

THE
NER Coupler

No. 193 June 1998



A Publication of the Northeastern Region, National Model Railroad Association

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Cranberry Special Wrapup with pictures

Bring an NMRA Member into the NER!

The Cranberry Special Entertains 200 at the Spring Convention in Hyannis, May 1-3



The MBTA Commuter, "Old Colony" races the Red Line into Boston's South Station. Railfans had a car to themselves and were able to view the rails from the engineer's position at the "rear" of the trainset. To avoid a turnaround in Boston, the train was pushed from Plymouth to the South Station. The fans were returned by alternate route to Middleboro to be picked up by buses from the Plantation trip.

The Hub Division proved again to be among the Region's best hosts. Even the weather cooperated, sort of. While it rained in Hyannis, the off-site trips to Plymouth Plantation and by rail to Boston enjoyed bright sun. Despite the worst kind of luck with trip arrangements, the local committee of Peter Watson, Jack Alexander, Bill Parker and George Muller rose to the occasion. Switching the non-rail trip to the

Continued, p. 3

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(French): <http://www.cite.net/~capaigle/nerhome.html>
(English): in development

#193, June 1998

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

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CHANGES OF ADDRESS

should be sent to the Office Manager (see under Working Crew in left column)

CONTRIBUTIONS

from NER and NMRA members are most welcome. The Editor reserves the right to accept, reject or edit copy as received. Articles accepted for publication will be included in *The NER Coupler* in a timely fashion.

The newsletter is composed on a Macintosh Performa using Claris Works. Since copy must be edited and adapted to issue format, it is welcome in any readable form including computer diskette.

Photographs intended for individual publication or as part of an article are invited. If you wish us to return your photos, please include a sufficiently large envelope and adequate postage. Color photos of good color balance and contrast are acceptable.

Letters to the Editor of a constructive and professional nature will also be considered for publication.

**Deadline for next issue is
30 August 1998
CONVENTION ISSUE**

NER Membership is open to any NMRA member at \$6 per year. Look for the application blank in most issues.

Plimoth Plantation made for better transit logistics.

The Clinic roster was a veritable all-star team, including Tony Koester, Allen McClelland, John Pryke, Bill O'Hara, Alan Houghton, Mike Tylick, Dick Johannes, Rudy Slovacek, Ron LeBlanc, and Larry Madson. Connie Rudder, NMRA Operations Manager, explained the services available from Chattanooga.

Nine layouts were open on Friday evening and another six on Sunday. Thanks to those who welcomed visitors: Bill Mitchell, Bill Hildebrand, Cape Cod Model RR Club, Paul Wittenmeyer, Cape Cod Modeler's Association, Constantine Kossifos, Dick Loomis, Monty Schultes, John Crisi, Peter Watson, George Muller, Jack Alexander, David MacPherson, Peter Barney, Cliff Coutinho and Armand Lavoie.

Over one hundred-fifty persons enjoyed the banquet, won door prizes, witnessed the awarding of prizes in the model and photo contests, the Crafts contest, and the Achievement Program (see list on p. 4). Kevin Feeney gave a pictorial preview of the fall convention, *The Merchants Ltd.*, scheduled for October 16-18 in Stratford, Connecticut.

Permanent Convention Chair, Ken May, who provided the information for this report, said that no firm sites for 1999 conventions are available. The convention ended Sunday with a well attended BOD meeting, and a great Train Show.



TOP: John Pryke conducts his "Modeling Salt Water, Port Facilities" Clinic. CENTER: Members listen to Connie Rudder explain NMRA services. BOTTOM Railfans (in lieu of a "runby") photograph the motive power of the "Old Colony" trainset in Boston's South Station prior to the return trip to Middleboro



AND THE WINNERS ARE... CONTEST WINNERS & AP ACHIEVERS

Photo Contest Results.

