

# NER COUPLER

NORTHEASTERN REGION  
NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

Summer 1987



The Holyoke Convention featured a fan trip to the yard and shop facilities for the Pioneer Valley Railroad. They were kind enough to open their shop to show how they maintain their locomotives, and three CF-7's were lined up in the yard for photographs. More photos inside.

## A HOT WEEKEND IN HOLYOKE!!

(Holyoke Convention Report)  
by Kenneth May

The weekend of May 29-31 was spent in the first heatwave of the year by nearly one hundred seventy-five NER members and friends in the Paper City. The convention began, on Friday evening, with layout tours. Three layouts were available for viewing: The Westfield Model Railroad Club's HO pike; Bob Bowe's "Paper City and Western"; and Bud Sharrow's "Balboa and Montezuma". These three layouts provided a full evening of activity for those inclined to brave the thunderstorm and venture out to see them.

For the ladies, there was a full evening program was held featuring a clinic lead by Laurea Whiton. The ladies learned how to do stenciling on fabric. Most of the ladies seemed to enjoy themselves at this clinic. Meanwhile, the men who did not visit layouts were enjoying clinics by Jim Heidt, Brian Whiton and Don Valentine. And of course, the Berkshire and Mohawk Model Railroad Club set up their HO modular layout in the hotel for all convention attendees to enjoy.

Saturday morning dawned bright and hot. Inside, the convention was underway in full swing. The morning was filled with

Continued on Page 5

# NER Brass

## OFFICERS

### President:

William S. Parker  
65 Coweaset Drive  
Brockton, MA 02401  
(617) 586-0271

### Vice-President:

Brian C. Whiton  
94 & 96 Spring Street  
Windsor Locks, CT 06096  
(203) 623-8512

### Secretary:

David W. Messer  
12 Hillview Court  
Wyantskill, NY 12198  
(518) 283-0372

### Treasurer:

James F. Condry  
58 Estes Street  
Everett, MA 02149  
(617) 387-8208

### Office Manager: Membership

R. Roderick Brown  
79 Hemenway Road  
Framingham, MA 01701  
(617) 877-1827

### Achievement Program:

Don Howd  
32 Adams Street  
Lawrence, MA 01843-1924  
(617)

### Permanent Convention Chairmen:

Jack Alexander  
111 South Street  
East Bridgewater, MA 02333  
(617) 378-3401

### Model Contest Chairman:

Brian C. Whiton  
94 & 96 Spring Street  
Windsor Locks, CT 06096  
(203) 623-8512

### Photo Contest Chairmen:

Peter A. Watson  
65 Branch Road  
East Bridgewater, MA 02333  
(617) 378-3582

## DIRECTORS

### Canada:

Norman C. Guinard  
9 Dube Street  
Edmundston, NB

### Connecticut and Rhode Island:

Joseph F. Sokol  
213 Regan Road Apt. 12  
Vernon, CT 06066  
(203) 872-2240

### Long Island and New York City:

John A. MacIntosh  
150 Kildare Road  
Garden City, NY 11530  
(516) 746-6288

### Massachusetts:

Wayne R. Craigie  
26 Thurman Park  
Everett, MA 02149  
(617) 389-3194

### New Jersey:

Richard C. Laube  
11 Long Road  
Freehold, NJ 13316  
(201) 245-3664

### New York State:

James Heidt  
P. O. Box 195  
Camden, NY 13316  
(315) 245-3664

### Northern New England:

Edwin R. Permon  
385 Donald Street  
Bedford, NH 03102  
(603) 622-7991

### Past President:

David W. Messer  
12 Hillview Court  
Wyantskill, NY 12198  
(518) 283-0372

## NER COUPLER

# 151, Summer 1987

Official Publication of the Northeastern  
Region, National Model Railroad Association.  
Published four times a year.

Kenneth May, Editor  
71 Buff Cap Road  
Tolland, CT 06084  
(203) 872-3441

Address changes should be sent to the  
Office Manager. All other material should  
be sent to the Editor. Beginning September  
1st, editorial material may be transmitted  
via modem to the Editor. Call to make  
arrangements.

