

The Switch Tower

Sea Coast Division, Northeastern Region, National Model Railroad Association
Larry Cannon, *President* • Terrence P. King, *Secretary* • Tim Byrne, *Treasurer*

Volume Six

Second Quarter 1999

Number Two

President's Message

Joint division meeting in N.H. April 25

by Larry Cannon

Our February director's meeting was lightly attended, but reasonably productive. Tim Byrne agreed to be our treasurer, relieving Terry King of his dual responsibilities.

The most significant change results from a discussion that precipitated my objectives as president that I outlined in the last issue; increasing membership, uniting New Hampshire and Maine modelers and serving the needs of individuals, groups and clubs via clinics, contests and the Achievement Program.

The group in attendance can be characterized as longer-term modelers who have all contributed to the hobby and, in many cases, have been club officers. The point was made that my goals and most of our efforts since reviving the Sea Coast Division have not emphasized the fraternal aspects of a Division, or of the hobby. One of the greatest advantages of belonging to the Sea Coast Division should be to meet and talk with other model railroaders. We had an opportunity waiting in the wings to start increasing that advantage.

I had visited with Dwight Smith, who lives

just outside of North Conway, N.H., about our mutual model railroading interest, and as part of my effort to expand interest and membership in New Hampshire, Dwight has suggested a joint Sea Coast Division and Green Mountain Division meeting in that area. Those in attendance at our meeting were in

agreement that we should try to do this for our April meeting. Thanks mostly to Dwight's efforts, it's a done-deal.

Sunday, April 25th, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., the Sea Coast Division and the Green Mountain Division will hold a joint meeting at the cafeteria of the Hartmann Model Railroad Museum on Town Hall Road off Routes 302 and 16 in Intervale, N.H. We plan to follow a forum style presentation with very brief introductory remarks, presentations with questions and answers for the Achievement Program, contests and conducting clinics. If

time and facilities allow, we might squeeze in a clinic or two.

The facilities open at 10 a.m., but earlier arrivals may want to view the outdoor exhibits at the North Conway Scenic Railroad in downtown North Conway. The Museum's Glacier Express Café offers a lunch that tops out at \$4.25. The Museum itself and the hobby shop will be open. Dwight is lining up two layout tours, one his own very nice home layout, at the conclusion of the program. The Hartmann Museum has a website www.hartmannrr.com

AGENDA/Joint Meeting

SEA COAST & GREEN MOUNTAIN DIVISIONS

HARTMANN MODEL RAILROAD MUSEUM, TOWN HALL RD.,
OFF ROUTED 302 & 16, INTERVALE, N.H.

INTRODUCTION - Glenn Glasstetter, NER Pres.
ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM - Larry Cannon, Sea
Coast Div. AP Chair / Paul Allard, NER AP Chair

PHOTO CONTESTS - Tim Byrne
MODEL CONTESTS
LUNCH

CLINICS, QUESTIONS/ANSWERS
LAYOUT TOURS

Info: Terry King - 207/933-2477

Glenn Glasstetter - 802/434-3316

for those interested.

This is a first-time effort at something that would be interesting to do on a periodic basis at a very good location. I hope you all can attend, and share the opportunity to enjoy the fraternal aspects of the hobby.

• MODEL RAILROADING'S FINE IN '99 •

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E. Livermore, ME 04288-0188

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

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Walter Ronfeldt, Allen Thurston
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Model Contests - Dwight Smith

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Company Store

Division patches are here!

by Terry King

After a year of promises, the Sea Coast Division patches are here. The patches are round, three-inches in diameter with a white background. The patch center features steam and diesel locomotives in black superimposed over a compass with an arrow pointing Northeast. Outside of center, there are two red circle lines on each side of a line of blue lettering that reads: "SEA COAST DIVISION NORTH-EASTERN REGION OF THE NMRA."

The center section of the patch - the steam and diesel locomotives and the compass/arrow - was designed by Conrad Ray, a member of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club. (It was initially drawn for another project of mine years ago, but was never used. Herb Rea, son of Paul Rea, the

owner of The Freight Station hobby shop in Auburn, Maine, scanned the drawing and developed the remainder of the patch for us. As he was doing this for free, it was

difficult to complain about the time it took to accomplish the project. Then, of course, I added to the time-delay by giving him copy that read "Northeast Region" (two words) instead of Northeastern Region, and that took more time to correct.

