

The Switch Tower

Seacoast Division, Northeastern Region, National Model Railroad Association
Sanford L. Roberts, Pres. • Larry Cannon, Vice-Pres. • Terrence P. King, Sec'y/Treas.

Volume Five

Fourth Quarter 1998

Number Four

President's Message

Annual Meeting, and other stuff

Our Seacoast Division, NMRA annual meeting is scheduled for November 7 at the Great Falls Railroad Show in Auburn. I want to encourage all the membership to make an effort to attend this meeting. It is a chance for us all to get to know each other better and to share ideas about the Division, its accomplishments and its goals.

Due to some scheduling conflicts, the Board of Directors meeting was held at Alan Thurston's home instead of Ray Houlihan's as was originally scheduled. And, due to a few days spent at Massachusetts General Hospital, I was not able to attend the meeting. So, I called our vice-president, Larry Cannon, to fill in for me. (The minutes of that meeting can be found on another page of *The Switch Tower*.)

As always, we are seeking input from all members on any subject relative to the Seacoast Division. We are attempting to make the Division responsive to the members concerns and activities. I have received very little comment from the membership during the past year, so please contact me or any board member with ideas or comments. It's our organization and we strive to meet the needs of the members.

What do you think of ads in *The Switch Tower*? Please mention the ads when you visit these hobby shops.

The Conway Scenic Railroad's 24th Annual Fall Railfan's Weekend was held on October 17 and 18. I just returned from North Conway where I got to see all the train action. There were four trains operating, three passenger trains

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★ *HAPPY HOLIDAYS* ★

It's Annual Meeting time

The annual meeting of the Seacoast Division, Northeastern Region, National Model Railroad Association, will be held November 7, 1998, at 1:00 p.m. at the Auburn Middle School, Court St., Auburn, Maine, during the Great Falls Model Railroad Club annual train show.

"Show your membership card at the door for free admission," announced Sandy Roberts, Division president.

Topping the agenda of the annual meeting will be the election of officers for the new year. Candidates are Larry Cannon, president, and Terrance P. King, secretary-treasurer.

Also to be elected are a vice president and new directors for three year terms.

Dues are due!

It's that time of year again; it's time for members to pay their Annual dues.

Dues bills have been mailed to members along with the By-laws ballot. Seacoast Division members are asked to send a check or money order, made out to the Seacoast Division, for \$5.00 to the division's secretary-treasurer, Terrance P. King, P.O. Box 188, East Livermore, ME 04228-0188.

As noted in Terry King's board meeting minutes, there are some members who have not paid their 1998 dues, so please submit this payment, too, in order to remain an active member.

MMR within reach of Division members

Modelers who are members of Seacoast Division, Northeastern Region NMRA, don't have to wait for convention contests to accumulate points for Achievement Program certificates.

"You can start your participation in the AP by earning a golden Spike Award. If your models earn at least 87.5 points in AP Merit Award judging, you will earn a Merit Award," explains Pete Moffett, MMR, NMRA's AP chairman "When you have fulfilled the requirements you can earn a

Certificate of Achievement. When you have earned seven Certificates of Achievement you will become a Master Model Railroader and receive an MMR Certificate, a plaque, a patch and a silver pin."

If you have any questions, contact Larry Cannon, the Division's AP coordinator. His name, address and telephone number are listed in the masthead of *The Switch Tower* on page two.

—Ron Palmquist

• *MODEL RAILROADING'S FINE IN '99* •

The Switch Tower

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Information regarding regular meetings of the Seacoast Division, NMRA, is published in *The Switch Tower*. Submissions to the newsletter are most welcome, and should be sent to:

The Switch Tower

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From the Editor's Desk

Along the R-O-W

GOOD SHOW, GREAT FALLS!

Let's begin by congratulating the Great Falls Model Railroad Club in Auburn for staging its 25th annual model railroad show Nov. 7. For many years, the show has been held at the Auburn Middle School on upper Court street and has been very popular with model railroaders from throughout northern New England. Dealer tables, live clinics, raffles, white elephants, videos and, of course, operating model railroads all have been an important part of the show mix. This year, I noticed the Great Falls Club is advertising "room to sit and rest." Modest prices and a 10-a.m. to 4 p.m. time frame are added incentive to attend. So, as their show flyer states, "All tracks lead to Auburn Middle School" Nov. 7th.

The sponsoring Great Falls Model Railroad Club has acquired a new home in downtown Lewiston. For information about the club, its activities and membership, call Paul Lodge, 207/966-3641, or write to the Great Falls Model Railroad, P.O. Box 1335, Auburn, ME 04211-1335.

The Great Falls Show also is the location of the Seacoast Division's annual meeting. More about that elsewhere in *The Switch Tower*.

