

NER COUPLER

Northeastern Region, National Model Railroad Association, Inc.

Winter 1991, Number 165



This photograph of the Versailles, CT station won Jeff French of Suffield, CT an award in the black and white prototype category at the NER 1990 Spring Convention in Belfast. Another award winning photo by Jeff is on page 9.

Convention is Standing Room Only

Empire State Express, the NER Fall Convention in Albany, NY, was a roaring success. Over 350 people attended, with both the CONRAIL fantrip and the banquet sold out! The weather cooperated, providing sunny days with temperatures in the sixties. All in all, it was a very enjoyable weekend.

Six excellent layouts were open on Friday evening. Several owners, including Lou Sassi and Tony Steele, estimated attendance at nearly 150. Ken Nelson, Jim Coon, Paul Belasco and the RPI Club also reported good attendance. Brian Whiton presented two clinics

story & photos on page 3

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NER BRASS

Officers

James K. HeidtPresident
PO Box 195
Camden, NY 13316
(508) 586-0271

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

Diane SalvatoreSecretary
33 Elm Street
Woodstown, NJ 08098
(609) 769-3065

James TruaxTreasurer
33 University Terrace
Burlington, VT 05401
(802) 864-5052

NER Office Managers

Rod and Elizabeth Brown
79 Hemenway Road
Framingham, MA., 01701
(508) 877-1827

Department Chairpersons Achievement Program

Bob Boudreau
PO Box 7122, Station A
St. John NB E2L 4S5
(506)672-2374

Convention

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

Model Contest

Walter J. Neuman
149 Clark Blvd
Massapequa, NY 11762
(516) 798-0575

Photo Contest

Edward C. Scott
112 Glen Road, South
Rome, NY 13440
(315) 337-9357

Non Rail & Crafts Coordinators

Diane Salvatore
June Neuman
149 Clark Blvd
Massapequa, NY 11762
(516) 798-0575

Directors

Canada

Norman C. Guinard
9 Dube Street
Edmundston, NB E3V2G1
(506) 735-6084

Connecticut & Rhode Island

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

Long Island & 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

Jon S. Sem
271 F. Englishtown Rd.
Old Bridge, NJ 08857
(201) 251-4297

New York State

Frank A. Deitz
38 Sandra Ave.
Plattsburgh, NY 12901
(518)562-8058

Northern New England

David Collinge
RR-2, Box 500
Wolfboro, NH 03894
(603) 569-4876

Past President

Bill Parker
65 Coweaset Dr.
Brockton, MA 02401
(508) 586-0271

Coupler Staff

Phil Ackerman, Editor
Dick Ketcham, Assistant Editor
PO Box 6461
Nashua, NH 03063-6461
(603) 886-6430

NER COUPLER

165, Winter, 1991

This newsletter is the official publication of the Northeastern Region, National Model Railroad Association, Inc. and is published four times a year.

Phil Ackerman, Coupler Editor
c/o Images and Ideas, Inc.

P.O. Box 6461
Nashua, NH 03063-6461
(603) 886-6430

Send address changes to the NER Office Manager; all other material should be sent to the Editor. Editorial material may be handwritten legibly or typewritten, or can be sent on Macintosh, Apple II, or IBM 360K formatted disks. Please do not format your material as we reformat it when it is typeset. If you have any questions, please call.

For best results, photos for publication should be color or black and white low contrast prints. *Enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope for photos to be returned.*

Letters to the editor, and editorial opinions are welcome; however, criticism should be professional in nature, not personally directed at any individual.

DEADLINE for the Spring 91 issue is March 20, 1990. The issue will be mailed First Class approximately April 15.

Membership in the NER is open to all members of the NMRA, regardless of scale modeling preference or experience. Dues are \$6.00 per year and can be paid to the NER Office Manager, 79 Hemenway Road, Framingham, MA 01701. A membership application is found on page 11 of this NER Coupler.



