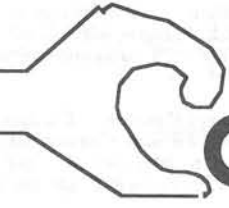
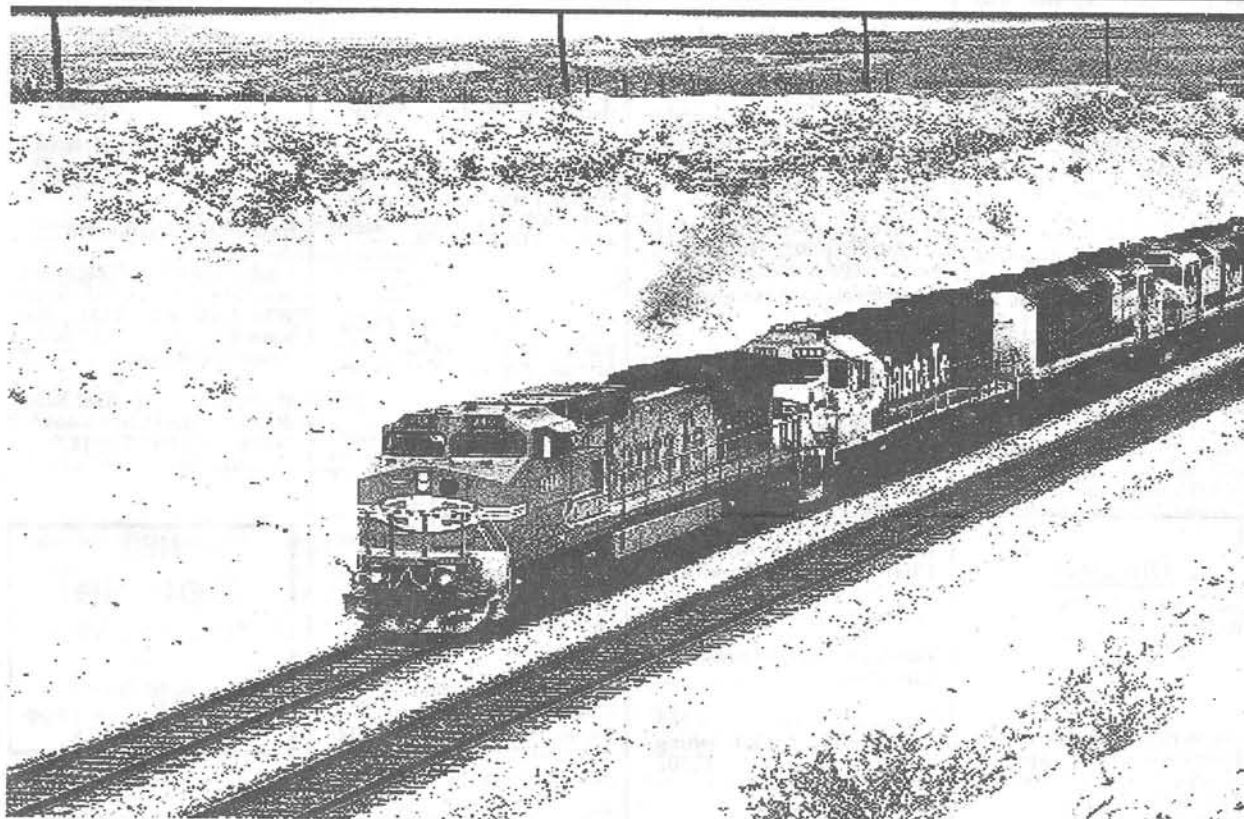


THE  
**NER**  **coupler**

No. 196, April 1999



*A Publication of the Northeastern Region, National Model Railroad Association.*



*Another Pat Lecaroz Classic: Santa Fe Engine #940 leads a set of three powerhouses near Needles, California, July 1996. Third place Color Print category Winner at the NER Convention in Saratoga, New York, May 1997.*

Here's  
everything you need to know about  
NER's great spring convention, "To the Mountains by  
Rail", Utica, New York, May 28-30 (Memorial Day Weekend) 1999.  
The Central New York Division will host us at the Radisson Hotel in down-  
town Utica. This is the same hotel which housed the NER meeting in  
1986. You'll find more than the usual advance information, plus  
the registration forms on pages 8-11.  
Send them in now!

# NER BRASS

## Officers

**President:** Glenn Glasstetter, 655 Hillview Rd., Richmond, VT 05477. 802-434-3316. glenn.glasstetter@cwix.com

**Vice-President:** Kenneth H. May, 71 Buff Cap Rd., Tolland, CT 06084-2605. 860-872-3441. kmay@casualcorner.com

**Past President:** Brian Whiton, MMR, 94 Spring St., Windsor Locks, CT 06096. 860-623-8512. brian.whiton@snet.net

**NMRA Trustee:** Stan Ames, 8 Higate Rd., Chelmsford, MA 01824. 978-256-3062. stanames@geocities.com

**Secretary:** Larry Cannon, 64 Skillings Corner Rd, Auburn, ME 04210. 207-786-3929. ruthcannon@ime.net

**Treasurer:** James T. Ferguson RR2, Box 77A, North Troy, VT 05859. 802-988-2859. pjfergus@together.net

## Directors

**Eastern Canada:** Position unfilled.

**Connecticut & Rhode Island:** Albert Daley, 193 Coppermill Rd, Weathersfield, CT 06109-4012. 860-721-9371. alrmdaley@worldnet.att.net

**Long Island & New York City:** Ludwig Riemenschneider, 4039 Wicks Ave., Seaford, NY 11783. 516-781-3534. grandpaerie@juno.com

