



NORTHEASTERN REGION
NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

COUPLER

Fall 1987

Conventions Conventions Conventions

RAILS AT LEXINGTON

The NER Fall Convention

This year the Fall Convention is in Lexington, Massachusetts from November 7 thru 9, 1987. Inside this issue of the Coupler you will find your registration package. Please plan on attending and registering early. For all the details, see Page 3.



NER SPRING 1988 CONVENTION

Will be held in SAINT JOHN, New Brunswick, Canada, on May 20-22, 1988. The port city of Saint John is located 60 miles from the Maine/New Brunswick border, and is about 150 miles east of Bangor, Maine. The city of 100,000 is located at the mouth of the beautiful Saint John River, and can be reached by road or by air on regularly scheduled Air Canada flights from Boston. Saint John is well known for its historic buildings, many dating to the city's founding, and the arrival of the "Loyalists" from the New England states. Many historic sites are within walking distance of the hotel.

The convention will be combined with that of the Maritime Federation of Model Railroaders, a regional organization of more than 150 modelers, and a great time is anticipated by all at RAILS EAST '88.

The Delta Brunswick Hotel will be the convention site; it is a modern hotel located right in the

Your editor has learned that Past NER President Dave Messer was honored at the National Convention in Eugene for his continuing contributions to the NMRA. NMRA President Bob Dupont presented Dave with a **President's Award**. The editor would like to express congratulations to Dave on behalf of all members of the Region, and thank him for his efforts. Keep up the good work, Dave!

NER Brass

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NER COUPLER

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Address changes should be sent to the
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modem, or by means of ASCII file on IBM
format 360K floppy disk. If any
questions, please call.

DEADLINE

for the next issue, #153, Winter 1987 is
December 1, 1987. The issue will be
mailed approximately one month after this
date.

NER FALL CONVENTION
NOVEMBER 6-8, 1987
SHERATON-LEXINGTON INN
LEXINGTON, MASS

This fall the NER Convention will be sponsored by the HUB Division in the heart of the historical Lexington-Concord area. The special attractions you will enjoy at this convention include a large model railroad show and some of the finest home and club layouts in the area. Four of these layouts have recently appeared on the cover of "Model Railroader" magazine, and others have been inside.

The model railroad show will be held on Saturday November 7 from 10am to 5pm. This is the HUB Division's annual Fall Show, admission to which is included in the Convention price. Over the years, this show has grown in popularity and size, and attracts dealers from all the New England states. Available for sale will be model railroad equipment, both new and collector items, new books and videos, railroadiana and historical items such as books, timetables, and posters. Operating displays and modules are also an important part of the show. This year we will have Ntrak, HO, O, O-tinplate, and live steam (weather permitting). The Modern Prototype Modelers will also have a display, as will several private individuals. There will be a large white elephant table. In all, we will have over 130 tables of dealers and displays, plus the modular layouts and the live steamers. As of this writing, all space at the show has been booked. (The show is located at the Minuteman Tech High School, just one-half mile from the convention hotel.)

The layouts which will be open for the convention include one group which will be open only on Saturday afternoon as a part of an organized, extra-fare tour and another group which, in keeping with the common NER practice, will be open on either Friday evening or Sunday afternoon for self-guided, use-your-own-car visits. Most of these layouts were a part of the Minuteman '86 National NMRA Convention. For those of you who worked at the Boston Convention, or who were unable to attend, this is your chance to see what you missed last year.

The Saturday layout tour will consist of four HO layouts: George Selios' "Franklin & South Manchester", the North Shore Model RR Club's "Chesapeake System", David Drislane's "Crossties Division of the B & O", and Peter Arnott's "St. Catherine and Grant's Corner". Those of you who have been following George's layout in the pages of the model magazines will be interested to know that he is busy expanding the layout to 23' by 42'. Not all of the new area will be complete by the time of our tour, but much new will be done. One of the important differences between this tour and last year's Boston tours (aside from the new work that has been done) is that we will have enough extra time to really see and appreciate these layouts. Each is well scenicked and detailed and worthy of close study. The tour will board buses at the convention hotel at 1:00, make a pick-up at the show site, and return by 5.