Fall convention draws record numbers to Albany sites

continued from page 1

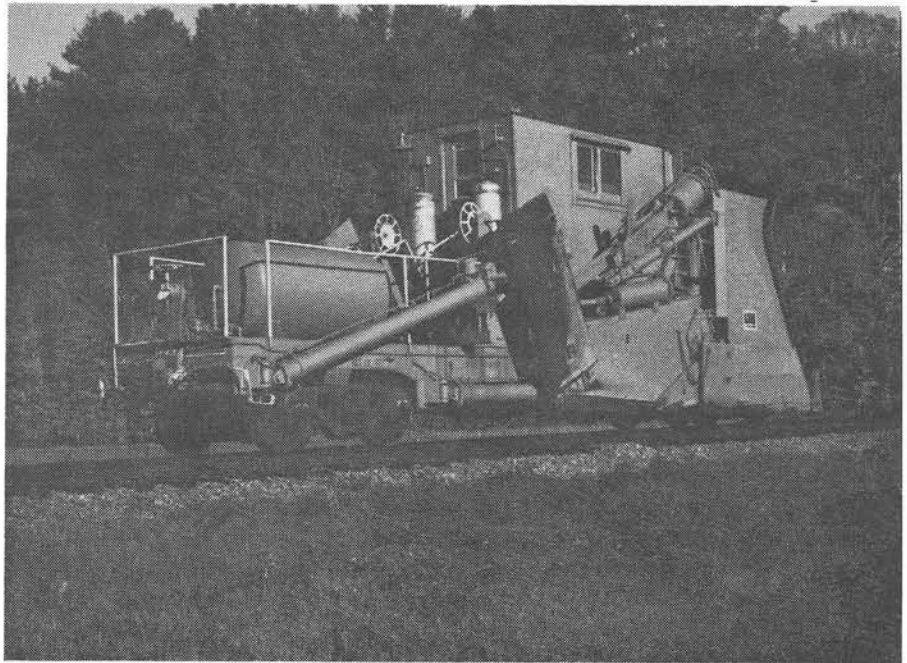
for those people who chose to remain at the hotel.

On Saturday morning, a full bus left for the Albany Non-Rail Tour. Two and a half bus loads took the morning fan trip. At the Delaware and Hudson's Kenwood yard, several provided an equipment display. The Susquehanna provided an ex-BN F-45, the D & H sent a GP-38 while the Port of Albany contributed two small switchers (they looked like ALCO S-2's, but don't hold me to it, Ken). To cap off the display, a D & H crew was shunting cars in the yard in the distance.

Following the Kenwood yard visit, the tour crossed the Hudson River to the AMTRAK facilities at Rensselaer. Here the attendees were able to see the equipment on hand as well as tour the shop facilities. The group saw a couple of F-40's as well as two turbo trains. AMTRAK officials also showed some of the equipment used to maintain the locomotives.

After a quick lunch back at the hotel, the groups boarded the buses for the trip to the CONRAIL yard at Selkirk. At they hump yard, they were able to view two trains being humped. One of the SD-38 locomotives and a slug was stopped on the escape track near the buses which provided an opportunity for some great photographs. At the hump tower, the group got a front row seat to watch the train classification process.

A guided tour of the locomotive shops provided a chance to see some equipment up close, as well as enter the cab of a new GE C40-8. An EMD GP-38-2 was also at the inspection platform. After visiting the shops, the tour was shown the refueling facility.



Fall Foliage – This freshly painted orange Jordan Spreader was discovered sitting by itself on a siding in Saratoga, NY on the way back from visiting the Adirondack Live Steam Group during Empire State Express. If this were in color, you could see how this “out of the box” model would be set off by the beautiful Fall foliage in the background. This is just another example of the fact that you would have had to be there to get the full enjoyment of an NER convention.

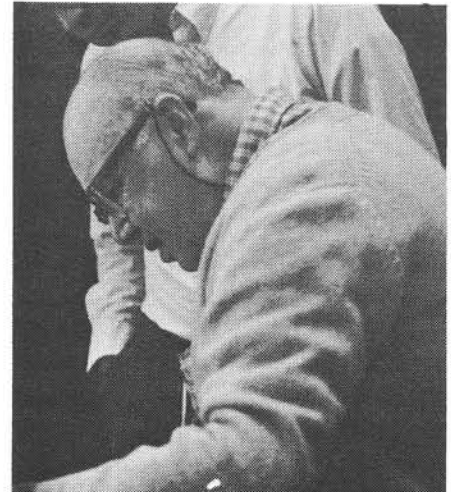
The Saturday evening banquet hall was filled to capacity. Activities included installation of the new NER officers and directors, contest awards and a preview of the Spring 1991 convention. As a special tribute to past winners of the Baldwin Trophy, the Nutmeg Division presented certificates for them to keep as a permanent record of their achievement.

