

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 Ten

First Quarter, 2003

Number One

President's Message

2002 Reflections

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

New Year Greetings!

I wish all our members and friends a Happy New Year, and hope all enjoyed the holidays. This time of year is always good to reflect on the past year and look forward to new opportunities a new year brings. My first-year objective was to continue the good work and growth of our Division started by past-president Larry Cannon, and to move our meetings around so that more of our membership could participate. We held meetings in Lewiston, Rochester, North Conway, Brookfield and Bedford. We also hosted a successful Northeastern Region convention in So. Portland, Maine, with attendees from around the world who enjoyed the many Maine narrow gauge and other rail attractions.

Our Annual Meeting was held in conjunction with the Bedford Boomers 20th Anniversary Exhibition, on November 3. This was a successful meeting with numerous members attending their first Seacoast Division meeting. The exhibition drew about 2,400 visitors and is aimed at promoting the hobby to people of all ages. We had a good chance to explain to many who stopped by our NMRA / NER / Seacoast Division display tables what the NMRA is about and show some of the services offered, such as standards, memorial library materials and publications, and information on the achievement program. I want to extend a special thanks to Terry King, Larry Cannon, and Tom Coulomb who help me set-up and man the table throughout the day. I also would like to thank the Bedford Boomers for giving us an opportunity to hold our annual meeting during the Sunday exhibition and experience a very worthwhile and inspirational day.

This was the first time I attended one of the Boomers annual exhibitions. My first



Our president, Rich Breton, presides over a clinic at a meeting of Seacoast Division members. Rich also presented an hour-long clinic on buildings following the annual meeting in November.

- Ron Palmquist photo

and lasting impression was the focus placed on the children who attended. I have been to many shows and conventions, and this is something not often seen. Most impressive was the number of families who attended. You know they have been there before when they arrive carrying their small chairs and step stools so the little ones could see the action. The pride of the younger participants, the boy scouts and teen-age layouts was just great! Displays, clinics, and operating layouts occupied more than 40,000 square feet including two large rooms (gymnasium and cafeteria), two hallways and numerous classrooms in the McKelvie Middle School in Bedford, NH. Enough space to include all who wanted to participate, no matter what age or skill level. Super job; my congratulations to the entire Boomer

Members, Guests Welcome
Seacoast Division Meeting
1 p.m. Saturday, January 18,
Seacoast Division meeting,
at the
Great Falls Model Railroad Club
Lewiston, Maine. .

Amherst Society of Model Railroad Engineers Receives Robert W. Spate Award

The 2002 Robert W. Spate Public Service Award went to the Amherst Society of Model Railroad Engineers in recognition of their history and record of promoting and supporting model railroading and financial, moral and other support to railroad museums, veterans' homes and others in need of assistance.

The honor was presented to representatives of the Society at the fall convention of the Northeastern Region/NMRA at Syracuse, N.Y.

The award is well-deserved and recognizes over twenty years of continuing support to a variety of organizations and efforts that enhance enjoyment of a hobby and a historical interest.

The Seacoast Division submitted the nomination, which is an indication of the reach of the Amherst Society's efforts in that Seacoast members are well aware of the Society's contributions to railway historical museums in Maine, New Hampshire and other areas. The award is well earned, certainly documented as deserved and most worthy of being one of the initial presentations of the Robert W. Spate Award.

The Spate award was named in the honor of the late Robert W. Spate, a member of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club in Maine. The previous recipient was the Bedford Boomers club of New Hampshire.

- Terry King

organization for a fine show and showing what this hobby is all about.

Our next Seacoast Division meeting is scheduled for January 18 at 1:00 p.m. at the Great Falls Model Railroad Club in Lewiston, Maine. This is in conjunction with the club's morning operating session, which begins at 9:00 a.m. Also scheduled is a meeting on March 8 at 1:00 p.m. at the Community Center in Rochester, NH. Hope to see you there.