TRIVIA

Here's yet another piece of trivia for you. Ever hear of Sirerodromophobia?

CONTEST WINNER

Kudos to Larry Cannon, division vice president and AP chairman, for winning second prize in the *NMRA Bulletin's* 1998 article contest. The prize, Larry says, is \$200 in merchandise from Walthers, plus payment for the article from the editor. According to the full-page ad in the March 1998 NMRA Bulletin, the grand prize this year was a trip for two on Amtrak to the NMRA national convention in Kansas City, Kansas, four nights lodging and registration for two at the convention. So start planning now for next year and look for ads in upcoming issues of the *Bulletin*.

LEAF PEEPERS IN MAINE

The *New England Fall Foliage Express*, operated out of Portland by a Seattle-based tour operator, was in many ways reminiscent of the Fall Foliage Excursions sponsored by the 470 Railroad Club of Port-

land. Remember hearing about the annual Portland to Island Pond, Vermont journeys that began at the Grand Trunk yard on India St. in Portland? The 1998 version, however, stopped short of Island Pond, but covered all of New England and was quite a bit more expensive. The entire trip, including motorcoach and train travel, meals and overnight accommodations, cost about \$21-hundred. (I remember when 470 planners winced at charging \$25 for a round-trip ticket on its trains.) After an elaborate ribbon-cutting ceremony, with a failed attempt to break a bottle of champagne over a car handrail, the train—two stainless steel dome cars, one of them a veteran of Burlington's *Twin City Zephyr*, two stainless steel coaches and a blue smooth-side HEP baggage car—was hauled out of Portland by St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railroad GP40 no. 3000 and GP9 no 58. The name *Montana Daylight* was painted in gold on blue panels on the car's letterboards. The tour company also scheduled a pair of shorter trips with lower ticket prices for local travelers. Plans are to return next year with even more travelers. Can Amtrak be far behind?

GRAND CENTRAL STATION

The November 1998 issue of *Life Magazine* contains an interesting list of 100 Best Things About America Now. It's the Thanksgiving issue of *Life*, and the publication is grateful for everything from Jay Leno's humor regarding the Clinton scenario (number 1) to Clinton's college student daughter, Chelsie (number 100). Of interest to railfans is *Life's* number 94, the restoration of Grand Central Terminal. (Didn't it used to be called Grand Central Station, or am I remembering a radio program of my youth?) *Life's* editors say they are grateful for "the new marble staircases and newly shining constellations (stars) on the ceiling."

TRIVIA ANSWER

Sirerodromophobia, simply stated, is the fear of railroad travel. Don't look it up in a dictionary, because it probably isn't listed. At least it wasn't in my dictionary, the Random House (paperback, c. 1980), that says a phobia is "an obsessive or irrational fear or anxiety of some object or situation."

—Ron Palmquist

President's Message

(Continued from page one)

and one four-car freight train. One train with a GP and an F7 made the trip up through Crawford Notch. Two trains made several trips up and down the valley to Conway and to Bartlett. One of these trains was pulled by no. 470, CSR's 0-6-0 ex Canadian National steam engine. There was a large crowd and I saw people coming in by the bus load. I would say it was a successful endeavor, even though I was only there on Saturday.

Coming train shows include: Littleton, N.H. on October 24, the Great Falls Railroad Club Show on Nov. 7 in Auburn, Maine, and the Bedford Boomers Show on Nov. 8 in Bedford, N.H.

Now that cool weather has come again, we can spend more time with our trains. Have a good fall and winter with your trains.

—Sanford (Sandy) Roberts

50 Years ago, Summer 1948

The 55-foot stainless steel flag pole, which is to be dedicated at Colby College (in Waterville, Maine) on Saturday in a ceremony honoring men who lost their lives in the Civil War, World War I and World War II, has been mislaid somewhere in transit. It was shipped on a (railroad) flatcar on May 25 from Camden, N.J., and has not been seen or heard from since.

—from the files of the
Lewiston Sun Journal newspaper

Fast Freight

Monopoly

Now there's an updated version of Monopoly — the player who buys all four railroads automatically goes bankrupt.

I can't name all four Monopoly railroads — can you? If so, let me know.

—Editor

Division Business

The Board of Directors held its meeting on September 6, 1998, at Director Al Thurston's home in Auburn, Maine.

The meeting started at 7:13 p.m.

The previous minutes were accepted as printed. There was no finance report as the treasurer left the report home. It was noted that we still have some members who have not paid their 1998 dues.

A change in the Division By-laws was approved to be sent out to the membership as follows: Dues will be \$5.00 per year, except that new members will pay \$8.00 and receive a Seacoast Division membership patch. This will be a mail ballot. The patch design is being worked on and it will be a few months before we have the new patches.

