

# The Switch Tower

Seacoast Division, Northeastern Region, National Model Railroad Association  
Larry Cannon, *President* • Terrence P. King, *Sec'y/Treas.*

Volume Six

First Quarter 1999

Number One

## President's Message

### The future is you!

by Larry Cannon

I wish to say hello to those whom I have not yet met; also to thank those who started the revitalization of the Seacoast Division, and to thank those who kept the flame alive the years the Division was inactive.

#### PLANNING

My agenda is very simple: 1) we need to increase membership and representation in all areas of the Division; 2) the Division serves to unite the model railroaders of New Hampshire and Maine and modelers should be made aware of that fact; and, 3) the Division can and should help individual modelers, groups and clubs in both states by supporting clinics, model contests and the NMRA Achievement Program.

As a Division, we should not do what others—divisions, regions and national and the model rail press—already do. There already are enough model railroad shows, new product columns and coverage of national and regional events. We ought to focus on our area and our modelers. We need your submissions to the Editor to maintain our focus. Please help.

Many of you have been involved in club shows and know the work, planning and exhaustion accompanying such an event. My opinion, shared by others, is that it would be darned nice if someone outside the club or sponsoring group would come in and run, or help run, contests, clinics and Achievement Program judging. It would certainly add to the quality of our shows without a lot of extra work

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## Larry Cannon is new Seacoast Division president

The Seacoast Division, NMRA, has elected award-winning model railroader Larry Cannon of Auburn, Maine, as its president for 1999. Larry was vice-president in 1998.

In his first president's message, Larry has listed a three-point agenda for his term in office: Increased membership, increased awareness of the unity strengths of the Division for modelers in Maine and New Hampshire and more help for modelers, groups and clubs by supporting clinics, model contests, photo contests and the NMRA Achievement Program.

Larry also has been elected secretary of

the Northeastern Region, NMRA and will continue as the Seacoast Division's Achievement Program chairman.

A model railroader since age 6, Larry has been a large-scale modeler since 1993. He rejoined the NMRA in 1994. He is actively participating in the Achievement Program, winning Merit Awards at both the regional and national levels, and is working to complete his requirements to earn the NMRA designation Master Model Railroader.

He also has published two articles in the NMRA Bulletin, and has pledged to lead

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## Pssst: NMRA membership is great—pass it on!

How long have you been a member of the National Model Railroad Association? And, why did you join?

Membership in the NMRA is a highly individualistic thing. Looking back at my experience, I first joined NMRA in Denver to affiliate with the Rocky Mountain Region whose members were interested in Denver & Rio Grande Western three-foot narrow gauge. I still have scale drawings for locomotives and cars that were drawn by the late Billi Bowen, who was RMR president at the time; the plans were published as inserts in the RMR's newsletter, *The Helper*. (By the way, Billi Bowen was recently elected a member of the Model Railroad Hall of Fame. Bowen also hosted the first model railroading program on public television (KRMA-TV) in Denver). *The*

*Helper* was chock-full of information for modelers, announcements of meetings, contest results, new products and modeling ideas, and there was prototype information, conventions, contests, annual meetings and other events.

NMRA membership continues to offer individual model railroaders fellowship, a monthly magazine, a reference library, an achievement program, contests, local activities, a pass exchange, access to Master Model Railroaders, standards, recommended practices, periodical index, directory of information, glossary of terms, estate counseling, retailer's network, modeler's aid, etc. How about you? Share your experience with others—recruit a new member to join in the fun..

—Ron Palmquist

# DUES ARE DUE

# The Switch Tower

Volume Six, Number One, First Quarter 1999

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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:

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### From the Editor's Desk

## Along the R-O-W

### HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The management and staff of *The Switch Tower* hope that 1999 will be a super year for all, and that your list of resolutions includes a start-up of your own personal **Millennium Midland** model railroad. Please share some ideas with our fellow Seacoast Division, NMRA members so that we can present plans for a proposed Twenty-first Century model railroad — layout, scenery, structures, locomotives and cars—to readers of Vol. 7, No. 1, the First Quarter 2000 issue of our newsletter.

(How about a few Alco Century Locos?)

### NEW OFFICERS

New officers have been elected by the Seacoast Division, and are listed elsewhere in *The Switch Tower*. It has been a pleasure to work with outgoing president Sandy Roberts, who remains a Division director. Seacoast Division elected and appointed officers are listed in column 1.

### TRIVIA

How many public grade crossings are maintained by the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad?

### AMTRAK'S "GOLDEN" SPIKE

Representatives of Amtrak, Guilford Transportation Industries, the Maine Department of Transportation and TrainRiders/Northeast recently drove ceremonial spikes into rail ties on the GTI mainline tracks behind the old Maine Central Office Building in Portland. The symbolic ceremony signaled the start of rehabilitation of the Portland-Boston track on

which Amtrak train service is to begin. It's been a long haul for supporters of the service, who began lobbying efforts 10 years ago. Now, the most reliable estimate for a start-up date is sometime late in the year 2000. Rumors indicate the Portland Amtrak station will not be at that location, where Union Station was located. The talk is that Amtrak will use a facility at Thompson's Point, adjacent to the former Maine Central steam locomotive shop facility and not far from the current Concord Trailways bus terminal.