Having been called off the "extra board", it was my pleasure to serve as Acting Photo Contest Chairman for the 1998 Spring NER convention in Hyannis. Larry Cannon and Brian Curry assisted as judges and, with almost fifty entries and all the supportive paperwork in front of us, we were pressed all day. For their unselfish assistance, Larry and Brian deserve and receive (1) AP credit for NMRA Volunteer, as well as (2) thanks from the NER and from me.

Jim Heidt

B & W - Model, Craftsman, Honorable Mention: David Camber, for "#3235 Through the Yard".

Color Print - Model, Craftsman 1st: David Camber, for "Duffy's Coal, Etc."; Craftsman, 2d: David Camber, for "40s Era Station"; Craftsman 3d: David Hoadley, for "Quarry Module".

Color Slide - Model, Craftsman, 1st: Rudolph Slovacek, for "NYC Down at the Depot"; Craftsman 2d: Stan Ames, for "Down at the Station"; Craftsman, 3d: Rudolph Slovacek, for "NYC in a New England Town".

B&W Print - Prototype, Craftsman Honorable Mention: Ole Bye, for "#482 into Durango"; Craftsman Honorable Mention: Michael McNamara, for "VIA Train at Toronto". Master, 1st: Ron Palmquist, for "Retired Crossing Shanty".

Color Print - Prototype, Craftsman 1st: Michael McNamara, for "New Hope & Ivyland 2-8-4 #40"; Craftsman, 2d: David Camber, for "Snaptrack"; Craftsman, 3d: David Camber, for "BN Switching Set". Master, 1st: David Hoadley, for "Green Mountain RR at Bellows Falls"; Master, 2d: Ron Palmquist, for "Boston South Street"; Master, 3d: Pat Lecaroz, for "Conrail 6731 at Highland".

Color Slide - Prototype, Craftsman, 1st: Ole Bye, for "Joint Line Coal Drag"; Craftsman, 2d: David Keim, for "Conrail GP35 at Weedsport"; Craftsman, 3d: Michael McNamara, for "Durango & Silverton #473"; Craftsman Honorable Mention: Ole Bye, for "Conrail Eastbound"; Craftsman Honorable Mention: Ron Palmquist for "CP WB Freight at Night"; Craftsman Honorable Mention: Sudro Brown, for "Nagatuck Railroad at Seidel"; Craftsman Honorable Mention: Tom Winans, for "Northern Vermont RR Employees Special". Master, 1st: Pat Leca-

roz, for "Pink Sunset"; Master, 2d: Jack Alexander, for "Bow River Train"; Master, 3d: Jack Alexander, for "Cass Scenic Shay".

Pat Lecaroz' "Pink Sunset" won Best in Show for the highest point total among all categories. Rudolph Slovacek's "NYC Down at the Depot" earned the highest point average in that category and, pursuant to Board policy, is therefore submitted as NER's contribution to the NMRA annual calendar.



Pat Lecaroz accepts "Best In Show" certificate for her "Pink Sunset" slide.

Model Contest Results (courtesy of Brian Whiton)

Master - Structures, Brian Curry, Honorable Mention: for: Finger Lakes Tour Boat"; 1st: for "Ferry Apron"; 2d: for Paddle Wheel Car Ferry"; 3d: for "Humming Bird Bay Police Station".

Craftsman - Structures, 1st: Clifford Grant, for HO Scale Barn; 2d: Paul Lessard, for "Carabasset Station"; 3d: Clifford Grant, for "HO Scale Diner"; Honorable Mention: Larry Cannon, for "Edaville Water Tank".

Craftsman - Non-revenue, 1st: Edward Bommer, for "B&O Caboose".

Master-Non-revenue, 1st: Bob Bird, for "Rail & Tie Car"; 2d: for "Logging Caboose".

Master-Loco/Steam, 1st: Larry Cannon, for "Barre Railroad #5 0-6-2".

New Modeler-Loco (Other), 1st: Paul Allard, for "CN SW1200RS".

Craftsman-Freight Cars, 1st: Edward Bommer, for B&O "Covered Hopper"; 2d: for "Swift Refrigerator Car"; 3d: Larry Cannon, for "Woodbury Granite Well Flat Car".