The patches are available to mem-

bers for \$3.00 each.

If you wish to have one or more, please send a check made out to the Sea Coast Division and a stamped self-addressed envelope to Terrence P. King, P.O. Box 188, East Livermore, ME 04228-0188.



Division Business

Minutes of February 20, 1999 Directors Meeting.

The meeting opened at 2:30 p.m. at the home of The Great Falls Model Railroad Club in Lewiston, Maine.

There were three officers and two regular members present. As this was not a quorum, the president, Larry Cannon, stated that we would have an informal meeting to discuss several matters and hopefully we would have a quorum before the meeting was over.

Terry King, secretary/treasurer, reported that our Sea Coast patches are on order and he expects them in about a month.

Larry Cannon reported that he and Terry King paid a visit to the Bedford Boomers club in New Hampshire to talk about the Sea Coast Division, and to see if we could recruit some new members. He reported that the BBs are quite active, and have no officers. Although we did not sign up any new members, he felt that it was a good trip and established the groundwork for new members in the future.

Pres. Larry has been talking to member Dwight Smith about holding a joint meeting with the Green Mountain Division in North Conway, N.H.

Larry also reported that as a Division we are supposed to submit an annual report to the Northeastern Region, and hold at least two meetings a year with at least 15 in attendance.

Pres. Larry stated that we need to develop a mission statement for the Division.

Director Al Thurston arrived at 3:11 p.m. to give us a quorum.

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as read without change.

The finance report was accepted without change.

Member Tim Byrne was appointed treasurer. Terry King has been holding the twin jobs of secretary and treasurer.

(concluded on page four)

From the Editor's Desk

Along the R-O-W

Larry Cannon, MMR

Congratulations to our Division's president, Larry Cannon, for earning his Master Model Railroader (MMR) designation. He successfully completed his requirements, and is MMR No. 284.

Member-Authors

We are pleased to be able to present in this issue of *The Switch Tower* original material from one of our Division's directors, Walter Ronfeldt. Some of you might remember Walter's model steam locomotive test track, and the awards he earned for his kitbashed steam engine models at various NER/NMRA conventions. Our thanks to him for his efforts, which might include a future piece on kitbashing Spanish-built model motor vehicles. We look forward to hearing from more of our members with material for future issues of *The Switch Tower*.

Vermont Show

It was a pleasure to visit with Glenn Glasstetter, president of the Northeastern Region/NMRA, at the Northwestern Vermont Model Railroading Society Show in South Burlington in March. It was an inter-

esting show, where organizers were hoping for an attendance of 2,000+ for the day-long event. It also was fun to meet and speak with a couple of the officers of the Bridge Line Historical Society, located in upstate New York, whose members are modelers and railfans who are Delaware & Hudson fanatics.

New Hampshire Show

We have learned that the Great Train Show has scheduled dates in Northern New England. A Saturday-Sunday GTS in Manchester, N.H., in March drew over 4,000 paying customers. And, we hear that a Great Train Show will be staged in Portland in August. Stay tuned for details.

Media/Rails

Have you noticed all the railroad equipment (model and prototype) and the many railroad-related locations that have recently been used for television programs, commercials, print advertising and motion pictures? Well, in the April 1999 issue of *Esquire* magazine, on pages 12 and 13, there appears an ad for Kodak black and white film processing. On one page there is a close-up of a Blomberg truck from a diesel locomotive, and on the opposite page are two photos of the nose of Chicago & North Western Dash-diesel 8725. I believe there was a head-end shot of a Union Pacific diesel, too. . . all in glorious black and white developed where

color prints are processed.

A television movie on NBC opposite the ABC Academy Awards program in late March took place on a special passenger train with a pair of rebuilt, low-nose Geeps and cars that appeared to be rebuilt double-deck commuter equipment, with nicely appointed interiors. The story's train was hijacked, on a trip from Denver to Los Angeles, by some bad guys who were trying to extort billions of dollars from the governments of the world after taking over the controls of a special satellite that could produce earthquakes. There were great shots of Denver Union Station and the D&RGW (UP) mainline in the mountains west of Denver.

