

The Switch Tower

Seacoast Division, Northeastern Region, National Model Railroad Association

Larry Cannon, *President* • Richard Breton, *Vice President* • Terrence P. King, *Secretary* • Tom Coulombe, *Treasurer*

Volume Eight

Third Quarter 2001

Number Three

President's Message

Potpourri

by Larry Cannon, *MMR*

Our nation has experienced a series of tragedies on American soil of a magnitude not seen since the loss of life on Civil War battlefields nearly one hundred and forty years in our past. I hope that these losses are not exceeded during the lifetimes of today's generations.

When you can again focus on the hobby of model railroading, be grateful that you have an interest that serves as a mending distraction from dwelling on the horrific acts and other traumatic occurrences that life presents us. Also, be grateful that we live in a country that allows us the luxury to pursue distractions such as hobbies when, in some countries, that time might be spent on survival. God Bless America!

Annual Meeting

We have an annual meeting scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 6, 2001, at 1:00 p.m. at the Rochester, N.H. Community Center located on Wakefield St. (Route 125). The meeting is election of two Directors, further discussion of planning for the May 17-19, 2002, Portland NER Convention, other business. Then we will adjourn to have clinics and show and tell sessions. Please join us and share the hobby - bring a friend!

Spreading the Word

Despite the fact that the Seacoast Division's territory is not a densely populated, this winter has seen a fair number of activities promoting the hobby of model railroading. The Division itself has kept its meetings mobile to cover more geography, and others have been active, too.

The Whitefield Lions Club show in Augusta, the Great Falls Model Railroad Club adult education class and RailClinic 2001, Art Fahie's annual open house, Tom Coulombe's troop of Boy Scouts in pursuit of the Model Railroading Merit Badge, the Downeast Model Railroad Show in

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Seacoast Division Annual Meeting Oct. 6, 2001, 1 p.m. Community Center Route 125 (Wakefield Street) Rochester, N.H.

AGENDA

- A. Welcome, President's Comments
- B. Secretary's Report
- C. Treasurer's Report
- D. Old Business
 - 1. May 2002 Regional Convention
 - 2. Membership Efforts
 - 3. Other Old Business
- E. Annual Elections
 - 1. Election of Directors
 - 2. Director's Election of President
 - 3. President's Appointment of Officers
- F. Schedule Future Meetings
- G. Adjournment
- H. Clinics and Presentations

In This Issue:

- President's Message
- Annual Meeting Agenda
- Scratchbuilder's Library
 - Cromwell, Conn., NER Convention Report
 - Division Business
 - Bicentennial Echo?
 - 2001 Calendar
 - How to Model Meadow Muffins

Scratchbuilder's Basic Library

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 publications 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

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The Switch Tower

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Division Business Minutes, May 6, 2001

The May 6 meeting of the Division opened at 10 a.m. at The Hartmann Museum in Intervale, N.H.

The treasurer's report was accepted as read.

The secretary's report was also accepted as read. The nominating committee nominated Paul Lessard and Terry King for the two open positions on the board of directors. We need a nominating committee and also nominees for the Region's Spate Award. (This is for someone or an organization that has contributed to the advancement of the hobby. Each Division has to submit a nominee.)

The meeting closed at 10:05 a.m.

With the close of the meeting, we began our clinics.

Richard Breton presented a clinic on Structure Construction Techniques. One interesting part was how he used paper edging shears by Fiskars (R) to do window shades. There are a number of different shapes that he obtained, and the prices are around \$2.95. Rich was using the scalloped edge shears to cut paper from the inside of security envelopes. He used regular shears to cut the paper to size, and used the building shears to scallop the bottom edge. This looked very nice when installed in a building.

Larry Cannon and Rich Breton gave a talk about the Achievement Program. The forms can be down-loaded from the NMRA Web Site. Larry Cannon is the Achievement Program coordinator for the Division. His address can be found elsewhere in *The Switch Tower*.

The Spring 2002 Northeastern Region convention was discussed. We hopefully will be using vans to transport people to the Waterville, Wiscasset and Farmington Railroad with an approximate cost of \$32 to \$35. The Boothbay Railway Museum with an approximate cost of \$32 to \$35. And, to the Seashore Trolley Museum with an approximate cost of \$17. If there is enough interest, we will have a Sunday trip to the Sandy River and Rangeley Lakes Railroad in Phillips. The cost of this trip would be around \$35. The date of the convention is May 17-19, 2002. The hotel is the Sheraton in South Portland, Maine, between exits 7 and 7a of the Maine Turnpike. The location is across from the Maine Mall and in sight of the Portland airport. There is free ground-level parking, and a shuttle to the airport.

The North Conway Model Railroad Club and Dwight Smith's home layout were available for those who wanted to see them. The North Conway club is in the middle of an expansion of their layout and is worth seeing. They have around 10,000 persons go through their layout per year. Not many clubs can claim this!