The annual meeting on Sunday morning was also well attended, with several excellent points being raised by the members for consideration by the board. These included a request for a separate contest category for traction models, providing scale or special interest notations on convention badges and an amateur category for contests.

New staff appointments were

announced, and volunteers were sought for the positions not yet filled. Visits to more layouts on the way home, as well as the Train Show at RPI in Troy, NY.

The convention committee and staff thank all for attending, and hope to see you again, soon.



From the Superintendent's Desk

This is my first chance to greet all of you as NER President, and at the outset, I would like to share with you my excitement over the possibilities of real change for our Region. You already know something about the elected officers and directors of the NER from previous issues of the NER Coupler. However other appointments have been made and, while some of us have already met each other at a recent board meeting, it seems appropriate to bring everybody "up to speed." So, let me introduce you to some of the other folks who you can look to in active leadership roles in our Region.

Diane Salvatore from New Jersey returns as our Secretary. Diane is an active modeler, and she and her husband, Glenn, energetically support the NER in a geographical area of great potential. At the other end of the map, you will find Jim Truax of Burlington, Vermont, as our new Treasurer. I have known Jim for years and his is particularly qualified for his new position.

Well-known Bob Boudreau will now head our Achievement Program Committee. Without intending to embarrass him, I am especially pleased to include this highly respected Canadian modeler in the NER official family. I know that Bob has already had extensive contact with the national AP committee people, and if any of you are working toward Achievement Program Certificates, you should contact Bob directly and advise him of your status. In addition, those of you who have served as AP contacts in your Division area should also contact Bob just to touch base and let him know if you will continue.

Walt Neuman of Long Island is our new Model Contest Committee Chairman, and I have been told that his selection was "truly inspired." Walt is a past winner of the Baldwin Trophy, and his model work exhibits the kind of clean craftsmanship that underscores his qualification. Walt's committee is preparing to revise the model contest rules and categories, and if you can help with any suggestions or any judging, drop him a line.

Long-time NER member Ed Scott of Rome, New York, is the new Photo Contest Committee Chairman. Ed is the most organized person I know and when coupled with his dedication to the region and his life-long experience in the optics field, I am sure that he will provide exceptional leadership for this rapidly growing area of interest. Ed will be starting from scratch in forming a committee, rewriting rules, and recruiting judges. If you can offer any help or suggestions in the photo contest area, please give Ed a call or write him a note.

Brian Whiton again returns to oversee the convention committee. The NER is currently blessed with several conventions planned down the road. I think this is due in large part to the stability and quality of conventions that we have recently known due in large part to this experienced committee. With the extremely successful Albany Convention just behind us and New London right around the corner, the committee is fine-tuning and looking ahead to the tri-regional in Binghamton, New York and beyond. I'll share more about Binghamton with you in the next issue of the NER Coupler.

The Non-Rail situation has



changed. In recognizing that the responsibility for a complete Non-Rail program was too great for one person, the Non-Rail participants suggested, and the Board adopted, a Co-Chairmanship. Diane Salvatore and June Neuman will now be coordinating the region's efforts in this area along with the local Non-Rail committees.

These are only some of the changes that we have made, and will cover more in the future. However, I would like to leave these closing thoughts with you. While at the Albany convention, I was approached by a member who I regret I do not remember, and he thanked me for my years of service to the organization. My response was to thank him, and to thank you in return. As I stated at the banquet, I am lucky to have many acquaintances and friendships in several different fields and areas. But my model railroading friends are my best; people that I can depend on, that I enjoy being with, and who understand me because we all share the same imagination.

While it may seem that we are going to be very efficient and organized, it has been my emphasis from the start that we are going to do everything in friendship and in fun. With the promise of a new year for the NER, I hope you feel the same way.