### DEADLINE

for the next issue, #152, Fall 1987 is September 1, 1987. The issue will be mailed  
approximately one month after this date.

## From The Editor's Desk

by Kenneth May

Another summer is here. This is perhaps the most difficult season of the year to sustain any modeling activity - not the least of which is this publication. With family interests and activities, vacations and camping weekends, time seems to just get eaten away. But we will just try to give you a full issue this summer. Fortunately, I have plenty of material for this issue - an unusual circumstance for sure.

Two issues ago I published a report on research into membership problems in the NMRA. I had seen it published in the **Fusee** of the TLR, and reprinted it due to my interest in the subject. The original publication was not attributed to anyone, but I learned just about the time the last issue was mailed that it had been written by Ken Hampton, NMRA SIG officer. Shortly thereafter, I received a response from Jim Hammer, NMRA Membership Chairman. That article is included in this issue.

Before closing, I would just like to address one other issue. If you will look at the Staff listing on page 2 you will notice that there are several names repeated. This illustrates as well as anything the shortage of volunteers to fill the many administrative positions in the NER. Since we are a volunteer organization much work is not being done due to lack of time available. More hands would help make the load lighter on us all. If you would like to assist the NER, please contact President Bill Parker. He will be happy to assist you in deciding where you can be of the most assistance. As always, the **Coupler** can always use additional editorial material. In addition, those with personal computers will be able to send in their writings either on floppy disk or by modem. I will be using IBM format 360K diskettes, but I will be able to convert Apple II 170K diskettes. Either will be gratefully accepted.

That's all for now - have a wonderful summer.

### ON THE SCHEDULE

#### National

July 18 - 24, 1988, Birmingham, AL.  
1989, Houston, TX.  
1990, Pittsburg, PA.  
1991, Denver, CO.

#### Northeastern Region

November 5 - 8, 1987, Lexington, MA.  
May 20 - 22, 1988, St. John, NB, Canada.

#### NER Divisions

September 12, 1987 - NMRA Sunrise Trail Division Fall Meet to be held at St. David's Lutheran Church, Clark Blvd., Massapequa, NY. Open from 10:00 to 5:00 PM and featuring clinics, slide shows, video tapes, model contests and white elephant table. Contact: Walter Neuman, Box 174, Old Westbury, NY 11568.

September 13, 1987 - NMRA Nutmeg Division Annual Train Show to be held at Mt. Carmel/St. Cristina Hall, Roberts Street off I-84, East Hartford, CT. Open from 10:00 to 4:00 PM and featuring displays, dealers, white elephant table - all gauges. Admission: \$2.50 adults, \$1.50 children, \$5.00 max per family. Contact: SSAE to Joe Sokol, 213 Regan Rd # 12, Vernon, CT 06066.

#### Other Model Railroad Events

September 13, 1987 - Grumman Model Railroad Society Train Show will be held at Grumman Recreation Building, 800 South Oyster Bay Road, Bethpage, LI, NY. Open from 11:00 to 3:30 PM and featuring NTrak modules, HOTrack modules, displays and other operating model railroads. Contact: Raymond Muntz, P.O. Box 174, Old Westbury, NY 11568 - (516) 334-4550

October 18, 1987 - Hudson Valley Railroad Society's Railroad Exposition will be held at the Mid Hudson Civic Center, Poughkeepsie, NY. Open from 11:00 to 4:00 PM and featuring dealers, displays and operating layouts. Contact: Denny Evaul, 12 Old English Way, Wappinger Falls, NY 12590 - (914) 297-0901.

Railroad Information, RR2 - Box 500, Wolfboro, NH 03894 publishes a quarterly listing of many railroad related activities scheduled in the northeastern U. S. A subscription is \$5.00 per year.