A variety of models (structures, vehicles and rolling stock) were displayed. The owners gave a short talk on how they made them.

The Spate award was discussed and possible

nominees were mentioned.

There was a round-table discussion on the convention.

The Hartmann's were thanked for hosting the meeting, and Mrs. Hartmann was thanked for the excellent dinner that was available to us. Her German cooking alone is worth going to the meeting for.

The day ended at 2:30 p.m.

—Terry King, Secretary

June 23 Minutes

The June 23, 2001 meeting of the Seacoast Division was held in Rochester, N.H., and opened at 1:10 p.m.

The secretary's report was accepted with a few minor changes.

As the treasurer was out of state, there was no treasurer's report.

The region convention in Cromwell, Conn. was discussed. The maps and instructions for the layout tours were difficult to use and follow. It was agreed that using Delorme's maps or hand-drawn maps would be better.

A short discussion about new members was held. Out of approximately 225 NMRA members in the Division (Maine and New Hampshire), we have a membership of about 48. We will do a division-wide mailing next spring and place extra newsletters into hobby shops.

The region's Spate Award was discussed, and the Bedford Boomers will be our division's nominee. The reason for this selection was because the two-day annual show each November, which has no dealers on Sundays, only layouts and clinics. It was felt they probably have done as much as any group to contribute to the betterment of Model Railroad in the division.

The upcoming convention in South Portland, Maine, in May 2002, will be a combined convention with the Maine Garden Railroad Society. It was felt that this would add to the convention and help to fill hotel rooms.

The president, Larry Cannon, passed out a "Planning Deadline" sheet for the convention.

7/1/01	Finalize tours, budget and pricing.
8/1/01	Mail publicity article to NG&SG.
9/1/01	Coupler information for the fall issue.
10/1/01	Preliminary Web site completed.
10/27/01	Fall Convention Coverage.
12/31/01	Finalize layouts, clinics and Web site.
3/1/02	Coupler convention reminder.
3/31/02	Finalize all arrangements.

Personnel requirements for the convention were also discussed. They are:

Inside activities:
Raffle, hospitality room and clinics - Terry King, George Whittaker and Ray Ander-
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Division Business

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son.

Contest room needs three people from the division.

Outside Activities:

Coordinator - Sandy Roberts
Drivers and guides - Charlie Blanchard and Tom Coulombe, so far.

Saturday:

a. Freeport - we need three people.

b. Trolley Museum - we need three people.

c. WW&F/Boothbay - we will need between six and eight people.

Sunday:

a. SR&RL we will need three people.

Local chairman - Larry Cannon

Saturday staff - we will need a minimum of 12 people.

The use of cell phones for the drivers and guides was discussed. It was felt that it would be helpful if they were able to communicate with Terry King at the hotel in case something unforeseen happens. Terry has a cell phone and we will try to see if it is possible to line up some more for this.

A source of rental vans has been located that is not too expensive. We will also have a car pool sign-up sheet in the hospitality room for anyone who flies in and needs a ride for the layout tours. A round-robin discussion finished the meeting. One of the items discussed was the name of the convention. It will be called "The Seacoast Special." Terry King will design a logo for the convention.

The meeting closed at 3:30 p.m.

Rich Breton gave an interesting clinic on resin casting, and Larry Cannon showed slides of some vintage power in Vermont, including D&H sharks and Alco units.

—Terry King, secretary

President's Message

(continued from page 1)

Brunswick and the new Lions Club show in Sanford are examples in just the part of the Division I know well. Our editor tries to keep you informed of what is on tap and asks for contributions.

As noted elsewhere, I am attempting to establish an e-mail list for Division members and those who might have interest in joining the Division. There also is the option of a website if we have a volunteer or volunteers interested. There are two options; 1) our own site, which would need to be dirt

cheap, or 2) making the effort to improve the Division page available as part of the NER website.

If you have interest in either possibility, or wish to work on developing the material to be included in the NER Convention page for the Portland convention please let me know.

E-mail Notifications in Process

The Seacoast Division has been using E-mail as a means to notify Division members, New Hampshire and Maine NMRA members and others interested in model railroading of our meetings, their location, dates, times and agendas. If you or someone you know is not on the current list and wishes to be included, please notify me at ruthcannon@ime.net of your name and e-mail address to be included in future notifications. E-mail is a significant means to hold the line on future dues increases. At this time, nearly all of our \$5 annual dues are spent on publication and distribution of *The Switch Tower*, our quarterly newsletter. If you have e-mail, this is a means to increasing the value of your membership dollar.

