

# The Switch Tower

Seacoast Division, Northeastern Region,  
National Model Railroad Association

Richard Breton, *President* -- Bill Gaver, *Vice President*  
Terrence P. King, *Secretary* -- Tom Coulombe, *Treasurer*



Volume Nine

Third Quarter, 2002

Number Three

*President's Message*

## What do we do for an encore?

by Rich Breton, *President, Seacoast Division, Northeastern Region, NMRA*

We had a busy year with the highlight being host of the NER Spring Convention in Portland. This was the first convention for many of us; there clearly was a lot of work, but this was also very rewarding.

We learned a lot and have written up some helpful tips to share for future conventions.

We are very grateful to Larry Cannon for chairing the convention committee, and for the outstanding job. Larry was prepared for most any occurrence, you can always expect a few minor problems, but with the solid planning and back-up plans these were quickly addressed. With Yankee ingenuity showed by Larry and the committee members the convention was a success, both for the enjoyment of the attendees and the regional financial aspects.

We now can return our attention to the Seacoast Division business and to plan our activities within the division. Our plans are to find a new location for this year's annual meeting a little further west in New Hampshire. It has been suggested to hold this meeting in Concord, which would provide easier access for our New Hampshire members; we have many

skilled members in the Merrimack, Lisbon, and Lebanon areas, for example. We are trying to coordinate this with our friends in the Bedford Boomers organization, as they are celebrating their 20th anniversary this year. This active club was awarded the Spate Award last year for their fine work promot-

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU!

I would like to personally thank all of the Seacoast Division members who contributed materials, loaned audio-visual equipment, conducted or helped with layout tours, presented clinics, drove vans, sold raffle tickets, did chaperone duty, got things ready for others, worked on publications and the hundred other things that made our South Portland convention successful.

My spell checker has warned me that I just wrote a very long sentence, but every word of it is true, and you deserve to be commended.

The correspondence I have received so far indicates that virtually all who participated are not still in shock, and would consider doing this again at a

future time. I am sure, based on other correspondence that I have received, this is ours for the asking in a couple of years.

I hope to propose an option that will offer us the opportunity to conduct similar events more frequently on a smaller scale in between such major events.

I hope that all who participated found a facet or more of the activities that got your juices flowing.

There is nothing like talking to people who think like you do about the hobby to inspire you to greater things!

Thanks again for your support!

- Larry Cannon MMR, *Convention Chairman*

ing the hobby.

We also have started plans to work on a special project at the Loranger Middle School in Old Orchard Beach, Maine. Bill Mullen a Special Education teacher has a classroom layout project planned in O-scale (two rail). Bill has received many donations from fine organizations in the hobby and could use our help and expertise to make this a reality. This will be used to help teach and peak the interest of emotionally disabled Middle School students.

*Division Business*

## Minutes of the Seacoast Division Meeting, Rochester, N.H., August 3, 2002

The President, Richard Breton, opened the meeting at 1:15 p.m., with ten members present.

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

The treasurer read the finance report, which was accepted. It was noted that because of the raffle during the N.E.R. convention in May our treasury is in good shape.

The Board of Directors meeting for September 21<sup>st</sup> was changed to September 22<sup>nd</sup>, due to the Portland train show. This will still be held at Bill Gaver's home in New Hampshire at 1:00 p.m.

The deadline for *The Switch Tower* is the first of the month before the publication date. Publication dates are January, April, July and October.

The membership recruitment letter was discussed and

it was decided to include the latest issue of *The Switch Tower* along with the letter and an application. This will be sent out as soon as the next issue of the newsletter is printed. This should be in about a week.

Larry Cannon stated the profit of the May convention would be less than \$1,500.00. In fact it looks like the Division will make more from the raffle than will be made on the convention.

