

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 Seven

Second Quarter 2000

Number Two

President's Message

Seacoast potpourri

by Larry Cannon, MMR

May 7th Meeting

I wish to start by thanking Richard Bretton, Tim Byrne, Roger Robar and Sandy Roberts for their clinic presentations at the May 7th meeting at the Hartmann Museum. We already have arranged another meeting at the Museum next Spring, and one presentation has been promised. We are always looking for free or real cheap meeting locations around the Division to make our meetings more available to members and potential members.

We would like to continue having each meeting center on clinics, presentations, show-and-tell, etc. The Division has only a few formal business responsibilities, and with planning, the business portion of the meetings can be kept brief. I can't always guaranty that business sessions will be as short as May 7th, but I'll try.

Welcome

Our effort to publicize the Division has resulted in more than 20 new members. Welcome aboard to those new members!

Convention?

One large project the Division should consider is sponsoring a Northeastern Region Convention. Preliminary discussions were held at the May 7th meeting, and this topic will continue to be an agenda topic until a formal decision is made whether we'll attempt to sponsor a convention. May or June, for a number of reasons, appears to be better than an October convention. The Portland area is convenient to many railfan attractions. We have access to

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Division Business

A dramatic increase in division membership

The number of members in the Seacoast Division of the Northeastern Region of the National Model Railroad Association has more than doubled, reports Terry King, the Division's secretary and keeper of the membership and mailing lists.

Just over half of the new members live in New Hampshire, and just under 50 percent live in Maine.

The newest Seacoast Division members are:

Raymond Anderson, Auburn, Maine
Charles Andrews, Charlestown N.H.
Stockton Andrews, Bar Harbor, Maine
Salvatore Barbasso, Epping, N.H.
James Brumaghim, Windham, N.H.
Warren Chase, Lewiston, Maine
Jane Coryell, Augusta, Maine

Thomas Coulombe, Lewiston, Maine
Tom Dinsmore, Newcastle, Maine
Peter DuPuy, Keene, N.H.
Jack Ellis, Madison, N.H.
John Ferriday, Sedgewick, Maine
David Gilchrist, Lewiston, Maine
Bill Gaver, Brookfield, N.H.
Tracy Hastings, Belfast, Maine
Bruce Jacobs, Meredith, N.H.
Norman James, Northport, Maine
Jack Lutz, Alton, Maine
Bruce Martin, Alexandria, N.H.
William Plengey, Manchester, Maine
Peter McKenney, Cumberland, Maine
Charles Pike, Seabrook, N.H.
Frederick Pritham, Greenville Junction, Maine

Bruce Robinson, Sandown, N.H.
Paul Sherr, Scarborough, Maine
Emnery Stevens, Portland, Maine
Brad Thompson, Cape Elizabeth, Maine
Richard Wellington, Newmarket, N.H.
George Whittaker, Alexandria, N.H.
Roger Wilson, Cape Elizabeth, Maine
Life Members
New Life Members of the NMRA are Seacoast officers Larry Cannon, MMR, and Terrence King.

Agenda: Seacoast Division Meeting

Tuesday, July 11, 7:00 p.m.

A. Greetings & Welcome

B. Secretary's Report

C. Treasurer's Report

D. Old Business (if any)

1. Membership Drive Progress
2. Nominating Committee Report
3. Other Old Business (if any)

E. New Business

1. Convention Development
2. Other New Business

F. Wrap Up

1. Schedule October Meeting
2. Adjournment

G. Show & Tell, Etc.

We meet at the Great Falls Model Railroad Club, Lewiston
The meeting is open to all Seacoast members.

Pike Ads

As a fund-raiser,
we're offering
business card-size
ads for \$10 for four
issues. If interested,
send ad copy and a
check to the Editor.