### TRIVIA ANSWER

There are 15,000 public highway-rail grade crossings on the huge BNSF, almost half of them equipped with active warning systems—flashing lights or bells and gates, according to the *Denver Post* newspaper. The information was included in an article headlined "Railroads post emergency numbers at crossings." The National transportation Safety Board recommended that all major railroads "devise and implement, without delay, a 24-hour toll-free emergency notification telephone number for use by the public" following a May 2, 1995 Amtrak-tractor-trailer collision that injured 33 of the 293 passengers on board the 16-car *Silver Star* train. BNSF plans include posting signs at all private crossings, too.

### NEW MEMBERS

You are encouraged by our officers and directors to recruit some new members for our Division. An application blank is included with this issue, so pass it along to a friend who will enjoy participating in our Division's activities. We are a growing organization and look forward to your help in this important way.

—Ron Palmquist

## Division Business

The annual meeting of the Seacoast Division of the Northeastern Region of the National Model Railroad Association was held on November 11, 1998, at the Auburn Middle School in Auburn, Maine, during the Great Falls Model Railroad Club annual train show.

The meeting was opened at 1:10 p.m. by Pres. Sanford Roberts. All were in attendance except for the following directors: Larry Cannon (out of town on a hunting trip), Ray Houlihan and Walter Ronfeldt. The secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting and they were accepted with some changes. Al Thurston and Terry King were re-elected directors. The secretary reported that the proposed by-law changes were accepted with a vote of

11 for and one against. The Board elected Larry Cannon as president. Mr. Cannon had expressed a willingness to serve as president. As the president-elect was not present, his appointments would have to be announced at a later date. The next meeting will be announced at a later date. The new Division logo was discussed and as we are getting this developed free it is taking a long time. As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:41 p.m.

(Secretary's note: Terrence P. King has been reappointed secretary. Larry Cannon is looking for someone to accept the positions of vice-president and treasurer. Terry King will continue as treasurer until a new one is appointed.)

Respectfully submitted,

Terrence P. King, Secretary/Treasurer

## President's Message

(from page one)

for those who are generally overworked already.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

This outside participation should not, in fairness, always be performed by the same group of people. I am attempting to enlist a dozen people around the Division who would do, or be willing to learn how to do, contest or photo judging. It is not as hard as it may appear; even I learned how to do photo judging and no one has threatened my life yet.

Tim Byrne of Scarborough, Maine, has volunteered to head our Photo Contest effort. Dwight Smith of Kearsage, N.H., has offered the same for Model Contests. Both have notable records of participation in the hobby of model railroading, and I am glad to have their support. Three other people have agreed to help them out. We need about a dozen other part-time people, divided in the two contest areas, to make sponsoring contests an easily achievable task within the Division.

### YOU CAN DO IT

Clinics (believe it or not!) will take care of themselves with nominal effort. For the past two years, I have helped with the Rail Clinic run in March in North Yarmouth, Maine, by the Great Falls Model Railroad Club, my home club. People who are interested and good at something can and do volunteer their time for such things. Listen to your modeling friends: If they think you could run a clinic, you can. Tell your friends that could run a clinic that they should.

### OUTREACH

I intend, during my time as President, to spend some time visiting, calling and otherwise pestering the clubs and influential modelers in the Division to ask for their involvement in the Division's activities, and for their opinions on how the Division should help its modelers. At this time I have jobs looking for people; particularly for contests, member services, encouraging new membership and making contacts with clubs, groups and individuals who are not aware of the presence of the Seacoast Division, NMRA.

If you would like to pick one of these jobs, please call me. If you are willing to try and learn, like the rest of the hobby of model railroading, experience is not required.

## Obituary

We're sorry to report the recent death of southern Maine model railroader Chandler Cobb, 79, of Kittery. He liked big trains, too, and was a long-time member of the 470 Railroad Club of Portland. A close friend, Bill Robertson, says "Chan" modeled the Maine Central and Boston & Maine railroads and had a large model railroad layout in his home. Bill recalls that Cobb assembled a "Casey Jones" locomotive kit for him and created a Maine Central ten-wheeler that he has displayed in a bookcase in his home. We send along sincere sympathies to Mrs. Cobb and to other members of the Cobb family.

*"James Bond gazed vaguely at one of the most romantic signs in the world . . . The great trains are going out all over Europe, one by one, but still, three times a week, the Orient Express thunders superbly over the 1490 miles of glittering steel track between Istanbul and Paris . . ." — Ian Fleming, From Russia With Love, 1957*

## Say hello to . . . . .

Tim Byrne and Dwight Smith have agreed to volunteer to handle contests—photo and models, respectively—for the Seacoast Division, NMRA.

