

# 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

Fourth Quarter, 2003

Number Four

## President's Message

### Our Hobby Can Help

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

We are all very busy with many concerns and worries. The weak economy persists, we face continued job uncertainties, yet doing more with fewer people, and within smaller budgets. The world is quite unstable, with concerns for friends, associates and family away in the military. Fortunately, we have a great hobby to help us in such times. Get involved with a new project, possibly adding a new section to your layout, or detailing a building, scene, or vehicle. Everyone needs a relief valve; share the fun of our hobby with friends.

As the new school year starts, and the fall season is upon us, we also find ourselves with a busy Seacoast Division schedule of activities. Our annual meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 11 in Rochester, New Hampshire. (See the agenda in the next column over.) We are having this meeting earlier than usual because of the many activities already planned for late October and throughout the month of November. Please attend this important meeting, learn about our many upcoming activities, and provide input into the long-range plans as well. We are in the early planning stages for the next Seacoast Division-hosted Northeastern Region/NMRA convention; this one will be in New Hampshire. And, our looking ahead to spring 2005!

Closer to the present is the Wolfeboro Library project with several presentations geared to new modelers. Bill Gaver, our vice-president, has been very busy setting this program up, including extensive publicity and operational library displays. The presentations will be filmed for broadcast on local cable television stations. This will be a good chance to promote and encourage new modelers and share our interest in our hobby. Others can see the benefits of this hobby and get relief from the daily grind.

Share the fun of model railroading.

### All members invited to attend

**Seacoast Division Annual Meeting, October 11 (Saturday), Rochester, N.H. 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Location: Rochester Community Center, Route 125 (Wakefield Street), Rochester, N.H.**

#### 1:00 p.m. Business Meeting

- Wakefield Library Project
- Bedford Boomers NMRA display table
- Future NER convention planning
- NMRA Long Range Plan, impact on Seacoast Division

#### Election of officers

#### 2:30 p.m. Clinics & Activities

- Weathering Alternatives
- Show and Tell (*Bring your latest project and explain your secret techniques.*)

**FMI: 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**

**November is Model Railroad Month. We call your attention to the month-long schedule of activities planned by vice president Bill Gaver and his volunteers at the Wolfeboro Public Library in New Hampshire. See insert page for details.**

## Thank You!

... to those who contributed to this issue of *The Switch Tower*: **Rich Breton, Tom Coulombe, Bill Gaver, Terry King, Stan Jordan, Brad Thompson, Roger Wilson.**

## Division Business

### Minutes of the BOD Meeting Sept. 13, 2003

President Rich Breton opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. at The Great Falls Model Railroad Club in Lewiston, Maine, with nine members present - six of whom were Board of Directors members. As there were not enough members for a quorum, the meeting was declared a BOD meeting. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted without change. The treasurer read his report and it was accepted without change.

The chairman of the Achievement Program, Larry Cannon presented framed Achievement award certificates for **Association Volunteer** to Tom Coulombe and Ron Palmquist. Larry noted that it takes many hours of work to acquire enough points to earn this award, and is not as easy as many think it is.

*The Switch Tower* editor, Ron Palmquist, presented his report. He told us the next issue will have a new column from Stan Jordan named "Armchair Superintendent," whose initial subject is rail painting. There will also be a calendar of events across the Division.

Bill Gaver presented handouts on the Wolfeboro Public Library project on the "Tradition of Model Railroading." This will be presented on November 1st, 6th, 15th and 23rd at the library at 259 South Main St. in Wolfeboro, NH. Art Fahie will donate the printing as well as money for other materials. The Great Falls Model Railroad Club will have a 4-foot by 5-foot layout at the library for the month.

The board voted to host the Northeastern Region/N.M.R.A. Spring convention in 2005 in Manchester N.H. The amount of time involved with the library projects and the convention will not allow us to run Rail Clinic 2004 or 2005. It is hoped that the convention will be able to be held on May 20-22, 2005.

