

The Switch Tower

Seacoast Division, Northeastern Region, National Model Railroad Association
Larry Cannon, *President* • Richard Bretton, *Vice President* • Terrence P. King, *Secretary* • Tim Byrne, *Treasurer*

Volume Six

Third Quarter 1999

Number Three

President's Message

Articles for *The Switch Tower*, please

by Larry Cannon

You Can Help

Ron Palmquist, editor of our Division newsletter, has a standing request to our membership for articles for *The Switch Tower*. He correctly believes that member articles will make the publication more enjoyable, and further our goal of not duplicating information available to you elsewhere. My thought is that if every member of the Division contributed 100 to 300 words per year, Ron would no longer be starved for unique material.

You Can Write

Most of us are better writers than we think, especially when we write about a subject we like and know something about. Model and railroad photography, good railfanning locations, layout visits or reviews, thoughts about preparing for contests or the Achievement Program are all equally interesting.

"How To" Article Basics

If you want to write a "how to" article, I have some basic suggestions that might help if you have not already considered them.

The article should be sequential. Think of the process, write about the process and the article should flow.

You cannot take too many photographs. Most of the time when we feel we can't write about something it is because we lack documentation. Without getting too deep into photography, remember this publication has limited print capabilities. That's a good idea for an article: How do you take pictures for a publication like ours? Photographs will spur your writing juices.

Writing "how to" articles is a matter

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"To the Mountains by Rail"

Division members earn Achievement Program honors at NER Utica convention

by Ron Palmquist

Members of the Seacoast Division, Northeastern Region—National Model Railroad Association, were the recipients of a wide range of recognition for their modeling and photography skills at the NER spring convention, "To the Mountains by Rail—1999," in Utica, N.Y. The meeting was held at the Radisson Hotel Friday through Sunday, May 28-30. The awards were distributed at the convention banquet on Friday evening.

Larry Cannon, our president and Achievement Program chairman, was awarded his MMR (Master Model Railroader) designation by Paul Allard, the NER's Achievement program chairman (photo). Larry says he worked for four years to accumulate the necessary AP certificates to qualify for the MMR designation. He joins a growing number of other NER Master Model Railroaders:

Other award recipients were:

- Dwight Smith, Kearsarge, N.H.; a Merit Award for layout scenery and three car Merit Awards. Dwight also received five structure Merit Awards and an Achievement Program certificate for cars.
- Paul Lessard, Manchester, N.H.; a Merit Award for structures.
- Terry King of Maine; an AP certificate for association volunteer.

Larry Cannon, Auburn, Maine; AP certificates for prototype modeler, association volunteer and author.

Golden Spike awards were given to Larry

Cannon, Dwight Smith, Tim Byrne, Scarborough, Maine, and Richard Bretton of N.H.

In the modeling contest, a first place craftsman non-revenue equipment award (97.3 points) was given to Larry Cannon for his G-scale Maine Central snow plow that features RC-controlled working wings and flanger.

Richard Bretton received a 1st place non-revenue, new-modeler award for his HO B&O caboose 19116 (88.3 points). He kitbashed a plastic steel-type caboose kit into a wood-type car by removing cast-on details and scribing the sides.

Paul Lessard was awarded an honorable mention structures for his model of one of the homes in which he lived.

In the photo contest, Larry Cannon and Ron Palmquist were multiple winners. Larry won a 1st (prototype craftsman/color slide) for his shot of a Morrison-Knudsen locomotive at Northern Maine Junction, and a 1st (master/model color slide) for his snow scene with his Russell snow plow. Ron received a 3rd (master/black & white prototype) for his early 1950s shot of a Union Pacific steam engine hauling the westbound *Portland Rose* passenger train out of Denver Union Station. Judges issued an honorable mention (master black & white prototype) for his photo of a Denver-bound Colorado & Southern diesel-powered heavy-weight passenger train, and in the prototype

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September 9, 1999 at 7 p.m.:
Seacoast Division directors meeting
Great Falls Model Railroad Club, Lewiston, Maine.
Info: Terry King: Phone & FAX: 207/933-2477
(tking@megalink.net)

The Switch Tower

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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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President's Message

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of timing. It is easiest to write when the project is fresh in your mind. I tend to write my articles on models at the same time that I document them for NMRA contest and Achievement Program judging. In fact, the judging information form serves me as a content checklist for the article. One of the hidden benefits of NMRA membership.