We are going to try to have the by-law

(Continued on Page 2)

**Deadline for articles and other submissions for the next issue of *The Switch Tower* is September 3, 2002.**

# The Switch Tower

Volume Nine, Number Three, Third Quarter 2002

*The Switch Tower* is the official publication of the Seacoast Division, Northeastern Region, National Model Railroad Association, and is published four times a year. Your subscription is a benefit of membership in the Seacoast Division. Annual dues are \$8.00 for the first year (includes a Division patch), and \$5.00 a year thereafter. Checks or money orders should be made payable to Seacoast Division, NMRA, and submitted to:

Terrence P. King, Secretary  
Seacoast Division, NMRA  
P.O. Box 188  
E. Livermore, ME 04228-0188  
Phone/Fax: 207/933-2477  
E-mail: tking@megalink.net

## Seacoast Division, Northeastern Region, NMRA

Richard Breton, *President*  
Bill Gaver, *Vice President*  
Terrence P. King, *Secretary*  
Tom Coulombe, *Treasurer*  
*Directors:* Rich Breton, Larry Cannon  
MMR, Terry King, Paul Lessard, Ron  
Palmquist, Sandy Roberts, Dwight Smith  
*Achievement Program Chairman -*  
Larry Cannon MMR  
*Photo Contests -* Tim Byrne  
*Model Contests -* Dwight Smith

## Northeastern Region, NMRA

Glenn Glasstetter, *President*  
655 Hillview Road, Richmond, VT 05477  
Phone: 802/434-3316 E-mail:  
glenn.glasstetter@cwix.com  
Stan Ames, *Regional Trustee*  
8 Higate Road, Chelmsford, MA 01824  
Phone: 978/256-3062  
Paul Allard  
*Regional Achievement Program Chairman*  
53 Rollin Irish Road, Milton, VT 05468  
Phone: 802/893-2228  
Joseph J. Popecki  
*Editor NER Coupler*  
33 Woodridge Drive, Burlington, VT 05401  
Phone: 802/863-4121 E-mail: popecki@megalink.net  
Terrence P. King,  
*Northern New England Director*  
P.O. Box 188  
E. Livermore, ME 04228-0188  
Phone/Fax: 207/933-2477  
E-mail: tking@megalink.net  
NER Home Page:  
<http://pages.athome.net.kenmay/NERDIV08.HTML>

## 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>

## The Switch Tower

Ron Palmquist, *Editor*  
16 Glen Avenue  
Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107-1022  
207/799-1761  
E-mail: Musictrains@aol.com

## Division Business

# MINUTES OF JUNE 22, 2002 MEETING IN LEWISTON, MAINE

At 9:00 a.m., members of the Division were invited to an operating session with members of The Great Falls Model Railroad Club.

At a noon break, the Division provided finger rolls, soda and other munchies for refreshments.

The meeting was opened at 1:15 p.m. by the president, Rich Breton.

Guests present were Dean Lippincot of Sterling Kansas and Steve Martelli of Auburn, Maine.

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

Terry King mentioned that we need to have a deadline for *The Switch Tower*, so people will have an idea when they need to have articles ready for the Editor. It was agreed that dead lines should be established so that the publication could be in the mail by the first of the month in January, April, July, and October.

Larry Cannon reported that the convention went well, and it should clear around \$1,500.00

A membership mailing was discussed again and it was agreed that we would do a mailing as soon as possible to all NMRA members in the division. The president will draft a letter and E-mail it to the secretary who will mail-merge it and send it out.

Art Fahie suggested we hold an event with clinics, open to the public for free. It was voted to have the NMRA and Division participate in shows as a continuing project.

Terry King will bring the name tags to the next meeting.

Bill Mullen a teacher at Loranger Middle School in Old Orchard Beach was discussed. He had sent E-mails all over the country looking for help in starting a 3-rail layout for his challenged students. He has been successful in getting almost everything that he needs from the manufactures, but he still needs scenery and help putting this all together.

The nominating committee will be Larry Cannon, Art Fahie and Paul Lessard.

The Robert Spate Award will be presented at the fall convention of the Northeastern region of the NMRA. It was noted that more than one award could be given. One could be to an organization and one to an individual. The Amherst Society of Model Rail-

roaders and the 470 Railroad Club of Portland are two possible recipients. It was voted to have the Seacoast Division pay the \$45.00 cost of the second award if needed.

The next meeting is in Rochester N.H. on August 3, 2002. There will be a board of directors meeting (in September) at Bill Gaver's home in Brookfield NH.

The meeting was closed at 3:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
- Terrence P. King, Secretary

## Minutes of the Seacoast Division Meeting, Rochester, N.H., August 3, 2002

(Continued from Page 1)

changes ready for the annual meeting in November.