The layouts which will be open on Friday night and Sunday afternoon include Norm Doucette's On3 "Walton, Rio Vista, & Western", Jim Whitehead's N "Union Pacific Northern", and Michael Tylick's HO "Fitchburg & Southbridge Ry". (Not all layouts will be open both days.)

NER LEXINGTON CONVENTION

Nov 6-8, 1987

Name _____ NER number _____

Address _____

City, State/Prov _____ Zip/CP _____

Title for Badge _____ Is this your first NER convention? _____
 Name 2 _____ Name 3 _____ Name 4 _____

EVENT	PRICE		Person				Total
	prereg'd	at door	1	2	3	4	
Registration (member)	1 \$10	1 \$12					
Registration (non-mem)	1 12	1 14					
Registration (youth)	1 5	1 7					
Banquet	1 20	1 23					
Saturday Layout tour	1 5	1 7					
Saturday non-rail tour	1 5	1 7					
Total purchased -						TOTAL= _____	

Please make checks payable to "NER CONVENTIONS" and mail with this form to:

CHARLES BETTINGER
 NER CONVENTION REGISTRAR
 29 FOSTER DRIVE
 VERNON CT 06066

(For office use only)
 P Preregistered or W Walk in
 Paid by C check or M cash
 Amount enclosed:

SHERATON LEXINGTON INN Reservations: (617) 862-8700
 RESERVATION FORM for the National Model Railroad Association

ARRIVAL DATE AND TIME _____ DEPARTURE DATE _____
 SINGLE \$60, DOUBLE \$60: NUMBER WANTED WITH 1 BED: _____ TWO BEDS: _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ TODAY'S DATE _____
 CHECK ENCLOSED _____ AMERICAN EXPRESS CARD NO. _____
 EXPIRATION DATE _____

Please complete and mail to: Rooms are normally held until 4pm. One night's deposit will guarantee your reservation (check or American Express Card) (refundable if cancelled by 4pm on the day of arrival). Room tax 9.7%

RESERVATIONS DEPARTMENT
 SHERATON LEXINGTON INN
 727 MARRETT ROAD
 LEXINGTON MA 02173

There will also be a prototype tour Saturday afternoon to the MBTA (Mass Bay Transportation Authority) Riverside Shops. This will be an opportunity to see the latest in Boston trolley equipment, articulateds as well as the older LRVs, M-O-W equipment, and a modern shop facility. This tour will not be an extra-fare event; but it will be a pre-arranged, conducted tour. Participants must get to the shops (just 8 miles) with their own transportation. The time of the tour will be announced at the convention; it will not be possible to go on both the Saturday layout tour and the Riverside tour.

On Saturday a non-rail/raillette tour will also be held. This extra-fare event will take participants by bus to the historic sites in Lexington and Concord. Stops at the old North bridge and other spots in the Minuteman National Historic Park are planned, as are stops in Concord, home of Louisa May Alcott, Henry Thoreau, and other 18th century authors. You will have a chance to explore some of the curio stores. Some flexibility is built into this tour, so the group can adjust the time spent sightseeing, museum-looking, and shopping to its liking. The tour will board its bus at the convention hotel at 11:30am and return around 4pm (a lunch stop will be made, the cost of lunch is not included in the tour price).

The convention headquarters is the Sheraton-Lexington Inn, located in suburban Lexington, Massachusetts just west of the Route 128 beltway (I-95) at Exit 30B (Rt 2A West) about 7 miles north of the Mass Pike (I-90). This colonial style two-story motel is nestled in the trees just two miles from Lexington center and the famous Battle Green. Aside from its historical significance, Lexington is well known locally for its fine restaurants and sandwich shops.

