



NER
NORTHEASTERN REGION
NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

COUPLER

Spring '86

NER Fall Convention Preview

NER Life Begins at 40!

October 10 thru 12th at Utica, New York

THE NORTHEASTERN REGION TURNS 40 THIS YEAR!! There's a new life and spirit on this NER birthday as the Region looks to the future with model railroaders of all ages and interests. Join the youthful celebration during the 1986 Fall NER Convention as "NER: Life Begins Again at 40!" in Utica, New York, on October 10-12, 1986!

Modelers' Events

A. Layout Tour - About eight area layouts will be open to give you a healthy dose of variety ... and all the hosts are full of enthusiasm for your visit! Here are just some of the featured layouts never before seen by the NER:

- Bill Swain - A large basement HO scale empire that combines German prototype modeling and unique construction techniques into a top convention highlight.
- Ed Scott - A fictional, free-lance coal and bridge line called the Blue Ridge and Eastern is modeled in the now-rare TT scale by this long-time NER member.
- Dan Gimelli - The youthful theme of our convention is underscored by this teen's HO scale pike based on the late John Allen's Gorre & Daphetid.
- Bob Wilbur - A bedroom HO scale layout heavy on NYO&W prototype and detailed scratchbuilt structures that are definite award winners and contest quality.

B. Clinics - If you want to be educated, inspired, entertained, or all of the above, we have a great selection of clinics for you! Whether prototype or model subjects, you won't want to miss out on a thing as all modeler's clinics are being given twice .. morning and afternoon on Saturday. Check out this sample of a few of the clinics waiting for you:

- Scratchbuilding Turnouts - Veteran modeler Dick Loomis' easy-going and clear style will lead you out of the turnout "jungle" and prevent gandy-dancer frustration. Having installed 130 or so on his own layout, Dick knows the ins and outs and will show you. A good clinic!
- Photography in Modeling - This is not a rehash of how to take model photos. Instead, Ed Scott will use his professional optics experience to show you how you can add that something extra in improving and facilitating your modeling! Photos for small signs, sure? But how about car sides?? Come and see more...
- Utica's Union Station - As an area railroad and general historian, NRHS Chapter director Doug Preston brings to our convention a frequently shown and colorful history of our convention's 'second home'. Catch this presentation before attending the train show in our Union Station.

C. Model And Photo Contests - One-half of the hotel ballroom will be the home for the convention contests and we expect that the judges will be busy! The early indications are that the quality and quantity of entries should be first-rate, with a significant number of entries from new participants.

In commemoration of the NER's 40th year, the contest room will be open all day on Saturday .. including judging sessions. This "open judging" will be a great opportunity for you to witness why and what in the judges' collective opinion make the best models and modelers! Don't miss it!!

D. Train Show - Two days of great fun in Utica's Union Station!! Your convention registration includes admission to the Utica & Mohawk Valley Chapter, NRHS, "6th Model Railroad Extravaganza!" on Saturday and Sunday .. including this program:

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NER Brass

DEADLINE

for the next issue, #148, Summer 1986 is June 1, 1986.
The issue will be mailed approximately one month after this date.

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Edwin R. Permon
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Bedford, NH 03102

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David W. Messer
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Wyantskill, NY 12198

Other deadlines:

- # 149, Fall 1986 - September 1, 1986
- # 150, Winter 1987 - December 1, 1986.
- # 151, Spring 1987 - February 1, 1987

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Elections

by Kenneth May

It is time for elections in the NER. Positions to be elected include President, Vice-President, and Representatives to the Board of Directors from the eight principal areas of the Region. All members may vote for the President and Vice-President. However, a member may vote only for a candidate for Director from the area he resides in. Example: since I reside in Connecticut I may vote only for one of the candidates for Director from Connecticut/Rhode Island.

In addition, there has been a proposed change to our Constitution that will need a vote from all the membership. Article II, Section 1 reads:

Sec. 1

The classes of membership are:

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Address changes should be sent to the Office Manager.
All other material should be sent to the Editor.

The classes of membership are:

- A. Regular: NMRA members may become Regular Members upon application to the Office Manager and payment of dues, \$4 for one year, \$10 for three years.
- B. Life: Life Members of the NMRA may become Life Members upon application to the Office Manager and a single payment of \$65.

It has been proposed by the Board of Directors that this Section of the Constitution be changed to read:

Sec. 1 The classes of membership are:

- A. Regular: NMRA members may become Regular Members upon application to the Office Manager and payment of dues, \$6 for one year, \$15 for three years.
- B. Life: Life Members of the NMRA may become Life Members upon application to the Office Manager and a single payment of \$110.

It is critical to the survival of the NER that all members vote on this proposal. The treasury is in a depleted condition, and a financial transfusion is needed.

Below are the biographical statements of the candidates. Hopefully they will be of assistance in making your choices for the candidates for whom you may vote. Note: an asterisk (*) denotes an incumbent candidate.