Share the fun of model railroading.

The Switch Tower

Volume Nine, Number Four, Fourth 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:

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Larry Cannon MMR, Terry King, Paul
Lessard, Ron Palmquist, Sandy Roberts

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The Switch Tower

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From the Editor's Desk



Bye Bye, BAR

By now, the MM&A Railroad will be up and running in Northern New England and Atlantic Canada. MM&A stands for Montreal, Maine and Atlantic. It's a new railroad that has evolved from the former lines owned by Iron Roads Corp of Virginia that included the BAR (B&A up in Aroostook), CP (CAR?) and others that were placed in bankruptcy early this year. Ramrodding the new operation is the legendary Ed Burkhardt of Wisconsin Central fame. A few six-axle veterans of the WC are among the locos headed east to operate on the line.

Let's pause for a moment of silence to remember the 111-year old Bangor & Aroostook before it was sold by the Dumaine family of railroaders.

News Bulletin

Sources tell us that the National Narrow Gauge Convention will be held in Maine September 12-15, 2007. The convention hotel will be the Holiday Inn by the Bay in Portland. Convention planners are George Barrett of Sheepscot Scale Models in Cumberland Center, Maine; Martha and Matt Sharpe of Train & Trooper in Phillips, Maine; and, narrow gauge authority Gary Kohler of Maine 2-Foot Publications in Ohio.

Trivial Pursuit

How many terminal railroad companies owned Hudson-type steam locomotives? The answer later in the column.

Websites-R-Us

Here are websites you might find of interest;

<http://www.railservice.com/>
<http://www.Trainorders.com>
<http://www.470rrclub.org>
<http://www.mdcroundhouse.com/>

Trivia Answer

How many terminal railroad companies owned Hudson-type steam locomotives? Not many, probably. If you say the Portland Terminal in Maine, you are correct. The PT owned one Hudson-type steam locomotive, the 701. Since the PT was formed (1901?) by the Maine Central and Boston & Maine Railroads to handle all the switching in the metro Portland area, was the Hudson used as a switch engine? Nope. It was set on a siding at Rigby Railroad yard and used for melting snow. Built by Baldwin in 1931 for passenger service on the Maine Central

Railroad, the 701 was scrapped in 1950.

Workbench Treasures

Dwight Smith, editor of the *Notch Eight* newsletter of the North Conway Model Railroad Club, passes along a tip for modelers.

"The Creative Resource Center, 1103 Forest Ave., Portland, Maine, sells odd lots of stuff donated by various companies. They had lots and lots of sheet Styrene, about 12" x 24" at \$1.00 per sheet or \$10.00 a pound! Also available are matte board, foam board and lots of funky/junky stuff. The store is open Tuesday through Saturday 11 AM to 5 PM. The phone number is 207/797-9543."

Clinics on Tape

George "Scooter" Youst of the Central New York Division says: "We have started to offer clinic video tapes from the Fall 2002 NER convention in Syracuse, N.Y. At the current moment, they are available by visiting the website to see what tapes are available and download an order form to snail mail to our treasurer." For further information, contact: <http://www.cnymra.org>.

2003

The 2003 Amtrak Calendar is available. The price - \$7.00 - includes shipping. The new calendar features a color photograph of an Amtrak P40 locomotive in Acela colors pulling a passenger train on a track that overlooks a stream, with a fisherman wetting a line and a rushing waterfall. The caption says: "The Amtrak Adirondack passing by the Bouquet River in New York." Contact Amtrak Marketing Distribution, P.O. Box 7717, Itasca, IL 60143-7717, or call 1-800-400-1229 to place an order.

Phunnie?

An American teenager was in the hospital recently recovering from serious head wounds received from an oncoming train. When asked how he received the injuries, the lad told police that he was simply trying to see how close he could get his head to a moving train before he was hit.

