



**Seacoast Division NMRA Fall Live with Zoom
Event
Saturday, October 23, 2021
Event Report
by
Glenn Mitchell**

The Seacoast Division of the NMRA held its Fall 2021 Live Event with Zoom Event on October 23, 2021 at 10:00 am at the Greater Wakefield resource Center in Union, NH. A special thanks go out to Bill Gaver for providing the venue and to Bill and Rich Bretton for providing cookies and water.

This event marks a new milestone for the Seacoast Division as we added Zoom Access to a live meeting for the first time. We thank Bob Kotsonis for all his technical support in making this work. As a result there were 13 members and guests on Zoom in addition to the 21 who attended in person

Tage Erickson, the Seacoast President, kicked off the meeting and welcomed everyone. He then gave a short Mill City NER convention wrap-up. His presentation included photos of layouts that he operated at and visited. In summary, it was a great convention.

Tom Oxnard, MMR, then presented AP Awards. The following have received AP awards since the since our last live event in the Winter of 2020.

Association Volunteer: Tage Erickson, Ralph Brown, Geoff Anthony
Association Official: Tage Erickson
Master Builder – Cars: John McHugh
Chief Dispatcher: Brenna Whitney
Golden Spike: Eric Lalonde
Congratulations to all for a great job.

Tom Oxnard then presented his “Scratch Build Prototype Structures” clinic. Tom described how he uses photos, Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, and Google satellite images to develop sketches of the structure that he wants to model. Next a key step is choosing commercially available windows that match the prototype as closely as possible. The windows then help set dimensions of the model that he then sketches. Tom went on to show how he modeled several structures including a large mill that was made up of 10 sub structures. Thank you Tom for sharing your fantastic modeling skills in a great clinic.

John McHugh the presented his “Scratch Building a Gondola” Clinic. John shoed how his research found a suitable prototype drawing as a starting point. He compressed it in length to 40” long to better fit his layout. He then showed how he assembled it, pained it and added a load of pipe. John made it all look easy. Thanks John for an outstanding clinic.

After lunch, Rich Breton gave his clinic, “Modeling the Village of East Wakefield”. Rich went into great detail explaining how he and the other members of the crew built the “Heritage Park Railroad Museum’s Boston

and Maine – 1909” layout in the Union Freight House. The layout that depicts East Wakefield on specific day in 1909. In order to make the layout easily recognizable, Rich started with photos of the surrounding scenery that were combined into a panoramic back drop for the layout. The contours of the layout were modeled to match the backdrop. Rich and the crew did an excellent job of using forced perspective, including modeling structures in several different scales. Congratulations on a great job to Rich and all the members of the crew.

Jim Gore was the only contributor to the “What’s On Your Workbench?” segment. Jim presented several photos of his work on the oil terminal on his layout.

Tage Erickson wrapped up the Fall Event at approximately 2:00.

The “Heritage Park Railroad Museum’s Boston and Maine – 1909” was the first layout to be toured following the meeting. Members got to see first-hand all of the work accomplished as described in Rich Breton’s presentation. Museum volunteers including several Seacoast Division members have created a historically based replica of the five villages of Wakefield as they existed in 1909. This includes Sanbornville which was the Northern Division headquarters of the Boston & Maine Railroad in 1909. The layout has recently been updated to run multiple trains automatically. In addition to the 1875 Freight House with the 1909 HO scale layout, the Museum now has a full size restored B&M water tower, restored 1911 passenger station housing a railroad museum, 1950’s era B&M steel caboose, and restored 1902 Russell snowplow. The museum is located at 282 Main St., Union NH.

Chris Oliver’s “Southern Pacific Thru The Donner Pass” Layout was the second layout on the tour. Chris models the Southern Pacific’s route over the Donner Pass with over 3000 feet of track on multiple levels. The route is signaled and fully automated. Members got to see the progress that Chis has made since he opened his layout for the Seacoast division a year ago. Thanks Chris for opening up your incredible layout once again.

Respectfully submitted,
Glenn Mitchell