

*A Publication of the North East Region, National Model Railroad Association*

## **GREEN MOUNTAIN EXPRESS NER SPRING CONVENTION**

**Burlington, Vermont Hosts Spring Meeting 14-16 May**

The Green Mountain Division, in conjunction with the Central Vermont Railway Historical Society, invites you to Burlington, Vermont, on the West Coast of New England, for the NER Spring Convention. Convention Co-Chairmen Mike Saunders and Glenn Glasstetter and their committee have planned an action packed convention. It will feature many layouts, including 1 1/2" scale and FULL SIZE LIVE STEAM! There will also be sixteen different clinics, three prototype and one non-rail tour, as well as the usual activities of model, photo and crafts contests, videos, hospitality room and banquet. Our headquarters for the weekend will be the Radisson Hotel Burlington, conveniently located within walking

> page 6

## **NMRA Requires Trustee Election for NER**

At the January 31, 1993 Northeastern region board of directors meeting' it was decided to separate the functions of The NMRA Trustee from the Northeastern Region and the Northeastern Region President. It was further decided that a Special Election should be held to meet the NMRA requirement that the Trustee be elected every two years.

NER President Jim Heidt has appointed me as Chairman of the Nominating Committee. I have appointed the seven area representatives as members of the Nominating Committee. Each candidate for the Office of NMRA Trustee from the Northeastern Region must meet certain membership requirements and present specific documents. The membership requirements are relatively simple - you must currently be a regular or Life Member of both the NMRA and NER. The documentation consists of a signed statement signifying that the candidate is currently a member of both the NMRA and NER, and intends to con-

> page 3





# NER BRASS

## Officers

<b>James K. Heidt, President</b> .....	PO Box 195 Camden, NY 13316
<b>Brian C. Whiton, Vice-President</b> .....	94 & 96 Spring St. Windsor Locks, CT 06096
<b>Bill Parker, Past President</b> .....	65 Coweaset Dr. Brockton MA 02401
<b>Diane Salvatore, Secretary</b> .....	33 Elm Street Woodstown, NJ 08098
<b>James Truax, Treasurer</b> .....	33 University Terrace Burlington VT 05401

## Department Chairpersons

<b>Bob Boudreau, Achievement Program</b> .....	PO Box 7122, Station A Saint John NB E2L4S5
<b>Brian C. Whiton, Conventions</b> .....	94 & 96 Spring Street Windsor CT 06096
<b>Brian C. Whiton, Model Contest</b> .....	94 & 96 Spring Street Windsor CT 06096
<b>Edward C. Scott, Photo Contest</b> .....	112 Glen Road, South Rome, NY 13440
<b>Diane Salvatore, Non-Rail &amp; Crafts</b> .....	(address above)
<b>June Neuman, Non-Rail &amp; Crafts</b> .....	149 Clark Blvd. Massapequa NY 11762

## Directors

<b>Norman C. Guinard, Canada</b> .....	9 Dube Street Edmundston, NB E3V2G1
<b>Joseph F. Sokol, Connecticut &amp; Rhode Island</b> .....	213 Reagan Rd #12 Vernon CT 06066
<b>To be appointed, Long Island &amp; New York City.</b>	

<b>Wayne R. Craigue, Massachusetts</b> .....	26 Thurman Park Everett, MA 02149
<b>Jon S. Sem, New Jersey</b> .....	271 F. Englishtown Rd. Old Bridge, NJ 08857
<b>Frank A. Deitz, New York State</b> .....	38 Sandra Ave. Plattsburgh, NY 12901
<b>David Collinge, Northern New England</b> .....	RR-2, Box 500 Wolfeboro, NH 03894

## Working Crew

<b>Joseph T. Popecki, Editor</b> .....	33 Woodridge Drive Burlington, VT 05401
<b>Michael G Saunders, Technical Staff Coupler</b> .....	84 Aldis St. St. Albans VT 05478-1913
<b>Charles &amp; Pat Bettinger, Convention Registrar</b> .....	29 Foster Drive Vernon, CT 06066
<b>Rod &amp; Elizabeth Brown, Office Managers</b> .....	79 Hemenway Road Framingham, MA 01701

## #171, March 1993

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

**Joseph T. Popecki, Editor**  
33 Woodridge Drive  
Burlington, VT 05401  
(802) 863-4121

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 IBM 360K, 720K, 1.2 & 1.4meg 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 NEXT ISSUE IS MAY 28, 1993.

The issue will be mailed in June.. 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.





## 1 > Trustee Election

tinue those memberships while serving as an officer of the organization, and, a biography of the candidate of two hundred (200) words or less, for publication with the ballot.

Under the NER Constitution and By-Laws, there are two processes by means of which the names of the candidates can be placed on the ballot. The more traditional is that of presenting a name to the nominations Committee. The second is by presenting a petition containing the required number of valid signatures.

For a member to present a candidate to the Nominating Committee, contact your area representative and provide him with the name and supporting documentation for your candidate. For member or members to petition a candidate onto the ballot, contact your area representatives for copies of the petition form. Obtain from the candidate the required documentation, and present that the documentation along with petition forms signed by thirty (30) NMRA/NER members, no more than ten (10) from each area of representation to the NER secretary.

There are deadlines to be observed. All candidates presented to the Nominating Committee must be received by the Nominating Committee Chairman no later than March 1, 1993. All petitions and supporting documentation must be received by the NER Secretary no later than April 1, 1993.

I would like to thank all members of the NER for their cooperation. I hope this election process goes smoothly, and all NER members participate fully in the process. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Kenneth May  
Nominating Committee Chairman.  
71 Bluff Cap Road  
Tolland, CT 06084-2605  
(203) 872-3441

---

Back issues of the NMRA Bulletin for 1986, 87, and 88 are available for only the cost of mailing from William Crawford, 15 Howe Rd, Nahant MA 01908.