New Modeler - Diorama, 1st: Bill Brandt, for "Trolley Diorama"; 2d: Charles Hansen, for

Continued, p. 12

Mes sages from Tower A



Those of you who attended the Hyannis convention might have noticed me in the Model Contest Room, rather than the Photo Contest Room where I've been found at recent conventions. I had to substitute for Don Howd, who was ill. Though Don may have thought he was saddling me with a tough job, I enjoyed the return to my old haunts.

We had a super sampler of good modeling to judge. Brian Curry floored us all with his N gauge models, detailed to the maximum. I was really impressed with the fact that the details and the construction were not composed of bulky, out-of-scale features. Instead, they were to scale, finely and fully detailed models. The finishes were attractive and consistent.

Kip Grant and Paul Lessard's models were of particular interest to me as well. I'd like to have those models on my layout. And of course, Bob Bird and Ed Bommer offered models that were inspirational and instructive.

What do you think these gentlemen got out of this contest? Oh sure, they got the thrill of competition. Beyond that, I'd be willing to guess, they got a real sense of satisfaction as they discussed and shared their modeling techniques with their audience. While they were worrying about competition, I'll bet they picked up some new ideas, and maybe even a technique to take home. I did, and I only judged the models.

Best of all, these gentlemen have a fine model to put on their railroads. How many times have you built a model for your layout that was not really your best effort, but good enough to fill the need of the layout? These are the so-called "Layout Quality" models. We all build them. You just can't have a model railroad full of contest winners. But the few models that are contest quality really shine. They are great centers of attraction in a scene. They photograph very well, and they truly enhance the realism of the scene.

So, why aren't more of you building models for the model contest? I was swamped with entries in

this contest, but the normal load is well below what a region with 700 members could offer. If you are worried that you will produce a model that is less than competitive, don't be. We have the "New Modeler" classification to protect you from the big hitters. As you build models and expose them to judging, you will find what makes a competitive model.



Try a diorama for your first effort. Build a convincing, highly detailed scene. Make everything you can make, well. Buy what you can't. Use photos of real scenes to get ideas on what details should be present. Talk to some other modelers and get their opinions.

Don't sell the model short by leaving out interior details. Be creative. Don't rush. Start the model now for the Stratford convention. Enjoy the experience. Imagine how good the model will look on your layout. If you have questions on judging issues, you can E-mail me and I'll answer them. Or, if you want to swap techniques, that's good too.

See you at Stratford. Oh, and take some good photos of your model for the photo contest!

Brian Whiton

Don't forget, the Coupler is always looking for a few good pictures from NER members to publish. - Ed.

Update on the "Dual Power Supply" article (Issue # 191).

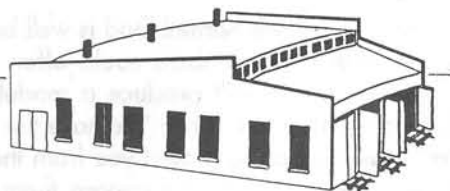
Dave Camber (joint author with Paul Saulenas) suggests the following substitute for a critical part no longer carried by Radio Shack: for #272-1432, 0.1 mfd polarized capacitor, substitute Radio Shack #272-135, 0.1 mfd. non-polarized capacitor. Sorry for the inconvenience.



NMRA's Connie Rudder explains services available from Headquarters at a Hyannis Clinic.

Glenn
Glasstetter

Down at the Roundhouse



SINGLE MEMBERSHIP The time has Come

There are over 2200 NMRA members living within the Northeastern Region, but currently only 709 of them are NER members! That is only part of the story. In August 1994, there were 846 NER members. That is a 16% drop in less than four years. Unless we turn this trend around, the NER cannot continue to exist as we know it. When we recruit new members, we need to convince these people of the advantages of membership at both the regional and divisional levels as well.