**Massachusetts:** Don Howd, 48 ArrowWood St., Methuen, MA 01844. 978-689-9102. dvdngcrkrr@aol.com

**New Jersey:** Position unfilled

**Northern New England:** Terrence P. King, PO Box 188, E. Livermore, ME 04288-0188. 207-933-2477 & FAX. tking@megalink.net

**New York State:** Robert Hamm, 40 Michael Dr., Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. 518-587-0743 (H) 782-7700 x133. rhamm1@nycap.rr.com

## Dept. Chairpersons

**Achievement Program:** Paul Allard, 53 Rollin Irish Rd., Milton, VT 05468. 802-893-2228. allardp@ibm.net

**Convention:** Kenneth May, 71 Buff Cap Rd., Tolland, CT 06084-2605. 860-872-3441. kmay@casualcorner.com

**Model Contest:** Richard Laube, 6 Worthington Dr., Trenton, NJ 08638. 609-882-7341.

**Photo Contest:** Brian Whiton, 94 Spring St., Windsor Locks, CT 06096. 860-623-8512. brian.whiton@snet.net

**Crafts Contest:** Linda May, 71 Buff Cap Rd., Tolland, CT 06084-2605. 860-872-3441. kmay@casualcorner.com

## Divisions

**Nutmeg:** Albert Daley, President, 193 Coppermill Rd., Weathersfield, CT 06109. 860-721-9371. alrmdaley@worldnet.att.net

**Bob Van Cleef, MMR, AP Chairman, 46 Broadway, Coventry, CT 060238. ravancleef@msn.com**

**Bob Van Cleef, Member Aid Chairman.**

**Hudson-Berkshire:** Ken Nelson, President, 15 Washington Rd., Scotia, NY 12302-2412. 578-377-7176. kennernel@aol.com

**Robert Hamm, AP Chairman 40 Michael Dr., Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. 518-587-0743 (H); 782-7700 x133 W rhamm1@nycap.rr.com**

**Frank Dietz, Member Aid Chairman, 30 Sandra Ave., Plattsburgh, NY 12901. 518-562-8058.**

**Central New York. Superintendent: Vacant**

**Jim Heidt, Member Aid Chairman, PO Box 25, Clockville, NY 13036. 315-697-6227. jheidt@aol.com**

**Brian Curry, AP Chairman,**

**RR#1, Box 51, Chamberlain Rd., Weedsport, NY 13166. 315-689-1303**

**Seacoast:** Larry Cannon, President. 64 Skillings Corner Rd, Auburn, ME 04210. 207-786-3929. ruthcannon@ime.net

**Larry Cannon, AP Chairman, 64 Skillings Corner Rd., Auburn, ME 04210. 207-786-3929. ruthcannon@ime.net**

**HUB:** Ken Belovarac, President, 14 Lincoln Ave., Quincy, MA 02170.

**Don Howd, AP Chairman, 48 Arrow Wood St., Methuen, MA 01844, 508-689-9102. dvdngcrkrr@aol.com**

**Sunrise Trail:** Fernand Washington, President. 179-65 Selover Rd., St. Albans, NY 11434. 718-528-2308.

**John MacGown, AP Chairman, 32 Liberty Blvd., Valley Stream, NY 11580. 516-285-4712.**

**Green Mountain:** Dave Camber, President, 514 Leroux Rd., South Wheelock, VT 05851. 802-626-9294. dav@together.net

**Paul Allard, AP Chairman, 53 Rollin Irish Rd., Milton, VT 05468. 802-893-2228. allardp@ibm.net**

**James Ferguson, Member Aid Chairman, RR#2, Box 77A, North Troy, VT 05859. 802-988-2859. pjfergus@together.net**

**Metro North:** Kevin Feeney, Superintendent, 832 New Norwalk Rd, (Rt 123), New Canaan, CT 06840-6443. 203-966-5175(h); 316-6884(w) kevin.feeney@gartner.com.

**Hudson Valley:** Jon Decker, Superintendent. 121 Vineyard Ave, Highland NY 12528 914-691-7130

**Bill Brandt, AP Chairman, 14 Evergreen Lane, Woodstock, NY 12498. 914-679-8328. xwgm12a@prodigy.com**

**Alouette:** Benoit LeClerc, President and AP Chairman, 2335 St. Clement, Beauport, PQ, G1E3W7. 418-661-7377

## Inactive Divisions

**Garden State, Little Rhody, Maritimes, Pioneer.**

## NER Working Crew

**Editor:** Joseph T. Popecki, 33 Woodridge Drive, Burlington VT 05401-2741. 802-863-4121. popecki@globalnetisp.net

**Coupler Distributor:** Terence P. King, PO Box 188, East Livermore, ME 04288-0188. 207-933-2477 & FAX tking@megalink.net

**Convention Registrar:** John C. Campbell, Jr., 63 Alexander Dr., East Hartford, CT 06118.

**Office Manager:** Ronald J. Bergeron, 11 Alpine Dr., Sanford, ME 04073-2446. 207-490-1743. trainsncrafts@juno.com

**Club Dispatcher:** Dave Camber, 514 Leroux Rd, South Wheelock, VT 05851. 802-626-9254. dave@together.net

**Webmaster:** Michael Saunders, 84 Aldis St, St Albans VT 05478-1913. 802-524-4429. msaunders@together.net

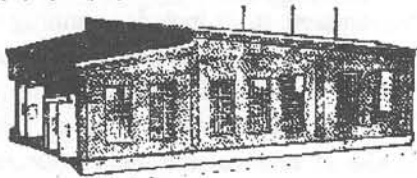
## NER Coupler #196, April 1999

-----  
**Deadline for next  
issue, 15 June 1999**

**Joseph T. Popecki, Editor 33 Woodridge Dr., Burlington, VT 05401-2741. 802-863-4121. popecki@globalnetisp.net**

**Your contributions, articles, photos, sketches, filler & ideas are most welcome. The Editor may accept, reject or edit copy as received. Accepted items will appear in the Coupler as space permits. Letters to the Editor of a constructive and professional nature are welcome. If you wish your submission returned, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope. If you send a disc, include a hard-copy.**