The Switch Tower

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Terrence P. King, Secretary
Seacoast Division, NMRA
P.O. Box 188
E. Livermore, ME 04288-0188
Phone/Fax: 207/933-2477
E-mail: tking@megalink.net

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
c/o Ron Palmquist, Editor
P.O. Box 229, Cape Cottage Branch
Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107-0229
207/799-1761 E-mail: jronpalm@aol.com

**Seacoast Division,
Northeastern Region, NMRA**
**Larry Cannon, President and
Achievement Program Chairman**
64 Skillings Corner Rd., Auburn, ME 04210
Phone: 207/786-3929

E-mail: ruthcannon@ime.net
Richard Bretton, Vice President

Terry King, Secretary
Tim Byrne, Treasurer

**Directors: Larry Cannon, Terry King,
Ron Palmquist, Sandy Roberts, Dwight Smith,
Walter Ronfeldt, Allen Thurston**
Photo Contests - Tim Byrne
Model Contests - Dwight Smith

Northeastern Region, NMRA
Glenn Glasstetter, President
655 Hillview Road, Richmond, VT 05477
Phone: 802/434-3316

glenn.glasstetter@cwix.com
Stan Ames, Regional Trustee
8 Higate Rd., Chelmsford, MA 01824
Phone: 978/256-3062

stanames@geocities.com
**Paul Allard, Regional
Achievement Program Chairman**
53 Rollin Irish Road, Milton, VT 05468
Phone: 802/893-2228

Joseph T. Popecki, Editor NER Coupler
33 Woodridge Drive, Burlington, VT 05401
802/863-4121 popecki@globalnetisp.net

**Terrence P. King,
Northern New England Director**
P.O. Box 188, E. Livermore, ME 04288-0188
Phone/Fax: 207/933-2477
E-mail: tking@megalink.net

National Model Railroad Association, Inc.
Headquarters Office
4121 Cromwell Road
Chattanooga, TN 37421
Phone: 423/892-2846 Fax: 423/889-4869
Webb Site: <http://www.nmra.org>

From the Editor's Desk

Along the R-O-W

I'd like to thank the new owners of the publication *Railroad Information* for adding *The Switch Tower* to their mailing list. As a result, we'll receive the latest info regarding events of interest to us in Seacoast-land.

A reminder: All of us are *Switch Tower* reporters, so please let us know about scheduled events and other news that will be of interest to our readers.

Region Website

Did you know the Seacoast Division is listed on the Website of the Northeastern Region/NMRA? There are three pages devoted to access; officers names, addresses, telephone numbers and E-mail addresses, if any. A color logo/patch decorates page one. Our thanks to Ken May, who manages the Website. There are other listings of regional officers, and individual listings of each of the 13 regional Divisions and their operating areas. Check it out. It's an interesting way to keep in touch between issues of the *NER Coupler* and *The Switch Tower*. In addition, you can obtain a complete registration package for the upcoming fall convention. The address:

[http://pages.ctime.net/kenmay/
NERREG06.HTML](http://pages.ctime.net/kenmay/NERREG06.HTML)

CSR

A recent trip to North Conway, N.H. revealed the Conway Scenic Railroad appears ready for the summer 2000 season. Steam loco 7470 should be in service as we speak. Finishing touches were being applied to a new wooden open coach. I asked about CSR's new vista dome coach. A conductor told me it's hidden in an engine house stall and will not be in service this year. How about Crawford Notch in a dome in 2001?

Hobby Shop

If you're a model magazine reader, you probably don't miss much that interests you regarding your personal train acquisitions. However, I've been saving a couple of items to call to your attention. Overland Models has advertised a Maine Central HH "660" diesel switcher 952 in HO brass. The MeC acquired two HH600s (951, 952) from Alco in September 1939. The pair served the railroad for almost three

decades before being scrapped; 951 in March 1967 and 952 in February 1968. (The Portland Terminal Co. rostered four HH600s, 1001-1004.) The photo in the OMI ad shows a good-looking custom paint and lettering scheme with nose stripes and a pine tree logo beneath the cab window above the engine number. The model switcher is equipped with operating lights.

Then, there is one of the latest Funago & Camerlengo offerings: Resin kits for Maine Central low-side steel gondolas in HO scale. Ask your dealer for info.