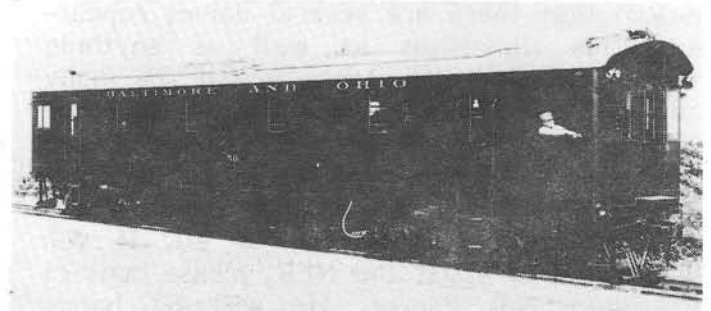
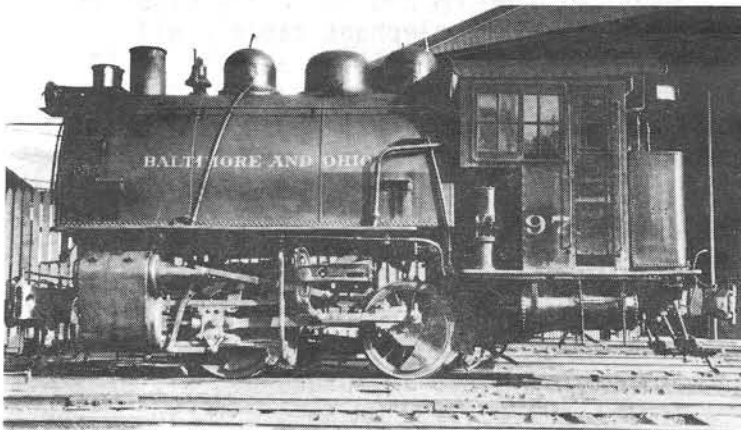
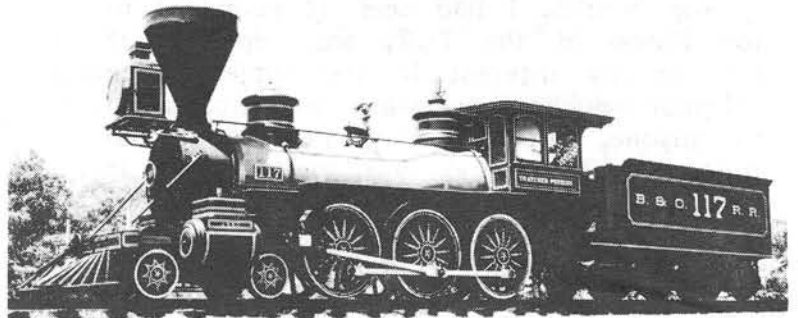


SOOT & CINDERS  
by Richard M. Hanschka

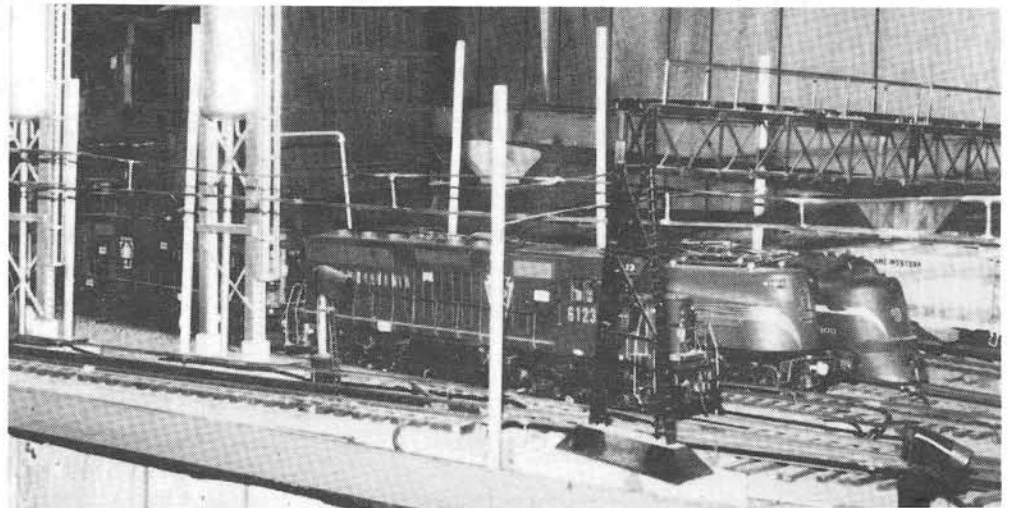
This issue I have something of a potpourri of photographs for you to digest. The first photo is of B & O #97, the 0-4-0T locomotive popularly known as 'Little Joe'. Built by Baldwin in 1912, this loco was designed specifically to run on the Pratt Street line in Baltimore. None of these locomotives were saved from the dismantler's torch, though a similar locomotive used by a local hospital is preserved in the Baltimore museum. These tank locomotives were favorites of hobbyists, built by several manufacturers in both O and HO scale.