## Photo Contest Awards

### Syracuse

#### Model Slide

##### 1st-

Jack Alexander "Engine House Interior" NER

##### 2nd

Jack Alexander "Silver Gate Coal Tipple" NER

##### 3rd-

Lionel Strang "Main Street" NFR

#### Prototype B&W

##### 1st-

John Tumbas "CPR Freight" NFR

##### 2nd-

John Tumbas "Steam on the A&A" NFR

##### 3rd-

Duncan Allsop "Last of British Steam" NFR



#### Prototype Color

##### 1st-

John Tumbus "#1 The Canadian" NFR

##### 2nd-

Bob Charles "Morning Wakeup Call" NER

##### 3rd-

Frank Dietz "Red Rocks Tunnel Portal" NER

#### Prototype Slide

##### 1st-

John Tumbus "CN Frt. at Bearel Jct" NFR

##### 2nd-

John Tumbas "CPR East Bound" NFR

##### 3rd-

Duncan Allsop "Lakeside Travel" NFR

#### Optional Honorable Mention Winner

#### Proto-Slide

Jack Alexander "CP-Lower Spiral" NER

#### Best-in-Show

#### Proto-Colorprint

"All Steamed UP" David Keim NER-NFR



## **LOOSE SPIKES**

By Jim Heidt, NER President/Trustee

To begin with, on behalf of the NER Board of Directors, I would like to thank you for your outstanding response to my letter to you dated January 1, 1993, regarding the NMRA Trustee issue in our region. Many of you sent copies to me of letters to your respective representatives, so I can join the rest of the board in saying that your comments generally were very encouraging and helpful.

Your NER Board of Directors met on January 31, 1993, for just over three hours where we discussed our regular business as well as the special trustee issue. Our other business included, but was not limited to, receiving written reports from most committees, reviewing our solvent financial status, getting the long-term details from our Convention Committee including a last-minute preview of our Burlington Convention this May (ample details of which will be found elsewhere in this issue), appointing a new model contest chairman while acknowledging with thanks the grateful service provided by Walt Neuman, and discussing the improvement of membership promotion with very helpful promotion booth drawings provided by Wayne Craigie.

The most poignant moment for me, however, came at the end of the meeting when I accepted with heartfelt appreciation and regret the resignation of John Macintosh, NER area representative from New York City and Long Island. Jack has served this region long and well and, from those modelers who know him, he will continue to receive our thanks, gratitude and respect.

Back to the trustee issue, the board passed a motion to amend our region's by-laws which will become effective the next time the board meets at the Burlington Convention in May. At that time, the position of NER President/Trustee will be split, and this region shall have a special election to elect an NMRA Trustee to serve until 1994.

This special election will proceed with the election procedures outlined in our region's by-laws. I have appointed Ken May, of 71 Bluff Cap Road, Tolland, Connecticut 06084, to be chairman of the Nomination Committee, and Ken is preparing a form for all interested persons to fill out which would include general and personal information relevant to the position. After receiving those petitions back, a special edition of the NER Coupler will be printed with a ballot for you to return.

I have also appointed Charlie and Pat Bettinger of 29 Foster Drive, Vernon, CT 06066, to be the Ballot Committee for the special election, and they will receive your ballots by mail between June 1 and June 30, 1993. They will then tabulate the results and report to myself as the NER President, to our NER Secretary Diane Salvatore, and to "Bill" Becker, the NMRA Secretary. By our motion, the NMRA Trustee from the NER will effectively take office during the NMRA board meetings held at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania this summer.

After all of that, I attended the NMRA Board of Trustees mid winter meetings in Las Vegas, Nevada, at the end of the first week of February. As a result of the first motion before the board, I was permitted to be an invitee at these meetings, which means I had an opportunity to speak and be heard but did not have a vote throughout the three days of meetings. Much was accomplished, too much to relate here in detail and which will have to save until my next column. However, of some interest to our members throughout the region, I can report that the NMRA is continuing to investigate the possibility of arranging an insurance product line which provides liability insurance coverage to model railroad clubs. At this time, however, I am informed that the number of clubs desiring this product has to be far greater than it is currently in order to have insurers offer this product line.

I know this is rather dry stuff for a model railroad column, but you should be aware that your region and international organizations, while staffed with volunteers, are working hard in a more unified way than ever before to meet your needs and to improve services provided to you. Please feel free to drop me a note by letter or phone if you want any further details as to what is going on. Otherwise, I hope to see each and every one of you at the outstanding convention planned for Burlington, Vermont this May.



# SPRING PREVIEW

by Diane Salvatore

Nature loving "flatlanders" like me always seek mountainous terrain for a winter holiday. Some go to New Hampshire or Maine for their frolic, but I much prefer the more pastoral scenery of Vermont. With a special invitation to attend a Green Mountain Division meet how could I resist heading North...

I was curious about this quiet group, who plan to host the NER's Spring convention in Burlington. Much had been conveyed at previous conventions, but I was to be given a small sampling of the special talents that await me in May.

Mike Sparks and Randy Laframboise of Middlebury, were our hosts for the events of Saturday, January 9. Being a fan of the Rutland Railroad, I was enamored of the obvious attention to detail in the structures. I was especially fond of the Hugh Duffy Coal facility in Rutland. Everything dealing with scenery and buildings has been skillfully reproduced from photographs or a Nimke text.

A cordial welcome was extended but the members knew little of my fondness until I became overwhelmed by seeing so many finished buildings that I began to drool. Commenting to my husband that maybe they would tire of the Rutland and give their buildings away, I did get a few odd looks.

Videos ran throughout that afternoon. I especially liked the one of the well equipped railfan, with folding chair, lunch, camera, but no train!