CV Car Sides

Alan Irwin of the Central Vermont Railway Historical Society reports that Concord Junction has agreed to make a short run of plated brass car sides for *Greenock* and *Green Gables*. The cost is \$50US. If interested, send a check for \$50 (\$42US for a second set) to Alan Irwin, 5 Wildwood Drive, Essex Jct., VT 05452-3815. Questions? Call him: 1-802-878-2528, or E-mail: airwin4559@AOL.com

100 Years Ago, 1900

The Lewiston Sun-Journal always has interesting railroad historical items in its daily column, *Looking Back*. For example: "Station agent E.C. Wood of the 'upper road' in Lewiston and Auburn, can't find enough adjectives to fully express his admiration of the new parlor car service in and out of Lewiston. When the 11 o'clock Portland-Boston-bound train pulled out of the Lewiston station Thursday it was made up of four mail and baggage cars, two parlor cars and three passenger coaches—vestibule from one end to the other."

At a time when most passenger equipment had open platforms, the closed vestibules must have been most welcome for passengers and on-board train personnel alike. —Ron Palmquist

The Railroad Game

Have you heard? 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.

— Ron Palmquist)

Convention Corner

Vermont Spring NER convention "highly successful"

As I write this report, I have just returned from the Spring Convention of the Northeastern Region of the NMRA in Vermont. The Seacoast Division was represented by over 25-percent of our membership attending. Several members participated as clinicians, contest entrants and in Dwight Smith's and Bill Driscoll's cases, holding a layout tour. The Green Mountain Division appreciated the help that Dwight, Bill and others lent to the effort.

As conventions go, this one was highly successful—particularly the clinics and layout tours. I participated in the "Operation Call Board." I got to help operate Peter Eaton's Derby Line, Vermont layout for three hours along with three other people. This experience with a well-conceived and built layout was worth the cost of admission. I visited six other layouts and picked up new ideas to try at each.

I didn't work as hard as I normally do at a convention. I had a great audience of three dozen people in my garden railroading clinic, and spent less than an hour helping judge models. I didn't even drive to half the layouts I visited. Having worked in Vermont, I was the navigator for a visitor from Long Island who was amazed that we could drive I-91 from Lyndonville to Newport and only see a dozen or so other cars.

The convention facilities at Lyndon State College were excellent. College classrooms with more than adequate audio-visual equipment made it as easy as possible to present a clinic. All of the facilities were located within a quarter-mile walk. Even the dormitory rooms weren't bad although it would have been nicer if they had more time to air out after the students' recent departure. Besides, I might remember dreams when I'm asleep but I can't recall remembering smells.

The Seacoast Division was well represented at the awards presentations. Jack Ellis, who joined the Division recently and worked to the last minute on an urban diorama, captured the popular vote for structures, first place diorama, the Baldwin

Trophy (highest point score) and six structures AP awards. Richard Bretton did well again in the photo contest in heavy competition. Dwight Smith received his Achievement Certificate for Railroad Author. In terms of the size of the Division's membership, we certainly showed our craftsmanship and willingness to participate.

Personally, I enjoyed most the opportunity to socialize and compare modeling thoughts with the growing number of people I have met at conventions. I think it is a very positive statement about the hobby that in less than five years time I can attend an event less than twice a year and be able to recognize and converse with at least half of a group of more than 200 people, most of whom live outside my geographical area. That is a pretty good incentive for trying to attend regional conventions, and one of the benefits of membership in the NMRA.

—Larry Cannon, MMR

NER joins neighbors for Fall Convention in Horseshoe Curve territory

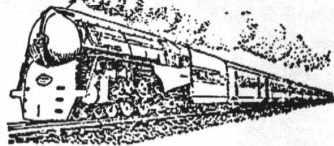
Juniata Junction, the Northeastern Region, NMRA, fall convention, will be held in Altoona, Pennsylvania. October 5-8. Sponsored by Mid-Eastern Region/NMRA, NER and Mid-Central regions have been invited to attend.

Some of the features: Horseshoe Curve, Altoona Railroaders Memorial Museum, Norfolk Southern Juniata Shop tour, NS Hollidaysburg Freight Car Shops, non-rail tour, clinics, layout tours, contest, auction, company store, banquet, raffle. Complete registration materials are available in the *NER Coupler*.

For detailed information, contact P.J. Mattson, registrar, 856/467-3385, or Ken May, NER Permanent Convention Chairman, Or, log-on to the NER home page: <http://pages.cthome.net.kenmay/NERDIV08,HTML>

NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND & ALBANY
"Tour The Top Tier"

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



St. James &
Sandy River Rwy

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 Seacoast Division, NMRA territory. Please contact the editor if you have an event to publicize in our Calendar.