The N.M.R.A. "Long Range Plan" was discussed, and the Board voted to "strongly support it." This will be presented to the mem-

(continued on page 3)

# The Switch Tower

Volume Ten, Number Four, Fourth Quarter 2003

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## Seacoast Division, Northeastern Region, NMRA

- Chartered Nov. 17, 1968 -

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

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NER Home Page:  
<http://pages.cthome.net/kenmay/NERHOME.HTML>

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## The Switch Tower

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From the Editor's Desk

## Along the R-O-W

### Home Road

The top story of this R-O-W column is the silver spike start-up of building the Chicago Creek Division of the Evergreen Central Railroad on Glen Avenue in Cape Elizabeth, Maine.

It's not the first phase of construction of the mighty St. James & Sandy River Railroad that I first outlined in Model Railroader magazine in March of 1978. But, after many years of armchair model railroading, I'm happy to report that on September 7, 2003, the first piece of cork roadbed was glued down on a 1x4 bookshelf for a switching layout that will be the test-bed for much of the pre-construction planning of the St.J.& S.R.

It's hoped that from these modest beginnings I can build and operate a small space model railroad to, perhaps, learn what not to do on the big-brother St.J.& S.R.

The Chicago Creek joins the Tower J module that also is under construction here and, hopefully, will assume its rightful place in future layouts of the Portland Terminal Modular Club. Stay tuned - photos in 2004.

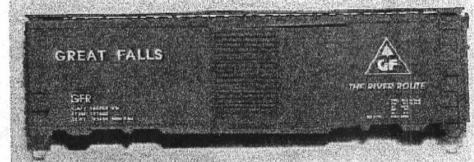
### Mystery Photo

The mystery is no longer a mystery. Two readers correctly identified the photo in the last issue of *The Switch Tower* as a scene from Dwight Smith's Northern Vermont model railroad. The alert ones are Rich Breton, our division president, who took the digital photo, and . . . Dwight Smith himself. Thanks for your input, gentlemen.

### Acela to Providence?

It is possible to experience a sample high speed on the Northeast Corridor. We missed out on the Fall Northeastern Region NMRA convention Acela-bration, so on a nice weekend in late August, my wife, Sandi, and I boarded the 6:05 a.m. Downeaster in Port-

land for Boston, where we taxied over to South Station for the 11:00 a.m. Acela Express. We arrived in Providence at 11:45 following a 10-minute delay at Route 128 station for mechanical problems. A disembodied voice on the train intercom told us we would be underway shortly and that a tech would meet the train in Providence with a laptop to correct the software malfunction that prohibited the train from reaching a full 150 mph and from selling cold drinks from the on-board dispensing system - cold cans, only, were available. We were in Rhode Island for enough time to have lunch with our grandchildren and their parents, then, we returned to Providence Union Station for the 2:54 p.m. Acela Express that arrived at South Station at 3:47 p.m. There, we boarded the 4:10 p.m. Concord Trailways bus for the ride back to Portland - home in time for supper. Quite a trip. Smooth, quiet ride - best train suspension system I've ever experienced. Nice big windows. Comfortable seats. Not bad for the old New Haven NEC line.



### New Stuff

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club has a new limited edition, fund-raising 40-foot HO boxcar kit for sale. For detailed info, contact our secretary, Terry King at P.O. Box 188, E. Livermore, ME 04228-0188, Phone/Fax: 207/933-2477, or E-mail: tking@megalink.net

Look for the new Proto 2000 Alco S3 yard switch engines in HO in April of next year. Of interest locally will be PORTLAND TERMINAL #1101 (Black/Red Stripes), B&M #1178 (Blue) and B&M #1185. MSRP is \$110.

### NER Renewal

Don Itrace, the NER office manager wrote in a recent letter: "Thank you for renewing your membership in the Northeastern Region. The NER will no longer be issuing new membership cards. Your NER expiration date will be shown on your NMRA membership cards." Huh?