The project by Mr. Mullen, a teacher at Old Orchard Beach cannot start until school starts in September, because of construction. Tom Coulombe will act as liaison with this project. Sandy Roberts donated some scenery material for the Lionel layout at the school. Richard Breton donated some trees for the project. If any member has scenery materials that could be used for an O-scale layout, we could use them.

The nomination committee nominated Rich Breton, Ron Palmquist and Sandy Roberts for re-election to the board of directors. Further nominations from the floor and the elections will take place at the November meeting.

The President announced that Bill Gaver has accepted the position of Vice-President.

The annual meeting was discussed and various locations were discussed. It was voted to have the annual meeting on November 3, 2002 at 2:00 p.m. at the location of the Boomers annual get together.

We have some late arriving door prizes that included three caboose flashers and three delayed action un-couplers. The names of those present were put into a hat and drawn off. The winners were Ron Palmquist, Rob Breton, Larry Cannon, Paul Lessard, Tom Coulombe and Terry King.

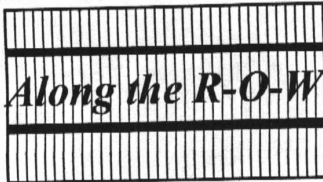
The Spate Award nominations were discussed; the only nomination received was the one from the Seacoast Division for the Amherst Society of Model Engineers.

Ron Palmquist volunteered to donate two prizes per meeting to be raffled off at the meeting. The tickets will be \$1.00 per ticket, or three for \$2.00.

Finances were discussed, and the need to establish a life membership fund was

(Continued on page 4)

From the Editor's Desk



## Portland Confab

From all indications, the Maine spring convention of NER was a huge success: Just a few registrants short of an all-time record number attended. Kudos to all involved, with special thanks to Larry Cannon MMR, for his presidential leadership. Certificates of Appreciation were handed out at the June Seacoast meeting in Lewiston; recipients were J.E. Lancaster, Sandy Roberts, Terry King, Rich Breton (2), Art Fahie, Larry Cannon and the Great Falls Club.

## Trivia

Here's this issue's trivia question. Which of the world's train stations has the longest name?

## Salt City Express

Paul Lessard of Manchester, N.H., a Seacoast director, is one of the presenters at clinics at the NER 2002 Fall Convention at Syracuse, N.Y. The dates are Sept. 27, 28 and 29. Art Fahie of Bar Mills Models here in Maine is also on the convention program as a clinic leader. (I dislike the word "clinician.") And, I'm sure, Larry Cannon, MMR, will be busy as NER Secretary and contest judge.

The convention hotel is the Doubletree Hotel on Buckley Road near the I-81/I-90 interchange. Attendees also may stay at the nearby Ramada Inn. Check the NMRA's convention Website for full details.

## KUDOS

Congratulations to Larry Cannon, MMR. He is the fifth NMRA member to successfully acquire all 11 certificates of the NMRA Achievement Program's Master Model Railroader (MMR) designation.

And, it was a pleasure to see Dwight Smith's Northern Vermont Railroad featured in the July issue of Model Railroader magazine.

## NMRA Elections

I recently received my copy of the June 2002 *NMRA Bulletin*, and almost immediately marked my ballot for NER Trustee. There are five easy instructions in the accompanying text: Just remember to retrieve the mailing label from the Bulletin cover and place it in the space provided. **We in the NER vote only in the NER box.**

## Downeaster

For those of you keeping track of Amtrak's Portland-Boston service, there are two new stops along the way . . . Old Orchard Beach in Maine (a summer-only stop) and Woburn, Mass. The six-month old train continues to draw healthy numbers of riders - more than anyone ever anticipated. The six-month ridership of the train amounted to just under 140,000.

## Happy Birthday, RailPace

The magazine that covers news of interest to railfans in the northeastern U.S. this year celebrates its 20th anniversary. The official commemoration was a gala one-day event in late July hosted by editor/publisher Tom Nemeth for contributors, advertisers and readers at the Reading & Northern Railroad in Port Clinton, Pa. Some 200 of us toured the railroad's offices, shops and other facilities, and sat down to a catered lunch under tents on the railroad's well-manicured lawn. In the afternoon, there was a special Reading and Northern excursion train that ran from Port Clinton to Hometown Viaduct, a high steel bridge built over the Little Schuylkill River. The excursion included a run through the 926-foot long Tamaqua Tunnel, built in 1854, and a double photo runby for those who wanted to obtain video and photos of the special train. It was hauled by the newest Reading and Northern diesel power: a pair of ex-Union Pacific 3,500 horsepower SD50s painted in Reading Railroad-style yellow and green with grey. Birthday cake and coffee capped the unforgettable experience.