However, the most effective way for the Region to increase its membership is to bring those non-NER NMRA members into the Region. The Pacific Northwest Region (PNR) instituted a pilot program with the NMRA several years ago to provide a Single Membership to all those NMRA members living within its region. It has been a huge success. Before Single Membership, the PNR had approximately 900 members out of a total 1670 NMRA members residing in the Region. Two years later the PNR had 1400 members! Today, less than 10 NMRA members have decided not to enter into this program and join the PNR.

I have been communicating over the last ten months with Roger Ferris, the PNR Trustee who implemented Single Membership in the PNR, and Connie Rudder, our NMRA Administration Department Manager, regarding this program. Connie came to our recent convention in Hyannis, Massachusetts, to present this program to our BOD. From the questions asked and the comments made by the Board, I believe we could start implementation of this program before the end of the year. We still need to finalize our division boundaries to National as well as the details of implementing the Single Membership Program in the NER.

What is Single Membership? It is a program that is being provided by National whereby your National and Region membership renewal will be all-inclusive on one form, payable with one check. The NER will provide National with a copy of our dues structure and National will prepare a renewal notice with one dues rate based on the combined dues. National will send first, second and third renewal notices to all NMRA members residing in the Region and provide a listing of all applications received with full payment. On the tenth of each month, National will send the NER a check for dues collected the previous month.

National will provide the above service to the NER at no cost for the first year. Thereafter, we will

be charged \$1.00 per member for this service. Considering the cost of first class postage, which we use, as well as the renewal forms and envelopes, this will cost us about the same as we would pay for sending three renewal notices. Yes, I know Ron doesn't usually have to send out that many notices, but don't forget Ron is a volunteer, whereas National has a paid staff. Also, the projected increase in membership would provide greater economies of scale for other services the Region provides, such as the *Coupler*, and administering the Achievement Program, and Model, Photo and Craft contests at our conventions.



The PNR has implemented this program down to the division level in one step. Their reason for doing this is that, in general, their division programs were stronger than their region program. The NER has a fairly strong regional program with a long tradition of two conventions a year. Our divisions, on the other hand, run from several very strong and active organizations to several inactive organizations, with a variety of dues

structures. Consequently it will be much easier to get Single Membership up and running on a regional level first. After we see how it works out, we might explore the issue of including divisions, but that is not part of this proposal.

Efforts have been made to implement a Single Membership Program encompassing all of the NMRA in the past. However, no consensus could be reached due to the various dues structures throughout all of the regions and divisions. Now that the PNR has shown that this program can be successfully applied on a region level, several other regions, as well as the NER, are starting to implement it.

As I stated in my September '97 *Coupler* column, our members are our greatest asset. The NER's shrinking membership roles must be turned around. In order to attract and retain members, we will need to maintain and improve our member services. We shall continue to look for ways to improve the benefits of membership in the NER. If you have any ideas of your own, or questions concerning this program, please contact any member of the BOD. Watch for further announcements regarding the Single Membership Program in the *Coupler* and *Bulletin*.

Single Membership - The Time Has Come!

Glenn Glasstetter

Register for the Merchants Ltd.

Convention, Oct. 16-18, on page 8.
Please note that two items had not been priced at press time: the Express Buffet and the Danbury Railway Museum Tour. Check with the Web site or Brian Sullivan about June 1, 1998

Photocopy the Form to keep issue intact



THE MERCHANTS LIMITED

FALL 1998 NER - NMRA CONVENTION

OCTOBER 16 TO OCTOBER 18
1998

Ramada Inn Stratford,
Connecticut

Location

The Metro North Division is proud to sponsor the 1998 Fall Convention for the NER, *The Merchants Limited* (TML '98). It will be held from Friday October 16 to Sunday October 18, 1998, in the Ramada Inn in Stratford, CT. Room rates are \$69 per night. The Hotel offers free shuttle service from the nearby train station, airport or Port Jeff Ferry

Clinics

TML '98 will feature clinics, Friday afternoon and evening as well as Saturday and Sunday mornings, covering a wide spectrum of modeling railroading and prototype interests. There will also be a "make & take" building clinic for an extra fare on Saturday afternoon. Several historical societies have been invited to give presentations on their respective railroad which operated in the NER territory.