Perhaps you remember the 1976 motion picture *Silver Streak* that featured a Canadian Pacific Budd-built lightweight consist hauled by a pair of FP9 diesels. It was rumored that Amtrak said no to the project; CP Rail was more helpful. It was interesting to see how they made Canadian farmland look like the southwestern U.S. desert at night on the run from Los Angeles to Chicago on the movie's mythical "AmRoad." A full-size model of the lead FP9 unit, supposedly running out of control, plowed into a make-believe Chicago Union Station concourse.

Keep your eyes open. There's more every day.
—Ron Palmquist

Modelers Corner

Wheel Cleaner for HO Removable Wheelsets

by Walter F. Ronfeldt

Walter Ronfeldt, one of the Sea Coast Division directors, has been modeling for many years. He's particularly interested in the Boston & Albany Railroad, and he models both steam engines and first-generation diesels. Several of his kitbashed steam locomotive models have won prizes at Northeastern Region/NMRA conventions. His Northern New England & Albany model railroad covers about one-third of his Scarborough, Maine, basement. Walter's immediate project is non-rail. He is working on Echo (Barcelona, Spain) \$1.99 automobile models. "I break 'em apart, clean 'em and repaint 'em," he says. "They look great!"

Materials Needed: K&S brass tubing, 7/16" X 1" long for 33" wheels . . . 15/32" X 1" long for 36" wheels

With a fine modeling saw, cut in 3/32" from the end of the tubing by 3/32" deep. Square each end of the cut perpendicular to the tubing wall with the tip of the saw blade. At one end of the cut, carefully snip off 1/16" perpendicular to the saw

cut. This forms the scraping blade. Using small needle-nose pliers, slightly roll the end of the scraper toward the inside of the tubing. With a fine file, carefully file a slight bevel on the end of the scraper blade, just enough to remove the dirt on a wheel but not to cut into it. The outside corner of the blade must be relieved to prevent cutting into the flange fillet. Bend the scraper blade down the inside edge to match the tread angle of the wheel. Dress up all rough spots.

From time to time this tool will need to be fine-tuned.

The Switch Tower

1999 CALENDAR

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

April 25 -- Joint meeting, Sea Coast Division and Green Mountain Division, NMRA, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m., cafeteria of Hartmann Model Railroad Museum, Rts. 302 & 16, Intervale, N.H. Info: Terry King, 207/933-2477.

May 8 -- Train Show, Fenton Chester Arena, Lyndon Center, Vt. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Info: 802/626-9254. (from The Green Mountain Flyer and Dave Camber)

May 22 -- 26th Annual Model Train Show, North Conway Model Railroad Club, John Fuller School, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Info: Bill Belcher, P.O. Box 522, N., Conway, NH 03818, 603/447-5447. (from Dwight Smith)

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

July 17-24 -- NMRA National Convention, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minn.

June 2000 NER Convention, Lyndon State College, Vermont. For details, contact Dave Camber, 802/626-9254 (evenings, 5-9 p.m.), or Tom Winans, 802/626-3353 (work) or 802/626-3604. (from The Green Mountain Flyer)

Division Business

(from page three)

We discussed having quarterly meetings with the B-O-D meeting, with a speaker and clinics. Also, we discussed finding someone to write a column offering advice to modelers with problems, i.e., a helper column. (See page 3.—Editor)

The president will set a date in April for the joint meeting after talking with Dwight again, and the meeting will include some of the following . . . contests, clinics and maybe a clinic on the Achievement Program.

The meeting closed at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terrence P. King, Secretary

"To the Mountains by Rail"

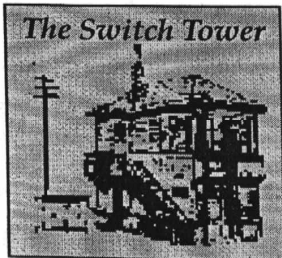
NER Spring Convention May 28-30, 1999 Utica, New York

Clinics, Home Layouts, Contests,
Adirondack RR Fan trip, Banquet
Info: John C. Campbell, Jr., 315/797-8010

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