that you may hear, supplied by Terry Brooks of NYSBA.

Bring this Guide along on your next train trip along the Hudson River and enjoy the sights! Say hello for me to my favorites.

Karl Holtzschue
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By Karl B. Holtzschue, Esq.

Mile	West Bank/In River	East Bank
7.5	G. Washington Bridge ***St. Peter's College**	G. Washington Bridge
		***Spuyten Duyvil (Harlem River)**
	***Palisades**	Yonkers Station AMT
	***Hudson River widens**	Irvington Station ***Sunnyside ?; [Lindhurst]**
22.5	Tappan Zee Bridge (IS 287)	Tappan Zee Bridge (IS 287) Tarrytown Station ***Tarrytown Lighthouse** ***[Kykuit]** *Philipse Manor Station*
		***Sing Sing Prison** Ossining Station
		Croton-Harmon Sta. AMT ***[Van Cortland Manor]**
	[Stoney Point Lighthouse]	***Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant** Peekskill Station
42	Bear Mountain Bridge (Rte 6)	Bear Mtn. Bridge (Rte 6)
		Manitou Station
	Highland Falls	***[*Osborne Castle]?***
		Garrison Station
	***West Point: U.S. Military Academy**	***[Boscobel Mansion]***
	***Storm King Mountain**	Cold Spring Station
		BreakNeck Ridge Station
	***Pollopel Is/Bannerman Arsenal**	
56	Newburgh-Beacon Br (IS 84)	Newburgh-Beacon Br (IS 84) ***[sites not visible from train]***

Mile	West Bank/In River	East Bank
		[Locust Grove]
68	Mid-Hudson Bridge (US 44)	Mid-Hudson Bridge (US 44) Poughkeepsie Sta. AMT
		[Hyde Park/Vanderbilt]
	****Esopus Island Lighthouse***	
		[Staatsburgh Mills Mansion]
		[Wilderstein Mansion]
	****Roundout Lighthouse (Kingston)***	Rhinecliff Sta. AMT
87	Kingston-Rhine Bridge (Rte 199)	Kingston-Rhine Bridge (Rte 199)
	****Catskill Mountains***	***Montgomery Place (from north)***
		Bard College (arcade)
		Cruger Island (track crosses over)
	****Saugerties Lighthouse***	
	****Catskill Mountains*** ****Hunter Mountain (4050')***	***[Clermont Mansion]***
106	Rip Van Winkle Br (Rte 23)	Rip Van Winkle Br (Rte 23) ***[Olana Mansion]***
	****Hudson-Athens Lighthouse***	****Hudson Station AMT***
126	IS 90 Bridge	IS 90 Bridge
137		Albany Station AMT
04/28/08		***[sites not visible from train]***

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Spuyten Duyvil: where the Harlem River meets the Hudson, a swing bridge opens for boats, and legend says a trumpeter drowned warning the Dutch of an English attack.

Tarrytown Lighthouse: obsolete due to Tappan Zee Bridge, this "spark plug" survives as a museum, viewable from Kingsland Point Park.

Sing Sing Prison: maximum security prison built of marble by inmates, opened in 1828, who were "sent up the river." 1914 - 1971 electric chair was used. See the film "The Big House."

Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant: two operating Westinghouse pressurized water nuclear reactors built in 1974 and 1976 produce electricity for 2 million homes.

Osborne Castle: a/k/a "Castle Rock." Built of stone topped by red roof and conical orange turret in 1881 by William H. Osborn, patron of Frederic Church, owner of Olana.

West Point: U.S. Military Academy: founded in 1802, motto is "Duty, Honor, Country." "Much of the history we teach was made by people we taught."

Storm King Mountain: Battle to create Storm King State park resulted in seminal environmental law decision in U.S. Supreme Court. Many hiking trails, closed in 1999 due to unexploded artillery shells from West Point, were reopened in 2002. Founded in 1960, the Storm King Art Center is one of the best-loved outdoor sculptural parks.

Bannerman Island Arsenal: built on Pollopel Island in 1900 by Frank Bannerman VI as a warehouse for an immense collection of Civil and Spanish American War surplus weapons. Showroom at 501 Broadway, N.Y. City. Famous catalog 1880 – 1966 (KBH has one).

Esopus Island Lighthouse: the "Maid of the Meadow," the last of the wooden lighthouses. The black cat is still in the window.