**the
FUNSHINE EXPRESS:
BINGHAMTON 91
11-13 October 1991**

- NIAGARA FRONTIER REGION •
- NORTHEASTERN REGION •
- MID-EASTERN REGION •

FALL TRI-REGION CONVENTION PROGRAM

- LAYOUTS
- MODULES
- CLINICS
- RUSS LARSON (MR editor)
- VIDEOS
- MODEL CONTEST
- PHOTO CONTEST
- LOCO APPEARANCE CONTEST
- BREAKFAST TRAIN TRIP
- MUSEUM TRAIN TRIP
- HOSPITALITY ROOMS
- D&H YARD TOUR
- LADIES PROGRAM
- HANDICRAFTS CONTEST
- RAFFLE
- BANQUET
- FLEA MARKET
- TRADE SHOW

Registration forms available in your region newsletter or contact:

Pete Moffett,
7 Jolie Court,
St. Catharines,
Ontario, Canada
L2M 6V5
(416) 934-6575

Dealer tables available contact Pete Moffett for registration form.

Bill Parker presents NER President's Awards to Craiges, Browns and Coupler Editor.

NER Past President Bill Parker presented Rod and Elizabeth Brown, NER Office Managers, Wayne and Linda Craigue, who served as promotion committee chairman and Non-Rail Chairperson, respectively, and Coupler Editor Phil Ackerman with the NER President's Award at ceremonies conducted during the Fall NER convention in Albany. Bill cited the five individuals in recognition of outstanding service to the hobby and to the Northeastern Region, NMRA.



Wayne and Linda Craigue

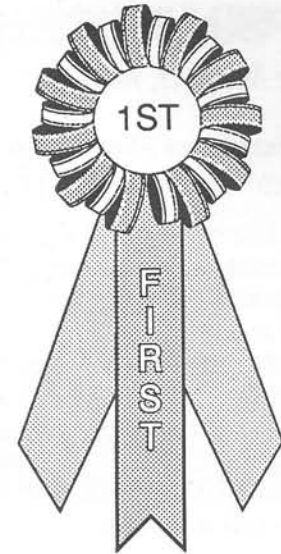
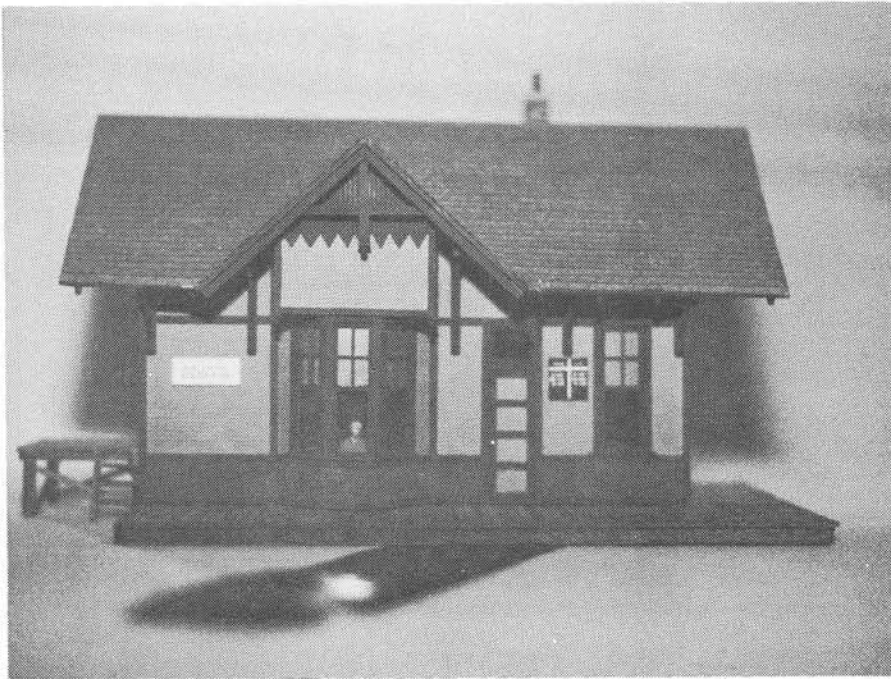


Rod & Elizabeth Brown

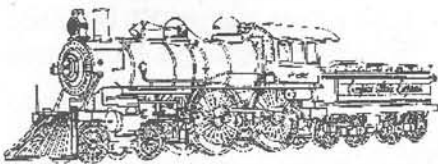


Phil Ackerman

Photo Story: NER Fall Convention



This model of the Norwich, NY station captured first place in the structures category (craftsman) for Walter Scholz of that city.