- Ron Palmquist



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

## Seacoast People Win AP Certificates

Members Tom Coloumbe (at left in photo below) and Ron Palmquist, editor of *The Switch Tower*, have been awarded the Association Volunteer certificate from the National Model Railroad Association's Achievement Program (AP). Both are members of the Seacoast Division Board of Directors, and Tom



- Terry King photo

is Division treasurer.

Tom also is president of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club of Lewiston, his home town. Tom says: "I was reintroduced into the model railroad hobby when an injury in 1995 left me out of work for six months. My co-workers asked what I would like to do during my rehab period. I suggested my prior interest in the hobby that I had been doing off and on for the past 15 years. They signed me up for a subscription to *Model Railroader* and *Railroad Model Craftsmen* magazines. This rekindled my interest. During the winter, there appeared *Model Railroader* a request for merit badge counselors at the 1997 Boy Scout Jamboree at Fort A. P. Hill in Virginia. I felt that this was an opportunity for me to take advantage to help the Railroad Merit Badge program, especially since I was an adult leader here in Lewiston. What a fantastic time I had meeting new boys and adult leaders. When I returned to Lewiston, I talked about my experiences in Virginia to other scout leaders. One of them happened to belong to the Great Falls Model Railroad Club; he invited me to a club meeting and to talk to the members about my experience. At that meeting I showed a video clip of what I had photographed at the jamboree and from that meeting I joined the Club."

Ron has been a member of the Seacoast Division since accepting the invitation of the late Dr. Sidney Branson to join the Division and the Northeastern Region of NMRA in the mid-1970s. Earlier, he was a member of the Rocky Mountain Region while living in Denver, Colo. Ron, who was NMRA's public relations director for a year in 1979-80, is a

retired public relations professional and previously was a news reporter. His interest in trains, he says, must have been kindled while an infant traveling with his parents from Chicago to Gladstone, Mich., in a sleeping car on a Chicago & North Western passenger train. "My father bought me an American Flyer train set for Christmas one year, however, he told me I was too young to play with it," he said. "I lost interest after a couple of years until I obtained a copy of a Boy's Life magazine that was loaded with model train articles. While in high school, I worked with a school chum on a model train setup and, as they say, the rest is history."

If you're interested in the NMRA Achievement Program, contact Larry King, Seacoast Division AP chairman, or look up the Achievement Program on the NMRA website - <http://www.nmra.org>

## BOD Meeting Minutes

(Continued from page 1)

bership at our annual meeting on October 11, 2003

The president appointed Larry Cannon, Terry King and himself to a bylaws committee to see what changes we would have to make if the long-range plan is accepted by the N.M.R.A. If the N.M.R.A. approves the plan we will be able to present the bylaw changes to the membership in a timely fashion. One of the changes would be that all N.M.R.A. members would be Division members as part of their national membership. This means that we would no longer be collecting dues, but would sell subscriptions to *The Switch Tower* instead. The Hub Division has been doing this for some time and it is working well for them. It is also possible that the Region would channel \$1.00 per member to us to us for promotion of the hobby.

The annual meeting will be held October 11 in Rochester N.H. There are two positions open for the Board of directors, with Larry Cannon and Tom Coulombe nominated to fill the three year terms of office. (Members of the nominating committee were Sandy Roberts, chairman, Rich Breton and Ron Palmquist.) Nominations will also be accepted from the floor prior to the election. The secretary was directed to send an Annual Meeting announcement to the membership prior to October 1, 2003. The President closed the meeting at 3:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted  
Terrence P. King, secretary

## Track painting: Color me functional

Not sure what color to paint the rails on your layout? There are probably 27 gazillion combinations of colors to choose from with many of them acceptable, depending upon where and when you look at real rails—light gray for brand-new rail right from the steel mills, freshly rusted rails which have been installed for a rather short time, dark gray for rails which are located near engine servicing facilities and therefore have oil/grease on them, darker brown rails which have been weathered for some time, etc. It's somewhat like "Beauty is in the eyes of the beholder."