By 4:00, I was eager to see what else was in store for the spring. Glenn Glasstetter graciously invited us to his home to show us the progress he was making. So, following some guy with Florida tags, we ventured even further North. The "over the river and thru the woods" route we took left me wondering if I'd ever see civilization again. But, surprisingly, we ended up in a Yuppie and Dink community.

Glenn's layout, when complete, will be the envy of any C & O fan. Having spent much time and labor in prepping this large 25 by 39 room will

surely pay off. This is without a doubt the cleanest layout and work area I have ever seen. You'd figure that with coal mines all over the place there would be some dirt. Glenn, you're always welcome to help with our layout.

The Northwestern Vermont Model Railroad Club was our next stop. Having once or twice been involved in club activities, I can say for certain there is always a commonality in one form or another. This one was easy, the smell of plaster and lots of it. Having had the misfortune of readying acres of bare benchwork for upcoming events, the smell of curing plaster is one that I'll never forget. For me, it was a baptism of fire. But, for these guys, it was obviously a great deal of fun. The layout has several impressive yards and the incorporation of several frequently used modules is certainly a way to extend run time. By convention time, they most certainly will be at full scale operation.

Jim Ferguson, had mentioned that I may want to stop by for a visit on Sunday. When I asked him where he lived, he said, "North Troy". Little did I know that when I left New Jersey my weekend drive would take me three miles from the Canadian border!

Entrance to Jim's layout was quite unusual and in a way reminded me of Man of La Mancha, with light emanating from above when the hatch was opened. You had to go into the room thru a door in the ceiling. Upon entry, I immediately knew I had made a wise decision to include this stop in my weekend plans.

Coniferous forests and magnificent backdrops abound on this Great Northern pike. Scenery such as this should not be missed. I pride myself on my ability to make lifelike trees from weeds, but Jim has gone further than I ever thought possible. It's always a joy to talk to someone about meadowsweet, amaranth, yarrow, goldenrod, and oregano just to name a few.

Within a short time the small group was asked if they would like to operate. With throttles in hand, two hours of fun began. Trains ventured up grades to towns like "Goatlick" and switching on the opposite side of the room was halted every so often to watch centennial celebrations in the



## 1> Green Mountain Express

distance of both the shores of Lake Champlain and the Church Street Market Place in Burlington, Vermont. This is a comfortable full service hotel offering two restaurant/lounges, concierge floor, pool, jacuzzi, fitness room, comedy club and free parking for hotel guests. The Vermont Railway yard is a short walk from the hotel on a bike path along the lake. The Church Street Market Place is a mecca of shops with indoor and outdoor restaurants.

### GETTING TO THE CONVENTION HOTEL

If coming from the north or south via Interstate 89, take Exit 14W, follow Main St. (Rt. 2 West) to the lakefront, turn right (North) on Battery St., the Radisson will be on your right. If coming north on Rt. 7, turn left (West) on Main St. to Battery St. A complimentary shuttle is available for those flying in to Burlington International Airport.

### HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Your hotel reservation should be made as early as possible using the attached form. If you choose to make reservations by phone, please call the hotel direct at (802) 658-6500 and be sure to mention the National Model Railroad Association.

A block of 100 rooms has been reserved at the following rates: Single or Double - \$77.00, Plaza Club - \$107.00. These rates are guaranteed until April 23, 1993. Thereafter rates will be based on availability. The hotel is barrier free. It has 17 guest rooms equipped for the special needs of the disabled.

### NON-RAIL PROGRAM

The Non-Rail Program will be very entertaining. The Non-Rail Fan Trip will begin Saturday morning at 10 AM. A one block walk from the hotel to Isabel's on the Waterfront, is where a chef will present a cooking class, "Light Summer Meals". Dishes include: Cold Nectarine Soup,

Chicken Tortellini Salad with blueberries, Grilled Shrimp and Chicken with light lemon sauce, Barley Salad with cucumbers and tarragon, Caesar Salad with sun dried tomatoes and a Surprise desert.

After all of this fine food for lunch, a bus will pick you up for a short ride to the world famous Shelburne Museum for a two hour guided tour of the museum's exhibits, one of the finest collections of Americana in the world. The bus will return you to the hotel in time to browse the fine shops of the Church Street Market Place, which is a short walk from the hotel. Other Non-Rail events will include **bingo** immediately following the banquet and a **popular vote baking contest** to take place in the hospitality room. **Bring some prizes for bingo and a sample of your best baking recipes to join the fun.** Prizes will be awarded.

### FRIDAY

Friday activities will begin with the opening of the registration desk in the hotel lobby from 3:00 PM. to 9:00 PM. Early arrivals can pick up their registration packages before the evening activities begin. Following the dinner hour, there will be many layouts open for your enjoyment. Maps and directions will be in your registration package. At the hotel there will be rail and nonrail clinics. The hospitality room and video theater will be open.

### SATURDAY

Saturday is a busy day with the contest room opening at 7:30 AM. The registration desk will be open from 7:30 AM until 12 noon. In the morning there will be clinics and two fan trips departing at 8:00 AM, as well as the model, photo and crafts contests. The hospitality and video areas will be open and the nonrail fan trip will depart at 10 AM. At 12:30 PM the Lamoille Valley Railway Company Trip buses will depart and more clinics will continue into the afternoon. Saturday evening will begin with the happy half hour at 7:00 PM, with the banquet to follow at 7:30 PM. Those attending the banquet will have a choice of the following entrees: Stuffed Sole, Prime Rib or Dijon Chicken. Our banquet speaker will be Mark Smith, the founder and editor of Locomotive and Railway



## 6> Convention Schedule

Preservation magazine established in 1986. Mark, retired as a professor from the University of Vermont, additionally has published two railroad books and the yearly Steam Passenger Directory. His talk, "Modeling with a Purpose", will discuss the various ways model railroading can contribute to the preservation of our railroad heritage.

