



Seacoast Division NMRA Spring 2022 Event Report

by
Glenn Mitchell

The Seacoast Division of the NMRA held its Spring 2022 Live Event with Zoom on April 23, 2022 at the Newington Old Town Hall. We'd like to offer a special thank you to John Newick for arranging the venue and Bob Kotsonis running the Zoom portion of the meeting. The event was attended by 19 NMRA members in person and 6 members via Zoom.

Glenn Mitchell, the Seacoast President, kicked off the meeting and welcomed everyone. He thanked former President Tage Erickson, former Director Mike Pederson and former Webmaster Steve Russo for their great service to the Division and presented a Certificate of Appreciation to each of them. Glenn then introduced all of the current Directors, Officers, and Committee Chairmen.

The Seacoast Board of Directors had decided to hold a Silent Auction of model train items donated by the Seacoast Members. All proceeds will go to the Seacoast Division Treasury and will be used to help defray the costs of the quarterly events. Mike Pederson, the Silent Auction Coordinator, created an inventory of the items being donated prior to the event and sent the list to the membership. Mike gave a brief overview of how the auction would work.

There were no AP awards given this quarter.

The first clinic, "Presenting a Clinic for NMRA Seacoast Events," was given by Jack Lutz. Jack stated his goal of the clinic was to help future clinicians feel comfortable presenting to their peers. Jack's Power Point presentation started with the do's and don'ts of using Power Point in general. He reviewed three rules of giving any presentation; 1) Tell the audience what you are going to present; 2) Present the information; 3) Review what you just presented. Jack went on to say that presentation don't need to use Power Point – use the right method for your topic. Overall, Jack gave a very informative and entertaining presentation on how to give a clinic. Thanks Jack!

The second clinic, "Kitbashing a Boston and Maine RR Tie Car", was given by Dave Kotsonis. Dave started with two prototype photos for the model he wanted to build. He found a Red Caboose gondola model that was a good starting point. He made the additional vertical support posts and horizontal slats from styrene. He also was able to use styrene to model the doors, closely matching the prototype. Dave mentioned two custom decal makers that he has used in the past – Highball Graphics and The Personal Touch Decals. For this model Dave used Highball Graphics. Dave displayed the finished product at the event – Outstanding!

The third clinic, "The Pursuit of Realism by Lance Mindheim" was presented by Tom Oxnard, MMR. This clinic was an encore presentation of the same clinic Tom gave about five years ago. Lance Mindheim is a professional layout designer and builder as well as a prolific author. His creations are some of the most realistic modern era layouts. This clinic is part of the NMRA EduTrain series of clinics available to members

on the NMRA website. Tom did a great job presenting the material and adding comments based on his own experience at building outstanding models. Tom, thanks again for an outstanding presentation.

The NMRA EduTrain Approved Clinic series includes over 20 great clinics that are available for the specific purpose of educating the NMRA membership. If anyone is reasonably skilled in an area and a clinic presentation is available, he can present that topic without going through the work of creating the clinic. We need members to step up and support the Quarterly Events by giving clinics. The EduTrain library makes it much easier.

Following lunch, the last clinic, "Building a Helix," was given by Tage Erickson. Tage began by giving a brief overview of his layout design concept and operating plan. He then got into the details of the helix design and construction. Tage is using quarter-circle panels connected with biscuit joinery and screws. The connected panels are held in vertical position by many threaded rods, washers and nuts. Tage showed how his careful attention to detail resulted in a precision fit in the mounting location. His excellent photography displayed all of the detail. Great job Tage!

The final part of the Spring Event, the "What's On Your Workbench?" segment included projects presented by Dave Emory and Rich Breton. Dave had 8 of his scratch built wooden boxcars on display that were described at the previous event. Rich showed how he built a mine structure to fit an existing location on his layout. Rich's use of paper models to precisely fit the structure to the location insured that the final wooden model fit the location perfectly. Thanks Dave and Rich for sharing your work with us.

Mike Pederson wrapped up the Silent Auction which was tremendous success. The Auction made \$489.00 for the division. Thank you to all who donated items and purchased items. Also, thanks to all who donated at the door a total of \$38.00. All of this money will be used to defray the costs of this event and future events. Look for another silent auction next year.

Lastly, Glenn Mitchell closed the event and provided directions to the two layout tours.

John Newick opened up his Central Maine and Aroostook (N) layout and Dave Kotsonis opened up his Greenland Valley RR (HO). We were lucky to have two outstanding layouts to see within a few miles of the event. Thanks John and Dave!

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Mitchell

President, Director, and Event Coordinator (Acting)