# DOWN AT THE ROUNDHOUSE



*Glenn Glasstetter*

## More News from the Region

---

### Communication is the Key

Communication is a word that seems to be popping up everywhere, and for good reason. There is now more information than ever to communicate and infinitely more ways to do it. Whatever your reasons for joining the NMRA, communication was probably your underlying reason. Whether looking to meet with fellow model railroaders, receive information about model railroading, prototype railroading, or any of the many member services the NMRA has to offer, communication is the key.

You probably receive most of your communication from the *Bulletin*, the *Coupler*, and your division newsletter. These are great tools to help you learn what is going on beyond our own neighborhood. One of the goals I set, when asking for your vote, was to improve communication within the Region. I recently received a letter with a wonderful idea from Jim Heidt, our past NER Trustee, suggesting that each NER Division exchange newsletters with the editors of other divisions throughout the Region. I would make the suggestion that these newsletters should be sent to superintendents or presidents of the divisions who could, in turn, forward them to anyone else who might want them. This would allow these officers to learn in a timely manner, and make use of, the information contained in these newsletters. There are many good ideas to be gained from this form of expanded communication. The officers' names, addresses and phone numbers can be found on the BRASS page of the *Coupler*.

Division newsletters should be sent to the NER President and Trustee so that they are aware

of and can coordinate what is happening throughout the Region. Having the privilege of receiving the division newsletters, I can say I really enjoy reading about the members and activities throughout the Region. Division newsletters should also be sent to the *Coupler* Editor so that he can report on important activities within the divisions to all our NER members through that publication. I understand that the practice of sending complimentary copies is a financial burden that may be difficult for some divisions, but if properly used, the information gained from this activity will far outweigh the cost. If your division budget can handle it, I would also suggest that copies be sent to the A.C. Kalmbach Memorial Library at NMRA Headquarters, and to Jim Zinser, the North Central Region Trustee, who conducts the Region Roundup Department in the *Bulletin*. Check out his column to learn what other regions are doing.

My intention of sending these newsletters to other divisions within the Region and to the *Coupler* Editor is to generate new ideas for activities within the divisions. I would also hope this may foster joint division meetings to allow the members to meet and learn from other members beyond their respective divisions. I am aware of two joint division meets that are now being planned for spring. I have read that the Metro North Division is hosting the Hudson Valley Division, and possibly the Nutmeg Division, at the Danbury Railroad Museum in May. Also, The Seacoast Division has invited the Green Mountain Division to a joint meeting in Conway, New Hampshire. These joint division meets could encourage more of our division members to attend regional conventions by introducing them to people, layouts and activities beyond their own divisions.

### Single Membership

If you have been reading this column in any of the last three issues, you have learned about "Single Membership". Briefly, this program will provide you with a single renewal date for both your National and Region membership. As shown in the Pacific Northwest Region, this program has the potential for dramatically increasing NER membership by enrolling more current NMRA members in the Region. This program will start on April 1, 1999. No fooling! After that date you will receive a combined renewal notice to be returned to National, along with

Continued, p. 4 



your National and Region dues. If your renewal dates do not coincide, your dues will be prorated to merge the two dates. If you are a Life Member of National, but not of NER, you will also receive your Region renewal from National (or you can become a Life Member of NER).

In order to implement this program, we had to change our multi-year memberships to coincide with those of National. Also, due to several postal increases and *Coupler* printing cost increases since our last dues change many years ago, we were compelled to increase our dues from \$6.00 to \$7.00 per year to meet costs. The new Region dues structure is: \$7.00 for one year, \$12.00 for two years, and \$28.00 for five years. Hopefully, there will be no glitches as this new system is implemented, but if there are, please bear with us and contact National to resolve them. This will ultimately make us a stronger organization.

### **NER Business Manager**

As of April 18, 1999, Joe Lecaroz will be taking over as NER Business Manager. Our current Manager, Ron Bergeron has asked to step down after providing several years of first class service to members of NER and the organization. This position has been one of the most important in the Region. With the implementation of the Single Membership program, the job of sending out Region renewal notices will go to National, but there will still be plenty to keep Joe busy. My thanks to both Ron and Joe for agreeing to serve our Region.

One of the duties of the Office Manager is to provide complimentary copies of the *Coupler* for NMRA recruiting tables at train shows within the NER. If you would like copies for a table you are setting up at a show, contact Ron before April 18, or Joe after that date, but please give them at least 45 days notice.

### **Member Recruiting**

Speaking of NMRA recruiting tables, the NMRA has a new promotional pack with even more than before, including plastic holders for each type of brochure, for a professional-looking display. I learned of this through the latest issue of *Pounding*

the *Rails*. This is the publication of the NMRA Membership/Promotion Department. It is sent to all National officers, trustees, Region presidents, Region and Division editors, Regional and Divisional membership chairpersons, and any membership recruiter who requests it. It includes running reports on National and Region membership, as well as information about the M/P Department and recruiting tips. If you are involved in member recruiting and would like to receive this publication, contact the General Chairman: Jack Wall, 266 South Sea Way, Livermore CA 94550. (Phone/FAX- 925-456-NMRA; E-mail- jackwall@aol.com). Please request your National promotional materials 45-60 days before you need them.

