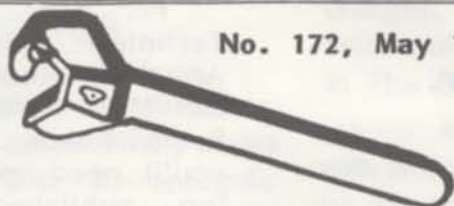


NER



No. 172, May 1993, Special Issue

Coupler

A Publication of the Northeastern Region, National Model Railroad Association

NER Members to Elect NMRA Trustee for Two-year Term

As announced in the March 1993 issue of the *Coupler*, there will be a special election for the position of Trustee from the Northeastern Region. That election will take place between the dates of June 1 and June 30, 1993. Contained within this issue of the *Coupler* is information pertaining to the qualifications of the two candidates, instructions concerning the ballot itself, the required procedure for filling it out and returning it, and the ballot itself. Please take the time to carefully read all the materials and to fill out your ballot properly. Ballots that are not properly filled out and returned will be considered void by the ballot committee.

Before I get into the procedures, I have received one communication from a member seeking clarification of the procedures to be used in this election. Essentially, the NMRA has stated that the Northeastern Region does not have a sitting Trustee since an election was not held by the Region in 1992 as directed by the NMRA Constitution. Furthermore, that the elections held in 1990 to elect officers to four year terms are acceptable for Region offices, but not for the position of Trustee. Since the NMRA Constitutional changes are not yet implemented, the responsibility of electing a Trustee every two years falls on the Region. Therefore, the Region is conducting a special election for Trustee to serve until October 1994.

Once you have filled out your ballot, place it in a small, sealed envelope with no markings on it. Place the small envelope inside a larger

Trustee Election Special

Issue. Fill out and

return your ballot ASAP.

envelope. On the outside of the large envelope place your name, address, NMRA, and NER membership numbers in the upper left corner. Mail the ballot, postmarked on or before June 30, 1993 to: NER Ballot Committee, Pat & Charlie Bettinger, 29 Foster Drive, Vernon, CT 06066.

Now, the candidates for Trustee:

James K. Heidt, Camden, NY

Jim Heidt has been a modeler and NMRA member for more than 17 years. Within the NMRA and NER, he serves as the current President/Trustee. In the past he has been NYS Director and Superintendent of the CNY Division, as well as other positions.

As President, Jim has worked to renew relationships with each of the Divisions, attending Division meetings in as many Divisions as he is able. He maintains an active role within his Division. Jim believes that active and responsive Regions and Divisions can best serve model railroaders in their areas through educational and entertaining programs and services.

Somehow, Jim finds time to practice law and spend time with his family in Camden, NY.

William S. Parker, Brockton, MA

Bill Parker has been an active member of the NMRA, NER and Hub Division since 1964

> p. 3 Trustee

Scanners are fun, but beware of the law.

By Frank Dietz

Carrying a scanner in your car or outside your home is illegal without a permit in some states and municipalities. Here are some known locations: New Jersey (mobile), Kentucky (mobile), Indiana (mobile and outside home), Florida (mobile), Minnesota (mobile), Michigan (mobile), New York (mobile), New York (mobile), and Chattanooga, TN (mobile).

This restriction applies to programmable scanners that can be tuned to receive police and public safety frequencies. In some states (repealed in New Jersey) this includes carrying a scanner in the trunk or a locked compartment of a motor vehicle without a permit.

Some states will grant permits. However, one way to avoid these restrictive state and local laws is to obtain an amateur (ham) radio license. Being a licensed amateur radio operator with at least a Technical Class permit will exempt you from these laws in every state except Kentucky. A Novice License will suffice in lieu of the Technical Class permit except in Michigan.

Quite a few railfans are applying for ham licenses now that the Morse Code skill requirement has been dropped for operation in the higher frequency bands. Railroad frequencies are in the 160-162 Mhz area.