Be your own editor. Use word processing tools like Spell Check and Grammar Check. I always print a hard copy of my articles for proof reading. I have some unexplained block that causes me to be totally ineffective when proof reading a computer screen. Let someone else read the article and work on developing a thicker skin at the same time.

Our Editor is Friendly

Ron Palmquist is ready to turn your article into a published product. Ron has lots of experience with words and has constructive advice.

He wants original material that will interest our membership on the subjects of model railroading and railroading as it interests modelers.

Take the challenge; write an article for *The Switch Tower*.

(Walter Ronfeldt, Terry King, Larry Cannon, Sandy Roberts and Dave Collinge have contributed original material to the newsletter. Our thanks to all. —Editor)

Division Business

Minutes of June 19, 1999 Director's Meeting.

by Terry King, Secretary

The spring 1999 meeting of the Executive Committee was held on June 19, 1999 at the home of Sandi and Ron Palmquist in Cape Elizabeth.

In attendance were Larry Cannon, president, Terry King, secretary and Sandy Roberts and Ron Palmquist, directors.

The minutes of the previous meeting (February 20, 1999) were approved without change.

Because the treasurer (Tim Byrne) was out of the country, we did not have a treasurer's report.

A nominating committee was appointed. It's members are Sandy Roberts, Ron

Palmquist and Tim Byrne. The director's terms of Ron Palmquist, Walter Ronfeldt and Sandy Roberts are up for election this year. The term of an officer (director) is for three years.

Our officers (directors) were elected in the following years: 1996: Roberts, Ronfeldt and Palmquist; 1997: Larry Cannon and Ray Houlihan; Terry King, 1998; and, Al Thurston, 2001. 1998

The next (director's) meeting will be held on September 9th at The Great Falls Model Railroad Club in Lewiston at 7 p.m.

The annual meeting was discussed. We will be having contests. The date will be set in September.

It was voted to once again have a joint meeting with the Green Mountain Division to be held next spring in Intervale, N.H. This will feature a program and contests.

Richard Bretton of ~~Manchester~~ Rochester, N.H., was approved as our new division vice president.

The meeting closed at 3:30 p.m.

Division Interchange

The exchange of newsletters among division editors in the Northeastern Region/NMRA has produced some interesting reading, and good ideas that can be shared.

From *Red Markers*, the Central New York Division newsletter, we hear that its 1999 'Pike Registry' is sold out. Ten business card-side ads on a single page were made available to members for \$10 each, for a total income of \$100. For example: E. Scott of Rome, N.Y. advertises his Blue Ridge & Eastern— "50 Years of TT Scale Operations." Rich Petitto advises that his UR.&AP. Lines operates "Under the Rafters and Around the Pipes." Then there's Ed Bommer's The Baltimore and New York Rwy in Cooperstown, N.Y., with "0" Miles of Track.

The Metro North Division/NER has a limited edition Conrail commemorate freight car. It's an HO gauge Bowser 45-foot, oxide red 100-ton triple hopper lettered for Conrail and specially numbered 19761999. The cost is \$11 plus \$2 S&H. Send checks or money orders, payable to Metro North Division, NMRA, to Brian Sullivan, 109 Brookdale Rd., Stamford, CT 06903-4118.

From the Editor's Desk



New Members

In one of the recent issues of the *NER Coupler*, the quarterly newsletter of the Northeastern Region, NMRA, region Pres. Glenn Glasstetter challenged: "Bring an NMRA member into the NER." How about expanding Glenn's call? "Bring an NMRA member into the NER . . . and into the Seacoast Division."

In his newsletter message, Glenn pointed out there are over 2,200 NMRA members living within the NER, but only 709 are NER members.