A special salute from the NER COUPLER to the chairman and staff of Empire State Express, and to the hard-working members of the registration committee, ticket takers, layout owners, clinicians, judges and others who worked so hard to make this convention a huge success.



Fun was on the order board for many of the younger (spirited) convention guests on the visit to the Adirondack Live Steam Group in nearby Saratoga, NY. As seen by this photo, the group also featured miniature live diesel as well as a scaled-down speeder.

Movin' on down the line

A new feature of the NER Coupler in which we extract what's best from the various regional and division publications which our members may not get to see. The first two articles come from the Frontier Flimsy of the Niagara Frontier Region, and the Cannonball from the NERs Sunrise Trail Division.

TIPS N TRICKS

Pete Moffett, MMR

Reprinted from The Frontier Flimsy, November 1990

Use white glue for gluing stripwood when building wooden structures or rolling stock. Dilute the glue 10% with water and store it in an ACC container. These containers are about the size of a large pill container and are made of plastic. The lids shut tightly and because they are plastic the glue doesn't stick to them

Instead of a toothpick for applying the glue, use a strip of .060 styrene about half an inch wide and four inches long. Taper one end to a point and use this to apply the white glue. When the glue dries on the applicator it can be removed easily because the white glue won't stick to the styrene.

Glue stripwood after you have stained it. Use leather dye and alcohol to stain your stripwood. A combination of black and a small bit of brown leather dye will give a silver gray color.

Cut your stripwood before you stain it. that way you won't have any white ends to touch up. A single sided razor blade cuts stripwood to length very cleanly. These razor blades are available in hardware stores and are used for cleaning paint off windows when painting.

A scalpel blade works best for cutting styrene. Scalpel blades are thinner than X-Acto blades and so give a much cleaner cut in styrene. A scalpel gives an edge that is more

square than one cut with an X-Acto blade. Scalpels are available in art stores and have a variety of blades. I use a #11 blade which is long and pointed and is perfect for cutting styrene.

To remove the burr which forms when you cut styrene use a square chisel blade in an X-Acto handle and remove the burr before you bend and crack the styrene. When cutting styrene sheets, don't cut all the way through the styrene. Go about one third of the way through and then remove the burr

by running the chisel blade along the cut. Then bend and crack the styrene.

Roughen styrene by sanding lightly with .320 grade waterproof sandpaper. This will allow you to draw on the styrene with a pencil and have the lines visible. This is a benefit when you are laying out jigs.

Master Model Rairoader Pete Moffett is Chairman of Funshine Express, Binghamton 91.

Why it's a DD3, of course

by Sam Berlinger

Reprinted from the Cannonball, Sunrise Trail Division, Volume 20, No. 4, Winter 1990

In 1962, a PRR Class DD1 side rod/jack shaft electric 2-B+B-2 was semi permanently coupled with a pair of PRR Class AP20 diesel electric B-units (ALCO PB-1). The ALCO's traction motors were removed, but the 2,000 horse power turbocharged 16 cylinder engines and generators were retained to run the DD1's 2,000 horse power Westinghouse electric motors via inter-cab jumpers. The PB's were spliced between the DD1 halves, thus placing an engineer's cab at each end.

The resulting 4,000 horse power unit was intended to run off third rail power in electrified territory with diesel generated electric power in non-electrified territory. The 72" drivers of the DD1 units were good for 80 miles per hour or better. This equipment was secretly tested at night in

commuter territory around New York's Penn Station (I'll bet many old-time LIRR people even remember this!).

The equipment worked well enough, but partly because of its extreme length (190'), the experiment was not continued. Plans were then made by the PRR to acquire dual-powered EMD FL-9 units or equivalent for the same purposes. This idea also came to naught.

This experiment takes on a new significance in light of the efforts by the Long Island Railroad to acquire dual-powered equipment. It is understood that efforts have recently been made to convince the Berlinerwerke's management to build a prototype unit for testing. So far they have come up with an HO scale model of the proposed locomotive. And he who tells a taller tale will have to tell a lie.