### **Division Rerails**



The Hudson Valley Division is officially up and running again with a board of directors, officers and officials elected and appointed. Congratulations and thanks go to Jon Decker, the new Superintendent, and those who are helping to run the

HVD. Recently, Stan Ames, our NER Trustee and Al Daley, our Connecticut Director, visited the Little Rhody Division in Rhode Island to get that Division back to involvement in the Region. Having Little Rhody re-engaged in the NER would benefit its members as well as the Region. Also recently, Terry King, our Northern New England Director, and Larry Cannon, the new Seacoast Division President, visited New Hampshire to drum up more interest from that state. Work is also underway to communicate with our NMRA and NER members in the Garden State Division, with a plan to hold a reorganization meeting in September. NER member Robert McQueen from Budd Lake, New Jersey, has agreed to help with this effort. I have also received encouragement and help from Mike McNamara, the Superintendent of the New Jersey Division of the Mid-East Region. Stronger divisions will make a stronger region. We can all help in this effort.

### **NER Conventions**

Thanks to Ken May, our Vice President and Permanent Convention Chairman, we now have a full two-year convention schedule in hand. You will

☞

find the details and registration forms for our Spring 1999 Convention, "To the Mountains by Rail" elsewhere in this issue. As I mentioned in the last issue, you will find us in North Conway, New Hampshire, October 15-17, 1999, for the 25th Annual Railfans' Weekend of the Conway Scenic Railroad. On June 9-11, 2000, we will be at Lyndon State College in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont with an extremely reasonable room rate. This convention will feature a 1:1 railroad collection with a Heisler loco under steam. On October 5-8, 2000, we have been invited to Altoona, Pennsylvania, for a multi-regional convention with the MER. This four day meeting will have a number of tours to many historic rail sites in the area, as well as approximately thirty clinics, including several by nationally known model railroaders. Mark your calendars now for some great times with your fellow model railroaders. It's not too early to start planning a convention in your area in 2001. I just received the *Metro North Division Newsletter* and the *Cannonball*, from the Sunrise Trail Division on Long Island, and was pleased to see articles in both publications promoting our upcoming spring convention, I hope to see YOU in Utica in May. *Glenn*

## Mes sages from Tower A



Just yesterday I picked up a book that is all color photography of the railroads in the Albany area. It compliments well other books I've bought recently which are also color, and pertain to other New England Railroads. WOW! The scenes depicted generally offer more detail in the background than on the subject.

Though you may not be modeling the specific railroad shown, and very likely never the exact scene shown, there is enough information in these photos to support your modeling for eternity. It is the details that are so wonderful.

I, for one, can't remember, reliably, how locomotives weathered, especially, steam locomotive. The same goes for freight cars. These pictures leave little doubt. I also can't remember the details of the chrome and paint jobs on automobiles from the era I model. Again these books show many examples. And, automobiles need weathering too.

Another abundance of details can be found on architectural subjects. You know, I mean the details we all leave off our models because we are too lazy to spend the time effort and money necessary to add them. These are often the "signature" details that emphasize the region or personality of the model.

For example a bit of ginger bread trim, or a railing, or those wooden gutters that were an integral part of the edge of the roof. How often do you model an open door. The pictures show many open doors, with people in them. Even litter, should be modeled by example. Litter piles up where the wind carries it. Sand and oil from locomotives drips where they stop and stand a while. Concrete slabs in a side walk will look more real if cracked and heaved a bit, but why not use a photo of the real thing to guide your effort.

Clouds on the back drop look better when they are detailed from actual photos. Stone work is a tough subject, which really need the guidance of photos to be detailed correctly on your layout. And signs on buildings are another tough subject. Lettering fonts, colors, and even the bracing for the sign are all things that we tend to model poorly. We do this for ease of modeling. I'm as guilty as most. The net result on our layouts is they are less appealing because the realism is diminished.

I suggest you indulge in some of these books, and pore over each picture with a magnifying glass. Make copious notes on each one. If you do this on 3x5 cards and file by subject or key word, you can access them easily later.

Don't get caught in the trap of being overwhelmed by past mistakes or omissions or failures, what ever you wish to call them, when you look at your layout. We are discussing tiny details and coloration. These can be added or changed with little effort and virtually no damage to an existing scene. I fall into this trap easily, so I make a list of improvements. I list them in such a fashion that each task is somewhat defined and limited to about one-half to one hour of work at the most.

For example, I wouldn't write "add railings to all bridges". That is too broad and you'll never start the task. I would say add wooden railing to bridge at Shoreham per photo on page 6 of *Shortline to the Shoreline*. I might say work on pole

Continued, p. 6

## p. 5 Messages from Tower A

line at Orwell, knowing full well that it's a big task, but it can be done a couple of poles at a time, so it really is manageable.

I might go so far as to say "repaint Olson Feed per picture in file". That task could take days, but each color might be only an hour of pleasure. I would be very likely to write, "add front step to Whiting Station building." Or I might write "repaint rocks at Cliff per photo on pg. 91 of ..." In this way you and I can offer modeling tasks that fit our available time. As I knock off a few tasks, the results begin to accumulate. Soon, I'm feeling pretty good about a scene or aspect of the railroad.

So go check out some books. Get fired up to model all those great details. Make some task cards. Make those improvements and have some fun.