The numbers of those who belong to the Seacoast Division are, of course, substantially lower. There are about 180 NMRA members who live in Maine and New Hampshire—90 in each state—who are eligible to join those of us who find it of value to attend Seacoast functions, enter model and photo contests, contribute to the newsletter and enjoy neighborly fellowship.

Pres. Larry Cannon and Secy. Terry King would like to hear from our members about membership recruitment ideas. Call them at the telephone numbers listed on page 2, or send an e-mail to Terry. He can be reached at tking@megalink.net

Kalmbach Library

One of the benefits of NMRA membership is access to the A.C. Kalmbach Memorial Library at NMRA headquarters in Chattanooga, Tenn. I've used the library, and was impressed with the service I received. For example: I asked for, and got within a week, a print-out of a computerized list of all model magazine articles that covered the subject of diesel E and F-units. It was most helpful.

I also have discovered that the Library gratefully receives donations. (The Library occasionally publishes a want-list in the *NMRA Bulletin*.) Gordon T. Belt, the library director, says: "The NMRA, and thus the Library, is qualified as a charitable organization under 170(c) and 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. You may be able to deduct the value of your donation from your federal income tax."

Trivia

There is a top-10 list of most endangered railroad stations in the country. What station tops the list?

Convention

We had a great time at the NER convention in Utica. The day-long fan trip on the Adirondack Scenic Railroad was terrific. Our train was powered by an ex-Alaska Railroad F7, still in AR paint, and a nicely decorated black low-nose Alco C420 lettered for the Adirondack. Refurbished ex-Canadian National passenger cars (coaches and a lounge car) were super, as was the baked bean lunch at our seat. Congratulations to all on a job well-done.

So-long, Conrail

Talk about coincidences: The spring NER convention in Utica began as CSX was ready to take over the portion of Conrail located in upstate New York. En route to the convention the day before the day-of-rest just prior to takeover, we were able to shoot Conrail photos in Worcester, Mass., and at Selkirk, N.Y.

An eastbound Conrail train erupted out of a tunnel in Worcester for my wife, Sandi, and me. At Selkirk yard, a half-dozen CSX diesels were spotted among the scores of blue Conrail units,

many of which had been renumbered with black digits on white backgrounds under the cab windows. Shiny new proprietary CSX signs had been installed at Selkirk, but the Conrail flag was valiantly flying high on a pole at the yard office building.

Trivia

The Milwaukee Road depot in Mineral Point, Wisc., is at the top of the list. It was built in 1856, and memorialized many years ago by the late Paul Larson, editor of *Model Railroader* magazine, in illustrated articles of his Mineral Point and Northern model railroad.

MeC Reefers in HO

The Maine Central Railroad had a fleet of refrigerator cars—both of them. MEC 1 and MEC 2.

Now, the Eastern Maine Model Railroad Club is offering the two cars in HO as its latest fund-raising project. "These cars were done for us by Athearn on their 57' mechanical reefer," says the club's latest newsletter, *The Katahdin Valley Courier*. "They feature a silver roof, just as the prototype, with MEC 'Pine Green' graphics." The body is Maine Central "Harvest Gold" in the earlier of the two paint schemes. "It is one of the best color matching jobs we have ever seen," the newsletter says. Included are Athearn—KD-clone couplers. The cars are \$12.95 each or \$24.95 a pair, plus \$3.50 shipping and handling. To order, send a check or money order to EMMRC, P.O. Box 745, Blue Hill, ME 04614-0745 (new address).

The EMMRC has a few earlier cars available: Accurail 3-Bay Shurtleff covered hoppers and CDAC (Canadian American) 50-foot high cube box cars.

The club also has a web site, which is updated monthly, where you can see the latest car releases in color. The club can be reached at <http://www.freeyellow.com/members/emmrc/>

The club also has a new Internet service with announcements, club projects, new car releases and prototype news. To subscribe, go to: www.onelist.com/subscribe/emmrc

ALL ABOARD!

