

The Switch Tower



**Seacoast Division, Northeastern Region,
National Model Railroad Association**

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

Volume Twelve

First Quarter, 2005

Number One

President's Message

Happy New Year - Portland Meeting – Convention Tune-up

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

We will once again have our Seacoast Division Meeting at the Portland Transportation Center (Amtrak Station) on Saturday January 8 from 1-4 p.m. We had excellent

attendance when we did this in 2004, with several first time attendees. Last year Dwight Smith received his Master Model Railroader award. This was an exciting event for all who attended. In addition to a slide show showing some of Dwight's achievements, we also had some informative clinics, one on weathering. It was a fun afternoon, including my return trip with Robbie to Dover by train. While planning this meeting, it occurred to me that it may be helpful to have presentations on the achievement program and on NMRA contest program.

We are hosting the NER Spring Convention in Nashua, New Hampshire May 13-15th, 2005. These topics may interest people who would like to participate in the model contest, and would like some pointers. We will set up and present a program to help members interested in the achievement program. Some of you may find you already qualify for one of the certificates. If you apply in time, with things in order, these could be presented at the spring convention 2005 banquet. A program on model contest criteria and helpful hints will also be presented. These formal contests can be a lot of fun, but if you want to try something different, we will also have what is called Model Showcase at the convention. This is an opportunity to show off your modeling talents, your favorite model, without formal judging. These models can be displayed

at the convention with a special popular vote contest. If interested, you also have a chance to describe your model at an open clinic session for these models.

We once again had an NMRA and Seacoast Division information table at the Bedford Boomers Model Railroad Exhibition. We had many visitors, with good questions and much interest. This was also a good chance to promote the NER Spring Convention and the November

Rochester Library Model Railroad presentation. This presentation was held November 20th and had 28 people attending. There was much interest at this hobby promotion event as well. As proof, I found all the new books set-up for National Model Railroad Month display checked out after the event.

At our annual meeting, in addition to our election, we discussed plans for the NER spring 2005 convention in Nashua, NH, to be held May 13 - 15 at the Marriott Convention Center. We are finalizing the convention plans to complete the web site information and for the January NER Coupler. Again, if you have any ideas or can help please let us know. We will need extra people to help set-up clinic equipment, chaperone trips, man the raffle table, etc.

Please come to this meeting in Portland, I'm sure you will have a good time with more emphasis on useful information and fun, with a minimum amount of business. Hopefully you will be inspired to complete your contest model, or to bring something to display for the Model Showcase, or to complete that application for one of the Achievement Program certificates. Hope to see you there.

Share the fun of model railroading.

Tsunami Wreckage



This is a photo of railroad wreckage that happened as a result of the 9.0 earthquake and resulting tsunami that devastated southeast Asia recently. We model railroaders can contact our local relief organizations and find out what needs to be done to help a relief effort that some say will continue for five or ten years. Photo from Railroad.net, used with permission.

Clinics are Coming!



Larry Cannon, MMR, has been working hard on a list of clinics and presenters for the Granite State Flyer, the NER Spring 2005 convention in Nashua, N.H.

He tells us there are many familiar names included on his list, some of them contributors to *The Switch Tower*.

Please mark May 13-15 on your calendars, and stay tuned for more convention details.

Deadline for articles and other submissions for the next issue of *The Switch Tower* is March 1, 2005.

The Switch Tower

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Tom Coulombe, *Treasurer*

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From the Editor's Desk

Along the R-O-W

by Ron Palmquist, Editor

CONVENTION LOGO

Here's the new logo for the *Granite State Flyer*, the NER Spring Convention in Nashua N.H. in May. Rich and Robbie Breton are the designers. It will be used on all convention promotional material.



KUDOS

Thanks to the 470 Railroad Club of Portland for reprinting Stan Jordan's article on clearances from *The Switch Tower*. It appeared in the October 2004 issue of the club's newsletter. And, I understand there are plans to use Stan's article on Tell-Tales from the most recent *The Switch Tower*. It's gratifying that other organizational publications appreciate the work of our Seacoast Division authors.

Congratulations to Seashore Trolley Museum at Kennebunkport, Maine, for celebrating it's 65th anniversary in 2004. FMI: www.trolley museum.org

COLORADO RAILROAD MUSEUM

I recently received the 70-page Colorado Railroad Museum 2005 Catalog of Books, DVDs, Videos and Calendars. It's noteworthy because of the listings that have something to do with Maine and New Hampshire railroads and authors. FMI: Colorado Railroad Museum, P.O. Box 10, Golden, CO 80401. On the web its: www.crrm.org

EXCLUSIVE DECAL LETTERING

Maine Central and Bangor & Aroostook HO fans will appreciate a recently published sheet of decals that will permit the accurate modeling of several of the railroads' locomotives and cars.

