

The Switch Tower

Seacoast Division, Northeastern Region, National Model Railroad Association

Larry Cannon, President • Richard Breton, Vice President • Terrence P. King, Secretary • Tim Byrne, Treasurer

Volume Seven

First Quarter 2000

NumberOne

President's Message

Long-term Division interests include you!

by Larry Cannon

Join a division or form a group (or even the Seacoast Division)!

The majority of model railroaders are lone-wolf modelers who associate with other modelers on almost an accidental basis. This lack of socialization often is the result of geography, work or school pressures, family responsibilities, etc. These modelers tend to expand their horizons with magazines, videos, hobby shops, train shows and the NMRA.

These people, by my personal, highly subjective, opinionated, measurement partake of at least two-thirds, and maybe three-quarters, of what the hobby of model railroading has to offer.

By today's fast-flying standards, getting two-thirds the satisfaction out of anything is pretty good!

For example: Look at the New England Patriot's fans who hold season tickets. I can't help the Patriot's fans, but I can tell you that you can increase your enjoyment of model railroading with nominal effort by participating with other modelers—if you are not doing so already.

Most of the reluctance people feel about group participation is that their efforts will be evaluated, or, worse yet, judged, by others. This is a valid concern that requires a combination of a thick skin, and organizing group activities constructively. Clubs and groups need objectives. Simple goals like establishing a small group that meets weekly to socialize, help build layouts and operate layouts of the group's members have led to life-time associations because the goals focus our long-term interests.

The Seacoast Division needs more members to help shape its interests. In

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Division Business

Seacoast meeting May 7th features model, photo contests

Minutes of the January 22, 2000 meeting.

The meeting opened at 2:30 p.m. at the home of The Great Falls Model Railroad Club in Lewiston, Maine. (Before the meeting, the Division members attending were given a tour of the club and light refreshments were available.)

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved without changes.

The treasurer reported that he has \$607.09 in the checking account.

There apparently was a money order from the previous treasurer that had not been deposited. The report was accepted.

The next meeting will be March 25th at the same location.

Railclinic 2000 was discussed. This will be held on March 18th in North Yarmouth.

At 4:00 p.m. that day, there will be a discussion of the benefits of belonging to the N.M.R.A.

The NER convention in Lyndonville, Vermont in June was discussed.

Clinics and contests were brainstormed. Photo and slide contests were talked about for the April meeting in North Conway.

Ron Palmquist will write an article for The Coupler on the Division membership

drive.

The need for additional revenue sources was discussed.

The need for an annual calendar also was talked about.

The meeting was closed at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Terrence King, secretary

Minutes of BOD meeting, March 25, 2000

The meeting opened at 1:20 p.m. at The Great Falls Model Railroad Club in Lewiston, Maine, with five of the seven directors present, plus one new member.

The minutes of the last meeting and the treasurer's report were accepted as read.

The annual spring meeting will be held at Hartmann's Museum in Intervale, N.H. This will include a Popular Vote Photo Contest in two categories;

prototype and model photos. This will include all formats. Clinics will be presented by Rich Breton (Modification of a Plastic B&O Class I-5C Caboose), Larry Cannon (Modeling Large Scales) and Tim Byrne will also give one on modeling an old (decrepit) piece of rolling stock. There will be a prototype slide

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May 7 is Division annual meeting in New Hampshire

May 7th, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. has been confirmed as the date and time for the Division's annual meeting at the Brass Caboose Hobby Shop in Intervale, N.H. The Hartmanns will be preparing a warm luncheon entry or two in the \$5 range which those participating in the Noon-1:00 p.m. social hour can enjoy.

The Switch Tower

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The Switch Tower

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From the Editor's Desk



NEW AUTHOR

We welcome member Paul Lessard of Manchester, N.H., to our pages. The winner of numerous awards at NER conventions, Paul shares with us his thoughts on some resources to use when researching model railroad construction projects. Paul's most recent prize-winning structure was a family house we all were able to view in the contest room at the NER convention in Utica, N.Y. last year.

Trivia

Half a century ago, the last production-line steam locomotive was built in the U.S. Can you name it?

NER Convention

Here's late news for those of you who are planning to attend NER's Spring 2000 convention, "Rails in the Northeast Kingdom" June 9-11, 2000, on the campus of Lyndon State College, Vermont. Host Green Mountain Division, NER/NMRA reports the Colonnade Inn in Lyndonville is sold out! Until May 15, the following facilities will be holding rooms for conventioners: Fairbanks Motor Inn (802/748-5666), Changing Seasons Motel (802/626-5832), Holiday Motel (802/748-8192). For updates, contact Terry King (telephone, E-mail at left). Mention Model Railroad Convention.