The second photo is of #117, a 4-6-0 built in 1863 during the Civil War period, and served on the Pittsburg & Conellsville Railroad line, which was incorporated into the B & O system. The name 'Thatcher Perkins' is in honor of the railroad's master mechanic builder of the era. This design was preceded by the camelback 4-6-0, while 4-4-0's and 2-6-0's.

Our last photo is of #50, an early diesel passenger locomotive. The B & O was one of the first railroads to look at diesels for road service, while most other railroads were experimenting with them in yard service. This locomotive was built for Electromotive (which became the Electromotive Division of General Motors) by General Electric using Winton engines, and produced 1800 HP. It was used in the Baltimore area to reduce the smoke problem in the many tunnels there. This would be an interesting locomotive to model, with its unique appearance.



Cliff Stone was one of the local modelers who opened his home to those attending the convention. Cliff has been modeling in O scale for forty years.



Convention Report (Con't from Page 1)

many fine live clinics by Elizabeth Brown, Earl Smallshaw, Joe Snopec, Garry Carlson, Bramwell Bailey, Mike Tylic, and Irwin Lloyd. Most of the clinics attracted full rooms, and the clinician's efforts were greatly appreciated. Late in the morning the ladies all boarded buses to go to Old Deerfield Village where they were treated to a fantastic luncheon and a tour of the restored homes and Textile facility. After lunch the men boarded buses to be taken to Westfield to the railroad yard and shops of the Pioneer Valley Railroad. There all had the opportunity to scatter and investigate all the activities in the yard and shop. The railroad's President and Shop Foreman were on hand to speak to conventioners about the activities of the railroad, while Bram Bailey coordinated a photo shoot of the three CF-7 locomotives lined up in the yard. Unfortunately, there was very little Conrail or Amtrak activity to see, and it was quite warm.

After returning to the hotel, many of the convention people took the opportunity for a swim. Others took in some of the video tapes that were being shown.

Happy hour began at 6:00 PM and the banquet promptly at 7:00. Master of Ceremonies Brian Whiton was quite debonaire in a grey tux (a tradition [?] begun by Jim Heidt) and his wife Laurea was certainly not to be outdone. The turkey dinner was good and served promptly. During the meal door prizes were drawn, and many people left the banquet with a memento.

Our after dinner speaker was Mr. Dennis Larson, Superintendent of the Southern Division of the Central Vermont Railway. His address was very interesting, giving an overview of the business activities of the railroad. He described, among other things, the disagreement between the CV and the B&M over the quality of the track between Brattleboro and White River Junction which has resulted in the suspension of the "Montrealer" and is a constant source of irritation to the CV. He also discussed the importance to the CV of a new automobile distribution facility the railroad was trying to build. It was particularly interesting to me because it was a different perspective of the railroad I've lived near for nearly twenty-five years.

After the speaker, the room was cleared and the auction was begun. Mr. Dick Joyce served as auctioneer, and there was a surprising quantity of items for auction. Most of it was sold, and the auction was concluded about midnight.

On Sunday morning there was an open BOD meeting. President Bill Parker laid aside the agenda to open the floor to the membership for discussion of one issue - that of a single dues structure. Many NER members had the opportunity to speak to the issue, and the general concensus was that the membership is opposed to a single dues structure. The BOD resolved to instruct Mr. Parker to vote toward that end at the Trustees meeting in Eugene, OR. The meeting was ajourned about noon.

After checking out of the hotel, there were seven layouts open for viewing on the way home. Our thanks to Bryant Carpenter, Ernie Robichau, Dick Joyce, Art Griffin, Cliff Stone, Brian Whiton, Harold Horner, and the Pioneer Valley Live Steamers for opening their railroads for the attendees of the convention.