Fan Trips

There will be two different trips on Saturday afternoon: one via Metro-North train to the newly restored Grand Central Terminal and the other via motor coach to the Danbury Railway Museum for their Fall Open House and an excursion trip along the Maybrook line.

Off-Line (Non-rail) Activities

There will be a trip on Saturday afternoon to the nationally acclaimed Maritime Aquarium and IMAX Theater in historic South Norwalk (SONO), CT via school buses.

Contests

Judged contests in all the normal classes will be held at TML '98. (NMRA contest rules have been modified.)

Home Layout Tours

Registrants will be given a tour book of assorted home and club layouts which will be open on Friday evening and Sunday afternoon with the latest in computer

generated maps, but must provide their own transportation. There will be a buddy board for those arriving via public transportation. There will also be a Saturday afternoon: an operating session at one of our layouts. For a \$2 extra fare, the layout maps can be mailed to you on approx. October. 1.

Souvenirs

Limited edition hats and the usual buttons.

Train Show

Attendees will receive discounted admission to the show at Danbury Railway Museum on Sunday October 18th.

Food/Banquet

The Saturday night banquet will feature John Babina of the Monroe Historical Society speaking on the original Housatonic Railroad that ran from Bridgeport CT to Pittsfield MA. An express breakfast buffet will be available for Saturday and Sunday morning.

Live Auction

There will be a live auction hosted by the Metro North Division after the Banquet on Saturday evening. You can bring as many items as you wish to sell, but it is generally best to group similar or like items. Bring your checkbook, travelers check or lots of cash (not recommended) as no credit cards are accepted. The Division will retain 10% of the selling price of all items sold in the auction.

Please see the next page for the
Convention and Hotel registration



The Merchants Limited '98

Stratford, CT

October 16-18, 1998

Convention Registration Form

Name 1: _____ Name 2: _____
 Address: _____ Address: _____
 City, State, ZIP _____ City, State, ZIP _____
 Phone number _____ Phone number _____
 NMRA # _____ NER # _____ NMRA # _____ NER # _____

Name 3: _____ Name 4: _____
 Address: _____ Address: _____
 City, State, ZIP _____ City, State, ZIP _____
 Phone number _____ Phone number _____
 NMRA # _____ NER # _____ NMRA # _____ NER # _____

	Cost	Name 1	Name 2	Name 3	Name 4
Registration for NMRA & NER member	\$16.00	_____	_____	_____	_____
Registration for NMRA member (includes NER membership)	\$22.00	_____	_____	_____	_____
Registration for non member Includes NMRA* & NER)	\$38.00	_____	_____	_____	_____
Spouse Registration (with primary registrant)	\$12.00	NA	_____	_____	_____
Youth (under 16) Registration (with primary registrant)	\$ 8.00	NA	_____	_____	_____
Banquet (How many chicken _____ or beef _____)	\$25.00	_____	_____	_____	_____
Express breakfast buffet	\$TBD	_____	_____	_____	_____
Convention Hat	\$ 5.00	_____	_____	_____	_____
Advance mailing of layout booklet (with primary registrant)	\$ 2.00	_____	NA	NA	NA
Commuter Club**	\$20.00	_____	NA	NA	NA
Make & Take Building Clinic (Saturday afternoon)	\$15.00	_____	_____	_____	_____
Grand Central Terminal Tour	\$20.00	_____	_____	_____	_____
Grand Central Terminal Tour (Sr Citizen 65 years & older)	\$15.00	_____	_____	_____	_____
Danbury Railway Museum Tour	\$TBD	_____	_____	_____	_____
Norwalk Maritime Center Tour Adult	\$19.00	_____	_____	_____	_____
Norwalk Maritime Center Tour Child (12 & UNDER)	\$17.00	_____	_____	_____	_____
Totals	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

*Includes associate membership(meaning no **Bulletin**), can be upgraded to full membership for an additional \$16.