Roundout Lighthouse (Kingston): still active aid to navigation; centerpiece of the Hudson River Maritime Museum; "Haunted lighthouse" program.

Saugerties Lighthouse: the only lighthouse bed and breakfast, beautifully restored.

Hudson-Athens Lighthouse: beautiful restored brick lighthouse still an active aid to navigation, with working fog bell

Hudson Station: beautiful restored brick train station.

Hudson River Valley Sites Not Visible from the Train (south to north):
Sunnyside (Tarrytown): Washington Irving's Dutch Plantation style home, with a fanciful and eclectic touch. Grounds landscaped in the Romantic style.

Lyndhurst (Tarrytown): Gothic castle home of railroad magnate Jay Gould, built in 1838 and remodeled several times. Now a National Trust Historic Site with estate landscaping.

Kykuit (Sleepy Hollow): one of the Rockefeller family homes, an imposing granite Georgian mansion rising above a series of stone terraces and formal Beaux-arts gardens. Home to Nelson Rockefeller's extensive collection of 20th century sculpture.

Van Cortlandt Manor (Croton): Early American stone manor flanked by a rebuilt tavern and restored tenant house. Demonstrations of period activities.

Boscobel Mansion (Garrison): Federal Domestic style mansion built in 1804 by States Morris Dyckman, a British Loyalist. Reassembled in its current location, with American Federal period antiques and art and well-appointed grounds.

Locust Grove (Poughkeepsie): home of Samuel F.B. Morse, converted in 1847 from Georgian style to a Tuscan Villa with 150 acres of grounds with spectacular river views.

Springwood (Hyde Park): birthplace and early 1800's Georgian Colonial style home of Franklin D. Roosevelt. Burial site of Franklin and Eleanor.

Vanderbilt Mansion (Hyde Park): neoclassical style "Gilded Age" mansion completed in 1899 for Frederick Vanderbilt. Majestic river views.

Mills Mansion (Staatsburgh): 65 room Beaux Arts neoclassical Autumn Residence of the Ogden Mills (and Ruth Livingston) family.

Wilderstein Mansion (Rheinbeck): remodeled to a Queen Anne house in the 1880's. Circular tower soars five stories above a landscape by Calvert Vaux.

Montgomery Place (Annandale-on-Hudson): Federal mansion built in 1804 by widow of Revolutionary War hero General Richard Montgomery; architect was A.J. Davis.

Clermont Mansion (Germantown): built in late 1770's, remodeled in 1920's as a Colonial Revival. Occupied by seven generation of Livingston family, including
Robert R. Livingston, Jr., one of the five authors of the Declaration of Independence.

Olana Mansion (Hudson): Hudson River painter Frederic Church's magnificent Persian palace stands as one of his greatest works of art. Landscaping in the Romantic style.
Primary Reference Sources: ***www.hudsonriver.com; http://en.wikipedia.org***

05/16/06

Whistle code

Train whistles are used to communicate to other railroad workers on a train or to railroad workers in the yard. Different combinations of long and short whistles each have their own meaning. They are used to pass instructions, as a safety signal, and to warn of impending movements of a train. Despite the advent of modern radio communication, most of these whistle signals are still used today:

One short: Stop or stopping; apply the brakes

One long: Approaching railroad station or junction (if moving), or apply air brakes and equalize pressure (if standing)

Two short: A general answer signal or acknowledgement; identical to the "roger" or "10-4" radio terms

One short, one long: Inspect the train

One long, one short: Visibility obscured

Two long: Train is about to proceed forward; release the brakes

One long, two short: Additional section follows signaling train

Two long, one short or ***two short, one long***: Train is approaching a meeting or waiting point

Two long, one short, one long: Train is approaching a grade level crossing (i.e. a road crossing). This is a widely used safety signal used to warn motorists and is blown at every grade level crossing, except where local noise ordinances prohibit it. Known in railroad rulebooks as rule '14L'

Three short: Train is about to proceed in reverse (if standing), or train is about to stop at the next station (if moving)

Three long: Train cars have come unhooked; train has come apart

One long, three short: Flagman, go protect the rear of the train

One short, three long: Flagman, go protect the front of the train

Four short: Request for signals

Four long: Flagman, return to the train from the west or north

Five long: Flagman, return to the train from the east or south

Four short, one long: Fire alarm; fire on the train

Multiple short: Danger, get off the tracks! Used to warn pedestrians or livestock who are on the tracks in front of the approaching train.

Supplied by Terry Brooks of NYSBA