## Trivia Answer

The train station with the longest name is located in Wales, U.K. It's - ready for this? - *Lianfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlilllantysiliogogoch*. In the Welch language, it means "St. Mary's Church." How does one pronounce the name? Your guess is as good as mine, but the locals call it "Lianfair P.G."

## Bye Bye U-Boats

Guilford Rail System became an all EMD railroad in June. That's the month it scrapped two of the three remaining GE U-18Bs, 402 and 406, and sold the 407 to the Niagara & Western New York Railroad in Lockport, N.Y. No. 404 previously was purchased by the N&WNYRR. The former Maine Central Independence Class locomotives - there were 12 of them, remember? - have been painted by their new owners. Guess what colors? Of course - yellow with green stripes.

- Ron Palmquist

Company Store

## What's New

An Accurail HO private name boxcar is being offered by the Great Falls Model Railroad Club in Lewiston. The car is a 50' plug door boxcar in blue with white lettering for the club's home railroad, the Great Falls. Reporting marks are GFR, and the railroad's slogan, The River Route, is printed to the right of the door under the club's Great Falls logo. A handsome car! The price is \$12 for members, and \$15 for non-members. Mail orders can be handled by including #3.85 S/H charges. Checks should be made out to The Great Falls Model Railroad Club, P.O. Box 509, Monmouth, ME 04259-0509.

Modeler's Corner

## At the Work Bench

This is a tip that could be called "Getting the most out of single edge razor blades."

Using pliers, break away the blade on either end in line with the inden-



tation.

The result will be a new point that will help you make clean cuts in wood and styrene. It's just a small thing, but it can be a "big" money saving idea in the single edge razor blade department (especially the way the stock market is heading).

- Walter Ronfeldt

Copy deadline for the next issue of *The Switch Tower* is Sept. 3, 2002.

## Convention Photo Page

We thank Terry King, our secretary, for preparing the photo page insert in this issue of *The Switch Tower*.

# The Switch Tower

## 2002 Calendar

The Switch Tower Calendar is a brief listing of upcoming events that may be of interest to our readers. If you know about an event to publicize in our Calendar, please contact the Editor.

**September 8** -- Model Railroad Show sponsored by the Concord Model Railroad Club, Concord, N.H. Everett Arena, Loudon Road (Exit 14, I-93). Info: 603/736-8061.

**September 21** -- Third Annual Train, Doll House and Toy Show, Stevens Ave. Armory, Portland, Maine. Info: Bob Boyd, 207/883-7400 (phone & fax)

**September 22** -- The Seacoast Division Board of Directors will meet at Bill Gaver's home in Brookfield N.H. Info: Terry King, Secretary; Phone/Fax: 207/933-2477 E-mail: tking@megalink.net

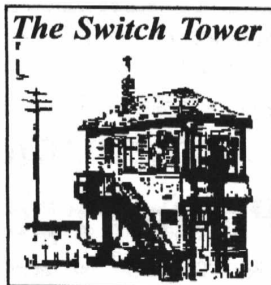
**September 27-29** -- "2002 Salt City Express" - NER Fall Convention, Syracuse, N.Y. Info: Jim Heidt, General Chairman: 315/697-6227. E-mail: jimheidt@hotmail.com

**October 26** -- 25th Annual Ammonoosuc Valley Railroad Association Model Railroad Show, Littleton Armory, Littleton, N.H. Info: John Wadlick, 603/869-3928.

**November 2, 2002** -- Great Falls Model Railroad Club train show. Auburn Middle School. Time 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Info: Terry King, Secretary; Phone/Fax: 207/933-2477. E-mail: tking@megalink.net

**November 3, 2002** -- Seacoast Division Annual Meeting, 2:00 p.m., Bedford, N.H. Details from Terry King, Secretary; Phone/Fax: 207/933-2477. E-mail: tking@megalink.net

**Seacoast Division, NER/NMRA**  
c/o Ron Palmquist  
16 Glen Avenue  
Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107-1022



Address Service Requested

**Minutes of the Seacoast Division Meeting, Rochester, N.H., August 3, 2002**

(Continued from Page 2)

pointed out. We also need to establish a budget. We need the budget because our income is mostly annual dues and that does not give us a lot of leeway.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

The after-meeting clinics consisted of Rich Breton giving a presentation on photography. Ron Palmquist showed photos of his trip to Railpace magazine's 20th anniversary party on the Reading & Northern Railroad, in Port Clinton Pa. Larry Cannon showed various kitbashed rolling stock.