**Save \$3! Available thru. June 30th only! Includes registration, hat and advance mailing of layout booklet for NMRA & NER member. Add \$6 for NER membership or \$22 for NMRA & NER membership.

Make your check payable for the total registration fees to NER CONVENTIONS and mail to:

John Campbell
 63 Alexander Dr
 East Hartford, CT 06118

Direct all **TML** questions to
 or for updated information
 please visit our web site @

Brian Sulivan
 209 Brookdale Drive
 Stamford, CT 06906
 203.329.8088

<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/WayneKams>

Hotel Reservation for The Merchants Limited

Stratford Ramada
 225 Lordship Blvd
 Stratford, CT 06497
 203.375.8866

October 16-18, 1998

US\$69 Rate for Single _____ or Double Occupancy (one bed _____ two _____)

Arrival Date: _____ Arrival Time: _____ # of nights _____

Names _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Prov _____ ZIP _____

Phone () _____

Mastercard _____ VISA _____ AMEX _____ Discover _____ Check _____

CARD # _____ Exp. Date _____

You must make your reservation no later than 9/16/98 to get the \$69 rate!

Mail to the Ramada at their above address or fax to 203.375.2482

See Note on page 6.

Please feel free to photocopy these forms.

**Candidates for
Election 1998**
Read All About Them & Vote

Candidates who volunteer to be nominated for office should be commended for their generosity. Those who are elected pledge a genuine commitment to their tasks and all of the membership benefits. Each of us should consider volunteering, not just for the offices listed in this ballot, but for the hundreds of other jobs an organization like ours requires.

Please read the "bios" thoughtfully and don't fail to vote. The ballot is on p. 11. There is a line for each office to write in the name of a candidate. You may photocopy the ballot to avoid cutting up this issue of the Coupler.

Candidate for President

Glenn Glasstetter
655 Hillview Road
Richmond, VT 05477

Glenn is the current NER Vice-President. He is a Life member of NMRA and has been active in NER since 1990, attending three national conventions and all but one regional since then. Glenn is a charter member of the Green Mountain Division, a current member and past president of the North-western Vermont Model Railroading Society, and was co-chairman of the 1992 spring NER convention. In addition, he has participated in the Achievement Program and is a member of the Layout Design & Operations SIG, and of the C&O Historical Society. He has constructed a large model railroad representing the C&O.

Glenn says, "If elected, and with your support, I will actively pursue three main goals: increase NER membership, enhance member services, and improve communication within the region.

"There are currently well over two thousand NMRA members residing in the NorthEast Region. Less than seven hundred of them are NER members! Our goal is to bring these NMRA members into the NER. The Region must provide superior member services

to attract and retain members. We must improve our convention and *Coupler* services and develop new services. Good communication between officers and members and among the Divisions is essential to achieving these goals."

Candidate for Vice-President

Kenneth May
71 Buff Cap Road
Tolland, CT 06084-2605

"My name is Kenneth May and I reside in Tolland, Connecticut. I am married to Linda and have two children, Robert (16) and Lisa (14). I have been interested in trains and model railroading since I was quite young, and have been involved actively in the NER and the Nutmeg Division for nearly twenty years.

"For the last four years, during the presidency of Brian Whiton, I have served as Director for Connecticut/Rhode Island and as Permanent Convention Chairman. During that time we had seven conventions, all successful. As Director, I have attended every Board of Directors meeting and have taken an active role in re-activating the Nutmeg Division. Prior to this, I held key positions on the Permanent Convention Committee, and was editor of the NER Coupler for six years.

"As Vice-President, I will continue in the role of Permanent Convention Chairman, and will assume additional responsibilities on the Membership Promotion front. Thanks to the efforts of President Whiton and VP Glasstetter, new membership promotion displays are being constructed for several divisions. I believe that the Region offers opportunities to learn new skills and make new friends within the hobby for the many model railroaders who are NMRA members but are not part of the Region and its Divisions."