### SUNDAY

Sunday morning our convention will finish with home layouts throughout northern Vermont and the Plattsburgh, New York area open for viewing.

### SPECIAL MODEL CONTEST

The Central Vermont Railway Historical Society is sponsoring a special contest category at the Green Mt. Express Spring 93 (May 14, 15, 16). The best Central Vermont Railway model, be it rolling stock or structure, to be judged by the officers of the Central Vermont Railway Historical Society.

**Model contest registration will be open Friday night from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM for those leaving on the Saturday morning fan trips.**

### SPECIAL BAKING CONTEST

A popular vote baking contest will take place in the hospitality room. Bring a sample of your best baking recipes to join the fun. Prizes will be awarded.

### FAN TRIPS

#### 1. Granite Quarry, Graniteville, Vermont

Saturday 8:00 AM - 11:30 AM

We will depart at 8:00 AM on over the road motor coaches to the Rock of Ages in Graniteville, Vermont. You will be taken to the E. L. Smith quarry, the largest active site, and the original Rock of Ages site directly behind the visitors center. Located here is "Old Hercules" a

saddle tank locomotive, once used in the Quarry. There is a very entertaining film of the Granite Industry at the Visitors Center.

#### 2. Bombardier Corp. Barre, Vermont

Saturday 8:05 AM - 11:30 AM  
LIMIT 45

We will depart at 8:05 AM by over the road, motor coach to Bombardier's Websterville Assembly Plant. The plant will be in full production on two contracts, Boston Red Line and Amtrak Superliner. You will be required to sign a release and wear safety glasses which will be provided by Bombardier. **Note: No cameras will be permitted inside the assembly plant.** The tour will be conducted by Mr. Dan Lambert with volunteers from the Methods Department who have good general knowledge of the operation. Hopefully there will be a car or two we can enter.

#### 3. Lamoille Valley Railroad Company

Saturday 12:30 PM - 5:30 PM

We will depart the Hotel at 12:30 PM by over the road motor coaches to Morrisville Vermont, where we will board our train. The Green Mt. Express is powered by a "vintage" diesel locomotive with four passenger cars built in 1917 by the Pullman Company for the old Lackawanna RR of the open window, closed vestibule type. If we need an additional car it will be a streamlined coach formerly owned by the New York Central and Amtrak. There will be an onboard Gift Shop and restrooms consisting of chemical toilets. Our train will depart eastbound along the scenic Lamoille River valley with it's majestic views of Vermont farms, pastures, and mountains. After crossing several bridges we pass through FISHER BRIDGE, a National Historical Landmark, to East Hardwick or Greensboro Bend and return. It is the **ONLY COVERED RAILROAD BRIDGE** on a common carrier in eastern United States. There will be a least one photo run by at the Fisher Bridge and possibly one more if we are on schedule.

### FAN TRIP CAPACITY

Lamoille Valley and Graniteville trips are limited only by availability of buses. We can only



## 7> Convention Schedule

acquire additional buses until April 1st. We would hate to turn anyone away because we could not get them a seat on a bus. **SIGN UP EARLY PLEASE!** Make the registrar's and committee's life a little easier.

### The Box Lunch

Yes, your basic box lunch will include Ham, Turkey, or Roast Beef sandwich, chips, apple, and Snapple drink. The box lunch is recommended for those taking both morning and afternoon fan trips. **Time will be very short for lunch** about a half hour between return of morning trips and departure of the LVRC trip.

## 17 HOURS OF CLINICS

Clinics are planned for Friday night and Saturday morning and afternoon. We have something for everyone.

### 1. Vermont's Granite Railroads

by Whitney Maxfield

Friday - 8:00 PM

Whitney is a co-author of the book Vermont's Granite Railroads will focus on the equipment, operations and history of several railroads that served the granite quarries of Vermont. Many of the photos in the book, depicting the 1898 to 1914 era were made from glass plate negatives taken by Whitney's grandfather.

### 2. Introduction to Model Railroad Photography

by Bob Boudreau

Friday 8:00 PM

Bob, our NER Achievement Program Chairman, continually wins awards for his photos published in the model railroading press. He will show us the techniques to produce prize winning model photos. Bob will also answer questions, and solve problems with slides or photos you might bring.

### 3. Modeling New England Mills

by Brian Whiton

Friday - 9:00 PM

New England Mill Architecture has fascinated Brian, a Master Model Railroader, who has extensively photographed many of these mills. Whether building one of the new kits or scratch building your own model, this clinic will offer many ideas and tips.

### 4. Switching Scales from HO to S

by Charlie Bettinger

Friday - 9:00 PM

Charlie has been an avid S scale modeler for the past five years. Before this he modeled in HO for thirty years. If you are considering S scale, or if you're considering switching from one scale to another, come and experience the wisdom of someone who has taken the plunge.

### 5. Railroads of Vermont 1830-1990

by Bob Jones

Saturday - 9:00 AM

Bob, in his spare time, when not working on the Green Mountain Railroad or teaching, has authored ten railroad books, including the six volume series on the Central Vermont. Bob's talk will discuss the history of Railroads in Vermont. With a special emphasis on one of his three new books due out soon.

### 6. Operating the Pennsylvania Maryland & Chesapeake Railroad

by Bob Durkin

Saturday - 9:00 AM

Bob designed his railroad, the largest in Vermont, primarily for operation and he holds operating sessions most Friday nights. In this slide and video clinic, Bob will show you how he and his crew use a dispatcher, fast time clock, automatic signals, radios, and an Onboard command control system to operate the PMC.