Empire State Express Model Contest Winners

Retiring Model Contest Chairman, Don Howd, announced the following winners of the Model Contest at Albany:

Baldwin Trophy (Best in Show)
Brian Whiton, Windsor Locks, CT for his Waste Stone Car.

HUB Division Award
Walter Neumen, Massapequa, LI, NY for his CN Rail and Tie Car

New Modeler Award
William Brandt, Woodstock, NY for his Pacific Electric Trolley #984

Other model contest winners at Albany were:

Walter Scholz, Norwich, NY
Best in Classification, Motive Power-Steam (Craftsman)
Merit, Non-Revenue Cars (Master)

1st Place Structures (Craftsman)

Honorable Mention, Non-Revenue Cars (Master)

Bill Hoffmann, Westport, CT
1st Place, Motive Power-Other (Master)

2nd Place, Passenger Cars (Master)

3rd Place, Passenger Cars (Master)

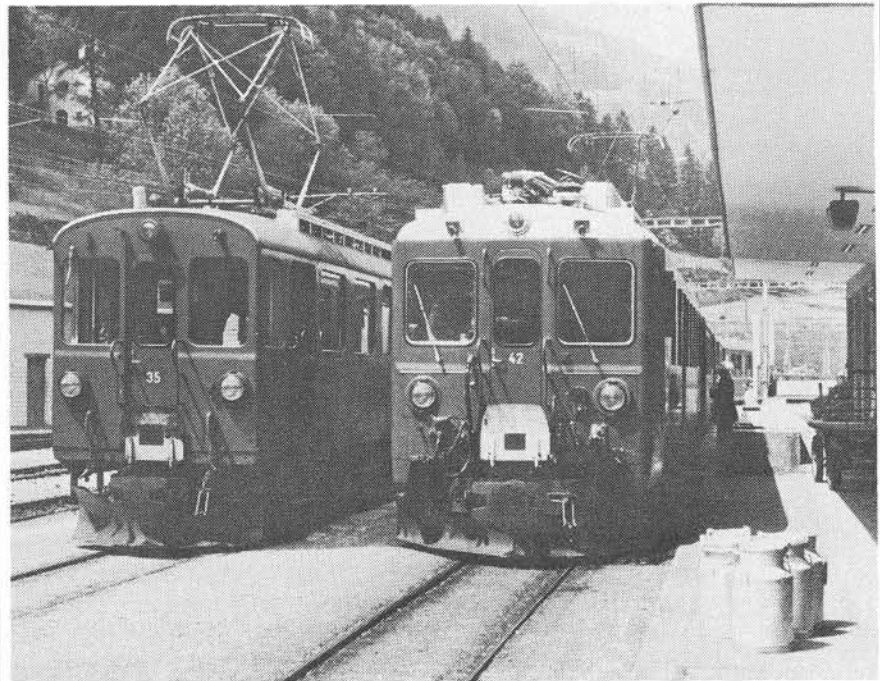
William Brandt, Woodstock, NY
1st Place, Motive Power Other (Craftsman)

Bob Bird, Parlin, NJ
1st Place, Freight Cars (Master)
3rd Place, Non-Revenue Cars (Master)

John Johnson, Columbus, NJ
2nd Place, Freight Cars (Master)

continued on page 12

Local and Express Rh B Trains at Poschiavo, Switzerland



This photograph won Jeff French of Suffield, CT an award in the black and white prototype category at the NER 1990 Spring Convention in Belfast.



Tri-region Convention to feature special contest prizes

The Funshine Express, Binghamton 1991 will be running a model, photo, pass and handicrafts contest at the convention. There will be a Best-In-Convention prize for each of these contests, as well as any Best-In-Show prizes which are normally awarded within the individual regions. These best-in-convention prizes will be substantial and well worth working toward. For example, in the model and photo contests the prizes will be framed prints by famous railroad artists and will look good in the home of any model railroader. The prize for the handicraft and pass contest will also be worth working for. So get busy over the next few months, and enter your work in one of the contests at Funshine Express. The next issue of this newsletter will contain more information about what is shaping up as an exciting event.

Counselors sought for Boy Scout railroading merit badge

The NMRA Scouting Merit Badge Program is designed to counsel Scouts so that they can pass the requirements of the Railroading Merit Badge. We need counselors as well as coordinators to implement this program.