USPS releases first-class railroad stamps

The United States Postal Service has issued a 33-cent All Aboard! 20th Century Trains commemorative stamp. Each stamp is a reproduction of a watercolor painting of one of five trains, with a landscape representative of its route in the background. The stamps feature the illustrations of Ted Rose of Santa Fe, N.M. On the back of each stamp is text describing the train's unique features. The trains are the *Daylight* (S.P.), the *Congressional* (Pennsylvania), the *Hiawatha* (Milwaukee Road), the *20th Century Limited* (N.Y.C.) and the *Super Chief* (Santa Fe). The five stamps, available in sheets of 20, went on sale August 26, 1999.

(From *USPS Postal Bulletin*)

If you want more information about the railroad stamps, contact our secretary who is a USPS official in Maine. The stamps would be a great accompaniment to the railroad Christmas Cards you are ordering for holiday mailings (I received my *Leanin' Tree* catalog last week.)—Editor

The Switch Tower

1999 CALENDAR

Listed below are a number of upcoming events of interest to model railroaders living in the Maine and New Hampshire territory of the Seacoast Division, NMRA. Please contact the editor if you have an event to publicize in our Calendar.

September 9 -- Seacoast Division directors, 7 p.m. Great Falls Model Railroad Club, Lewiston, Maine. Info: Terry King: Phone & FAX: 207/933-2477 (tking@megalink.net)

September 12 -- Concord Model Railroad Club Show, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Everett Arena, Concord, N.H. Info: Rich Fifield, 603/8061.

September 15-18 -- National Narrow Gauge Convention, Portland, Oregon. Info: 1999 NNGC, 10029 S. W. Quail Post Rd., Portland, OR 97219. Phone: 503/293-6595. E-Mail tmbrtms@aol.com

September 19 -- Providence & Worcester Railfan Club Model Railroad Show, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Webster Elk's Club Hall, Webster, Mass. Info: Bill Radcliffe, 508/943-3671.

October - Seacoast Division Annual Meeting (details to be mailed to members).

October 16-17 -- NER Fall Convention, North Conway, New Hampshire. (Details in the *NER Coupler*.)

October 16-17 -- 25th Annual Fall Railfan's Weekend, Conway Scenic Railroad. Info: 603/356-5251.

October 30 -- Ammonoosuc Valley Railway Association's 22nd Annual Model Railroad Show, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., National Guard Armory, Littleton, N.H. Info: John L. Wedick, Jr., 603/869-3928.

November 6 -- Bedford (N.H.) Boomers Annual Show,

Maine Narrow Gauge Steam Schedule

Sept. 4-6, Labor Day weekend

October 9-11, Columbus Day

November 26-28, Thanksgiving

For further information, call 207/828-0814

Modeler's Corner

Getting to the Point

I was frustrated the other day while trying to accurately place start-up drill holes for air and mu hoses, hand rails and grab irons in a black Athearn undecorated F-unit shell that is destined to become a green, yellow and silver Chicago & North Western Executive F-unit. But, all the sharp devices in my tool box had pointed tips that were too large. What to do?

As I pondered my dilemma, I remembered reading about a potential solution. The old needle in a cork ploy.

I located a couple of small corks in a drawer and immediately headed for my wife's sewing kit. I found a needle that was just about the correct size. I carefully inserted it into the center of the small diameter of one of the corks, and voila! A model-maker's awl. Awl-fully clever, eh? I used the other cork to "cap" the pointed end before putting the new tool in my tool box.

Got any ideas for home-made modeling tools? Let's have 'em.

—Ron Palmquist

Seacoast Division Northeastern Region National Model Railroad Association

Organized 1960

Chartered 1968

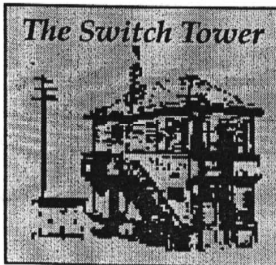
First Show, Dover, N.H.
Sponsored NER Convention,
No. Conway, N.H., 1971

SEA COAST DIVISION, NER—NMRA

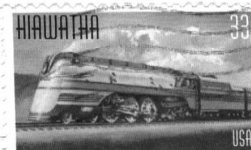
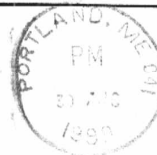
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