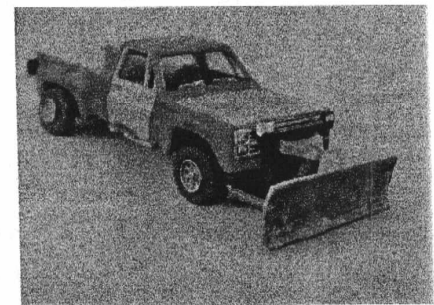
Therefore, to avoid complete paralysis over the choice of a color, consider this mixture of Floquil paint: 10 parts of Railroad Tie Brown (#F110014) to one part of Engine Black (#110010).

When thoroughly mixed it will look like a dark gray, but when dry on the rails it takes on a dark brown color.

After it's dry, drag a small knife to scrape of any paint from the heads of the rails and from the gauge face of each rail, then run a 'Bright Boy' over the heads of the rails, and Voila!

- Stan Jordan, Arm Chair Superintendent

## Ready for Winter



Brad Thompson of Cape Elizabeth, Maine, has prepared for winter on his layout with a kitbashed pickup truck with a snow blade, typically seen throughout northern New England in the late fall each year. More on Brad's efforts in the next issue of *The Switch Tower*.

- Roger Wilson photo

## Club Directory

I'm assembling information for a directory of model railroad clubs in the Northeastern Region/NMRA. If you know about a model railroad club in one of the NER's states or provinces, please contact me at [Musicnw@maine.rr.com](mailto:Musicnw@maine.rr.com).

- 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](mailto:Musicnw@maine.rr.com)

**October 11, 2003 (Saturday), Rochester, N.H. Seacoast Division Annual Meeting. 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Location: Rochester Community Center. FMI: 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](mailto:tking@megalink.net)**

**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.

**October 18-19, 2003 (Saturday-Sunday), North Conway, N.H.** 29th Annual Railfan's Weekend at Conway Scenic Railroad. FMI: 603/356-3416.

**October 18-19, 2003 (Saturday-Sunday), Wakefield, Mass.** North Shore Model Railroad Club's 24th Annual Train Show and Open House at the Americal Civic Center, Main St. 9:30am to 3:30pm, both days. Operating display layouts, 150 Tables, Dealers & Exhibitors, White Elephant Table, Railroadiana. Free Parking, Food Service. Adults: \$3; Children, Seniors: \$1, Under 5: free \$7; Family Maximum admission covers both show and open house. For more information, call (781) 245-4742 Tuesday or Thursday Evenings.

**October 24-26, 2003 (Friday-Sunday), Islandia, N.Y.** Fall NER Convention. FMI: Glenn Glastetter, permanent convention chairman. 802/434-3316. [glenn@together.net](mailto:glenn@together.net)

**October 25, 2003 (Saturday), Littleton, N.H.** 26th Annual Ammonoosuc Valley Association Model Railroad Show.

**November - National Model Railroad Month (see schedule of events at the Wolfeboro, N.H., Public Library on Insert Page.)**

**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 9, 2003 (Sunday), Bedford, N.H.** Bedford Boomers 21st Annual Show from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., McKelvey Middle School, Bedford. FMI: <http://www.boomers-rr.com/Exhibit1.html>

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

**February 7 - 8, 2004. Amherst Railway Society's Annual "Big Railroad Hobby Show"** in the Better Living Center, Young Building and Stroh Building, Eastern States Exposition, West Springfield, Mass. 9AM to 5PM both days. FMI: [ars@samnet.net](mailto:ars@samnet.net) or at the Society's website <http://www.amherstrail.org/calendar.html>

## Did you know . . . ?

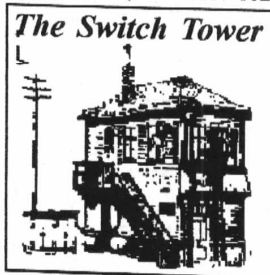
"...that the United States spends more on cleaning roadkill off the highways than it does on passenger rail?" - David Baldacci, the seven-time *New York Times* best selling author, in his novel, *The Christmas Train*.