As a Boy Scout Merit Badge Coordinator with the Achievement Department, I really think this is a great opportunity to give of ourselves and our talents to help someone else. We have many great programs which all serve ourselves and our organization. Now we can repay in a small way by organizing, teaching, or otherwise contributing to the Program of assisting in the qualification of Scouts in the Railroading Merit Badge. Incidentally, our Association along with Kalmbach Publishing Company and the Association of American Railroads started this Merit Badge Program in 1959.

We need someone to take charge in each Division. Scouting experience is not necessary, but would be a plus. Your Achievement chairman might be excellent if no one else is available, but I would prefer to get some additional people involved if possible.

We in the Western Division of the SSR have made it possible for 23 Scouts to achieve this Merit Badge. It does not require a great deal of time but you should let your local Scout Headquarters know that you are ready, willing, and able to do this.

Basically, to get involved you go to the Scout Headquarters in your area, explain your interest, and become qualified as a counselor. You then work with the Scouting groups in your area to start a Merit Badge program in our field of

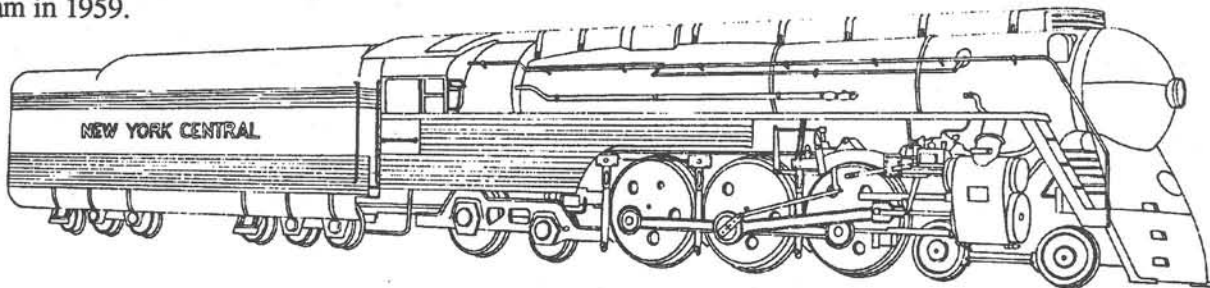
interest; Railroading. As a model railroader yourself, you can further the scouts interest in model railroading and have fun in doing so.

We will shortly be printing a brochure for your assistance. We now have an audio tape (if you want one, they are \$2.50 postpaid) which will help you in setting up the program.

In the meantime, please let me know of anyone you find who is now working on the Merit Badge program or anyone who will be willing to work on the program. We will be happy to assist them in any way possible.

Our address is:

Belding H. McCurdy
12485 2nd Street East, Suite 102
Treasure Island, FL, 33706



NER Spring Convention, May 3 - 5, 1991 New London, Connecticut

I am interested in receiving information about the Northeastern Region Spring Convention in New London. Please forward information and registration forms as soon as they are available.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mail to: Pat & Charlie Bettinger
NER Conventions Registration
29 Foster Drive
Vernon, CT 06066

Advertise in the NER COUPLER

Commercial advertising space is available in the NER COUPLER at rates as low as \$25 per year for four issues (Business Card: 3-1/2 x 2) to \$250 per year for a full page ad. Write for advertising rates:

NER COUPLER
PO Box 6461
Nashua, NH 03063-6461

Operation Desert Storm

If you know of a model railroader serving with our forces in Desert Storm, send us his address and we will mail the COUPLER to him, free.