Members' Helpful Modeling Hints

Dwight Smith Models a Complete Cow Pasture

In the most recent issue of *Notch Eight*, the newsletter of the North Conway Model Railroad Club, Dwight Smith details the construction of a cow pasture for his Vermont Northern model railroad. "After all," he said, "my road's motto is 'Vermont Dairy Route'..." A note of realism obviously was missing. "He continues: 'The next step was to tape down a small rectangle of waxed paper on my workbench. I then took my tube of squadron putty and placed small dabs on the waxed paper. Before the putty dried, I gently squashed down each dab to form an irregular shaped blob. When thoroughly dry, I painted the blobs with brown paint. Once the paint dried, I used a #17 blade to pry the blobs off the waxed paper, then glued them to the ground in random fashion throughout the pasture. Yes! my pasture now features genuine 'meadow muffins' or 'cow flops,' a scenic detail seldom modeled."

Convention Report

Seacoast Members Award Winners at NER/Cromwell

by Larry Cannon, MMR

The Seacoast Division was well represented at the May 18-20 Northeastern Region Convention (at Cromwell, Conn.). Terry King, Charles Blanchard and I drove down from Maine. Dwight Smith, Richard Breton, Robert Breton and Jack Ellis made it to Connecticut from New Hampshire. The group represented the Division by presenting clinics, by doing well in the contests and by the frequency of or mention at the awards ceremony.

Jack Ellis may have won first place in Diorama unopposed, but he had a lot of competition in winning Popular Vote first place in Structures and Diorama. Richard Breton won two awards for his color prints of Steamtown's CPR 4-6-2 #2317. I picked up my Achievement Certificate for Structures which I had completed in December. The contest room was not overly crowded for a spring convention, but there were 13 out of 18 total models entered in the Structures category! Based upon my reaction, can you guess which category I was assigned to help judge?

Dwight Smith presented his clinic, "What the Heck is in those Freight Cars?" Friday night. I had done a clinic on Friday afternoon on basic styrene construction techniques. As a group, we also attended a number of clinics offered on Friday and Saturday.

The Maine contingent, accompanied by Regional AP Chairman Paul Allard, visited three layouts Friday evening: Paul Magani's *Clintonville & Forest City*, Earl Smallshaw's *Middletown & Mystic Mines* and Harold Horder's *Sleepy Valley & Western*. Earl and Harold are part of the famous "Hartford Group." On Sunday, before returning to Maine, we visited Charlie Bettinger's *Charlestown & Pattville*, Brian Whiton's *Rutland Railroad Addison Branch* and Dick Joyce's *Ingleside & Oakdale*. Most of those present from the Division attended, and participated monetarily in, the auction after the banquet Saturday night. A good time was had by all.

"The Seacoast Special" is coming, May 17-19, 2002

The Switch Tower

2001 CALENDAR

There are a number of upcoming events that may be of interest to model railroaders living in the Seacoast Division, NMRA territory. Please contact the editor if you know about an event to publicize in our Calendar.

October 27 -- Ammonoosuc Valley Railway Association Train Show, National Guard Armory, Littleton, N.H. Info: Bill Driscoll, 603/747-3492.

November 11 -- 19th Annual Bedford Boomers Model Railroad Show, McKelvie School, Bedford, N.H.

May 17-19, 2002 -- The Seacoast Special, the Spring NER Convention, Sheraton Tara Hotel, South Portland, Maine. Host: Seacoast Division/NER/NMRA. Info: Larry Cannon, MMR, 207/786-3929. E-mail: <ruthcannon@ime.net >

Bicentennial Echo?

Displaying the flag of the United States is a popular way to demonstrate patriotism during these post-September 11th times. A recent visit to Rigby railroad yard in South Portland revealed a U.S. flag on the side of one of Guilford Rail System's locomotives. The flag was placed in the space beneath the engineer's cab window and above the reporting marks on the wide cab GP40s.

If you spot similar flag useage, let us know. The U.S. Flag and other patriotic symbols were popular on railroad locomotives, cabooses and other equipment during the nation's bicentennial in 1975-76.

Scratchbuilder's Basic Library

(from page 1)

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

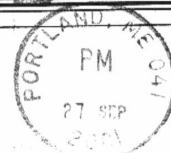
New England Roadside Diners by Will Anderson. A good publication about gas stations and restaurants, past and present.

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.

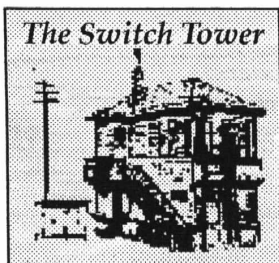
Paul Lessard lives in Manchester, N.H. He is a Seacoast Division Director, and has won numerous NER convention awards for his work. This is his second article in The Switch Tower. Late last year, he wrote a Division Member's Report on the Bedford Boomers' 18th Annual Exhibition. Paul says his article was submitted in response to the request made by our president for material for The Switch Tower.

"The Seacoast Special"
NER Portland Convention
May 17-19, 2002



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