A flyer lists modeling clinics, slide shows, railroad videos, craft contests, photo contests, non-rail clinics and visits to prototype equipment — a 1922 Heisler steam locomotive, 44-ton diesels, cabooses and flangers. Check our calendar on page 4 for details on obtaining detailed information.

100 Years Ago

"Non-smokers who travel on the Bangor & Aroostook will be pleased to hear that the smoking cars will be placed at the rear of the train in the future, so that the smoke will be wafted out over the country where it may kill potato bugs and current worms, instead of filtering through the car windows as it did when the smoker (car) preceded the other passenger coaches."

—from the files of the Lewiston Daily Sun

Steam Memories/Trivia

The last production line steam locomotive built in the U.S. was the Nickel Plate

Road's no. 779, a 2-8-4 delivered by the Lima Locomotive Works in Ohio in 1949. For details, check out Kalmbach Publishing Company's new magazine, *Classic Trains*. It's a quarterly magazine available by subscription and on the newsstands for \$5.95 an issue. The magazine fills a gap created when *Vintage Rails* ceased publication last year. *Vintage Rails* and *Rail News* were published by Pentrex, the video people. However, Pentrex announced in late 1999 they were shutting down the magazines and continuing only in the video business. The good news is that Pentrex arranged for their subscribers to receive *Classic Trains* and another publication to fill out issues remaining on the subscriptions. Good luck to *Classic Trains* and the folks at Kalmbach.

—Ron Palmquist

Division Business

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show presented by Larry Cannon. The time for this is 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Dwight Smith was confirmed as a director to fill the rest of the term of the vacant position.

President Cannon appointed Sandy Roberts chairman of the nominating committee, and Ron Palmquist will also be on the committee. The terms of Dwight Smith and Larry Cannon expire this year. The election will be held at the annual meeting in October. Nominations will be announced at the July meeting. Any member who wishes to be nominated should contact the committee. Secretary's note: The purpose of the nominating committee is to nominate one person for each position. They will nominate the person who they feel is best qualified to fill each position. Anyone who the nominating committee did not nominate may be nominated off the floor. A person may nominate himself or herself, and a second is not necessary. Nominations will be accepted at the May and November meetings.

The next BOD meeting will be held on July 11, 2000 at 7:00 p.m. at The Great Falls Model Railroad Club in Lewiston, Maine.

The meeting closed at 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Terrence King, secretary

Scratchbuilding

Structure Research Sources

by Paul G. Lessard

I got started in the hobby as a teenager back in the early 1960s. Faced with a limited budget, I soon learned to scratchbuild my own structures from articles in *Model Railroader* and *Railroad Model Craftsman*.

As the years passed, I gained proficiency in the art of constructing scale buildings and enjoyed doing the research necessary to make a credible model. My sources include a number of books that I would like to share with Seacoast Division members.

Houses

A Field Guide to American Houses by Virginia and Lee McAlester. This is an excellent book to identify architectural styles, and to determine what is correct for the region in which you live.

Classic Houses of the Twenties by Loiseaux. This book illustrates the many styles and floor plans that were popular in that decade.

Farms

American Barns by Stanley Schuyler. Basically, this book is a pictorial essay of barns all across America.

Big House, Little House, Black House, Barn by Thomas C. Hubka. This is a book with interesting facts and sketches about New England connected farms.

Bridges

Bridge and Trestle Handbook by Paul Mallery. This is an excellent guide for modeling railroad and highway bridges in general.

Covered Bridges of the Northeast by Richard S. Allen. A fine publication on this region's covered bridges with photos and illustrations.

Mills

Mills and Factories of New England by Serge Hambourge. This is a good all-color pictorial essay on a cross-section of New England industry.

D&H Industry Sampler by Rensselaer Model Railroad Society. A book with photos and captions of assorted industries in the D&H territory.

Gas Stations/Diners

New England Roadside Diners by Will Anderson. A good publication about gas stations and restaurants, past and present.

American Diner by Richard J.S. Gutman. An illustrated history of the diner (restaurant) all across America.

Gas Stations by Wayne Henderson and Scott Benjamin. An historic account of gas stations in the U.S.A., magnificently illustrated.