On the following pages are photographs of the convention activities. These photographs were taken by Laurea Whiton and Kenneth May. Our thanks to them for their contributions.

Contest Results at Holyoke

The Model Contest

Master Category:

Freight Cars

3rd Place: John M. Johnson - PRR Box Car  
62506

Craftsman Category:

Freight Cars

1st Place: Bob VanCleaf - North River  
Hopper #6035 - Baldwin Trophy  
2nd Place: Bob VanCleaf - North River  
Hopper #8279  
3rd Place: Bob VanCleaf - North River  
Hopper # 5827  
Merit: Brian Whiton - Mobile & Ohio  
Boxcar

Passenger Cars

3rd Place: Mike Tylick - O & W Baggage &  
Mail Car

2nd Place: Muriel Miller - Counted Cross  
Stitch R. R. Station

Needlework Pattern

1st Place: Elizabeth Brown - Counted  
Cross Stitch Bordered Saying  
2nd Place: Betty Owens - Counted Cross  
Stitch Pillow

Needlework Kit Built

1st Place: Elizabeth Brown - Counted  
Cross Stitch Professional  
Sign  
2nd Place: Betty Owens - Beaded Counted  
Cross Stitch Picture

Diorama

1st Place: Jack Ellis - Cedar Hollow  
Station - Hub Award  
Merit: Brian Hakey - Central Vermont  
Scene - New Modeler Award

Structures

1st Place: Mike Tylick - New Haven  
Interlocking Tower  
2nd Place: James P. Murphy - Transformer  
Sub-station  
3rd Place: Jack Ellis - Power Station  
Merit: Thomas J. Reilly - Peter  
Piper's Paints  
Merit: Thomas J. Reilly - Service  
Station

The Photo Contest

Master Category:

Color Slide Prototype

1st Place: Robert D. Welk Jr.  
2nd Place: Robert D. Welk Jr.  
3rd Place: Dorothy Wilgosz

Craftsman Category:

Color Print Prototype

1st Place: Bill Fredlund & John Johnson  
2nd Place: Bill Fredlund

Color Slide Prototype

1st Place: Jim Heidt  
2nd Place: R. Roderick Brown  
3rd Place: Jim Heidt

The Railette Contest

General Pattern

1st Place: Ellie Groth - Double Sided  
Pillow  
2nd Place: Eleanor Scott - Design  
Quilted Pillow

Railroadiana Kit Built

1st Place: Elizabeth Brown - Counted  
Cross Stitch Picture of Steam  
Locomotive - Best In Show



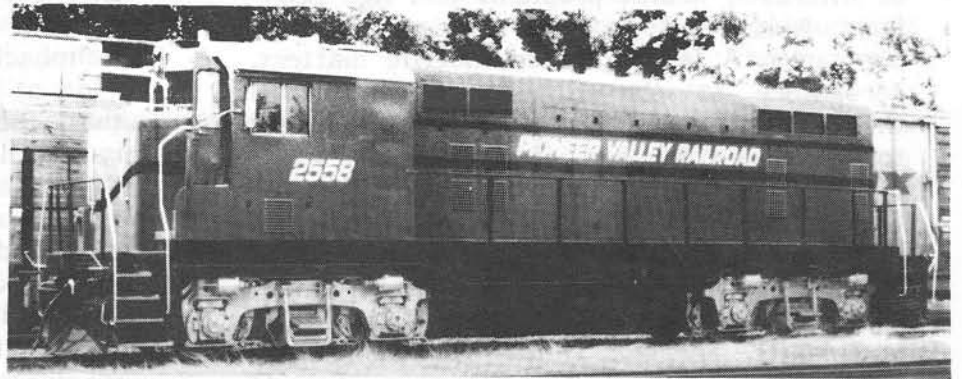
↑ Bob VanCleaf with the Baldwin  
Trophy for Best In Show. ↓ The  
shop at the Pioneer Valley Railroad  
with NER Conventioneers checking  
out what's interesting.







← The Alexanders and Parkers at the Banquet. ↙ Auctioneer Dick Joyce. ↓ NER members at the Sunday morning BOD meeting.