The Lexington Convention will feature a full schedule of live model railroad clinics on Saturday, and a selection of films and videos on both Friday evening and Saturday. Some of the people who will be giving clinics are Brian Whiton (Friday only), Bill Mischler, Greg Nazarow, and Mike Tylick. The Saturday clinic program will be held at the Minuteman Tech High School (where the show is), the Friday clinics will be at the Convention motel.

Clinics for the raillettes will be held on Friday evening; a craft clinic is planned, for which there may be a nominal, at-the-door fee.

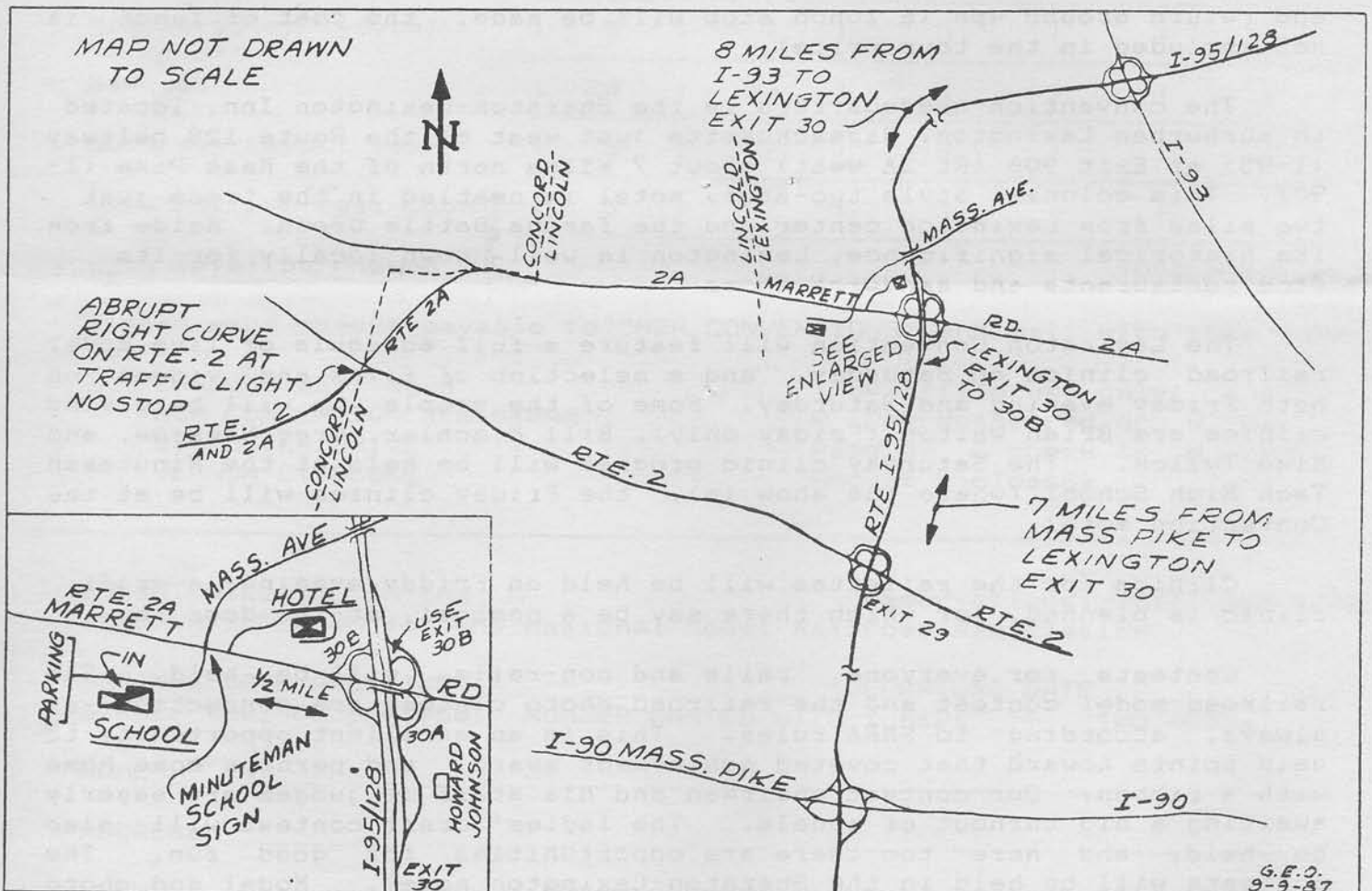
Contests for everyone, rails and non-rails, will be held. The railroad model contest and the railroad photo contest are conducted, as always, according to NMRA rules. This is an excellent opportunity to gain points toward that coveted achievement award, and perhaps come home with a ribbon. Our contest chairman and his staff of judges are eagerly awaiting a big turnout of models. The ladies' craft contest will also be held, and here too there are opportunities for good fun. The contests will be held in the Sheraton-Lexington motel. Model and photo entries must be submitted between 8:30am and 12noon Saturday; craft contest entries must be submitted between 8am and 10am. The results may be viewed late in the afternoon (perhaps by 5 or 5:30).