Candidates for Directors

Long Island & New York City
Ludwig Riemenschneider
4039 Wicks Avenue
Seaford, NY 11783

Ludwig is a member of the NMRA, NER and Sunrise Trail Division. He is also General Manager of the Long Island Traction Society, a member of East Penn Traction, and a past member of the Mid-Island Railroad Club.

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Ludwig, currently LI/NYC Director, is married, with four children and nine grandchildren. Now retired, he was for over thirty-eight years Chief of the Survey Party for Nassau County. He has also worked with the Boy Scouts, and the New York State and Long Island Associations of Professional Land Surveyors. His home layout is the O gauge "Fort Neck Traction."

Northern New England

Terrence P. King
P.O. Box 188
East Livermore, ME 04228-0188

Terry is a Life member of NMRA, current Director of this area, member of NER and the Seacoast Division, as well as a charter member of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club.

"I joined the NMRA in 1983 as a new modeler, and shortly thereafter I met with a group of fellow modelers to form the Great Falls Model Railroad Club in Auburn. I served as secretary, president, and have been treasurer for the past two years. Our Club has held adult education courses each year at Edward Little High School (Auburn) and at Winthrop High School. Last year we held Rail Clinic '97, a full day for both new and advanced modelers.

"Working with past director David Collinge, I helped re-start the Seacoast Division and have served as its secretary and treasurer.

"I have always felt that the regions and divisions are a great way of expanding modeling knowledge and forming new friendships. There are many ways to attract new members and keep the current ones. We should have such items as logos and hats which the members can wear to show their pride in the Region. Officers should be proactive and travel to area clubs and groups to promote the hobby, the NMRA, the Region and the Divisions."

Connecticut & Rhode Island

Albert Daley
193 Coppermill Rd
Weathersfield, CT 06109-4012

"I graduated as a Civil Engineer in 1954 and was involved in commercial building construction for forty-three years. I retired in 1997 after having supervised projects in Pennsylvania, New York, Rhode Island, Connecticut and Massachusetts.

"My interest in model railroading started with a Lionel train purchased in 1935, which is still operated under the Christmas tree each year. My first model, a Varney box-car purchased and built when I was a teenager, is in operation on my HO layout, Nutmeg Central Railway, NMRA Registration #91-119.

"In addition to membership in the NMRA, NER and Nutmeg Division, I am a member of the Mohawk & Hudson Chapter of the NMRH, the Bridge Line Historical Society, and the NARP. Other interests include history (the Wethersfield Historical Society), golf (the Wethersfield Country Club), and gardening.

"As President of the Nutmeg Division this past year, I have assisted in its reorganization and expanded participation. I look forward to helping the Northeastern Region attract new members and increase awareness among railroad hobbyists of what the NMRA has to offer."

Massachusetts

Don Howd
48 Arrowwood Street
Methuen, MA 01844

Don Howd is seeking re-election as the Director for Massachusetts.

"I have been a member of the NMRA and the NER for more than 30 years. I have served as Region Model Contest Chair for a number of years as well as Achievement Program Chair. I have been Superintendent of the Garden State and Dixie (MER) Divisions, as well as a member of the HUB Board of Directors. I hold NMRA Certificates for Cars, Structures, Author, Association Volunteer and Association Official. Strong regional and divisional programs are the best ways to promote model railroading.

"I am a retired U.S. Postal Inspector and reside in Methuen with my wife Cathy and our three children. The latest version of the Dividing Creek Railroad (HO) is currently under construction."

New York State

Frank A. Dietz
38 Sandra Avenue
Plattsburgh, NY 12901

Frank is the current area Director and is a retired USAF officer who currently works for the Upstate Air Center in Plattsburgh, and where he resides with his wife Heidi and son Eric.

OFFICIAL BALLOT

NORTH EASTERN REGION, NMRA

1998

Chairman Michael Evans reports the following slate of candidates approved by the Nominating Committee. You may photocopy it.