The newsletter was discussed and Ron Palmquist, the editor, stated that if we sell four ads per issue that (the amount received from advertisers) will just about pay for the newsletter. Ads are \$12.50 per issue (or, four issues for the price of three - \$37.50).

After the By-laws change is voted on, we will do a mailing for new members. Terry King, who also is the Northern New England Director for the NMRA's Northeastern Region, will try to have a table at the Brewer Show on November 21, a Saturday, to try to gain members for both the Region and the Division. Selling points for the membership drive were discussed, and it was noted that a Division acts as a clearing house for area modelers and clubs. It runs contests and other events to promote the hobby to outsiders and to increase knowledge for its members.

The annual meeting and election will be at the Great Falls Model Railroad Show in Auburn at 1 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

—Terry King, Secretary-Treasurer

Second Section

What's new at the hobby shop

ROLLING STOCK

The newest offering from the Eastern Maine Model Railroad Club is an HO-gauge Bangor & Aroostook 52-foot double-door box car. Some background, provided by the club's newsletter, *The Katahdin Valley Courier*: The car "has been used primarily in paper service, but a small block of these cars was assigned to haul bagged tapioca from the docks at Searsport to the French's plant in Aroostook County." Branchline produced the car from a Details West kit. It is available in two road numbers at \$13.95 each, or \$26.90 a pair. Also on their list of available products: Shurtleff covered hoppers in N-gauge and maxi-loads and lumber loads for your 72-foot Walthers HO lumber cars. For more info, contact the club at P.O. Box 252, Brewer, ME 04412-0252. Their web site, updated monthly, is

<http://freeyellow.com/members/emmrcl/LOCOMOTIVES>

If you haven't seen Kato's new Alco RS-2 engine, high-tail it down to your nearest hobby emporium and ask for a demonstration. Smooth-running? Of course. Crawl? Well, I guess. Its out-of-the-box perfor-

mance is impressive. Too bad it's not available in Chicago & North Western green and yellow or black. But, it is available in D&H, NYC and CP, as well as some western roads. Did I mention the RS-2 is HO gauge? There is also an Alco RSC-2 in HO. Both engines are expected in N-gauge, too.

For many years, we've been reading ads for the Highliner EMD F unit superstructure kit for B-units. Now, the magazines tell us Highliner decorated A-units will be released as part of a new Athearn series of diesel locomotives. Ask your hobby retailer for the latest info on the availability of this long-anticipated product that will permit modelers to have F2A and B, F3A and B, F7A and B and F9A and B engines from the same kit.

MAINE TRAINS

For many years, Jack Raser has operated his **Maine Trains** shop in the basement of his home in Bar Mills. We understand illness has forced Jack to sell the business, which a newspaper ad says has been reopened in Kezar Falls by new owners.

The Switch Tower 1998 CALENDAR

There are many scheduled events of interest within a reasonable driving time in our area of New England. So, dig out your date books and enter those shows and excursions that you really don't want to miss.

November 7 -- Great Falls Railroad Club Show, Auburn Middle School, Upper Court St., Auburn, Maine. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Adults \$3, under 15 \$1.50, family max. \$9. Info: Terry King, 207/933-2477.

Nov. 8 -- 16th Annual Railroad Exhibition by the Bedford Boomers, 10 a.m., - 4 p.m., McKelvie School, Bedford, N.H.

December 5 -- Train Show, Winooski Educational Center, Winooski, Vermont. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info: John Malcovsky, 802/8862-7634, or 802/855-3589 (work number).

Dec. 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, 27 -- Steam Days at the Maine Narrow Gauge Railroad Co. & Museum, 58 Fore St., Portland. Info: 207/828-0814.

NMRA National Conventions

July 17-24, 1999 -- Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minn.

July 30-Aug 6, 2000 -- San Jose, Calif.

Summer 2001 -- Saint Louis, Mo.

Summer 2002 -- Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Advertising Section

We appreciate the support of our first two advertisers, *Rainy Day Trains in Scarborough* and *Train & Trooper in No. Yarmouth*. Business card advertising rates for *The Switch Tower* are \$12.50 for one issue, or \$37.50 for three issues, with the fourth issue free. The advertising will permit the *Seacoast Division* newsletter to pay for itself, and help keep annual dues down to an affordable level. —Editor

Rainy Day Trains and Collectibles



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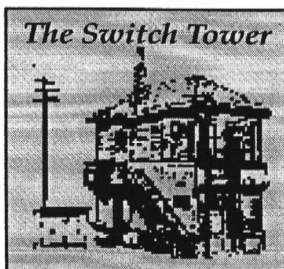
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