President

William S. Parker*

Bill Parker has been an active member of the NMRA, N.E.R. and HUB Division since 1964. Official positions held in the model railroad organizations during that time include:

- President, NER, October 1984 to present.
- General Chairman, 1986 "Minuteman" Convention.
- Vice-President, NER, October 1980 to October 1984.
- NER Director for Massachusetts, 1972 - 1978.
- Chairman of HUB Division, 1970 - 1977.
- Director, HUB Division B.O.D., 1967 - present.
- Chairman: NER Spring Conv., Worcester 1977
- NER Spring Conv., Boston 1975
- HUB Spring Conv., Ft. Devens 1979
- HUB Fall Show, Newton Highlands 1976
- HUB Spring Conv., Brockton 1973
- HUB Spring Conv., Brockton 1982

Extremely active in model railroad function, Bill has attended six National Conventions, 43 Regional Conventions and all HUB Division activities since 1964.

Bill has been married for 26 years, is the father of four and lives in Brockton, MA. He is employed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a Project Manager in the Division of Capital Planning and Operations. He is a graduate of Northeastern University with a Bachelors Degree in Civil Engineering and a Masters Degree in

Business Administration.

Bill says, if re-elected to the position of President of the Northeastern Region, my goals and objectives will continue to be:

- To increase the NER membership by actively backing the activities of Divisions and Clubs.
- Actively support the Divisions, Clubs and special interest groups with the talented manpower and promotional resources assembled and organized to plan, promote and run the Minuteman '86 National Convention.
- Offer new, innovative and interesting programs, activities and clinics at Region Conventions.
- Strive toward better communications and cooperation between Region, Divisions, Clubs and individuals.
- Promote clinics and contests for the majority of our membership who wish to build a nice looking, well operating layout using modern materials and techniques without having to scratchbuild most things.
- Use my more than two decades of experience in the NER to effectively interest a younger generation in working toward taking over active leadership in the organization.
- Establish and utilize new avenues of approach to promote the hobby to people who are not presently model railroaders.
- Strive to get the NMRA to allocate the money to publish a new Membership Directory.

Vice-President

Brian C. Whiton

Brian is a 38 year old family man having a wife Laurea and two children Matt age 3 and Julie age 8. He has resided at 96 Spring Street in Windsor Locks, Ct for ten years.

Brian is employed by Microtime Inc. of Bloomfield, Connecticut as a mechanical designer. He also is employed by A. J. Belliveau Railroad Construction as their chief of survey party.

Brian is a modeler of twenty-three years experience. He models in two scales, HO and 12" equals 1 ft. He has an extensive 80% complete model railroad in the basement of his home. His interests in the hobby lean toward operation and building contest quality models. He holds achievement certificates as chief dispatcher, master builder scenery, author, and association volunteer.

Brian has been contest chairman of the NER for a number of years and will continue in that position if elected vice-president. He has also held the offices of President of the Nutmeg Division, Vice-President of the Nutmeg Division, and is currently Treasurer of the Nutmeg Division as well as Connecticut/Rhode Island Director for the NER.

Brian says, "I will work to support the leadership of the NER in its effort to reach out to more modelers with better services more precisely tailored to their needs. I feel the

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primary push in this effort should be directed at improving the quality of our conventions and in supporting the communication links of our hobby. We need to stimulate the exchange of modeling ideas and information, since after all our organization is primarily a communication tool. I will, of course, give my maximum support to the model contest and the achievement program. I feel strongly that through these programs some of the most significant developments to the quality of our modeling are made available to both the participating modelers and those who derive their satisfaction from observing the contest and the efforts of their fellow modelers. We need to get off the political siding and on the main track of modeling again."

Canadian Director

Norman C. Guinard*

Norman has been a modeler for over forty years, with his sixth layout now 40% complete. He is a long-time member of the NMRA as well as the NER and the two Canadian Divisions, Maritime and Alouette. He belongs to the Friends of the East Broad Top as well as the Canadian Historical Society and its New Brunswick branch.

Perfectly bilingual, Norman helps bridge the language barrier between the French speaking Canadians and English Canadians and Americans. Norman is married and has two children both attending University in Post Graduate studies. Norman is a Pharmacist by profession, but recently sold his business and is now semi-retired from the profession. This now permits him to devote full time to his railroad, the NER and his position as Chief Conductor of the Salem & Hillsborough Railroad, located fourteen miles south of Moncton, N.B., Canada.

Norman believes that the small numbers of NER members from Maritime Canada can be increased with some work and encouragement and he would like to continue to work for that end as well as continuing to represent the strong Quebec membership.

Connecticut & Rhode Island Director

Joseph F. Sokol

Joseph F. Sokol is forty-seven years old and has resided in Connecticut for the same number of years. He now resides at 213 Regan Road, Apt 12, Vernon, Connecticut. He has been an active model railroader for the past ten years. He became a member of the Nutmeg Division, NER and NMRA in 1975 and became a Life Member of the NMRA in 1983 (L-4587). He models in both HO and HO_{n3} in a 14' x 14' basement room of his residence and has completed about 70% of his layout.

He has served on the following committees:

1976 - 1984: Sales at White Elephant tables at all Nutmeg Division Train Shows.

1976 - 1984: Sales at White Elephant tables at all Cheshire High School train shows.

1984 - 1985: Organized Nutmeg Division Train Shows.

1983: Served on NER Spring Convention Committee held at Vernon, CT. (Organized Train Show).

1977 - Present: Assist at all Spring and Fall NER Convention Registration Tables.

1981 - 1985: Elected to Nutmeg Division Board of Directors.

1982 - 1985: Serve as Nutmeg Division Secretary.

Joe stated that he will serve as Connecticut and Rhode Island NER representative to promote the NER's activities. He believes that the modelers of all regions should be brought closer together through NER activities in order to promote our main interest of model railroading. He believes that this can be done by better communications between various division members and their NER representatives as to what NER can do for the modeler rather than what can the modeler do for the NER.

Long Island and New York City Director

John A. MacIntosh*

John A. MacIntosh has been involved with HO gauge model railroading since assembling a six volt Mantua Mogul kit in 1937. Before that it was "Lionel Standard Gauge". He is a life member of the NMRA and has held NMRA membership since the 1950's. A charter member of the Sunrise Trail Division, he has also been a member of the NER since the 1960's. "Jack" is a past director and past President of the S.T.D. and is an incumbant director of the region. Beginning with the New York Convention in the late 1940's, he has attended eleven National conventions as well as every Sunrise Trail Convention since it was established and most NER conventions during the past twenty years.

Other related hobby activities include membership in the MER, the National Railroad Historical Society, the Railroad Station Historical Society of America, National Association of Timetable Collectors and the Canadian Railroad Historical Association. A life-long interest in domestic and international travel, passenger train operations and services, transportation history and thirty-five millimeter photography have been intertwined with his involvement with model railroading activity since his early youth. When not otherwise occupied, he tries to give some attention to his HO "diminutive Atlantic Railway" layout.

A resident of Garden City, New York, he has recently received the title of Professor Emeritus after almost forty years on the staff of the New York City Technical College of the City University of New York.

Massachusetts Director

Wayne R. Craigie*

Wayne Craigie has been an active member of the NMRA, NER and Hub Division for twelve years. During that period, Wayne has attended three National Conventions, twenty four NER Conventions and twenty four Hub

Division Conventions and shows. He has served on several NER and Hub Division Convention Committees and is presently in charge of the promotional display for the Hub Division, NER and NMRA which he designed and constructed.

In addition to his Hub Division promotion duties, Wayne is a member of the **Minuteman '86** Promotion Committee, the present Director from Massachusetts and a member of the Hub Division Board of Directors.

Wayne constructs in HO gauge and has a good sized layout, still under construction, in his basement. His interest lies in railroad operations of the mid 40's, utilizing both late steam and early diesel to power trains of standard Pullman passenger and 40 foot freight equipment.

Wayne resides in Everett, Massachusetts with his wife and two sons. He is employed by a major Boston based architectural graphics and sign company as supervisor of production operations.

If re-elected to his NER Board of Directors' position as Massachusetts Director, Wayne Craigue will continue to function with the effective philosophy that time spent in personally communicating with Massachusetts model railroaders is the best source of information on "what can the Region do for you." Time spent in gathering information, planning and organizing that information pays off in a well managed, smooth running organization. "I intend to use sound judgement and provide a strong voice for the Massachusetts members of the NER. Keep active, keep current and keep model railroading fun."

New Jersey Director:

Richard C. Laube*

Rich has been active in both the NER and the MER for several years. Past activities include New Jersey Director for the past six years, Garden State Division Director for seven years and Chairman for the last four, Sunrise Trail Division activities, N.J. NER AP Coordinator, former North Jersey NTrak Coordinator, and past President of The Model Railroad Club in Union NJ.

He has attended nine NMRA National Conventions, thirteen NER Conventions, fourteen MER Conventions, and one NFR Convention. This in addition to coordinating several division meets, giving clinics on a wide variety of subjects for NER, MER, GSD, STD, and NJD. Recently he has also been a model contest judge.

Rich has had a major hand in the construction of The Model Railroad Club layout, and also built an NTrak module that has won several awards. Lately, he has been constructing a 30' x 40' 1930 era railroad at home, which will feature handlaid track with scratchbuilt and craftsman type structures, walk-around control system and HOn3 branchline. Rich holds two AP certificates and is working on three more.

Rich is 36, single and works for the NJ Department of Transportation as a Project Engineer. He now lives in Freehold, New Jersey.

New York State Director:

Jim Heidt*

Current NYS Director Jim Heidt has been a modeler and NMRA member for more than ten years. Within the NMRA and NER, he also serves as chairman of the NER Promotion and Membership Committee, superintendent of the CNY Division, and local convention committee chairman for the 1986 Fall NER Convention in Utica, NY.

As NYS Director, Jim has tried to strengthen the ties and relationship between the NER and upstate New York modelers. He believes that active and responsive Regions and Divisions can best serve model railroaders in their areas through educational and entertaining programs and services.

Somehow, Jim finds time to practice law and spend time with his wife, Jo-Ann, and their son, Kevin, in Camden, New York ... as remote an NER "outpost" as you'll ever find in upstate New York.

Northern New England Director:

Edwin R. Permon*

Ed is forty years old and unmarried. He has been with a major computer company for almost twenty years and is currently going through a training program to become a programmer analyst.

His initialization into the hobby was via the traditional post WWII Lionel set up built by his father. He became serious about the hobby at the age of twelve when he received a Fleischmen HO train set.

Thirteen years in a Massachusetts efficiency apartment was an ideal forced armchair planning session. That time was filled with railfanning, car kit construction, and an investigation of the few modular modeling standards then available. He also built a collection of railroading books.

Now as a first time homeowner in Bedford, New Hampshire, he finally has the basement for the typical home layout. He retains his interest in modular model railroading as a participant in a local informal group and as the NER-MIG (module Interest Group) coordinator. He is a life member of the NMRA, the NER, and the Hub Division.

As the current NER district representative for Me, NH and Vt, he believes that he is living in the middle of an area with a number of new and closet model railroaders. He believes that there is the potential for increased membership and activity in this area.

Ed pledges to continue to support the development of a national NMRA modular railroading standard. This is to insure the potential of modular interchange for multi group setups beyond the local group level. He feels that there is more that he could do to help the development of the hobby in his area over the next two years. If there is sufficient population and interest, there could even be some new NER Divisions in the north country.

Ballot & Voting Information

The NER By-Laws state the the ballot is not to be cast if the individual's NER or NMRA membership has expired and further state that to be counted, the Member's name, address and NER # must appear on the outside of the ballot.

"Prior to counting the ballots the Ballot Committee shall verify the name on each ballot received, before that ballot is counted and separate the ballots according to Area. Then, all return names and addresses shall be removed or obliterated and the ballots set aside for counting in such a manner that the name of the voter cannot be associated with the ballot. Voting for Area Representative from an area other than the area of residence shall render that ballot invalid for the Area Representative (vote) only."

"An 8 1/2" x 11" facsimile or photocopy of the ballot ... as printed in the **NER Coupler** will be accepted by the Ballot Committee from those members who wish to keep their **Coupler** intact."

Vote for the candidate of your choice by marking [X] in the box adjacent to the name of your selection. Then place your ballot in an envelope. In the place for your return address put your name, address and NER #. Then affix a 22¢ stamp and mail to:

R. Roderick Brown
NER Ballot Committee
79 Hemenway Road
Framingham, MA 01701

Your ballot must be postmarked by midnight of June 30th, 1986. Ballots postmarked later will be invalid.

Fill out your ballot today!!

1986 Northeastern Region Ballot

President:

William S. Parker []
_____ []

Vice-President:

Brian C. Whiton []
_____ []

Canadian Director:

Norman Guinard []
_____ []

Connecticut & Rhode Island Director:

Joseph F. Sokol []
_____ []

Long Island & New York City Director:

John A. MacIntosh []
_____ []

Northern New England Director:

Edwin R. Permon []
_____ []

Massachusetts Director:

Wayne R. Craigue []
_____ []

New Jersey Director:

Richard C. Laube []
_____ []

New York State Director:

(Less Long Island & New York City)
James Heidt []
_____ []

Constitution Change Yes [] No []

All candidates listed were nominated by the Nominating Committee.

will find exciting and enticing:

- Module Layouts - All major scales will be represented. N-Trak modules from Utica, Syracuse, Ottawa and other points will be the largest layout. The local Mohawk Valley Modules will create a large HO pike, and a Lionel layout will also be present.
- Dealers - In all honesty, you can expect to see fewer dealers than usual at region conventions because the U&MV Chapter emphasizes its show as a promotion of the hobby more than a commercial event. Even so, you can expect a fair number of rarely-seen manufacturers and dealers because of the special nature of our convention ... in our 40th year!
- Movies - Without question, a highlight worth the trip alone!! Wayne Freed will present his uniquely outstanding collection of films throughout the two day show. These are not home movies, but many commercial railroad films owned by a collector which include New York Central newsreel-style films of the 1940's as well as current material of the BN, N&W, etc.
- Prototype Displays - Bring your camera, tape measure and notebook and be ready to climb aboard .. with permission, no less!! Past displays have included Conrail and NYS&W motive power, snowplows (we use them around here!) cabooses, and the New York State DOT "Operation Lifesaver" car.
- Refreshments - Proceeds to the U&MV Chapter, NRHS.
- And don't forget Conrail mainline right outside on the platforms along with Amtrak.

E. Fan Trip - (Tentative) We are negotiating for an extra fare fan trip on Saturday for you ... a unique run indeed!! Behind NYS&W Alco power, we will leave Utica's Union Station platforms and proceed almost immediately up-grade on former Lackawanna trackage. As you pass by the only remaining and operative gate tower in upstate New York and proceed up the center of Schuyler Street, imagine 100+ car Erie Lackawanna freights to Binghamton that were a reality as late as the early 1970's!

Our train will consist of NRHS Chapters' equipment and refreshments will be served on board. As the NYS&W's parent Delaware and Otsego has sold its domed passenger equipment, the end for such excursions may be near for this truly unique line. Don't miss out!!

Non-Rail Events

A. Extra Fare Bus Trips. Do we have plans for you!!! The following are reasonably-priced, half-day trips that you

- Oneida Silver/Revere Copper - For \$4.00, board a comfortable, fully-equipped bus for a unique trip to two Central New York world famous attractions on Saturday morning! The first stop is at nearby Sherrill, NY, at the world headquarters of Oneida Ltd., manufacturers of Oneida Silver. Then, it's on to Rome, NY, and the Revere factory store where Revereware started in 1801 ... and back to the convention hotel by lunch. Imagine! Here's your chance to buy silver flatware, serving trays, tea sets, decorative items, and copper cookware, kettles, kitchen ware ... you name it ... from the sources themselves. And, the savings are outstanding ... don't stay home; come to the Utica convention!
- CharlesTown - On Saturday afternoon for \$2.00, you can board a comfortable, fully equipped bus for the short ride to the CharlesTown factory outlet center. On arrival, the bus will be greeted by a representative who will distribute coupon booklets to further increase the normal 25% to 70% savings on brand name merchandise. Over forty outlet stores feature brand names such as Carter, Kidsport U.S.A., Adidas, Londontown (makers of London Fog), Manhattan, Rolane, Van Heusen, Bass Shoes, and lots, lots more.

The variety and savings found in CharlesTown have made it a very popular area attraction that has drawn buses and tours from throughout the northeastern U.S. and eastern Canada. You'll return to the hotel in time for the evening's social hour and banquet ... with a little extra time for you to really admire your new "treasures" from the day!

PLEASE NOTE: Spaces on the buses are limited for both trips. Be sure to register early!!

B. Clinics - Our local Non-rail committee has worked very hard to make a trip to Utica worthwhile for all NER members and spouses/families. A very enjoyable and informative selection of non-rail clinics is available to you ... and here's the list:

- Image and Shadow - At 8:00 P.M., Friday night in the hotel, you can learn the finer techniques of good photography. Mr. Thomas Maneen, of the Advertising Design & Production Department of Mohawk Valley Community College, will help you recognize and master how to make your photos great!
- Origami - Friday night at 9:00 in the hotel, you can get a hands-on demonstration and experience into the art of Japanese paper folding. Participation will be limited to twenty (20), but

others can certainly observe. Even though this is a participatory clinic, there will be no charge.

- New Buildings From Old Materials - If you are a reader of *Victorian Homes* or other periodicals of period architecture and restoration, this one's for you ... especially in the antique-rich Mohawk Valley!! The use of materials from earlier buildings (such as fireplace mantles, stained glass windows, etc.) into new structures will be a slide presentation on Saturday morning, 10:00, in the hotel.
- Wicker Techniques - Here's another hands-on demonstration and participation clinic to be given twice ... 11:00 A.M. and 1:00 P.M. at the hotel on Saturday. In learning wicker, you'll actually construct a Christmas bell. Participation will be limited to the first twelve (12) in each session, but observers are welcome. There will be a participation fee of \$3.50 per person for each session, but observers will not be charged.

Other Convention Highlights!!

A. Hospitality Room - Actually the convention "center", this room overlooking the hotel restaurant will be open throughout the convention, Friday to Sunday. Swap stories, meet friends, enjoy coffee and baked goods provided by the Central New York Division members ... do it all here. Any and all convention announcements will be posted here, and there will be a place to get your questions answered ... such as directions, where's a good (and cheap) restaurant, what other attractions are there in the area, etc. and etc. and etc. The NER Hospitality Room will be staffed by local members who will help you have a relaxing and memorable 40th anniversary celebration with us in Utica!!

B. Convention Hotel Site - The Sheraton Inn and Conference Center in downtown Utica will be our convention 'home' for the weekend of October 10 - 12, 1986. Just exit the N.Y.S. Thruway at the Utica exit (Exit #31) and travel into the downtown district on Genesee Street ... the hotel is on Genesee Street on the right - across from the state office building. Parking in the attached and enclosed parking garage is free to Sheraton guests.

The hotel itself is a relatively new facility .. only six years old .. and features many comfortable attractions, including swimming pool, jacuzzi, suana room, game room, restaurant, lounge, gift shop, coffee shop and other retail establishments and attractions. In the heart of downtown, it is centrally and conveniently located within easy walking distance to other city attractions as well as Utica's Union Station and the train show. If you're so inclined, Utica city public transit operates every day but Sunday from the hotel front door to just

about everywhere. Hotel and convention registration information will be available in the Summer 1986 **NER Coupler**.

C. Banquet and Awards - The Sheraton ballroom will be the location of our Region's 40th birthday party on Saturday night!!

The hotel's finest banquet buffet meal will be preceded by a cash bar 'happy hour' which will include some products of Utica's own Matt's Brewery. Following the banquet, we'll be treated to a special birthday celebration, awards ceremony, and a featured speaker. Because of the anniversary celebration, and that members of the U&MV Chapter and N-Trak will join us for the banquet, you can expect an unusual and enjoyable evening.

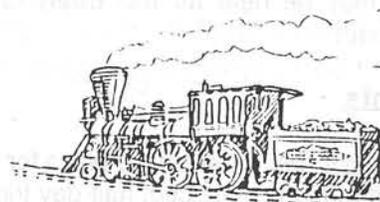
D. NER Annual Meeting - The 40th anniversary convention closes on Sunday with the NER Annual Meeting in the hotel. Gotta break up the fun with some business sometime!

The NER's anniversary convention is a great time for our Region to take a look ahead into the future of model railroading in our regional area and beyond. As a result, with this convention the NER has taken the spirit of Milwaukee and the emphasis of youth to heart.

We are working to bring promising and interested young people into this hobby, and teenage and student modelers into the NER. To do this, we are initiating a program with the Utica convention to bring teenage and student modelers to an NER convention at a price these young people can afford.

NER and Central New York member Bill Fredlund has been appointed Youth Coordinator for the "NER Life Begins Again at 40!" Convention. With your help, these young modelers will come to Utica and return home, and stay in between in homes of Central New York Division volunteers. They (and you) will get caught up in the excitement of a regional convention .. and the seeds of model railroading in our Region's future will grow. We need your help ... check the registration information in the Summer 1986 **NER Coupler**.

Young , old, or in between ... NER: Life Begins Again at 40! with your attendance at the 1986 Fall NER Convention, Utica, New York, on October 10-12, 1986!!



From The President's Pen

by Bill Parker

1986 - The Year of the Minuteman! This is the year you have been waiting for. It has finally arrived. For fifty years the NMRA has held a national convention, but never before in Boston. At the risk of sounding a bit prejudiced, Boston will be the biggest and best.

Boston's non-rail attractions are so numerous that Lynda Craigue, the non-rail chairperson, had to cut three-fourths of her activities list just to bring it down to a number about three times as great as has been offered at other conventions. There are non-rail activities for everyone each and every day, and most evenings too.

Children's and teen-age activities will be available every day and some evenings. Many of these activities will be of interest to Mom and Dad as well.

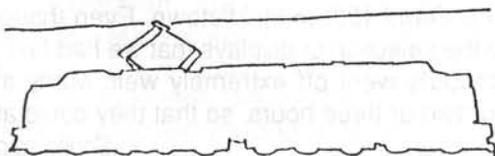
Greater Boston's prototype rail attractions are extremely numerous and, possibly more important, particularly unique and diversified. You may have noticed in "The Eastern Area Report" by Rick Shoup in the Fall issue of the **Coupler** that the NMRA Achievement Program has a new category designated as "Prototype Modeler". Nowhere else in the country outside of greater Boston will you find a greater concentration of railroad structures listed in the National Historical Register. Of course, a great variety of contemporary structures can also be seen and photographed for those who prefer to model present day railroad operations.

Don't overlook the great functions that are being organized and sponsored by the National Railway Historical Society as part of the **Minuteman '86** Convention. A static display of railroad equipment, international show of railroad art work, railroad tug boats, silent movies (railroad theme) with a real theatre organ and clinics on prototype railroads will be available to all registered **Minuteman '86** Convention attendees.

Model railroad tours will run every evening. Add in all the clinics, contests, family oriented shows, movies and the Trade Show that will be held in the Convention Headquarters Hotel and you have a convention package second to none.

But remember, **Minuteman '86** only comes once! It comes to the Sheraton Boston Hotel from July 20 through July 27, 1986. If you don't take advantage of the opportunity that week, you can never replace it. Take advantage of the entire convention by staying at the Convention Hotel and participating in all the action and all of the camaraderie.

See you all at the **Minuteman '86** National Convention in Boston.



On The SCHEDULE

National

July 21 - 28, 1986, Boston, MA.

July 28 - August 1, 1987, Eugene, OR.

July 18 - 24, 1988, Birmingham, AL.

1989 - Houston, TX.

1990 - Pittsburg, PA.

Northeastern Region

October 10-12, 1986, Utica, NY.

NER DIVISIONS

OTHER EVENTS

May 31, 1986: Eastern O Scalpers will sponsor an O Scale and Larger model railroad show and trading session at the Howard Lathrop VFW Post #2307, 35 Merrick Rd., Lynbrook, LI, NY 11563. Dealers, displays, operating layouts. Tables available. Information: D. B. Henon (215) 548-3648. Registration: W. Hulseweder, 211 Broad St., Bethlehem, PA 18018.

August 10-26, 1987: Eberhardt Travel will be presenting a Panoramic Train Tour of Germany, Switzerland and France. For information: Eberhardt Travel booth at **Minuteman '86** or write at 8 Chapel Hill Drive, Plymouth, Ma. 02160.

Due to space restrictions the **Coupler** is unable to list all the many railroad and model railroad events taking place in the Northeast. A very complete listing of all events is produced by:

Railroad Information
C/o Wolfeboro Campground
RFD 2 - Haines Hill Road
Dover, NH 03894

For the subscription price of \$5 you will receive four listings per year.

From The Divisions

Division Alouette (English)

To mark the 150th anniversary of the Champlain & St. Lawrence Railroad, Canada's first public railway, the Canadian Railway Museum cordially invites modelers to participate in a competition which will be held on 31 August 1986. The objective of the competition consists of constructing a model of the first steam locomotive used in Canada: The Dorchester of 1836.

Models submitted for the competition should be constructed of wood: participants may reproduce certain accessories in the material of their choice. The models presented at the competition must correspond to a scale of one inch to the foot. The Museum will furnish participants with all necessary plans and specifications required to accomplish this task.

On 31 August, visitors and participants will be asked to select the winner. The winner will be requested to donate his/her model to the Canadian Railway Museum. A prize of \$500.00 (five hundred), and a trophy will be awarded for the best model. The winner will be assured that the source of the model will be prominently displayed when the model is on exhibition.

Railway modelers who wish to participate in the competition are invited to contact Louise Gagnon or David Monahan for registration and pertinent information at the following address:

120, Saint-Pierre St.
Saint-Constant, QC J0L 1X0
Telephone (514) 632-2410 or 638-1522

Division Alouette (French)

À l'occasion du 150ième anniversaire du premier chemin de fer public au Canada, le Musée ferroviaire canadien invite cordialement les modélistes à participer à un concours qui se tiendra le 31 août 1986. L'enjeu de ce concours consiste à fabriquer un modèle réduit de la première locomotive à vapeur en usage au Canada en 1836: la Dorchester.

Le modèle réduit devra être construit en bois mais les participants (es) pourront reproduire certains accessoires de la locomotive avec les matériaux de leur choix. Les maquettes présentées au concours correspondront à l'échelle un pouce au pied. Le Musée ferroviaire canadien fournira les plans aux modélistes qui veulent relever ce défi.

Lors du 31 août, les visiteurs et les participants (es) à ce concours seront appelés à sélectionner le (la) gagnant (e). Le modéliste vainqueur devra accepter d'offrir généreusement sa maquette au Musée ferroviaire canadien. En guise de remerciements, il (elle) recevra la somme de \$500.00 (cinq cents), un trophée souvenir et l'assurance que son nom sera mentionné pres de la

maquette au moment des expositions.

Les modélistes ferroviaires qui desirent participer à ce concours devront communiquer avec Louise Gagnon ou David Monaghan afin de s'inscrire pour recevoir les plans. Vous pouvez les joindre au Musée ferroviaire canadien.

120, rue Saint-Pierre
C.P. 148
Saint-Constant, Qc J0L 1X0

Téléphone: (514) 632-2410 ou 638-1522

Hub Division

Although the Hub Annual Meeting and evening program on March 22 was lightly attended, the approximately fifty people who were there all enjoyed a fine banquet, meeting and program. Many NER members, who are also Hub members, were on hand. Greg Nazarow's Timesaver switching layout and Rod Brown's simulated computer programmed railroad operation were lively hits of the evening. Mike Marsh delivered a rousing good talk on early robber barons of the railroad industry and received a well earned sustained round of applause.

During the business meeting, the annual report for 1985 was presented by Pete Watson. Jack Alexander gave the 1985 treasurer's report. Our by-laws were revised several years ago to allow the nine BOD members to complete their terms of office three at a time each year. The three this year were Bill Parker, Pete Watson, and Wayne Craigue. No nominations were received from the floor, so those three men were re-elected for another three years. The "new" BOD then re-elected Rod Brown as president of the BOD. As of this writing, Rod had not yet selected his officers for the coming year.

Then came the highlight of the evening. Long time Hub, NER and NMRA member Fred Driscoll, who has also been a Hub BOD member for many years and recently was NER president, was presented with the Don Pierce Award for long and much above average service to model railroading and model railroaders. Fred is well known and well loved by all and needless to say, he received a long standing ovation after the presentation. You earned the award many times over, Fred - our sincere thanks to you and congratulations.