Tim is a new director of the Seacoast Division, and a member of the Portland Terminal Modular Model Railroad Club. He knows contests. Last summer, he won multiple honors in the photography contest at the 1998 NMRA national convention in Kansas City. Tim took second place in the Model Black & White Print category (NYC #8223 *Leaving Lake Placid*) and an honorable mention in the Prototype Black & White Print category (*Interior of Parlor Car Rangeley*) and first place Prototype Color Print (*Harpers Ferry Bridge from Eastbound Capitol*).

Tim is a consultant as well as a photographer who has been interested in trains since his youth. Before moving to Maine, he was president of the Plattsburgh Model Railroad Club in upstate New York. He's a member of the Portland Terminal Modular Club and has for several years been chairman of *Railfair* at the Maine Narrow Gauge Museum and Railroad in Portland.

Dwight Smith is a retired professional railroader. His career included assignments at the Springfield Terminal electric railway in Vermont, the Boston & Maine Railroad in Portland and the Providence & Worcester Railroad in Massachusetts. Upon leaving full-time railroading, Dwight and two partners established the Conway Scenic Railway in New Hamp-

shire.

Dwight is a long-time member of the 470 Railroad Club of Portland. He currently serves as treasurer of the North Conway Model Railroad Club and is Chief Operating Officer of his Vermont home model railroad. He, too, has been a photographer and an author of rail-related subjects for many years and a passenger train rider (you can enjoy reading about the Amtrak trips made by him and his wife in the 470 Railroad Club newsletter).

## BOD meeting open to all Seacoast Division members

Secretary Terry King has announced there will be a meeting of the Seacoast Division Board of Directors on February 20, 1999, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting location will be the facility of The Great Falls Model Railroad Club on Canal Street Alley in Lewiston, Maine. This is a Board of Directors meeting, he explains, "but all members are encouraged to attend." There will be someone at the club at noontime. The Great Falls Model Railroad Club is in the process of building a layout, and members will be happy to show visitors around the layout room, the library and the workshop.

If you need more information, please contact Terry at 207/933-2477 (phone or FAX) or e-mail at [tking@megalink.net](mailto:tking@megalink.net).



# The Switch Tower

## 1999 CALENDAR

Listed below are just a few of the many upcoming events of interest to model railroaders living in the Maine and New Hampshire territory of the Seacoast Division, NMRA. If you have an event to publicize, please contact the editor to be included in our Calendar.

**February 20 -- Seacoast Division Board of Directors Meeting, 2 p.m., at the Great Falls Model Railroad Club facility, Canal St. Alley, Lewiston, Maine. Info: Terry King, 207/933-2477 or e-mail: tking@megalink.net**

**March 20 -- Northwestern Vermont Model Railroading Society Show, South Burlington Middle School. Info: Jack Romanoski, 802/862-1605.**

**March 28 -- 16th Annual Train & Hobby Expo, Armory, North Manor Ave., Kingston, N.Y. Info: Tom Scrivani, 914/331-4218.**

**May 22 -- 26th Annual Model Train Show, North Conway Model Railroad Club, John Fuller School, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Info: Bill Belcher, 603/447-5447.**

**May 28-30 -- NER Spring Convention, Radisson Hotel, Utica, N.Y. Info: John C. Campbell, Jr., 315/797-8010.**

## Cannon division president

(from page 1)

the way in contributing original material for *The Switch Tower*. Tim Byrne was elected a Division director. Re-elected Seacoast Division Directors were Ray Houlihan and Walter Ronfeldt. Other directors are Larry Cannon, Sandy Roberts, Terry King, Ron Palmquist and Al Thurston.

### NER OFFICERS

Glenn Glasstetter of Richmond, Vt., is the new president of the Northeastern Region, NMRA. He moves up from NER vice-president. Glenn is a life member of NMRA, and has been active in the region for almost 10 years. A charter member of the Green Mountain Division, Glenn is a member of the Northwestern Vermont Model Railroading Society and co-chaired the 1992 spring NER convention.

Seacoast Division Pres. Larry Cannon also was elected NER secretary. Seacoast Division secretary-treasurer Terry King was re-elected northern New England director.

## NMRA National Conventions

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

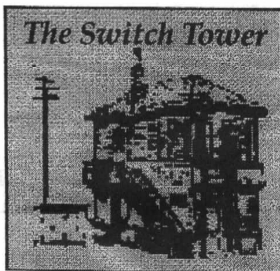
July 30-Aug 6, 2000 -- San Jose, Calif.

Summer 2001 -- Saint Louis, Mo.

Summer 2002 -- Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

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**THE SEACOAST DIVISION  
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**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip + 4 \_\_\_\_\_

N.M.R.A number: \_\_\_\_\_ N.E. Region number: \_\_\_\_\_

Scale: G O O27 S HO N Z (NARROW GAUGE  3FT  2FT

Do you belong to a club? Name \_\_\_\_\_

Other railroad interests: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Tel: (    )        -        Work Tel: (    )        -



Submit with a check or money order for \$5.00 annual dues to:

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