The Saturday evening banquet will be held in the Sheraton-Lexington's Dunfey's Restaurant banquet facilities. The sit-down full course dinner will feature roast sliced round of beef. An after-dinner speaker is planned, and there will be Bingo for the ladies (Ladies: if you can, please bring a small Bingo prize).

A note on registration prices for yourself and family members. If you are a member of the NER, you and your immediate family should pay the "member" rates. You do not need to register family members for the convention if they are not attending any of the convention activities. If your family is coming ONLY to the banquet, they do not need to register (just pay the banquet fee). If a family member is going only to the show on Saturday, they do not need to register (the standard public entrance fee will be collected at the door). However, anyone participating in any of the other convention activities must register. Non-members should note that they will receive a 3-month subscription (one issue) to the NER Coupler as a part of their registration fee.

Registration hours (at the motel) are Friday 3-5pm and 7-9pm, Saturday 8am to 12noon. Please register early (and save \$\$)!

Send hotel form to hotel, NER form to Charles Bettinger.



THE MAP: Coming south thru Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York and Quebec, use I-95, I-93, I-89, I-91 or I-87 as applicable. Coming north thru New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island or Connecticut, use I-87, I-84, I-95 or route 3 as applicable. Then get onto the Mass Pike (I-90) or route 2 if you are coming from the west. Otherwise, get directly onto I-95/128 north and head for the Lexington exit 30. Note that the Mass Pike/I-95 interchange is not drawn to scale on the map - it just indicates this is not the usual cloverleaf affair. Just follow the I-95/128 North signs carefully and you will get thru this interchange easily.

G.E.D.
9-9-87

Rails East '88 - Continued

center of Saint John. The Delta is above the recently expanded Brunswick Square Shopping Center, with around 100 shops, and bills itself the "Fashion Center". This center is joined by overhead enclosed skywalks to Saint John's new Market Square, featuring many more shops, restaurants, bars, and services, as well as the local library. Market Square is built right on the waterfront overlooking Saint John Harbour. Alongside you'll find a beached harbour tug that now serves as a tourist bureau. Also accessible in the same complex is the Canada Games Aquatic Center, with olympic size pool, saunas, and other water related activities for the whole family.

The hotel features an attached enclosed parking garage, with loading docks for commercial displays. The convention site, the hotel's ballroom, is accesible by escalators and a new glass enclosed elevator from the shopping mall. A good crowd of public visitors is expected for the Saturday afternoon open house.

A large home layout owned by Doug Devine will be available for tours. The "Island Central Railroad" features over 350 feet of HO scale main line, with realistic prototypical operation of both freight and passenger trains.