Riding the Down East Stage

If you think two-and a half hours is a long trip by Amtrak's Downeaster train to Boston, think of the stagecoach rider of the 1830s. In those days, it was possible to travel from Portland to Boston in one day by stage - leaving at 2 a.m. and arriving "with wearied bones and aching body," at 10 p.m. - *Portland by the Sea*, by Augusta F. Moulton, 1926

Andy Rooney on Trains

"There's no greater feeling of luxury and satisfaction than being whisked 500 miles closer to your destination while you sleep on a fast-moving train." - Ron Palmquist

Minutes of the Seacoast Annual Meeting, November 3, 2002

The 2002 annual meeting was held in Bedford NH, at the annual Bedford Boomer's show at 2:00 p.m.

Bill Truhart, the Bedford Boomer's spokesman, welcomed us and talked about future joint activities.

It was announced that Walter Ronfeldt had passed away.

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as read.

The treasurer's report was accepted as read.

The *Switch Tower* was discussed and e-mailing copies was discussed. It was noted that neither the Editor nor secretary had the knowledge to do this.

The displays in libraries that was brought up at the last meeting has been looked into. This space in the libraries is usually booked some time in advance, so we need time to do this. It was suggested that we start planning for next Christmas.

Rail Clinic 2004 was discussed and the first thing that we need to do is to locate a building to do this in. We need a building with a number of small rooms for this. The Great Falls Model Railroad Club, which used to do this, used a church school in Auburn, Maine, and the church catered the food.

The National Narrow Gauge Convention will be held in Portland, Maine, in 2007.

Possible sites for our annual meeting/convention were discussed and the Boothbay Railroad Museum was mentioned as a possible site, but they are not running at full strength in November.

The Old Orchard Beach school project is on hold while we wait for a response from the teacher involved.

The proposed changes to the constitution were accepted by those present to be sent out to the membership for a mail ballot.

Nominations for officers were opened and closed when there

were no new nominations. As there were no contested officers, Rich Breton, Ron Palmquist and Sandy Roberts were elected (directors) by popular acclaim.

At this point the annual meeting was recessed, and the Board of Directors convened for the purpose of electing the new president for the year. Rich Breton was the only nomination received and so he was re-elected as president. He stated that appointments for this year would be the same as last year.

The annual meeting was then reconvened.

The next Seacoast Division meeting will be on Saturday, January 18, 2003 at the home of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club in Lewiston at 1:00 p.m. The club will be holding their monthly operating session that same day starting at 9:00 a.m. and Seacoast members are invited to attend and operate.

The meeting in March will be held at The Rochester Community Center in Rochester NH on March 8, 2003 at 2:00 P.M. The meeting closed at 3:03 p.m.

A total of four door prizes were drawn off. Paul Lessard won two of them (HO car kits donated by Ron Palmquist), and Peter DuPuy and Terry King won the other two (a calendar and a coffee mug). (Raffle proceeds totaled \$19. - Editor)

Respectfully, Terrence P. King, secretary

1:00
1: The results of the constitution balloting: 37 votes yes, one no and two ballots were received postmarked 10 days after the Dec. 20th deadline. - Terry King

Membership Corner

We have a new life member and a new regular member.

Life Member: **Peter C. McKenney**
36 Bruce Hill Road
Cumberland, ME 04021-3452
mckenp@maine.rr.com

Regular Member: **Rowland Logan**
1549 Turtle Head Road
Islesboro, ME 04848

Volunteers: At Your Service

Terrence P. King

We'd like you to say hello to Terry King, the Seacoast Division's secretary. He's a busy guy. During business hours, he works for the U.S. Postal Service as postmaster at E. Livermore, Maine. In his spare time he works for the Northeastern Region, NMRA, as northern New England's director and he maintains the mailing list for the NER newsletter, the *Coupler*. He mails out the *Coupler* as well as our newsletter, *The Switch Tower*.