### 7. CV Prototypes You Might Not Have Noticed

by Alan Irwin

Saturday -9:00 AM

Alan, a member of the Central Vermont Railway Historical Society, has spent many years railfanning in Vermont. He has sought out the unusual in steam era prototypes for this clinic. Many of the structures, rolling stock and motive



## 7> Convention Schedule

acquire additional buses until April 1st. We would hate to turn anyone away because we could not get them a seat on a bus. **SIGN UP EARLY PLEASE!** Make the registrar's and committee's life a little easier.

### The Box Lunch

Yes, your basic box lunch will include Ham, Turkey, or Roast Beef sandwich, chips, apple, and Snapple drink. The box lunch is recommended for those taking both morning and afternoon fan trips. **Time will be very short for lunch** about a half hour between return of morning trips and departure of the LVRC trip.

## 17 HOURS OF CLINICS

Clinics are planned for Friday night and Saturday morning and afternoon. We have something for everyone.

### 1. Vermont's Granite Railroads

by Whitney Maxfield

Friday - 8:00 PM

Whitney is a co-author of the book Vermont's Granite Railroads will focus on the equipment, operations and history of several railroads that served the granite quarries of Vermont. Many of the photos in the book, depicting the 1898 to 1914 era were made from glass plate negatives taken by Whitney's grandfather.

### 2. Introduction to Model Railroad Photography

by Bob Boudreau

Friday 8:00 PM

Bob, our NER Achievement Program Chairman, continually wins awards for his photos published in the model railroading press. He will show us the techniques to produce prize winning model photos. Bob will also answer questions, and solve problems with slides or photos you might bring.

### 3. Modeling New England Mills

by Brian Whiton

Friday - 9:00 PM

New England Mill Architecture has fascinated Brian, a Master Model Railroader, who has extensively photographed many of these mills. Whether building one of the new kits or scratch building your own model, this clinic will offer many ideas and tips.

### 4. Switching Scales from HO to S

by Charlie Bettinger

Friday - 9:00 PM

Charlie has been an avid S scale modeler for the past five years. Before this he modeled in HO for thirty years. If you are considering S scale, or if you're considering switching from one scale to another, come and experience the wisdom of someone who has taken the plunge.

### 5. Railroads of Vermont 1830-1990

by Bob Jones

Saturday - 9:00 AM

Bob, in his spare time, when not working on the Green Mountain Railroad or teaching, has authored ten railroad books, including the six volume series on the Central Vermont. Bob's talk will discuss the history of Railroads in Vermont. With a special emphasis on one of his three new books due out soon.

### 6. Operating the Pennsylvania Maryland & Chesapeake Railroad

by Bob Durkin

Saturday - 9:00 AM

Bob designed his railroad, the largest in Vermont, primarily for operation and he holds operating sessions most Friday nights. In this slide and video clinic, Bob will show you how he and his crew use a dispatcher, fast time clock, automatic signals, radios, and an Onboard command control system to operate the PMC.

### 7. CV Prototypes You Might Not Have Noticed

by Alan Irwin

Saturday -9:00 AM

Alan, a member of the Central Vermont Railway Historical Society, has spent many years railfanning in Vermont. He has sought out the unusual in steam era prototypes for this clinic. Many of the structures, rolling stock and motive



## 8> Convention Schedule

power subjects can be readily modeled.

### 8. Something Besides Summer

by Marty McGurk

Saturday - 10:00 AM

Marty is a member of the CV Historical Society as well as the Mid East Region, NMRA. This clinic, which was well received at the last MER convention is all about creating scenery depicting late fall and early winter. This is a hands-on clinic, where Marty will create this scenery during the clinic.

### 9. Modeling Utility Poles

by Dick Elwell

Saturday - 11:00 AM

Dick's Hoosac Valley Railroad is well known through the pages of Model Railroader and an Allen Keller Productions video. His extreme attention to detail is one thing that sets this layout apart from others. Dick will show how to correctly model various telephone and power poles, including proper placement and guying by using dowels and plastic crossarms.

### 10. Meet Me at the Corner of Railroad Avenue and West Main

by Lou Sassi

Saturday - 10:00 AM

Lou's articles and product reviews have been featured in the pages of Model Railroader. In this clinic he will discuss the versatility of inexpensive plastic structures. Lou will illustrate the construction, detailing and weathering of buildings, and explain how he adapted several similar buildings to fit different angles and elevations on his railroad.

### 11. A Day in the Life of a Station Agent Operator

by Jim Murphy

Saturday - 11:00 AM

Jim is a dispatcher for the Central Vermont Railway and has been exposed to a number of jobs on the railroad. Jim will use a full size replica of a station agents area, complete with operating telegraph, as a stage to act out the duties of this

job.

### 12. Scenery Textures and Trees

by Jim Ferguson

Saturday - 11:00 AM

Jim models the Great Northern. His scenery is the envy of all those who have visited his layout. Jim uses all kinds of material to make his incredible scenery. He also has several unique ways to create trees. This clinic will help you create more realistic scenery on your railroad. Keep your eye on Model Railroader's Trackside Photos.

### 13. Developing a Diesel Locomotive Roster

by Paul Allard

Saturday - 1:00 PM

Paul has been modeling in HO since 1975 and his Northern Vermont Railway is featured on the layout tour. In this clinic, Paul will examine the major North American diesel builders and the locomotive rosters of four railroads as a background to develop proposed locomotive rosters for his Northern Vermont Railway for the years 1957, 1976 and 1993.

### 14. Track Details

by Tony Steele

Saturday - 2:00 PM

Tony's attention to detail in the recreation of the right away of the Delaware and Hudson Railroad is well known to many. This clinic received rave reviews when Tony presented it at the National NMRA Convention in Pittsburgh in 1990.