The End

- Respectfully Submitted, Terrence P. King, Secretary

### New Life Members

George Whittaker, Paul Lessard,  
Fredrick Pritham, Paul DuPuy

### New Members

Stanley Jordan, So. Portland, Maine

Edgar N. Hobby, Jr.,  
North Hampton, N.H.

Bill Trueheart, Bedford, N.H.

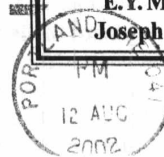
Eugene Boullie, Westbrook, Maine

James Garland, Westbrook, Maine

Emmons Lancaster, Gray, Maine

E.Y. McKay, Benton, Maine

Joseph Sokol, Vernon, Conn.



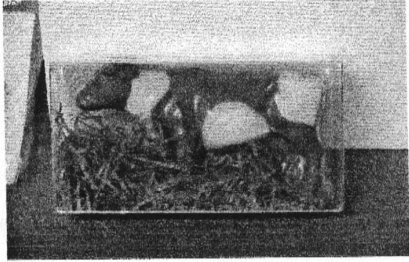
RICHARD BRETON  
9 RIVERSIDE DR  
ROCHESTER NH 03867-1120



# **THE DOWNEST EXPRESS**

## **A Photo Essay**

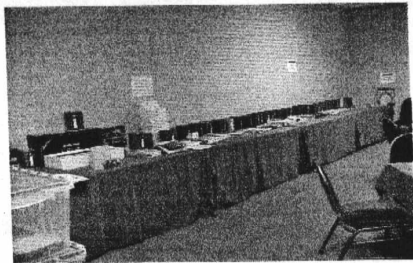
*By Terrence King*



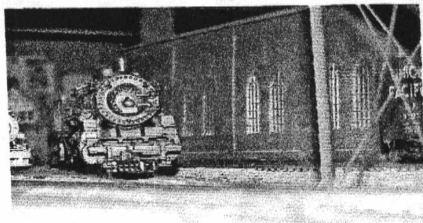
The chocolate cow. The only non-rail raffle prize. This was the object of desire by many!



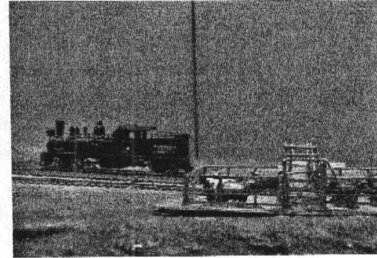
Emmons Lancaster and Richard M. Baston



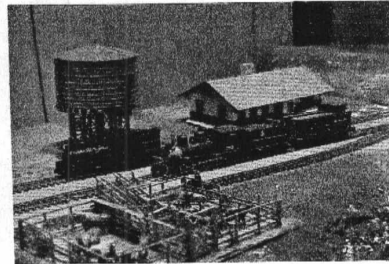
The raffle prize tables.



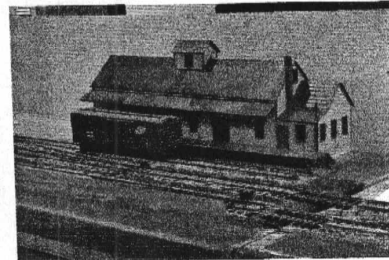
This is part of the "O" gauge module layout that Bill Driscoll brought to the show.



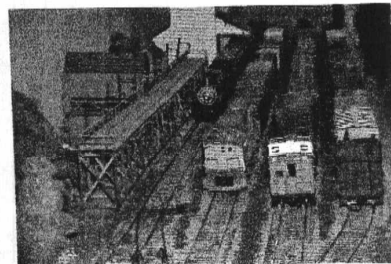
The Lancaster & Baston module. Real plastic cattle and a real brass Shay.



More of the Lancaster and Baston module.



A nice station. I only wish that I remembered to whom it belonged to!



Another part of the Driscoll layout. As a HO'er I hate to admit it but "O" is the King of scales.