*Brian Whiton*

## Exposure Computer for Pinhole Photography

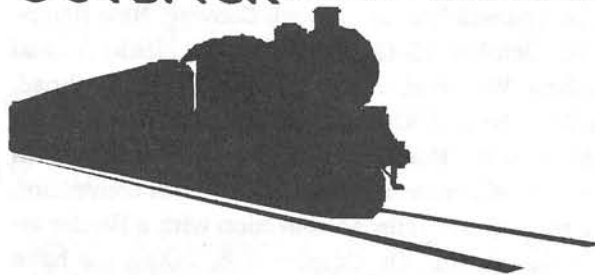
At a recent NER Clinic, John Bortle described a practical system for calculating exposures using pinhole cameras, which he described in the last two issues of the *Coupler*. His recent E-Mail gives some missing information:

Lay out two long, rectangular pieces of cardboard and draw a straight line the length of each. Mark off the line at right angles at intervals of 1/4" to 1/2". On one, label the marks in terms of the f stops, i.e., 2.8, 4, 5.6, 8, 11, 16, 22, 32, 45, 64, 90, 128. On the other strip, label exposure times, starting at 1/500 second and working down through 1/4, 1/2, 1, 2, 4, 8 seconds. Assuming that you know the f-ratio value of your pinhole diaphragm, take a light meter reading of the scene to be photographed with your regular lens set, say, f5.6. Assume that the meter calls for a speed of 1/250 second. Look down the scale to your pinhole f-stop; let's say it's f 90. Opposite the f 90 mark, you'll see the exposure equivalent is one second. In general, I find this to be the upper limit of bracketed exposures, and 2 or 3 seconds is most likely to be perfect for the shot. To save space, I converted my slide rule to a rotary calculator, very much like the wheel on an analog scale light meter.

*JTP*

**NER Coupler #196, p. 6**

## NEWS FROM THE OUTBACK & Other Points on Line



The **Seacoast Division** has elected **Larry Cannon** its president for 1999. Larry had been VP and also serves as secretary to the NER's Board, and chairman of the Division's Achievement Program. Ron Palmquist continues as Editor of the *Switch Tower*. The Division also reports the death of long-time member Chandler Cobb, 79, of Kittery, Maine.

The **Housatonic Model Railway Club** will sponsor its 13th "Station Stop" annual railroad show on March 28, 1999, from 10 am to 4 pm, in the Tomlinson Middle School, 200 Unquowa Road, Fairfield, Connecticut. Adults, \$4; kids, 4-12 years old, \$2. Call 203-333-7467

**North Conway Model Railroad Club's** 26th annual model train show will be held in the John Fuller School on Pine Street in North Conway, New Hampshire, from 10-4 on May 22, 1999. Adults, \$2; children, \$1; \$5 max for a family. Call Bill Belcher at 603-447-5447.

The Lyndon Area Sports Association, with the **NC Model Railroaders** present a Model Railroad Show on Saturday, May 8, 1999, from 10-4, in the Fenton Chester Arena in Lyndon Center, Vermont. Adults, \$2.50; under 12, free. Call David Camber at 802-626-9254.

The spring convention 2000 will be held in this area.

The **Rutland Railroad Historical Society** presents its annual meeting May 1-2, 1999, at the Congregational Church in Rutland, Vermont, from 8am to 5 pm. Model & railroad displays, guided tours, \$15, plus banquet, \$15. Sunday rail excursion on restored equipment, 10 am (\$15, or \$25 for non-members). Jeff English, 6 Lansing Avenue, Troy, New York 12182-4829. Society membership (incl. newsletter), \$15. Checks to RRHS.

The **Metro North Division's** final meeting of the 1998-1999 season will be May 8th at the Danbury Railway Museum, from 10-4. The Division is looking for a candidate for Superintendent, as Kevin Feeney has been Super for the maximum two terms. Volunteers for the job as well clinic leaders, get in touch with Kevin at 203-966-5175, or kevin.feeney@gartner.com.

**NMRA Annual Meeting, 1999**, is set for 18-25 July in St. Paul, Minnesota. Details in the *NMRA Bulletin*.

The **Niagara Frontier Region** has just announced that Toronto will host the NMRA's **Maple Leaf 2003**.

**Mid-Eastern Region (MEA)** will hold the Blue Ridge Crescent 99 in Lynchburg, Virginia, April 23-25. Many NER folks also belong to MEA. Info from Linda Sanders at 804-993-9210.





Glenn Glasstetter opens his first Board of Directors meeting on Sunday morning, 6 December, 1998. The difference about this meeting was the place where the Board met. Past President Brian Whiton arranged the meeting's location, aboard a restored Budd Parlor Car (the Greenwich Harbor CNZR #7142) parked in the Regional Farmers Market in Hartford, Connecticut. Built for the Pennsylvania Railroad in late 1952, the 33 seat "Roger Williams" has been refitted as a dining car since its retirement from Amtrak service in 1977. The completely restored car retains its Drawing Room, but is equipped with tables for 44 and has a complete galley. The air-conditioned unit is available for parties, receptions, business meetings and seminars. During the rededication of Grand Central Station in New York last year (see *Coupler 195*), The Railway Entertainment Services car was parked on a loading track just outside the waiting room for a week. It can be towed at speeds of 100+ miles per hour. Looking for a something different site for your party or meeting? Call 860-666-1636.

### **Board Business**

Glenn briefly outlined to the board his four goals for the Region: 1) implementation of a single membership (with NMRA) dues schedule; 2) increasing inter-divisional activities; 3) a survey of members' "druthers"; and 4) getting divisional reports in time for the September Board meeting and the Fall Convention. In the absence of Treasurer Jim Ferguson (on vacation) Glenn reported a balance of \$2,145 in the checking account and \$1,083 in the savings account.