A model railroader since 1980, Terry also is treasurer of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club in his home town, Lewiston. Previously, he was the club president and secretary. He's a life member of NMRA, the NER and the Seacoast Division. Terry also is a life member of the American Legion (he was a member of the Air National Guard in Bangor), the DAV, the NRA and the American Hunting Club. He's a Mason and is a member of Kora Temple.

A bachelor, Terry says "no wives in this life or any other." A great big thank you to Terry King for the work he does for our hobby.

Congratulations

Larry Cannon, MMR, wrote a most helpful article for the September issue of the NMRA Bulletin. It contains everything modelers could ever want to know about modeling pulpwood. By the way, Larry has a new job in the Northeastern Region. He's NER treasurer, moving up from secretary.

Happy birthday to member Art Fahie who has celebrated the second anniversary of his model railroad business, Bar Mills Scale Model Works. Art has branched out from laser cut wooden architectural billboards to building kits. **Barmills.com** is Art's Website.

Hail and Farewell

We recently lost two well-known Maine model railroaders: Walter Ronfeldt of Scarborough and Sidney R. Branson, M.D., of So. Windham.

Walter served as a director of the Seacoast Division, and contributed to the newsletter. He also was an award-winning steam locomotive kitbasher whose home road was the Boston & Albany R.R. He died at age 81 October 19, 2002.

Doc Branson, who passed away late last month at age 90, was a long-time member of the NMRA and enjoyed the Northeastern Region conventions. His model railroad, the Windham & Gorham R.R. (Route of the Pill & the Scalpel), occupied a large part of the basement of his home. Our condolences to each of the families.

The Switch Tower Calendar

January 12, 2003 (Sunday), Kearsarge, N.H. Annual Open House at director Dwight Smith's HO Scale *Northern Vermont Railway*. 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. at 598 Intervale Crossroad. Light refreshments. 603/356-3416, or geebud@ncia.net.

January 18, 2003 (Saturday), Lewiston, Maine. Seacoast Division meeting, 1 p.m. at the Great Falls Model Railroad Club. (See page 1 details) Info: 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

February 1-2, 2003 (Saturday-Sunday), West Springfield, Mass. Amherst Railway Society's BIG 2003 Railroad Hobby Show at Eastern States Exposition. Info: P.O. Box 718, Warren, MA 01083 or www.AmherstRail.org.

February 15, 2003 (Saturday), Augusta, Maine. Whitefield Lions Club Model Railroad and Miniatures Show, National Guard Armory, Western Ave., Augusta. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$3, under 12 free, family \$8. Info: Richard T. Hagan, 207/549-5526.

March 8, 2003 (Saturday), Rochester, N.H. Seacoast Division quarterly meeting at 1:00 p.m. at the Community Center in Rochester, N.H. Info: 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

March 15, 2003 (Saturday), Essex Jct., Vt. Northwest Vermont Model Railway Society 14th Annual "Vermont Rails 2003," Champlain Valley Exposition (Miller Building), Route 15, Essex Jct. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. \$4. Info: Ron Piro, 802/878-1135.

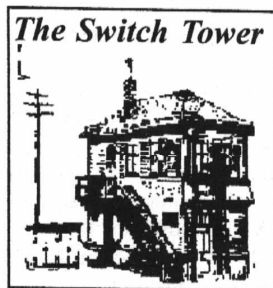
April 12, 2003 (Saturday), Sanford, Maine. Sanford Lions Club Train Show, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

If you have a model railroad or railfan event you believe would interest Seacoast Division members and friends, contact the editor at Musiccnw@maine.rr.com

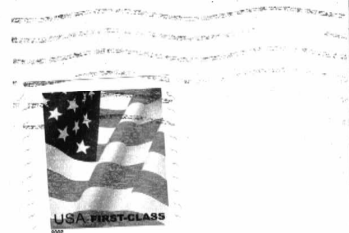
Deadline for articles
and
other submissions for
the next issue of
The Switch Tower is
March 1, 2003.



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