It is relatively easy to obtain the new no-code Technical Class license. All you need to do is study the instructional booklet and pass a 55 question multiple choice test before a Volunteer Examining Committee (VEC), usually a friendly ham operator. The test is divided into the Novice and Technician sections, and are given separately. If the applicant passes the Novice test, the Technician test may then be taken. The cost is usually \$5.25. All the questions are in the Study Guide and you need only memorize the answers.

For more information on the no-code Technical Class license, write to the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111. Radio Shack carries the two booklets you'll need to study: Look Who's Talking, published by the ARRL, and No-Code Technician, by Gordon West.

Sources of information for this article include: "Extra 2200 South", "The Railfan Photographer", "The Key Stone" and the Bridge Line Historical Society.



1 > Trustee Election

and is a life member of all three organizations. Since joining, he has been an extremely active promoter of the hobby and an energetic participant. He has attended 13 NMRA National Conventions, 55 Regional Conventions and all Hub Division activities since 1964. Bill has held a wide variety of responsible positions which include:

NMRA Membership/Promotion Dept. Eastern Supt. - Oct. 1990 - Present

NMRA Trustee and President of the NER - Oct. 1984 - Oct. 1990

General Chairman, NMRA "Minuteman '86" National Convention

NER Vice-President - Oct. 1980 - Oct. 1984

NER Massachusetts Director - 1972 - 1978

Chairman, Hub Division 1970 - 1978

Hub Division Board of Directors - 1968 - Present

Chairman:

NER Spring Convention - Boston 1975

NER Spring Convention - Worcester 1977

NER Spring Convention - Worcester 1994

Hub Spring Convention - Brockton 1973

Hub Fall Show - Newton Highlands 1976

Hub Spring Convention - Fort Devons 1979

Hub Spring Convention - Brockton 1982

Bill and Moira, his wife of 33 years, have 4

children. He is employed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a Project Manager in The Division of Capital Planning and Operations. A graduate of Northeastern University with a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering, he also holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration.

Bill Parker's current position as Eastern Superintendent of the NMRA Membership/Promotion Department allows him to maintain close contact with current and prospective members and to continuously communicate with active modelers throughout the eastern part of the Region. Bill pledges to continue to devote the same energy, activity and enthusiasm he has exhibited for nearly three decades to the position of NMRA Trustee from the Northeastern Region.

Bill says:

If elected, I will utilize my knowledge, experience and expertise developed in the service of the NMRA over these many years to the utmost during this ongoing period of important decision making and implementation of adopted policies. I hope to have the privilege of serving as your NMRA Trustee from the Northeastern Region.

Ballot

James K. Heidt	[]
William S. Parker	[]
_____	[]

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NER Ballot Committee
Pat & Charlie Bettinger
29 Foster Drive
Vernon, CT 06066.

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33 Woodridge Drive
Burlington, VT 05401
(802) 863-4121

Copy deadline for next issue is
June 15, 1993.



2 > NWV Model Railroading Society Draws a Crowd for 6th Spring Show

The Northwestern Vermont Model Railroading Society entertained a capacity crowd at its sixth annual March show. The photos on page 2 show a sample of the activity. Railfans and model railroaders of all ages haggled with vendors at a hundred tables over railroad memorabilia, model rolling stock and antique toy trains. Several layouts representing a variety of scales especially

pleased the younger crowd. A compact, portable layout constructed by Milton, Vermont Boy Scouts under the direction of NER member Paul Allard was raffled off to benefit the BSA group. The show, held at the South Burlington Middle School, drew enthusiasts from three states and the Province of Quebec. Alan Stockton supervised this year's smooth-running show in place of Mike Saunders, who with fellow Club member Glenn Glassletter, was preparing for the spring NER convention, "The Green Mountain Express." More on that in the next issue of the NER Coupler.

NER Membership Application / Renewal

NORTHEASTERN REGION, NMRA

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____

___ RENEWAL ___ NEW MEMBER

\$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

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

FIRST CLASS



TO

Kenneth H May
 71 Buff Cap Road
 Tolland CT 06084

Election Issue