Rich Laube was appointed Model Contest Chair for the Utica meeting. This was followed by a lively discussion regarding the participation of professional modelers in model contests. Don Howd and Brian Whiton will formulate a question on the matter for Trustee Ames to submit to NMRA. Office Manager Ron Bergeron counts a total of 735 members in all classes. The need for more meeting displays was discussed, along with the long-awaited promotional brochures (Brian Whiton).

The advent of the "Single Membership" has caused concern on the part of Directors Hamm and Riemenschneider, whose areas have many non-NMRA members and vice-versa. Wayne Karns has volunteered to supervise NER's presence on the NMRA Web site. Secretary Larry Cannon will receive old NER records to attempt to reinstate the 501 (c)(7) non-profit status of the Region. Terry King will try to persuade Ron Palmquist to head up the Publicity Committee. [All the news that fits.]

# "To the Mountains by Rail"

NER Spring 1999 Convention  
Utica, NY – May 28 –30, 1999

The Central New York Division extends a warm welcome to the Northeastern Region to come to Utica on Memorial Day weekend to participate in the "To the Mountains by Rail" Spring Convention. The NER first visited Utica in the fall of 1986 and now the Central New York Division plans to top that effort in 1999. The convention program will be packed full of the activities you enjoy, with layout visits, clinics, contests, a banquet, and a very special fan trip on the Adirondack Scenic Railroad from Utica to the Old Forge area and return. Since it is a holiday weekend why not consider staying the extra night and visiting some of the other attractions in the area before heading home.

## Convention H. Q.

Convention headquarters will be the Radisson Hotel – Utica Centre. This is the same hotel that was used in 1986. Located in the center of downtown Utica, just a couple of blocks from Utica Union Station, this full feature hotel offers all the amenities that NER Convention attendee has become comfortable with. Convention Registration will be held in the lobby where you can pick up your convention program and information on layout visits, as well as tickets for meals and fan trips. Visit the Hospitality Room to meet old friends and make new ones and munch on snacks. Room prices at the Radisson are \$79 for a single and \$89 for a double. There will be a \$4 per day parking charge in the hotel parking area.

## Rail Fan Trip

On Saturday, the rail fan trip will depart at 9:00 AM from Utica Union Station. You will board a train of the Adirondack Scenic Railroad behind a vintage diesel locomotive for a pleasant trip from Utica to Thendara (near Old Forge) in the heart of the Adirondack Mountains. This is the rail line that transported the rich and famous to the luxury resorts and hotels in Saranac Lake and Lake Placid one hundred years ago. The train will include a stocked and staffed cafe/lounge car where you may purchase refreshments and both the train and station at Thendara are handicapped accessible. At Thendara many photo opportunities will be available, as well as an extensive gift shop. Van Auken's Inn, a historic inn and restaurant owned and operated by

graduates of the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, NY is also open next to the station for meals and refreshments. The train will depart at 1:50 and return to Utica about 4:30 in the afternoon. A photo run-by has been agreed to for the return trip. This ride will travel over old New York Central tracks that were abandoned over twenty years ago, and have only been restored to service in the last couple of years. Transportation to and from Utica Station will be provided by Utica Transit Authority bus which is included in the fare. This fan trip is an outstanding bargain at \$25 per person.

## Non-Rail Fan Trip

The ladies who come along will be offered an exciting visit to historic Oneida Community Mansion House. The Oneida Community was a utopian society formed in the middle of the 19th century. They believed in communal living, including complex marriage. This way of living continued for over thirty years. The Mansion is still home to some of the Oneida Community descendants. After a guided tour of the Museum, the group will be served a luncheon of soup, salad bar, hot entree, beverage and dessert. At the completion of the luncheon, you will be taken to the outlet store of Oneida Limited. Transportation will be by mini motor coach. Capacity is 25 persons.

## Home Layouts

**Clayton Farrall** – Clayton is one of those modelers who like his trains any size ... he is a very active member of the area N-Trak club, but you'll enjoy Clayton's HO scale basement layout full of scenery and trains powered by long-haul steamers and diesels and controlled by a DCC system. We like his sense of priorities: the layout area emphasizes benchwork and track ... lots of track ... so aisle space is a little tight.

**Bernie Messenger** - Bernie's HO scale empire runs around the wall in a 14' x 27' basement room and features double-track mainline action. The layout is fully scenicked with experiments in modeling different seasons, and Bernie is adding structures and details. Operation through Digitrax DCC with Soundtrax steam and diesel decoders fill the room with the added dimension of sound. Bernie is an engaging fellow really looking forward to your visit and hopes that you'll take



the time to either ask questions, take the throttle ... or both!

**Ed Scott** – We couldn't be more proud to offer on tour the layout of this fellow, the dean of NMRA/NER members in the Mohawk Valley, especially as Ed is one of an estimated 100 or so modelers in North America who model in TT scale! Ed's basement layout is in a finished 10' by 10' room and features all of the scratchbuilt delights in structures, cars, etc. that one would expect in this rarely modeled scale. He also has a superior railroad library and some multi-scale displays and other attractions that may invite you to sit a spell and relax.

**Len Amrhein** – Len is a retired career Air Force officer and one of the most engaging modelers in our area. He is most excited to finally be able to start that 'dream layout'. Len's HO scale basement layout is loosely based on the concept of John Allen's Gorre & Daphetid with floor to ceiling scenery, track hanging over canyons, dizzy-high trestles, and plenty more. Len also enjoys building structures from almost no cost materials, and he has an uncanny ability to visualize that super-detailed structure before starting.