↑ Former NER Pres. Dave Messer and Bill Mischler at the banquet. → One of the Pioneer Valley's CF-7's. ↘ Brian Hakey won both the New Modeler Award and the Youth Award. ✓ Elizabeth Brown won Best In Show in the Railette Contest.



## A POSITIVE LOOK AT THE NMRA

By James D. Hammer

Your Regional publication recently published a report entitled "Notes On Research Into NMRA Membership Problems." This report was first presented to the Executive Council and Board of Trustees at Boston last summer. It is based on "information from surveying about 2000 people (since 1978) about the NMRA." Your Editor has graciously granted me this opportunity to make a general response to the report to bring you up-to-date about some of the issues discussed in the report.

For three months prior to the meeting in Boston, the NMRA Membership/Promotion Department surveyed more than 700 persons who had failed to renew their membership in recent months. A very large percentage of those surveyed indicated that the economic crunch of recent years was an important factor in their non-renewal and was not related to any dissatisfaction with the NMRA. Others indicated a change of interests, health problems and age problems which led to their departure from our ranks. A few indicated specific matters, derogatory to the NMRA, which caused them to drop out. This was in sharp contrast to the large number of unfavorable complaints I had to deal with when I became General Chairman of Membership/Promotion in January, 1985. Over a period of several months, I wrote personal replies to more than 200 members who had aired their complaints. Specific items were channeled to National or Regional officers and staff members who were directly involved. Interestingly, some wrote back to withdraw their complaint after they had heard "the other side of the story". We have continued to conduct this survey each month to keep us informed on matters which require attention.

There is no question that many of the items dealt with in the published report were valid during the eight-year period during which the report was compiled. However, it fails to take into account the fact that many problems have been dealt with and many more are in the process of review and change. The most dramatic example is the matter of our home office operation.

The report is highly critical of our home office stating that since Bob Bast was replaced "most questions have gone

into a black hole of no reply." Unfortunately, the report failed to show any awareness of a dramatic change which took place in August, 1984. Up to that time, the criticism of non-response from the home office was valid. But in August, 1984, a sweeping organizational change of the home office took place. Since that time, the complaints are no longer valid. The Trustee of your Region is well aware that glowing reports of home office efficiency have poured into the EC and BOT from all quarters, including Regional and Divisional officers and staff members as well as individual members. In all but a minute percentage of cases, a response is on the way within 24 to 48 hours after receipt. Most significantly, the surveys this Department has conducted did not register one single complaint against our home office operation.

Until one year ago, matters of a technical nature were referred to the person best qualified to answer. Since February 1986, our staff has been able to refer any questions requiring technical research to the full-time Director of the A. C. Kalmbach Memorial Library, who is on hand at the home office. It is worth noting that face-to-face, hands-on technical help is usually available at the Regional or Divisional level simply for the asking.

Certain procedures called for in the published report are already in place. Each month, the local membership officer receives a computer printout from headquarters listing four action items. (1) New members joining this month in his area. (2) Members transferring this month into his area. (3) Memberships due to expire this month in his area. (4) Memberships which have not renewed this month in his area. All of these items have been provided to Regions and Divisions for several years. With the addition of our home office computer, we are continually upgrading and improving this flow of information. Many of the changes are the result of suggestions from Regional and Divisional officers and staff members.

Just recently we started to include a survey form with each renewal notice which will give us a record in our computer of each member's special interests in prototype, modeling and operating techniques

and all other matters now represented by the proliferation of special interest groups in a wide range of categories. Our



membership form is being revised to help us in this project. As this information comes in and is recorded in the computer, it will be available for the asking from any member of the NMRA.

Now, for the best news of all; the **NMRA is gaining membership, not losing it!** For several months now, we have registered a **net gain** each month. This has been accomplished through two specific avenues.

First is our rereail program. Each expiring membership receives at least three direct contacts from the home office to secure his renewal. As I have already indicated, each Region and Division is informed of those in their local area who are up for renewal or have failed to respond. Some Regions and Divisions have done an excellent job of supplying that final "personal" touch that helps keep the member active. The combined result of this National, Regional and Divisional effort has given us a **solid eighty per-cent renewal rate**. In talking to members and leaders of other organizations, I can assure you that 80% is an **excellent** renewal rate.