(Our thanks to Paul for his article. If you have an original story idea for an article of general interest to our members, please contact the editor who now has an E-mail address: jronpalmsr@aol.com —Ron Palmquist)

NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND & ALBANY
"Tour The Top Tier"

Walter F. Ronfeldt
34 Glendale Cir.
Scarborough, ME 04074



News from New Hampshire

by Larry Cannon

Dwight Smith has accepted the appointment to fill out Ray Houlihan's vacated position on the Division's Board of Directors. In case you don't know him, Dwight is a retired career Boston & Maine Railroad management type who was for many years the railroad's sales manager in Portland. Previously, he was manager of the Springfield Terminal Railway before Guilford Transportation Services acquired the Vermont shortline. Dwight also worked for the Providence & Worcester Railroad and was instrumental in the establishment of the Conway Scenic Railroad.

Dwight is a long-time model railroader who for many years has been an NMRA member, volunteer and Achievement Program participant. He's an active member of the Conway Model Railroad Club. Dwight has several articles to his credit, and his prototype photos have been used in several publications. He will be conducting a clinic on carloads at the NER convention in June in Lyndonville, Vermont.

Pike Ads

Layout Registry ads are included in this issue of the newsletter. We're offering business card-side ads for \$10 for four issues. We have two listings so far. If interested, send ad copy and a check to the Editor.

St. James & Sandy River Rwy

Route of the

MAINE Train

Cape Elizabeth, Maine
207/799-1761

The Switch Tower

2000 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.

April 29 -- TRAIN SHOW presented by the Downeast Railroad Club, celebrating the 100th anniversary of Casey Jones. Bath Middle School, Bath, Maine. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission: Adults \$3, under 12 free. Family: \$8 (2 adults and 2 over 12). Info: Ron Golek, 207/443-6869, or Bonnie Bergeron 207/729-5716.

May 7 -- DIVISION MEETING, Seacoast Division, NER/NMRA, 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at Brass Caboose Hobby Shop, Intervale, N.H. Details: Larry Cannon, Division President, 207/786-3929, or Terrence P. King, P.O. Box 188, E. Livermore, ME 04288-0188. Phone & FAX: 207/933-2477. E-Mail: tking@megalink.net

May 20 -- NORTH CONWAY MODEL RAILROAD CLUB SHOW, Fullerton School, Pine St., North Conway, N.H., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission: Adults \$2, kids \$1. Club layout will be open in freight house at Conway Scenic RR. Info: William Belcher, 603/447-5447.

June 9-11 -- NER Spring 2000 Convention (Rails in the Northeast Kingdom), Lyndon State College campus, Lyndonville, Vermont. Host: Green Mountain Division, NMRA. Info: Dave Camber 802/626-9254. E-Mail: dave@together.net

June 10 -- Model Railroad Show, Fenton Chester Arena (Exit 23, I-91), Lyndon Center, Vermont. Sponsored by Lyndon Center Sports Association with the help of the NC Model Railroaders. Donation \$2, under 12 free. Info: Bill Johnson 802/592-3362. E-Mail: rockney@together.net or Dave Camber 802/626-9254. E-Mail: dave@together.net

JULY 11 -- SEACOAST DIVISION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING. Information from Terrence P. King, Secretary, P.O. Box 188, E. Livermore, ME 04288-0188. Phone & FAX: 207/933-2477. E-Mail: tking@megalink.net

President's Message

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all but the smallest organizations, at any one time, only a small percentage of the group has the time and energy to tackle a project. In its reincarnation to date, the Division's interests have been focused on the more immediate demands of getting organized and attempting to let the world out there know that we are functioning again. We are starting to consider long-term interests.

I believe, within the limits of resources, those with the time and energy should have more of a say in which projects we choose to attempt to accomplish. For Example: We have been asked if we would consider hosting a regional convention; A number of members would like to have contests; Clinics have been well-received, when offered. It would be nice to schedule our meetings and events on an annual basis so members could more easily make their plans. We need more members, not more money, to be able to plan and do such things more frequently. The resulting money from dues from increased numbers of members would enable things to be more elaborate.

Without formal vote...more by consensus opinion, the Board of Directors at its January 22nd meeting approved the beginnings of a membership drive. The planning and progress will be a subject for discussion at meetings for the foreseeable future. The Board welcomes and encourages the participation of all members in this project. By virtue of membership, you are part of the sales force in this effort. Your participation, comments and suggestions are needed.

Convention Corner

NER Fall 2000 Convention Juniata Junction

October 5-8, 2000 -- Altoona, Penna.

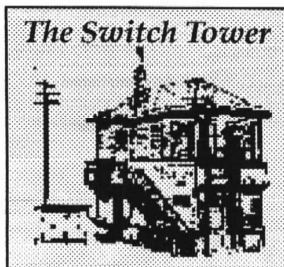
NMRA National Conventions

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

Summer 2001 -- Saint Louis, Mo.

SEACOAST DIVISION, NER/NMRA

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