### 15. Yard and Terminal Operations of the NYC Subway System

by Ed Small

Saturday - 2:00 PM

Ed, a motorman on the NYC Subway, has been with the NYC Transit Authority for six years. Ed will take you behind the scenes by video camera to show you tower operations, trains being put in and taken out of service and shop operations. This is real railroading that most people never get to see.

### 16. Rutland Railroad - Northern Division

by Bill Brigham

> page 10



## 9> Convention Schedule

Saturday - 10:00 AM

Bill has been employed by Amtrak for nineteen years. His photographic documentation of the last years of the Rutland will show the steam and diesel locomotives, rolling stock and other equipment of the Upper Main Line of the Northern Division. (Note - This Clinic replaces Vermont's Granite Railroads scheduled for this time slot.)

### 17. NMRA Command Control Standard

by Dick Lord

Saturday - 1:00 PM

Dick is a member of the committee developing the NMRA Standard for Command Control Systems. In addition to demonstrating the digital control system using G, O, HO, N, and Z gauges, he will review the draft standard, focusing on what it is and is not designed to do.

## NON-RAIL CLINICS

### 18. A History of Vermont Crafts

by Forester Wulff

Friday - 8:00 PM

Forester is the Crafts Coordinator for the local Ben Franklin Department Stores as well as operating a landscaping business. In this clinic, Forester will discuss the History of Vermont crafts and how these skills were retained, as well as a review of present day Vermont Crafts.

### 19. An Anecdotal History of Vermont

by Vincent Naramore

Friday - 9:00 PM

Vincent is a retired professor of Mathematics at St. Michael's College and has been Election Radio Commentator and Political Pollster. His humorous discussion of some of the less well known anecdotes about the people, places and events that are part of Vermont's history will be sure to keep you entertained.



NER Coupler #171, p. 10

## LAYOUTS

### 1. HO Northwestern Vermont Model RR Society

Friday 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Sunday 10:00 AM - 4:30 PM

The Northwestern Vermont is a club layout built in an area of 1200 square feet, partially completed modeling generic Northeastern United States railroading. The 250'+ single-track mainline circles the club room and winds through two major peninsulas. Two helixes connect the mainline to opposite ends of a lower hidden yard area consisting of two staging yards of six tracks each. Operation is either with conventional cab control, using six walk-around throttles, or with Onboard command control.

### 2. HO Sunapee Central

by Bob CarMichael

Sunday 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Bob's Sunapee Central is a wholly owned subsidiary of The Central Lines System Inc. 1st and 2nd Generation diesel freelanded based roughly on the DH, breaks every rule in the book. Mostly ALCO (Hobytown of Boston) with some Atlas RS-3's & 11's.

### 3. HO Essex Central

by Ron DeYoung

Friday 7:00 P.M. - 11:00 P.M.

Ron is another member of The Central Lines System with scenery 100% complete. Region modeled is New England using code 100 NS Flex track with 3.5% grades and 24" radius.

*NOTE OF SPECIAL INTEREST: Extra crews from the third member of the Central Lines system from Maine are transferred for the convention layouts number 2 and 3.*

### 4. Lionel

by Lew Buchspics

Friday 7:00 P.M. - 11:00 P.M.

Sunday 11:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

A Lionel layout with ceramic, and porcelain structures from Dept 56. A collectors layout two feet from the floor with many items 40 to 50 years



## 10> Convention Schedule

old.

### 5. HO Grand Isle Northern

by Jim Truax

Sunday 11:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

A small layout in a older house built with ease of construction and maintenance in mind. The concept is to represent the Rutland lines traffic through Grand Isle County, Vermont as if the Phelps Quarry were an ongoing successful operation.

### 6. HO Central Vermont

by Don Pare

Friday 7:00 P.M. - 11:00 P.M.

Sunday 11:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Don models the Central Vermont and has a very impressive thirty five foot yard. Don never builds one car, he builds fleets of cars which are a joy to behold.

### 7. HO Northern Vermont Railway

by Paul Allard

Friday 7:00 P.M. - 11:00 P.M.

Sunday 10:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

The Northern Vermont Railway is a 12 1/2' by 35' freelanced HO scale railroad with a short branchline, set in Vermont and New Hampshire, it is located in a finished basement. This freelanced pike uses Onboard command and conventional control with staggging to support interchanges with the CV, CP and B&M. Paul will be presenting the clinic on "Developing Diesel Roster."

### 8. N Green Mountain & Lake Champlain

by Gary Schelley

Sunday 11:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Green Mountain & Lake Champlain is two levels point-to-point connected with a helix. It is based on the Central Vermont between White River, Vermont and Cantic, Quebec set in 1970. Trackage is a combination of handlaid code 55 and 83 flex in a finished basement

### 9. N The Benia & Missouri Valley Southern

by Fred Gemil

Sunday 11:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

The setting is in North Dakota and represents a branch line of the Burlington Northern. Staging is used to represent Bismarck and Fargo grain hauler with lots of modified covered hoppers. It also interchanges with the Canadian National. Fred has some very nice techniques for modeling grain elevators. 40 % of the scenery is complete and another 20% closed in. Fred was also open for the Montreal Convention.

### 10. HO Scranton & Oswego

by Frank Dietz

Sunday 11:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

A double deck layout with helix under construction, representing Fallen Flags just after the Conrail merger.

### 11. HO Plattsburgh Model RR Club

Sunday 11:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Located at the Miner Farm part of the Miner Institute. Modeling is the steam Diesel era generic RR with heavy DH flavor. Benchwork is around three walls with peninsula benchwork under construction. Urban area and yard tracks are all laid, with some electrical done. Will be much further along by the time of the Convention.