The second factor contributing to our growth is the membership recruitment activities going on at the local "grass-roots" level. Regional and Divisional leaders have become enthusiastic partners with this Department in our recruitment activities. In the past five months, nearly two-thirds of the Regions have met their assigned new-member quotas. One Regional Trustee recently signed up 24 new members in a 30-day period. A one hundred per-cent club in California, with vibrant leadership, recently accounted for 41 new members for the NMRA.

All of this adds up to something very positive. The NMRA will grow and stay strong in direct proportion to the enthusiastic support it receives from its members. While the elected National officers and appointed staff members seek to carry out their individual responsibilities as volunteers, they need the support of every member at the local level to get the job done. Plans and programs may pave the way, but the day-to-day battle must be fought and won in the trenches. Meanwhile, I can assure you that we are giving a long hard look to the entire organization with the aim of improving it for the benefit of you, the member.

I have appended a list of "25 Benefits

of NMRA Membership". This should help you to realize that you get good value for your dues dollar.

Do you have any suggestions to help us improve the NMRA? Are there special items of interest you would like us to pursue? Do you have a problem in which you would like us to show interest? If so, write to me.

Yours, for Happy Railroading,

JAMES D. HAMMER, General Chairman  
Membership/Promotion Department, NMRA

3617A Wilmington Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63116  
(314) 353-5809



Bill and Marge Fredlund from the Central New York Division enjoy the banquet. Bill did very well in the photo contest, and they both enjoyed watching the Holyoke crew put on the convention, after their contributions at Utica.

Stan Bradley

Word has reached your Editor of the passing of Stanley Bradley, a former judge in Bergen County, New Jersey, and formerly a very active NER member. About four years ago Stan and his wife Virginia moved to Florida and the joys of retirement, and Stan became active in the Sunshine Region, while continuing to provide poems and anecdotes to the Bulletin, the NER Coupler, and the SSR Journal Box.

Our condolences go out to his widow Virginia, and our thanks for the many years of friendship and sharing in this our hobby family.

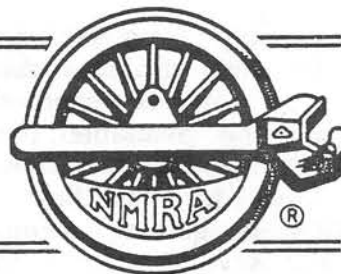
---

---

## 25 Benefits of NMRA Membership

---

---



1. Every regular member receives 12 issues of the NMRA BULLETIN. With an average of 12 modeling articles per month, plus association news, coming events notices, book reviews, and new product release notices.
  2. Modeler's Aid published in the BULLETIN monthly allows any member to ask the entire membership about a modeling problem that he or she needs an answer to.
  3. Every member has access to the library resources and services. In addition, the member also receives \$20 of free research time each year.
  4. Every member has access to attend NMRA divisional, regional, and national meetings and conventions.
  5. Every member has access to the NMRA membership computer files to find members living in his or her area.
  6. Every member may participate in NMRA divisional, regional, and national model and photo contests.
  7. Every member may participate in the Pike Registry program.
  8. Every member has access to estate counseling services.
  9. Every member can participate in the Achievement Program.
  10. Every member may purchase the NMRA Data Sheet Handbook, available only to NMRA members.
  11. Every member receives an annual periodical index of all major model railroad publications.
  12. Every member receives a directory of information when published.
  13. Every member receives a set of NMRA Standards and Recommended Practices when he or she joins.
  14. Every member is kept informed of Special Interest Group functions through the Special Interest Group column in the BULLETIN.
  15. Every member may participate in the Pass Exchange program.
  16. Every member has access to the NMRA Tape/Slide Clinic program.
  17. Every member has access to the NMRA Layout Tape/Slide programs.
  18. Every member has access to the prototype information coordinator.
  19. Every member may hold divisional, regional, and national office.
  20. Every member has a vote.
  21. Seven dollars of the membership fee is tax deductible.
  22. The NMRA provides an NMRA National Retailers Network for members to patronize so they know they'll get good service for their modeling needs.
  23. Member Aid Services are available to every member through divisional, regional, and national representatives.
  24. Raillette and youth programs are offered at every NMRA level of activity.
  25. Every member receives a 36-page color calendar.
- 
-

