

The Switch Tower



Seacoast Division of the Northeastern Region, National Model Railroad Assoc.



NORTH CONWAY MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

WHO ARE WE?

The North Conway Model Railroad Club is located in the north end of Conway Scenic Railroad's former Boston & Maine freight house in North Conway, NH.

The club's 500 sq. ft. operating HO layout features selectively compressed replicas of CSRR's North Conway station and yard, Frankenstein trestle and Crawford's station in Crawford Notch. