

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

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Number Two

President's Message

Seacoast Outreach

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

This year's Seacoast Division activities are shaping up. We started the year running by setting up a static display in the Dover Public Library in Dover, NH. Thank you to Sandy Roberts for contacting the library and setting up this opportunity. This project required a flurry of activity because it came about so quickly. Sandy found two glass display cases immediately available for our use for the entire month of February. Model railroading is fun, and getting interesting materials together without stripping home layouts over one week-end was a pleasant challenge. As best we could, we tried to cover a variety of scales and interest in the hobby; we covered N, HO, O, and G scale; with beginner as well as craftsman projects. Display signs, photos, NMRA materials, and a cross-section of publications were also gathered and displayed. This was a lot of fun and should be considered at other locations. See the photos showing this display. I understand that Dover was the original home of the NMRA Seacoast Division, many years ago.

We had several ideas presented at the January meeting. Our Vice President, Bill Gaver, has made a detailed proposal for a project at the Wolfeboro Public Library in November which includes weekly presentations through the entire month. These are geared towards newcomers with basic information on the hobby. Included is a program for children to promote railroad information through games and activities. This is a good opportunity to introduce new people to the hobby. Bill already has three volunteers lined up for these presentations. Wolfeboro, New Hampshire is an interesting location for this program, having several railroad and model railroad interests. Downtown Wolfeboro still has several well-maintained original railroad buildings, now used for other purposes but have still retained the railroad appearance. The freight station is now a propane fuel office, and the classical passenger station, now houses the Chamber of Commerce office. These were part of the Wolfeboro Railroad, a tourist

railroad for many years. The roadbed is now a beautiful walking / bike path, and the Sanbornville end is used by railcar enthusiast. At the transition point is Fernald Station, with a small engine house now used by the rail club. Wolfeboro is also home to a popular model railroad tourist attraction, Klicky-Klack Model Railroad, which participated in the NER Portland Convention layout tours last year.

Other projects still in the planning stages; Rail-Clinic 2004, our annual Spring Fling at the Hartmann's Model Railroad Museum in Intervale, N.H. on May 4th, and we are still trying to get the Old Orchard Beach Middle School project off the ground. We have even started some early discussion for hosting another NER convention, possibly 2005 in Manchester. Come join us at the next Seacoast Division meeting, share the fun.

The Achievement Program

Volunteer Certificate

by Larry Cannon, *MMR*
Seacoast Division Achievement Program Chairman

The Volunteer Certificate is one of the more enjoyable certificates to earn and even novice modelers can easily qualify. The criteria are service to the hobby over a period of time, measured in "Time Units". Some of you reading this now may have already qualified. If you have been a Seacoast Director or Officer for five years, you've done the work!

Sixty time units are required and credit is given at the Division level for months spent as a Division Director or Officer, being a Boy Scout Railroad Merit Badge counselor, if you held a layout for a Regional Convention, participated in one of the Portland Convention committees and other volunteer service. If you have questions, the AP page on www.nmra.org provides guidance, contact me - see the masthead for the details or catch me at a Division meeting.

Meeting Agenda, 10:00 a.m. May 4

- 1) A short business meeting concerning division activities.
- 2) A presentation on the achievement program, explanation of judging criteria, including real contest model examples including the judging sheet comments.
- 3) Clinic on making control panels, including construction of track diagrams.
- 4) Show and tell sessions, bring your favorite winter modeling project.
- 4) A silent auction is planned for the afternoon, after lunch prepared by Nellie Hartmann and kitchen crew (charge should be around \$7.00).
- 5) If we can get enough qualified judges to attend, we may also be able to judge a few models for the achievement program.

Bring a modeling friend for a fun day.

**NER/NMRA
Spring Convention
ACELA-bration
T-Party**

May 16, 17, 18, 2003

FMI: See calendar on page 4.

Model Railroading: Share the Fun!

The Switch Tower

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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, Dwight Smith,
Larry Cannon MMR, Terry King, Paul
Lessard, Ron Palmquist, Sandy Roberts
Achievement Program Chairman -
Larry Cannon MMR
Photo Contests - Tim Byrne
Model Contests - Dwight Smith

Northeastern Region, NMRA

Kenneth H. May, *President*
71 Buff Cap Rd., Tolland, CT 06084-2605
Phone: 860/872-3441, e-mail kmay@casualcorner.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@globalnetisp.com
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/NERHOME.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: Musiccnw@maine.rr.com

Seacoast People

At Your Service

by Ron Palmquist

BILL GAVER

The vice president of the Seacoast Division, NER/NMRA, Bill is also the superintendent of the Balboa Granada and Eastern Railroad in Brookfield, N.H.

"Originally chartered in California, the



B&G Railroad's board of directors - my wife, Nancy, is chairman of the board - opted to relocate to the northeast," Bill explained. "Upon retirement, we decided to construct, as an investment, a three-bedroom, two bath house adjacent to our home in Brookfield, on land that was historically part of the original homestead. The result was a ranch-style home with an exterior facade appearing as an old railroad station," Bill continued. Two-thirds of the main level (24' x 31'), where a living room, dining room, two bedrooms and a bath were designed to be located, does not have wall partitions, and serves as the space for the railroad layout.

Bill says he has been fortunate to have "lived several lives;" 25 years as a musician and music educator and 25 years establishing and operating a design-build company. "But," he adds, "model railroading has always been in the back of and in the forefront of my mind."

Bill continues: "I have lived in, and transported components of my model railroad to, many areas of the country including Maryland, California, Texas, Massachusetts and Tennessee prior to my career change and my move to Brookfield, N. H. Retirement has permitted me to put my model railroading dreams into reality and allowed for the establishment, operation and continued development of the Balboa Granada & Eastern."

ROAD TO RECOVERY

Treasurer Tom Coulombe is reportedly back at home with assurances that he'll enjoy an almost 100 percent recovery from a "minor heart attack" suffered following the train show at Augusta. His cardiac care provider (read that Doctor) has "grounded" Tom, but he's able to work on regaining his strength by walking. Good news, Tom!

SMILES PER HOUR?

Stan Jordan of South Portland reports: To have a sense of realistic speed on an HO scale layout, to operate trains according to a schedule or timetable and to be able to plan meets, a rather easy-to-remember method is to use the "5 seconds rule". It works like this:

The realistic speed of a train on your HO scale layout in miles per hour is set by the number of inches on your layout that the locomotive travels in five seconds. For example, if in five seconds the locomotive travels 10" the HO scale speed is 10 mph, in 25" it's 25 mph, 40" - 40 mph, 60" - 60 mph. You could have points on your layout where you mark distances to check train speeds by installing telephone poles, right-of-way signs or some other type of marker at 10, 25, 50 inches apart to allow you or some other operator to check the speed of his train. Just keep in mind that the number of seconds to be used will be different for each scale O,N,TT, etc. A foot note; after I did all the calculations to determine train speeds, I discovered this same concept mentioned in NMRA Data Sheet D8a.1.

AROUND IN CIRCLES

Congratulations to Brad Thompson of Cape Elizabeth, whose article on his helix model railroad was published in the most recent issue of the *NER Coupler*. Roger Wilson, Brad's neighbor, provided the photos.

From the Editor's Desk



S'NO FOOLIN'

By now, railfans across the world have learned about the roundhouse roof cave-in at the B&O Museum in Baltimore. Photos of the building and collection wreckage, caused when heavy snow collapsed the iron structure of the 1884 Baldwin Roundhouse, were almost unbelievable. A casualty of the catastrophe: The Museum's Fair of the Iron Horse was cancelled due to damage the Museum incurred. The railroading exposition was scheduled to take place June 28 through July 3, 2003 to commemorate the 175th Anniversary of American Railroading. To keep up to date on the Museum's campaign to raise funds to rebuild, regularly check their website - <http://www.borail.org/>

Here's a thought: What would happen if every railfan and model railroader would donate \$1 to the project?

Continued on page 3

Minutes of Jan. 18, 2003 meeting at The Great Falls Model Railroad Club

Business Meeting:

President Rich Breton started the meeting at 1:00 p.m. following a club operating session. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as printed, with the correction that meetings started at 1:00 p.m. not 2:00 p.m. as stated. The treasurer's report was accepted as read.

Larry Cannon, the Division achievement program chairman, stated that he was waiting for one of our officers to finish his paperwork for his Official Certificate.

The editor stated that he could use long or short articles on the Bedford Boomers show in New Hampshire in November.

The Old Orchard project was discussed. We are having trouble contacting the teacher involved. He has wiring, track and buildings. He has also started a control panel. Both Tom Coulombe and Rich Breton have contacted him to no avail. Tom is going to go and see him.

Library displays were discussed again. The Wolfeboro (N.H.) public library does have display cases; the Rochester (N.H.) library does not. Bill Gaver will try to secure space for November, Sandy Roberts will check with the Dover (N.H.) library. It was suggested that other members should contact their local libraries and historical societies to see if we could set up a display. Having a local division convention in the spring of 2004 and holding a Rail Clinic were discussed. It was agreed that both are worthwhile for the division to pursue. We will need a facility with rooms, like a school and someone to provide food service for these events. This would be a good fund-raiser for a school club or a scout troop.

Ron Palmquist donated a switch tower kit, a Woodland Scenic Detail kit and a 2002 Walthers Catalog for us to raffle off. This raffle raised \$16.00 and the winners were: Brad Thompson (Signal Tower), Tom Coulombe (The Woodland Scenic kit) and Dan Collins (Walthers Catalog).

The next meeting will be held on March 8, 2003 at the Rochester (NH) Community Center. May 4, 2003 at The Hartmann's Museum in Intervale, N.H. (tentative)

The nominating committee needs to be elected at the May meeting. Nominations are given at the September BOD meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 2:33 p.m. so that the clinics could start.

Clinics:

Larry Cannon's show-and-tell featured his newest project, a unique hamburger stand that was built in Lewiston, Maine, then moved across the river to Auburn. He showed how he made decals for the project. He also demonstrated how to make rock molds.

Rich Breton then did a show-and-tell on small details and detailing vehicles. He had a number of items on display. He also showed how to light buildings that have full interiors without having the whole building glow.

Respectfully submitted by Terry King, secretary.

March 8, 2003, Rochester NH

Business Meeting:

There was supposed to be a meeting of the Seacoast Division today, but we did not have a quorum as only three directors attended. Instead we held a planning session.

The request for help from a teacher in Old Orchard beach was discussed. Tom Coulombe has talked to the teacher who needs help with scenery on the Lionel layout he is building. He has help with track and wiring. It was thought that we could get a lot of mileage with the buildings. As his students have different learning disabilities, we could teach them how to construct the buildings, and then have a different session on how to weather them and add details to make them look like they were being used. It was thought that they would be quite pleased knowing there was much more to this than just assembling a kit.

The displays in local libraries were discussed. Those present were pleased with what has been done so far, and we will try to expand this project into other cities in New Hampshire and Maine - Seacoast Division Country. (See photo at the top of the page provided by Rich Breton.)



Taking over the Rail Clinics from The Great Falls Model Road Club was discussed. The last Saturday in April 2004 seems to be the best time to do this. It was felt that by having the clinics in the Manchester area would be beneficial. The next step is to locate a building in which to have it.

The annual Spring Fling of the Division will be held at Hartmann's Museum in Intervale, N.H. on Saturday, May 4, 2003.

Clinic:

Larry Cannon presented a clinic on a hamburger stand that he is building. The prototype was located in Lewiston, and then moved to Auburn. It was torn down in the 1950s. Larry's building is in 1:29th scale, permitting him to model everything in the building, including salt and pepper shakers.

Along the R-O-W

Continued from page 2

TRIVIA

Can you guess which damaged exhibit was one of the oldest locomotives at the B&O Museum? The answer below.

NEWSTUFF

Roger Robar, president of the NorthConway Model Railroad Club, offered these observations of some new model railroad items of interest seen at the recent Springfield show.

Bethlehem Car Works will soon be offering a resin kit of a Boston & Maine 4-door wood sheathed baggage car. This is modeled after the Laconia Car Works Co. style of car, and the test run of the model on display was outstanding. Hodgdon Scale Models had its new craftsman kit of the North Conway Freight House for sale. As with all their kits, it was very well done. Branchline Trains has a new line of freight cars called 'Yardmaster Series'. These are injection molded plastic "shake the box" kits of 40' AAR style boxcars from the late steam-early diesel era. They offer many older style authentic paint schemes with metal wheels and couplers for around \$10.00 each. A great value. Our thanks to the club's newsletter editor, Dwight Smith, for permission to use Roger's comments.