From The Divisions

Hub Division

By the time you read this, the Hub Annual Spring Convention and the NER Spring Convention in Holyoke will be history. The Hub event featured visits to three of the great layouts featured during Minuteman '86, a visit to the Framingham Conrail yards, clinics, movies, model contests, trade show and a fine evening program featuring a roast beef dinner and a performing troupe putting on a lively railroad theme entertainment. A whole group of Hubbers attended the Holyoke Convention and had a great time. Read the report in this issue.

This year, it is Hub's turn to once again put on an NER Convention. So we will be doing it in the Fall. We have been having such great success with our own Fall show in Lexington that the decision has been made to combine it with the NER Convention, using the hotel directly across the street from the show site. The trade show will have over 11,000 square feet of show space where you will enjoy many fine dealers and displayers as well as a number of modular model railroad layouts in operation. All the rest of the fine NER events you have come to expect will be available to you.

Ever since the close of Minuteman '86, Jack Alexander has been working diligently to try to close the books once and for all on that great event. He hasn't succeeded yet because there are still some people who either haven't paid their bills or haven't submitted them for payment. It appears we came out a little on the plus side, which is good for everyone's morale after all the hard work. One of these days, a final amen can be said for Minuteman '86. When shall we do it again?

Glenn Owens

[Editor's Note: In 2086, Glenn!]

Nutmeg Division

The Nutmeg Division took the spring off following the March visit to Ken May's home in Tolland. Since so many members were working the Holyoke

Convention, the entire Division was invited to attend Holyoke in place of a Division event.

In July, the Division visited one of the layouts featured during the Holyoke Convention. Bud Sharrow generously opened his home to display his "Balboa and Montezuma Railroad" for the division. A good time was had by all.

Our annual train show will be held on September 13th. This year it will be held at the Mt. Carmel - St. Cristina Hall on Roberts Street in East Hartford, CT. The doors will open to the public at 10:00 and admission will be \$2.50 for adults, \$1.50 for children, and \$5.00 per family. Division members who wish to help at the show can contact Joe Sokol, 213 Regan Road #12, Vernon, CT 06066.



Elizabeth and Rod Brown received AP certificates for their efforts as NER Office Manager and assistant.



Convention Co-chairman Brian Whiton receiving his merit award from Don Howd, AP Chairman who also substituted for Brian in the contest room.



## NER Office Manager

79 Hemenway Road  
Framingham, MA 01701

First Class Postage Paid  
Permit # 30  
Stafford Springs,  
Conn. 06076

Robert Strobel  
1203 89th St  
N Bergen NJ 07047

## First Class Mail

---

Reflections of Eugene  
by Dave Messer, MMR

Stepping off the plane in Eugene, Oregon on the way to the 1987 NMRA National convention I was immediately struck by the brisk, clear air (having just left the hazy, humid, mid-90's temperatures of the previous several weeks on the East coast). Other impressions: the friendliness of the Eugene convention crew...the interminable meetings to conduct the NMRA's necessary business...the state-of-the-art freight car modeling being demonstrated by the Prototype Modeler's group...the superb dining (with melt-in-your-mouth Pacific salmon) at the restored Oregon Electric station, with the tables set in passenger cars...the cleanliness

of downtown Eugene ...the excellent Southern Pacific train-watching location of the Hilton ...the beatup condition of SP diesels (would you believe SD-9s?) ...a worthwhile clinic program...the steadily improving quality of modules in all scales (yes, the NMRA is finally moving toward modular standards - it's not easy with so many variations) ...a substantial trade show with two surprises - a Front Range GP-7 (logical step, actually) - and the best-kept secret of all - an Atlas RS-1, in New Haven, no less others, too)...the superb convention banquet (more salmon!), with a breathtaking and nostalgic "Last of Steam in the Pacific Northwest" multimedia presentation...and a totally unexpected President's Award for yours truly ...a memorable week!