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 (See page 1 agenda.)

August 12 -- Belfast Area Chamber of Commerce Model Railroad and Hobby Show, Belfast Armory, Belfast, Maine. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Admission: \$3, 6-11 \$1, under 6 free. Info: Edgar Jackson, 86 Fenwick Road, Belfast, ME 04952. 207/342-5407.

September 9-10 -- Concord Model Railroad Club, 14th Annual Concord Model RR Show. Everett Arena, Loudon Rd., Rte. 93 Exit 14 East on Loudon Rd. just over bridge. **NOW A 2-DAY SHOW!** 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. both days. Adults \$3, 12 and under free w/adult. Info: CMRRC, P.O. Box 61, Concord, NH 03202.

September 30 -- 16th Annual Rutland Train Fair. Vermont State Fairgrounds. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Adults \$3.50, 6-12 \$1, 5 and under free. Model and toy train dealers featuring hobby supplies, videos, books, collectibles and more. Info: Niilo Korpi, 4 Hemlock Rd., Milton, VT 05468, 802/893-4157.

October 5-8 -- Juniata Junction, NER Fall Convention, Ramada Inn, Altoona, Pennsylvania. Sponsored by Mid-Eastern Region/NMRA, with NER and Mid-Central regions invited. Horse-shoe Curve, Altoona Railroaders Memorial Museum, NS Juniata Shop tour, NS Hollidaysburg Freight Car Shops, non-rail tour, clinics, layout tours, contest, auction, company store, banquet, raffle. Info: P.J. Mattson, registrar, 856/467-3385, or Ken May, NER Permanent Convention Chairman.

December 2 -- Winooski Dollars for Scholars, 7th Annual Winooski Train Show, Winooski Middle/High School, 80

Normand St. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Adults: \$3, under 12 \$1. Operating layouts, dealer tables, railroadiana. All profit goes to scholarship fund. Info: John J. Malcovsky, 22 Upland Road, Essex Junction, VT 05452-3131. H-802/879-8540, W-802/655-3530, X-126. E-mail: jmalcovsky@winooski.k12.vt.us

February 3-4, 2001 -- Amherst Railway Society, Big Railroad Hobby Show - 2001! Better Living Center, Young Building, Stroth Building, Eastern States Exposition, Memorial Dr., West Springfield, Mass. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. both days. Two-day admission \$10. Daily admission: adults \$6, under 12 \$1, under 5 free. Nearly five-1/2 acres of railroading. Manufacturers, displays, dealers, flea market, live steam, museums, railroad companies. Over 35 layouts. Info: ARA, P.O. Box 718, Warren, MA 01083-00718.

Web: <http://www.AmherstRail.org>

NMRA National Conventions

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

Summer 2001 -- Saint Louis, Mo.

President's Message

(continued from page 1)

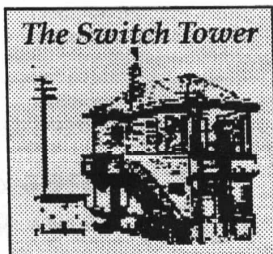
both an NER convention chairman and a local convention bureau. We also have the beginnings of a volunteer list.

Clinics should not be a concern, and I know of two layouts available for tours, before we even start asking. I do feel that we have less than half the volunteers needed to begin. More volunteers are needed to equitably spread the workload. Conventions should not work people to death or lead to divorces.

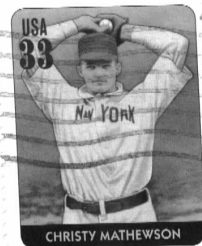
If you are interested in participating, please let me know and lend your voice to the discussion. There is a great deal of interest within the Northeastern Region for another convention with access to our railfanning assets. Portland offers both reasonable convention facilities and access to a lot of those assets within our two states.

SEACOAST DIVISION, NER/NMRA

c/o Ron Palmquist
P.O. Box 229, Cape Cottage Branch
Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107-0229



Address Service Requested



RICHARD BRETTON
9 RIVERSIDE DR
ROCHESTER NH 038671120

03867+1120