President (vote for one)

Glenn W. Glasstetter

Vice President (vote for one)

Kenneth May

DIRECTORS (vote for one in your area of residence only)

Canada (east) No candidate

Long Island & New York City

Ludwig Riemenschneider

New Jersey No candidate

Northern New England

Terrence P. King

Connecticut & Rhode Island

Albert Daley

Massachusetts

Don Howd

New York State

Frank Dietz

Robert Hamm

Place your ballot in a plain, sealed envelope. Insert it into a #10 business envelope with your NER and NMRA numbers in upper left corner. Mail to: Charles Bettinger, Chair, Ballot Committee, 29 Foster Dr., Vernon, CT 06066

p. 10 1998 Candidates

Frank says, "Since moving around the country and overseas, I haven't had a permanent layout. However, I have built many shelf and modular layouts. I have been a modeler for most of my life and, like many, started with a Lionel set in 1953. I have been modeling HO since 1973. I have been a member of NMRA for 18 years and active with the NER since 1983. While serving a tour with the Canadian Forces, I started a modeling group, and during my three-year stint in Great Britain, I actively modeled the American Prototype, which got a great deal of notoriety in the local community.

"I am currently the President of the Champlain Valley Model Railroad Club and an active member of the Champlain Valley Modules located here in Plattsburgh. I like to promote the hobby and have worked with young people, both here and abroad, to expand the love of model railroading."

Frank is on the promotional committee and, in that capacity, has made several NMRA-NER-Division promotion displays. He is the model railroad merit badge Counselor for the Boy Scouts in the area. Frank is also a member of the NRHS and several railroad his-

torical societies.

Robert Hamm
40 Michael Drive
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

Bob is a long-time member of the NMRA, NER and the Hudson-Berkshire Division. He was General Chairman of the Saratoga Springs, Ltd., Spring 1997 NER Convention and has served over ten years as H-B Division President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer. Currently, Bob is Division Achievement Program Chairman and holds Master Certificates in Civil and Electrical Engineering, Author, and Association Volunteer.

Bob is 51 years old and works as a senior engineer/scientist at Plug Power, L.L.C., a manufacturer of fuel cells. He and his wife Pat have two daughters, Karen (26) and Katie (23). His modeling career started in 1962 in HO. In 1972, he was bitten hard by the Colorado narrow gauge bug and switched to HOn3. His current, challenging layout started in 1975.

Bob's philosophy: "Model railroading is one of the most enjoyable aspects of my life, but sharing that interest and fellowship with other modelers, young and old, experienced or novice, is perhaps an even greater joy. As New York State Director, I'll bring my experience and enthusiasm to the NER Board."

Ronald J. Bergeron
Office Manager, NER
11 Alpine Drive
Sanford, ME 04073-2446

FIRST CLASS



The
NER Coupler

All the news that fits we print

NER # L103 Exp.:
Kenneth H May
71 Buff Cap Road
Tolland CT 06084

p. 4 Hyannis Winners



Brian Curry receives the "Best in Show" Baldwin Trophy from Brian Whiton (Bob Bird photo).

"Franklin Freight Forwarders"

Hub Runner-up Award: Brian Curry, for: "Paddle Wheel Car Ferry".

Sunrise Trail Award: Paul Allard, for "CN-SW1200 RS".

New England Railway Consortium Award: Bill Brandt, for "Trolley Diorama".

Baldwin Trophy - Best in Show Award: Brian Curry, for "Ferry Apron".

Congratulations to All !

Crafts Contest (courtesy of Linda May).

Needlepoint, 1st: Denise Curry, for Crocheted "My Little Railroader", and Patti Bettinger (**Best in Show**) Award; 2d: Denise Curry, for Crocheted Mauve Throw, and 3d for Crocheted Baby Blanket.

General, 1st: Elizabeth Brown, for Two Beaded Bracelets.



Non-Rail Clinic: "Color, Clothes and You", by Nancy Wurlitzer (Guys, you missed a good one)