The Convention is being organized by the local Saint John Society of Model Engineers, and the chairman is well known NER member Bob Boudreau. Much of his modelling and model photography has found its' way into the model magazines, and he was twice winner of the NER's Best in Show Baldwin Trophy at previous conventions, as well as taking numerous awards at the 1986 NMRA convention in Boston. His HO scale modular Fundy Northern Railroad will be on hand with many others of equal calibre from the local modular club. Invitations have been extended to members with modular layouts in Maine, and to the Alouette Division to bring some

of their "Modu-Rail" modules to the show. In addition, there are several other Maritime groups with modules and portable layouts that are expected to attend. It will be a real "modular meet", according to organizers, with many operating layouts.

Dealer displays will be at a minimum, as U.S. dealers will not be able to participate. Several local dealers will be on hand, and there will be the traditional "white elephant" table for bargains. It promises to be a real show of our hobby rather than just a huge sales event. Clinics are being organized, and more info will be made available later.

F A N T R I P

Comfortable highway busses will take attendees on a 2 hour trip to Hillsborough, N.B., where they will visit the STEAM Salem & Hillsborough Railroad. It is planned to have a doubleheaded steam fan trip over this line, with meets of freight trains hauling vintage equipment. The S & H is home to two operating steam engines, ex CN #1009, a 4-6-0, and #42, a 2-6-0, formerly of the Sydney & Louisbourg. On display at the site is 100 year old CP #29, which was the last operating steam engine in Canada. Also are other pieces of restored passenger and freight equipment, as well as a unique CN double ended steel snowplow. The S & H was started by a local volunteer group, and assisted by government grants, has been operating as a real tourist railroad. NER Canadian Director Norman Guinard is the Railroad's Chief Conductor, who spends his summers working on the railroad.

Good news for our U.S. members who plan to attend: your American money will go farther in Canada. The current exchange rate is around 35%, so your U.S. dollar will buy you about \$1.35 in Canadian goods and services.

Local prototype rail activities are available for modelers wishing to take a look. Twice a day the VIA Rail's train the "Atlantic" stops in Saint John, headed by their new F40PH-2 diesels, with stainless steel dome cars as well as older equipment. Canadian Pacific has it's eastern terminal in the city, and modern diesel power can oftentimes be spotted in their west side yards.

For further information, please contact Bob Boudreau at P.O. Box 7122, Station A SAINT JOHN, N. B. E2L 4S5 CANADA

More information and the registration form will be in the next issue of the Coupler.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NMRA, INC., 4121 CROMWELL RD., CHATTANOOGA, TN 37421

I enclose Check Money Order Charge

<input type="checkbox"/> Regular, One Year	\$20.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth, One Year	\$13.50	<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining, One Year	\$40.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular, Two Years	\$40.00	(Under 20 Years)		<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining, Five Years	\$160.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular, Five Years	\$80.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Affiliate, One Year	\$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership	\$400.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family Member, One Year	\$4.00	(No Bulletin)		<input type="checkbox"/> Retired Life Membership	\$200.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family Member, Five Years	\$16.00	(Available to Spouse or Minor Child of Regular Member)			

(U.S. FUNDS ONLY) Annual Dues of \$20.00 includes \$13.00 for subscription to the BULLETIN.

NEW RENEWAL Date of Birth (Youth and Retired Life Only) _____

Scale & Gauge _____ Occupation (Optional) _____

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____

STATE & ZIP _____

Charge to: American Express VISA

MasterCard Exp. Date _____

CARD NUMBER

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Signature _____

Remove or send facsimile

----- Cut Here -----
NER Membership Application

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE () _____

NMRA No. _____

\$6.00 for 1 year membership

\$15.00 for 3 year membership

\$110.00 for Life membership
(only if NMRA Life member)

Make checks payable to NER-NMRA

Please remit in U.S. funds

Mail to: R. Roderick Brown, NER Office Manager
 79 Hemenway Road
 Framingham, MA 01701