Welcome On Board

Member Service Center

New Members

Connecticut		New York	
Don Buckley	Salisbury	William Brandt	Woodstock
Ronald Pothier	Branford	Charles R. Cook	Clifton Park
Murray Warner	Madison	Frederic M. Doeing	Loudonville
Casey Wheeler	Wallingford	William Doyle	Gansevoort
		David Grimm	Latham
Maine		William J. Hunsinger	Endicott
Dolly Hatfield	Stockton Spgs	William J. Jaffin	Schenectady
Massachusetts		G. Kriete	Selkirk
Tim Coakley	Natick	William R. MacKay	Ballston Spa
David C. Kiley	Swansea	Arthur E. Mayer	Bayside
William H. O'Hara, Jr.	Randolph	Thomas F. McCollough	South
Rufus L. Simmons, Jr.	Lowell	David Metal	Commack
Wesley G. Wallace, Jr.	Rockland	Robert A. Riegl	S. Hempstead
New Hampshire		Ludwig Riemenschneider	Seaford
Joseph M. Collins	Milford	Robert E. Robbins	Stony Point
William F. Middleton	Salem	Larry Roth	Feura Bush
Steve Muskiewicz	Hudson	Jack Wright	Glenville
Carl C. Tranberg, 3d	Rye		
New Jersey			
Neil Grant	Rockaway		
Brian Lanson	Clifton		

Seaford, New York
October 29, 1990

Dear Phil,

I would like to thank the following for their kindness in allowing me to visit the following: Adirondack Live Steamers, Ken Nelson, RPI Club, and Tony Steele; to the following: Paul Delasco and Mike Tylick for allowing my wife and I to visit their layouts on Sunday.

Is there anyone in the NER interested in building O Scale traction or trolley modules using East Penn Tracton standards? We could bring them to the conventions and set them up.

Please contact me, Ludwig Riemenschneider, Long Island Traction Society, 4039 Wicks Ave. Seaford, NY 11783-1439.

Yours truly,
Ludwig Riemenschneider

NER Membership Application / Renewal

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____

\$6.00 for 1 year membership
\$15.00 for 3 year membership
\$110.00 for life membership
(only if you are an NMRA life member)

Please remit in **U.S. FUNDS**
Make checks/postal orders payable to **NER-NMRA**

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

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Chk	Csh	File	Card

On The Schedule



National Conventions

June 30 - July 6, 1991, Denver, CO.

August 1 - 8, 1992, Columbus, OH.

1993 - Valley Forge, PA.

Northeastern Region

Spring 1991: New London, CT. Details in the next COUPLER

October 11-13 1991: Tri Region (NER, MER, NFR) Convention, Binghamton, NY.

Hub Division Spring Show

April 6: Greater Lawrence Regional Vocational Technical High School, Andover, MA; 10:00 am - 4:00 pm; Show: Adults #3.50, Children \$1.50, Family \$6.50; Show & Clinics: Members \$3.00, Non-members \$6.50; Peter Watson, (508) 378-3582

Massachusetts

Worcester Model Railroaders

March 3, 1991

Model railroad show and sale at the Auburn Elks Club, Rte 12, Auburn MA; 10:00 am to 4:00 pm; Admission - Adults \$2.00, Children \$1.00, family max - \$5.00. Information: Worcester Model Railroaders, 6 Sherwood Rd., Worcester, MA 01602.

Vermont

Northwestern Vermont Model Railroad Society

March 9, 1991

4th Annual Model Train Show, Saturday, March 9, 1991; South Burlington Middle School; handicap accessible; Exit 14E, I-89, then right on Dorset St., 1/2 mile past mall; 10 am to 4 pm; Adults \$2.00, Seniors half price, Under 12 \$1.00, under 6 free. Info: Michael G. Saunders, 84 Aldis Street, St. Albans, VT 05478-1913, (802) 524-4429 evenings except Wednesdays.

For a complete listing of all know railroad shows and events in the Northeast, subscribe to Railroad Information. Write Dave Collinge, RR2, Box 500, Wolfeboro, NH 03894.

Contest Winners

from page 9

Don Buckley, Salisbury, CT

1st Place, Freight Cars (Craftsman)

1st Place, Non-Revenue Cars (Craftsman)

Brian Whiton, Windsor Locks, CT.

1st Place, Non-Revenue Cars (Master)

Merit, Non-Revenue Cars (Master)

Walter Neumen, Massapequa, NY

2nd Place, Non-Revenue Cars (Master)

1st Place, Passenger Cars (Master)

Jean LeBlanc, Leval, QUE

1st Place, Structures (Master)

Leonard Amrhein, Rome, NY

Merit, Dioramas (Craftsman)

Alan R. Grabsch, East Hartford, CT

Best in Classification, Passenger Cars (Craftsman)

NER Office Manager

79 Hemenway Road
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