Maine modelers Peter Apuzzo of Falmouth and Ric Parady of Gorham created the decals with new artwork and printing by Microscale Industries. The decals will letter Pres. E. Spencer Miller's Maine Central locomotive 573 in the reverse harvest gold scheme (post-1977) with "Charlie Brown

Tree" cab heralds and hood end trees, MEC 959 and 961, PT gold nose Alco switchers, MEC 560 series GP7s, 9800 series 50-foot boxcars with open herald and Paul Bunyan figure with Peavey and with Axe, Waterville Shop crests with PPG paint code in the harvest gold and pine green scheme for various rolling stock, the number 554 for the MEC RS3 flank and end pine trees, PT herald without ring for snow plow no. 68, all numbers and heralds for the BAR troop sleeper cabooses, hood end heralds for the 470 Railroad Club repaint of MEC 573, and other Maine Central-Portland Terminal heralds and stripes in the proper colors never before printed. The set also includes lettering for PT boxcar cabooses PTM 1,2 and 3.

The decals can be seen at Pete's shop, Maine Modelworks, at 417 U.S. Route 1, Falmouth, Maine.

PRESERVATION

Roger Robar,, president of the North Conway Model Railroad club, has been officially named Consultant for the project to restore the B&M railroad station in Lisbon, N.H. The town of Lisbon recently purchased the landmark from it's owner who had plans to move it to Vermont. The Station was built by the Boston, Concord & Montreal Railroad in 1853. The structure is known for its unusual architectural design with a steep curved roof and six dormers. Plans are not finalized, but hope to include a visitors center, a meeting area and a small railroad museum. The town has received \$170,000 in grants with others pending.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY 470

Maine Central Railroad steam locomotive number 470 quietly celebrated its 80th birthday last June 5th next to the friendly confines of the MEC freight yard in Waterville, Maine. The 4-6-2 Pacific was built by the American Locomotive Co. in Schenectady, N.Y., and was delivered to the railroad on June 5, 1924. The 470 has spent 40 years in retirement in a Waterville park as a monument to the days of steam in the state of Maine.

OUT OF THE PAST

Twenty-five years ago, on Nov. 3, 1979, the Seacoast Division-NER-NMRA held its Sixth Annual Fall Model Railroad Show at the Holiday Inn in Auburn. Were you there?

HAPPY 2005

THE STAFF OF *THE SWITCH TOWER* WISHES



Supt. Stan Jordan traveled to New Hampshire to view a portion of the annual Tour de Chooch, Nov. 28, 2004. "First went to the late(died August, '04) Bob Allen's layout in Epping (see photo above). Was pleased to see that his grandson, Bobbie, was running things and will keep his grandad's layout where it is. Good layout with focus on New England.

"Then went to Sandown, NH to see Bruce Robinson's layout. Again, a nice layout with much hand-laid track. Then over to North Hampton, N.H. to see what Model Tech Studios was showing. They have a website: www.modeltechstudios.com which provides about all the info you might want about their products.

"Finally, went to Dave Kotsonis' layout in Greenland, N.H.. Great layout -was featured in Model Railroader this year. He had quite a few visitors to his layout—guess the word was getting around. Has done a great job with his buildings and scenery—mountains are hand-carved and look much like granite"

Basketball Hoop for suburban model home

By Brad Thompson

While looking for an evening project, I decided to scratch-build a house with garage, and that a basketball hoop would really be a nice touch.

I chose a backboard with a round top. I made it five feet across and three feet tall. I painted the backboard white. The square is red and I added red trim around the entire edge of the backboard.

The hoop was hard to find. I finally ended up in the jewelry area at a local craft store. The package I bought is number "JDF 409 5mm JumpRing." There are 50 pieces in the package.

I glued a 1/8-inch block on the back of the backboard to give it a stand-off from the wall of the garage. The hoop is ten feet high. I made a scale ten-foot block, to set the backboard on, while the glue dried.

I haven't figured a way to have a net. My son suggested using fine fishing line. I am going to try that later this year.



Chris Thompson photo

Division Business

Minutes of annual meeting held in Bedford, N.H. in November 2004.

With 10 members in attendance the President opened the meeting at 2:00 p.m. by thanking the Bedford Boomers for allowing us space for the meeting at their annual show.

The secretary announced that the proposed by-laws had been approved by a margin of 26 for and 1 against.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved with one correction.

The treasurer's report was accepted with out changes.