Glenn Owens

Nutmeg Division

The Nutmeg Division was forced to cancel the scheduled March meeting at the home of Al Kalbfleisch in East Hartford when Al's mother passed away. Our sincere condolences to Al and his family.

Our next event was the Nutmeg Mini-Convention held this year on April 12th in Middletown. Even though we did not have the selection of displays that we had last year, the clinic schedule went off extremely well. Many attendees stayed for two or three hours, so that they could attend the

Continued on page 11

Promotion & Membership

by Jim Heidt

How can we promote the NER and the hobby of model railroading in our region? That's the question that our committee is constantly faced with ... and we think that we have a unique answer.

Everyone agrees that the highlight of the NER year is our regional conventions. Have you ever been to an NER convention, or any other model railroad convention such as another region's, or a national NMRA convention, or even some other model railroad organization's special event?

If so, do you remember the contests, the clinics, the layout tour, train show, fantrip, etc. and etc.? Do you remember how 'psyched up' you were about the hobby as you went home, and how inspirational it was for you?

Yes, a convention is a real hobby highlight, and rightly so. If you have not attended and participated in one, do so ... as the cliché goes, you don't know what you've missed. But if you miss **Minuteman '86** in Boston, you'll miss out altogether!! Plan on going.

Our promotional direction this issue concerns one class of model railroader and its ability to enjoy conventions ... the teenager and student-aged modeler. There has been an increasing amount of press given to the needs and concerns of younger modelers in recent months, and we think it's justified. The future of the hobby (first) and NER (second) depends on the support and encouragement we give to young people interested in this hobby.

However, one of the saddest plights facing our hobby is that our young modelers, who have all of the enthusiasm of youth along with its inexperience, cannot financially afford to attend a real model railroad convention and later enjoy and apply that "post convention modeler's euphoria" to his or her own modeling. That has to change. For the future of our hobby and our Region, we need our young modelers to realize that our NER conventions are for them as well as open to them, and that we are willing to back this up with action.

What action? We're glad you asked!!

In a nutshell, our next NER convention (Utica, NY - October 10 - 12, 1986) is featuring extraordinary pre-convention promotion among teen and student modelers because, with our help, these young modelers will be able to attend an NMRA regional convention for the cost of registration and meals only. As this is being written, members of the host Central New York Division are volunteering vacant beds, sofas and sofas in their homes for these young modelers who pre-register. We don't have space here to get into details, but we are committed to cutting the cost of the convention for these young folks, and room costs are one way.

Transportation costs are another ... here's where we need your help. We need NER members attending the Utica NER convention to notify us that they have a space

or two (or more?) in their cars and are willing to transport these young modeler(s) to and from the convention at no charge for gas or tolls. All we ask is that you get them to Utica and back.

How will this work? NER member Bill Fredlund has been appointed Youth Co-ordinator for the Utica convention. Registration forms for the convention will appear in the Summer 1986 issue of the **NER Coupler**, and they will have space for you to note your interest in participating in this trial program. Convention registrars Charlie and Pat Bettinger will notify Bill of your interest, and Bill will match you up with any young modelers, if any, in your area who have contacted him earlier about going to the convention.

There will be few rules. You and the young modeler will make your own arrangements about departure place, time, etc. from home and Utica. Let us know when you plan to arrive in Utica ... the CNY Division host will meet the youths at the convention hotel's "Hospitality Room" and the host will take it from there. The program is limited to high school and college aged students and, while college aged participants have no unusual restrictions, high schoolers will need advance parental permission.

You may have noticed the increasing attention in the **NMRA Bulletin** toward young modelers and the **Teen Association of Model Railroaders (TAMR)** as a result of the excitement generated at the NMRA Milwaukee convention. We have been in contact with the TAMR and their officials told us that our NER efforts regarding conventions and participation for young modelers are the first fruits of the positive attitudes expressed at Milwaukee.

In closing, we'd like to note that at this writing many details are still being worked out and will be settled by the time you read this issue. We would particularly like to acknowledge the work and cooperation of the NER Permanent Convention Committee, NER Convention Registrars Charlie and Pat Bettinger, and the Central New York Division in putting this effort together.

With your help, we will actively promote our Region and the hobby with the future in mind. How about it?

From The Divisions (Con't)

Clinics. Clinicians giving presentations were Earl Smallshaw who presented a fine clinic on scenery, Bill Hoffmann who talked about scratchbuilding passenger cars (marvelous detail), and Dick Hanschka who showed slides of the Erie Railroad. All were so popular, we were behind schedule at the end of the afternoon. These fine clinics were augmented by some displays, the Timesaver, white elephant table, and, of course, the now ever-present videos. Attendance was estimated at about 75. Everyone had a good time.

Nutmeg Division is well along in the planning for ConnRails, the layout tour for **Minuteman '86**. We still need help - we need people to act as guides and van captains, and people to help with crowd control at the layouts. Only one day is involved - PLEASE VOLUNTEER. Contact Joe Sokol, or any other Nutmeg BOD member.

Kenneth May