**Bill Fredlund** – Bill is well known to the NER and has agreed to have his basement HO scale layout open even though he and Marge are returning from wintering in Florida almost the very weekend of our convention. Still under construction, Bill's layout features lots of mainline operation with heavy NYC influence and is a sure stop on your way home on Sunday.

**Jim Heidt** – The HO scale Ogdensburg & Norwood in the basement "Ashpit" of the Heidt home is a work in progress. Started in August 1997, it has grown into a double-deck, walk around layout in a 17' x 24' room with expansion to a connecting helix and beyond to other areas of the basement. No trains run yet, but enough is done with the invaluable help of friends that you'll get a very clear idea of the future. In addition, we hope that the distinctive collection of O&W and other railroad memorabilia, along with the Italianate Victorian architecture of this 4,000 sq ft residence will encourage you to travel west on Sunday to visit the O&N's home.

## Clinics

The following clinics are those that are confirmed at this time. More clinics may be forthcoming between now and the convention:

**Brian Curry** – "Imagineering" This recent, multiple Baldwin Trophy winner has taken fine N scale modeling to levels only known previously to the larger scales. Brian shows you unusual tips, tricks and techniques through a slide and live presentation with handouts, all handy in any scale to both drive down your modeling cost and increase your satisfaction. Whether you are interested in broadening your scratchbuilding arsenal or

you just want to observe a twisted mind who enjoys modeling toilet paper in N scale, you can't miss this one for laughs and learning.

**Don Andrews** – "Ejection Seat for Armchair Modelers" Do you or someone you love suffer from terminal model railroad couch syndrome? Well, you're not alone, and even if you finally overcame these symptoms to actually pick up a hobby knife, you'll still enjoy this 20 year professional musician's story and suggestions regarding those hobby-related psychological battles we all face(d) in actually starting to model. Don's simple message is that, either alone or in a group, it takes some courage to get started but it's easier than you think.

**Bernie Messenger** – "Scenery Begins Here" Bernie brings his layout (on the tour) scenic adventures to the clinic room with a live presentation and handout. Focusing on paints, foams and foliage, Bernie demonstrates quick, easy and cheap coniferous and deciduous tree construction, including fall colors. In the mix he shares the importance of lighting considerations. Finally, if you want THE answer to fill that shrub gap between full-grown trees and ground-foam weeds and grass, Bernie's simple technique earns him model railroad sainthood. Don't miss it.

**Doug Preston** – "History of Utica's Union Station" Utica's Union Station once served the NYC, DL&W and the NYO&W but, under Penn Central and Conrail, fell into disrepair even though a division point. Oneida County then bought the building and it is now a refurbished, marble-columned jewel of upstate New York stations, serving Amtrak, bus companies and county offices and courts. Doug is a former curator for the Oneida Historical Society and has a tremendous wealth of local historical information. Enjoy this slide presentation of a proud return.

**John Taibi** – "When the Railroads Went to the Beach" John's passionate restoration of the O&W's Munnsville, NY (Munns to O&W fans) station into a museum and residence has blossomed into a peerless knowledge and interest in the O&W's little known Northern Division. The author of the definitive work on the O&W in the Stockbridge Valley south of Oneida, this slide presentation of the extensive O&W and Lehigh Valley history in and around the quaint Central New York village of Sylvan Beach and its relation to the resort industry there is the subject of John's next book and a must see clinic. Beware: John's enthusiasm is epidemic!

**Ed Bommer** – "From Film to Storage" Our other CNY resident Baldwin Trophy winner provides an interesting live and slide "potpourri" of "cradle to grave" modeling ... the process of researching prototypical photographs and materials for that truly unique model, then building a contest-quality model using Ed's grab-bag of tricks and techniques (how about making models of air tanks fabricated from soda can aluminum, for example?), and finally a simple way to make a custom-fit storage box

Continued, p. 10

out of a single piece of legal pad backer cardboard. Watch this magician at work!

**Jim Heidt** – “Building a Model Railroad Helix” The Ogdensburg & Norword in the “Ashpit” is taking shape as you can see on Sunday during the open house but, in the meantime, watch this multi-media presentation of how the connecting helix was designed and constructed with the help and assistance of old friend Bill Swain. Hint: the secret is threaded rod!

**Jim Heidt** – “How to Divorce the Old Man for Fun and Profit” Got your attention? Really, it’s a relaxed and informal chance in a non-rail clinic to discuss general, personal legal issues such as estate planning and wills, etc. We’ll do this in the hospitality room.

## Saturday Evening Banquet

The convention banquet will be at “Alfredo’s”, a local restaurant. The Radisson Hotel will be providing bus transportation from the hotel to Alfredo’s and return. The menu will consist of your choice of Roast Top Sirloin of Beef, Chicken Cordon Bleu, or Homemade Baked Lasagna with Meatball. All meals include appetizer, chef salad, potato, vegetable, bread, butter and coffee/tea.

Our regular banquet program of awards and announcements will fill out the remainder of the evening. During the meal there will be live musical entertainment for dancing. Due to transportation requirements between the hotel and Alfredo’s there will be no banquet speaker.

## Contests

The NER contests will be center stage at Utica. The model contest will give you an opportunity to bring that special model you have been working on all winter and have it judged. Show off your work to your fellow model rails! The photo contest will display and judge all those special photographs you have taken recently. Bring them to Utica to display them, to have them judged, and share your expertise with your fellow

photographers. The craft contest seeks to have a successful follow-up to one of the most successful contests in the history of the NER. With thirteen entries, Stratford set a standard for all other conventions to match. So come-on, Utica, let’s see lots of entries in the craft contest!