**Seacoast Division, NER/NMRA**

c/o Ron Palmquist  
16 Glen Avenue

Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107-1022



Address Service Requested



# PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**From:** Seacoast Division  
National Model Railroad Association  
**Date:** October 1, 2003

**Contact:** Bill Gaver  
Phone: (603) 522-9007  
E-Mail: [gaver@worldpath.net](mailto:gaver@worldpath.net)

## WOLFEBORO PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTS THE HOBBY OF MODEL RAILROADING

The Seacoast Division of the National Model Railroad Association and the Wolfeboro Public Library will be co-sponsoring a series of events during November in recognition of National Model Railroad Month. Free to young and old alike, this outreach program will consist of an operating model railroad layout and a Lionel train exhibit on display in the Library throughout November in addition to the following presentations.

Saturday, November 1 from 2 – 4 P.M. **The ABC's of Model Railroading: Model Railroading as a Hobby.** Participants will be introduced to the fascinating and diverse hobby of model railroading.

Thursday, November 6 from 7 – 9 P.M. **Ride the Rails from Boston to North Conway: Local Railroading Past and Present.** Those in attendance will take an imaginary train trip from Boston to Wolfeboro to North Conway in the early 1900's.

Saturday, November 15 from 2 – 4 P.M. **Quick and Easy Model Railroad Scenery Tips.** This presentation consists of a live demonstration showing how to make a model railroad come alive. Also on

Saturday, November 15 from 2 – 4 P.M. **Special Program for "Little Engineers" Learn About Real Trains and Rail Safety with Hands-On Project.** An event open to children ages 5 – 8, preregistration is required by calling the Library at 569-2428.

Saturday, November 22 from 2 – 4 P.M. **Selecting, Setting Up and Maintaining Your New Train.** This program will help one decide what to buy and tips on how to set up, operate, and maintain a train set. At this same time, **The Engine Doctor: Bring Your "Malfunctioning Locomotive" for a Diagnosis of Engine Problems** is scheduled. Attendees may bring a poorly performing engine for analysis and minor repairs. A service report and helpful advice will be provided.

Model railroad informational handouts and refreshments will be provided at all events. For more information call the Wolfeboro Public Library at 569-2428.



# Welcome to the . . . WORLD'S GREATEST HOBBY

*In recognition of National Model Railroad Month: November 2003*

Seacoast Division, Northeastern Region of the  
National Model Railroad Association  
and  
Wolfeboro Public Library

## TRADITION of MODEL RAILROADING

A Creative Hobby for Learning, Family Fun, and Railroad Action

### PRESENT FIVE PROGRAMS:

**The ABCs of Model Railroading: Model Railroading as a Hobby**

Saturday November 1 2 - 4 P.M.

**Ride the Rails from Boston to North Conway:**

**Local Railroading Past and Present**

Thursday November 6 7 - 9 P.M.

**Model Railroad Construction: Quick and Easy Scenery Tips**

Saturday November 15 2 - 4 P.M.

and

*Special Feature for Little Engineers (Ages 5 - 8)*

**Learning About Real Trains, Rail Safety, Plus Craft Project**

*Pre-Registration Required - To Register: (603) 569-2428*

Saturday November 15 2 - 4 P.M.

**Selecting, Setting Up and Maintaining A New Train  
PLUS Engine Doctor: Bring Your "Malfunctioning" Locomotive**

Saturday November 22 2 - 4 P.M.

Location: Wolfeboro Public Library  
259 South Main Street  
Wolfeboro, NH  
(603) 569-2428