### 12. HO Great Northern - West Hill Div

by Jim Ferguson

Sunday 11:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

The Great Northern - West Hill Division is a club size layout with tethered walk-around control and infrared, set in Sept. 1955 in the Pacific Northwest with magnificent Scenery. This layout appeared in trackside photos April Model Rail-roader.

### 13. HO Moose River Valley

by Peter Eaton

Sunday 11:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Large layout modelling New England railroading. The primary industry is the Vermont Paper Mill, which receives pulp wood, wood chips, chemicals and fuel loads from the railroad, and ships out finished paper products. A number of other trackside industries provide destination points for the railroad as it travels through four towns and three terminals. Operational features



## 11> Convention Schedule

include four tethered throttles and one infrared throttle.

### 14. 12"-1' Passumpsic

by Marvin Kendell and sons

Sunday 11:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

The Passumpsic RR is a full size Railroad with an 18 ton Heisler that appeared recently at Ralfair 91. If all goes well #1 will be under steam. Trackage consists of about 3/4 mile. Marvin hopes to have the oval complete by convention time to give a full mile. Rolling stock consists of several flat cars and cabooses. from Montpelier & Barre, CV, GT and Fonda and Gloverstown.

### 15. HO Pennsylvania Maryland and Chesapeake

by Bob Durkin

Friday 7:00 P.M. - 11:00 P.M.

Sunday 11:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Large HO layout modelling the fictional Pennsylvania, Maryland and Chesapeake Railroad as it makes its way through Pennsylvania. The 350' single-track mainline is managed by a central dispatcher during fast-clock operating sessions. Trains are controlled with Onboard command control, and block signals are included throughout.

### 16. Chesapeake & Ohio Railway,

by Glenn Glasstetter

Sunday 11:00 AM - 4:30 PM

The Chesapeake & Ohio is a 22' by 36' HO scale railroad set in 1952 West Virginia and located in a finished basement. This 172' single and double tracked mainline pike uses Onboard command control. It includes three staging yards, a coal marshaling yard, and a branchline yard, with a division point yard and industrial area to be built. The scenery is 40% complete and features 6' plus high mountains and a number of interesting bridges.

### 17. Live Steam! 7 3/4 gauge

Huntington Valley Railroad

by Mark Smith

Sunday 11:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

### 18. HO Rutland

by Randy Laframboise and Mike Sparks

Sunday 11:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Randy and Mike are modeling the Rutland Railroad early to mid 50's. The layout is double decked with +/- 200' of mainline representing some of the towns between Chatham, New York and Burlington, Vermont among them are Rutland, Wallingford, Chatham, North Bennington, Burlington and others. This layout is a scratch builder's delight.

### 19. HO Tehachapi Loops of Vermont

by Joe Fisher

Friday 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Joe's layout consists of several loops with sidings is designed for running not switching. Covers CV, VTR, Conrail, Amtrak.

### 20. Lionel Exhibition 4000 Pieces

by Bob Sheldon

Sunday 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Bob extensive museum collection of Lionel in an area of 24' x 30' is cover Tinplate, Prewar, Postwar, MPC, and LTI are mounted on the walls with Rail Rax.

## 5> Spring Preview

town above.

All I kept hearing was about the layouts that I didn't see, and most certainly would have to take time out of my schedule to visit when traveling North again. Well guys, if I don't see them before May, I will most certainly make a point to take an extended layout tour.

With individuals and layouts such as these, The Green Mountain Express will surely be a success. Don't miss the opportunity. Plan to attend the Spring convention, May 14, 15, and 16 in Burlington, Vermont.

Diane Salvatore

## FALL CONVENTION

The White Mountain Flyer will take place on October 22, 23, 24, 1993 at the Sheraton White Mt. Inn in Conway, New Hampshire with a hotel rate of \$79.00 a room.



# CONVENTION REGISTRATION

Registrant #1

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ST/Prov. \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP/PC \_\_\_\_\_

NER/NMRA \_\_ CVHS\_\_

Registrant #3

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ST/Prov. \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP/PC \_\_\_\_\_

NER/NMRA \_\_ CVHS\_\_

Registrant #2

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ST/Prov. \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP/PC \_\_\_\_\_

NER/NMRA \_\_ CVHS\_\_

Registrant #4

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ST/Prov. \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP/PC \_\_\_\_\_

NER/NMRA \_\_ CVHS\_\_

		Registrant			
Event	Price	1	2	3	4
Member Registration	12.00				
Non member Registration	14.00				
Youth Registration	6.00				
Banquet	20.00				
Banquet Choice <u>B</u> eef <u>C</u> hicken <u>F</u> ish					
<input type="checkbox"/> A Bombardier Tour Limit 45	10.00				
<u>OR</u>					
<input type="checkbox"/> M Granite Quarry Tour No Limit	8.00				
Nonrail Cooking Class,Lunch,Museum	25.00				
Lamoille Valley Trip	25.00				
Box Lunch for LVRC <u>RECOMMENDED if</u>	7.00				
<u>TAKING MORNING TRIP</u> Choice <u>H</u> am <u>I</u> urkey <u>B</u> eef					
TOTAL					



Grand Total

Please Make Checks Payable to NER CONVENTIONS and Mail to :  
 Pat & Charlie Bettinger  
 NER Convention Registration  
 29 Foster Drive  
 Vernon CT 06066



## Wescott's Track-laying Wisdom Still Valuable

by Jim Truax, NER

We buy and sell houses with almost reckless abandon. Generally, it's a "fixer-upper" given the treatment and sold as soon as the next opportunity arises. Consequently, as far as model railroading is concerned, I not only get to start a lot of layouts, but often get to see those various things than can go wrong with more than just monotonous regularity.