## Raffle

Following in the tradition of their neighbors to the west, the Central New York Division will be holding a raffle as a fund-raiser at the convention. You will be encouraged to purchase a strip of tickets and deposit them into collection boxes for specific prizes. Winners will be posted or announced prior to the banquet.

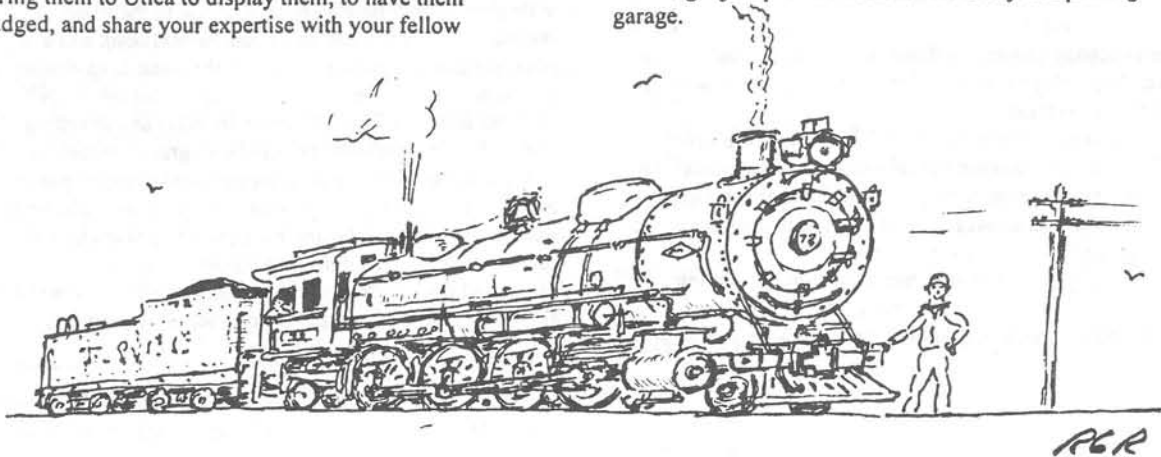
## Non Rail Program

Friday evening there will be a tour of the Munson-Proctor-Williams Institute, a multi-faceted arts institute just up Genesee Street from the hotel. Following that tour there will be a chance to visit “Fountain Elms”, the Victorian era residential offices of the Oneida County Historical Society. Refreshments will be included in this activity. There may be a slight charge at the door.

Back at the hotel there will be some non-rail clinics. Be sure to gather and greet each other in the hospitality room.

## Getting to the Convention

Utica, New York is located right off the New York State Thruway (I-90) at Exit 33. After leaving the toll booth, follow the sign stating ‘Downtown Utica, Genesee Street South’. At the end of the ramp turn right onto Genesee Street, continue past Wendy’s and McDonald’s on your right, and remain on Genesee Street over the Conrail/NYC mainline. The Radisson Hotel is at 200 Genesee Street, on the right side of the street. Turn right at the light just past the hotel for the lobby and parking garage.



## "To the Mountains by Rail"

NER Spring 1999 Convention  
Utica, NY - May 28 - 30, 1999

### Registration Form

Name 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
NMRA # \_\_\_\_\_ NER # \_\_\_\_\_

Name 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
NMRA # \_\_\_\_\_ NER # \_\_\_\_\_

Name 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
NMRA # \_\_\_\_\_ NER # \_\_\_\_\_

Name 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
NMRA # \_\_\_\_\_ NER # \_\_\_\_\_

Item	Cost	Name 1	Name 2	Name 3	Name 4	Total \$
Member Registration (if NMRA & NER Member)	\$ 16					
Member Registration (if NMRA member only)	\$ 23					
Member Registration (if NER member only)	\$ 32					
Guest Registration (includes NMRA & NER membership)	\$ 39					
Spouse Registration (with primary registrant only)	\$ 10					
Fan Trip (Adirondack Scenic Railroad)	\$ 25					
Non-Rail Trip (Oneida Museum, lunch, & Oneida Limited Outlet)	\$ 25					
Banquet - Roast Top Sirloin of Beef	\$ 20					
Banquet - Chicken Cordon Bleu	\$ 20					
Banquet - Homemade Meatball Lasagna	\$ 20					
Total						

Enclose total registration fee (make checks payable to NER Conventions)

Send to: John C. Campbell Jr.  
63 Alexander Drive  
East Hartford, CT 06118

NER Spring 1999 Convention  
Hotel Reservation Form

Radisson Hotel - Utica Centre  
200 Genesee Street, Utica, NY 13502  
(315) 797-8010

Rates: \$79 Single      \$89 Double  
Arrival Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Beds needed per room: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Rooms: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of People: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ St: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Check enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card: AMEX      MASTERCARD      VISA      circle one  
Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete and mail to the address above on or before May 5, 1999.

**Please feel free to copy these forms and keep your Coupler intact.  
Tip: Set the copier at 120% to give yourself more writing room.**



RONALD J BERGERON  
OFFICE MANAGER NER  
11 ALPINE DR  
SANFORD ME 04073-2446



The  
**NER Coupler**

*All the news that fits we print*

Moving or changing  
your address?  
Please tell the Office  
Manager so we can  
stay in touch.

NER # 3289 Exp.: 09-30-2000  
Herbert J Klein  
46-21 196th Street  
Flushing NY 11358-3921

11358-3921 1B



**RADISSON UTICA**