The President gave a re-cap of the program at the Rochester Public Library that will be held on November 20.

The President gave an up-date on the up-coming NER convention that will be held in Nashua NH next spring. There will be three tours. The first is a rail fan trip on the Wilton Scenic Railroad. There will also be a visit of the Anheuser Busch Brewery including their rail facilities and the Budweiser Clydesdales. The last will be a self-guided trip to the Lowell (MA) National Historical Park. There will be at least twenty layout tours in both NH and MA. We hope to have several operating sessions. Clinics will be offered on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. There will be the usual contests and raffle.

Nominations for officers were opened and there were no new nominations other than the ones for Paul Lessard and Terry King. A motion was made and accepted to elect these two as Directors.

A motion was made to purchase 500 stamped envelopes for the secretary who will need them for the mailing requesting raffle prizes.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 and a meeting of the Board of

Directors was opened as required by our by-laws with five directors present. The president appointed Tom Coulombe as treasurer and Terry King as Secretary. The board approved this action.

Rick Maxwell won the drawing of the Greatest American Hobby boxcar. He is a member of the Concord Model Railroad Club.

Respectfully submitted,

The Big 6-0



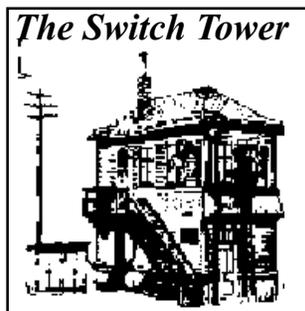
"December 18th was Terry King's 60th birthday and I did a special car for the occasion that was run out that day at the Great Falls Model Railroad Club operating session. It is a three dome tank car with coffee, Diet Pepsi, and bourbon labels on the domes. Side logos are "60 years old & still chugging" and "60 too young to be old". Happy Birthday, Terry!!

Share the fun of Model Railroading!



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Share the fun of Model Railroading!

THE SWITCH TOWER CALENDAR

January 8, 2005, Saturday

Seacoast Division Meeting, the Second Annual Winter meeting to be held from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., at the Portland Transportation Center - the Amtrak depot - in Portland, Maine. FMI: Terrence P. King, secretary. Phone/Fax: 207/933-2477 E-mail: tking@megalink.net

January 29 & 30, 2005,

Saturday & Sunday

Amherst Railway Society's "Big Railroad Hobby Show," Eastern States Exposition grounds. FMI: 413/436-0242 or www.amherstrail.org

February 12, 2005, Saturday

Augusta Lions Club Train and Doll House Show, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Maine National Guard Armory, Augusta, Maine.

March 12, 2005, Saturday

NW Vermont Model Railroading Society's Model Railroad Show. Champlain Valley Fairgrounds, Route 15, Essex Jct., Vermont. 10 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. \$4.00. FMI:

Ron Piro, 802/878-1135

April 10, 2005, Sunday

Upper Valley Model Railroad Show, Lebanon High School, Exit 18 off I-89, Lebanon, New Hampshire. Info: Mark Herder at [<mandd.herder@verizon.net>](mailto:mandd.herder@verizon.net)

April 16, 2005, Saturday

4th Annual Sanford Lions Club Model railroad Show. Veterans Memorial Gym, Route 109, Sanford, Maine. FMI: Bill Cataneseye 207/636-3842

April 23, 2005, Saturday

Bath/Brunswick Train Show. 10 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. FMI: Big Falls Model Railroad Club, Terrence P. King, treasurer. Phone/Fax: 207/933-2477 E-mail: tking@megalink.net

May 13-15, 2005, Friday-Sunday

NER Spring Convention, Granite State Flyer, Marriott Convention Center, Nashua, N.H. Co-sponsors: Seacoast Div./NMRA & Bedford Boomers. Fan trip, clinics, brewery rail tour, contests, more clinics. FMI: Terrence P. King, Secretary Seacoast Division, NMRA, P.O. Box 188,

Mark Your Calendars!

May 13-15, 2005
GRANITE STATE EXPRESS
NER Spring Convention,
Marriott Convention Center
Nashua, N.H.

Fan Trip
Brewery Tour
Operating Layouts
Layout tours
Clinics and Contests
Banquet and more
Host: Seacoast Division,
NER/NMRA and the
Bedford Boomers

Thank You!

..... to those who contributed to recent issues of *The Switch Tower*: **Rich Breton, Larry Cannon MMR, Bill Gaver, Tom Jones, Stan Jordan, Paul Lessard, Dwight Smith MMR, Terry King, Joe Popecki, editor, The NER Coupler** and Brad Thompson. Your contributions