NEW TRAIN SHOP

There's a new hobby shop in Maine - Miller's Model Train, 52 Alfred Road, Biddeford, "next to Louis Pizza across from the police station." Call 1-800-450-2998 for hours open.

TRIVIA ANSWER

B&O #57, "Memnon" 0-8-0, 1848, the only New Castle loco and the museum's only original 1840 loco. The Museum claims to be the oldest, most comprehensive collection of railroad artifacts in the Western Hemisphere.

COMING UP IN THE SWITCH TOWER

In the next issue of our newsletter: A profile on the Eastern Maine Model Railroad Club. Deadline for copy for the next issue is May 1, 2003.

Ron Palmquist

The Switch Tower Calendar

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

April 12, 2003 (Saturday), Sanford, Maine. Sanford Lions Club Third Annual All-Gauge Model Railroad Show, Veterans Memorial Gym, Route 109, Sanford. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., adults \$3, under 12 free with adult admission, family maximum \$8. FMI: call Bill or Shelly at 207/636-4151, or E-mail: billcat@metrocast.net

April 13, 2003 (Sunday) Lebanon, N.H. Connecticut Valley Model Railroad Club Upper Valley Model Railroad Show, Lebanon High School, I-89 exit 18, Lebanon,. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission: \$4, under 12 \$1. FMI: John Granton, 603/523-9169.

April 26, 2003 (Saturday), Bath, Maine. Downeast Railroad Club Annual Spring Train Show, Bath Middle School, 6 Old Brunswick Road, Bath. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission: \$3, \$8 family max. Under 12 free. FMI: call James Petrussek, 207/442-0449, or E-mail: james.petrusek@verizon.net

April 27, 2003 (Sunday), Hooksett, N.H. Hooksett Lions Club Model Railroad Show, Hooksett Memorial Junior High School, Daniel Webster Highway, Route 3N. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission \$3, ages 5-12 \$1, family \$10 max. FMI: Bob Schroeder, 603/485-3881. E-mail: robert@schroeder.mv.com

May 4, 2003 (Saturday), Intervale, N.H. - Seacoast Division meeting at Hartmann's Museum in Interval (see agenda on page 1).

May 10, 2003 (Saturday), Lyndon Center, Vermont. Lyndon Area Sports Association Model Railroad Show at Fenton Chester Arena. FMI: Dave at 802/626-9254.

May 16-18, 2003 (Friday, Saturday, Sunday). NER/NMRA Spring

Convention, "Acela-Bration T-Party" Mansfield, Mass. Convention Hotel: Holiday Inn., Mansfield, Mass. Registrations to John Campbell Jr., 63 Alexander Drive, East Hartford, CT 06118, or call 860/568-5075. E-mail: john-ner@yahoo.com (See NER Coupler for details.)

October 11-12, 2003 (Saturday-Sunday), West Springfield, Mass. GATS Show, Eastern States Exposition, 1305 Memorial Ave. Show Hours; 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM daily: Admission; Adults: \$7.00, Kids 12 and under free.

November 1, 2003 (Saturday), Auburn, Maine. 30th Annual Model Railroad Show, sponsored by the Great Falls Model Railroad Club of Lewiston, Maine. Auburn Middle School, 610 Court St., Auburn. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Adults \$4, under 15 \$2. FMI: call 207/933-2477.

November 22, 2003 (Saturday). Annual Show, Eastern Maine Model Railroad club. Info: <http://emmrc.freeyellow.com>

NB: Amherst Railway Society has changed the dates of its 2004 big show to Feb. 7-8. - Doug Moore, President

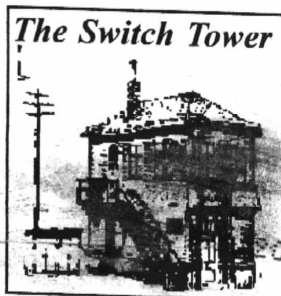
Deadline for articles and other submissions for the next issue of The Switch Tower is May 1, 2003.



Seacoast Division, NER/NMRA

c/o Ron Palmquist
16 Glen Avenue

Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107-1022



Address Service Requested



RICHARD BRETON
9 RIVERSIDE DR
ROCHESTER NH 03867-1120

03867+1120 07