After several frustrating experiences, Linn Wescott tried to come to my rescue in a series of articles in *Model Railroader*. I wrote down some of my problems and his solutions to them. Here they are:

Most obvious was the track gauge being too narrow or too wide. "Too narrow" causes the wheel flanges to climb one of the rails, and causes more serious problems than "too wide", unless the wheel falls between the rails. Linn's advice was to get an NMRA track gauge and use it. Also obvious are rail joints that don't align or track sections not on the same level. Rail joiners just don't have enough strength on a curve to keep the rail ends perfectly matched. The cure is to bend the ends of the rails for an inch or so and use extra-long spikes for a secure hold.

Not so obvious are turnouts positioned too close to a grade change. When the rails in a turnout are not in the same plane, there will be derailments. Likewise, if the top or bottom of a grade slope changes too abruptly, the radius of vertical curvature cause wheels to be raised from the rails, or underbody parts to rub the rails. On one unlamented layout, I had the ends of both rails directly over the end of the roadbed at the bottom of a grade. Doesn't work—stagger them.

Less obvious yet are twists in the track that occur just before entering a curve. Prefab track is especially susceptible to one rail rising where the other remains level. Should this difference in level exceed the depth of the wheel flange, there will be derailments.

I like super-elevated curves- they usually look good-but too much on our less than prototypical

curves causes the innermost drivers on steamers to climb the rail. The limit for super-elevation is about four scale inches, according to Linn.

Curves have a way of ending up smaller than drawn on the plan. There are two "rules of thumb": one is that equipment, especially steamers, need a radius of at least ten times the wheelbase of their rigid-framed drivers, or three times the length of the longest rolling stock to be operated. Good track is most important for operating pleasure, and the time spent being careful in the first place is repaid many times over.

## NEW MEMBERS

(11-02-92 through 02-13-93)

**CONNECTICUT:** Charles MacMath (Trumbull).  
**MASSACHUSETTS:** Erland Babcock (Burlington), Alan Castaline (Brockton), Michael DeRose (Revere), Dick Elwell (Adams), Michael S. Lucy (Wenham), James W. Mello-ni, Jr. (Tewksbury), James O'Brien (Dux-bury), John O'Neill (Everett), Barry M. Porter (Stoughton), Steven D. Provost (Feeding Hills), George G. Tyrrell (North Easton).  
**NEW HAMPSHIRE:** Richard H. Laskey (Madison), Richard Turner (E. Hampstead).  
**NEW JERSEY:** Jeffrey J. Burek (Garfield), Henry P. Male (West Mil-ford), Joseph S. Witcofsky (Howell).  
**NEW YORK:** Aden Giraud (Elizaville), David Hoadley (Clifton Park), Louis Sassi (Charlton).

## NEW MODEL CONTEST FORMS

The new model contest forms are now available and will be required for the Spring Con-vention in Burlington, Vermont .

Contact:

Brain Whiton,  
96 Spring St,  
Windsor Locks, CT 06096.



Introduce a friend to the pleasures of model railroading

**NER Membership Application / Renewal**

NORTHEASTERN REGION, NMRA

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ RENEWAL \_\_\_ NEW MEMBER

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

Office Use Only

#	Xp	New	
Chk	Csh	File	Card

## An Editor's Job is Not an Easy One

By job description and nature, an editor does many things in the course of producing an issue of a newsletter. These tasks usually include compiling, composing, proof-reading, headlining, laying out page copy, photography, graphic arts, trips to the printer, and re-writing. Notice that the list doesn't include writing the stories. Even if I had all the talents to write most of the articles, The Coupler wouldn't be **your** publication.

The stories that fill these pages have to come from you, the members. You don't have to be accomplished writers to submit interesting articles. One of an editor's jobs is re-writing, or polishing basically good narratives. Our membership has a wealth of knowledge and experience that could fill an encyclopedia. Unfortunately, most of it will never find its way to the printed page, although it might be shared with a few associates, or even the participants in a clinic. Send me your ideas, stories, opinions, questions, and how-to articles on any phase of model railroading or its full-size relative. You might even like to let the rest of us in on ways to form a smooth running club, or put on a good meeting or show. **DON'T BE BASHFUL!**

Joe Popecki, Editor (My address is on the "Brass" page.)

**Valley Forge Feature:** Arts & Craft Contest in Conjunction with the National Convention at Valley Forge. The theme for this year's contest will be "Pennsylvania Dutch". Any item related to hex signs, Amish designs, etc. would be eligible for the theme contest as well as the regular contest.

For more information contact:  
Pat Loesch

*NER Coupler #171, p. 15*



# HOTEL RESERVATION Green Mountain Express, Burlington, Vermont

May 14,15,16, 1993  
Green MT. Express Burlington, Vermont

Mail to : RESERVATIONS (802) 658-6500  
Radisson Hotel  
60 Battery St.  
Burlington, VT 05401

**Mention National Model Railroad Association if Calling.**  
Rates \$77.00 Single or Double; Plaza Club \$107.00

Arrival Date and Time \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date \_\_\_\_\_ #beds per room \_\_\_\_\_

Number of rooms \_\_\_\_\_ number of persons \_\_\_\_\_ Sharing with \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

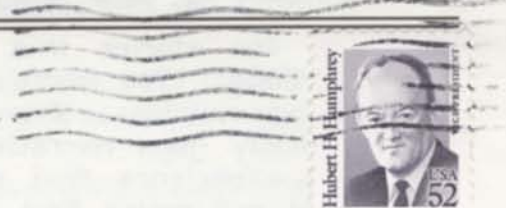
Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ state/pov \_\_\_\_\_ zip/pc \_\_\_\_\_

Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_

Check Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card \_VISA ,MC ,AE,Discover,Diners Club Card # \_\_\_\_\_

R & E Brown Office Managers  
79 Hemenway Road  
Framingham, MA 01701



TO

Convention Issue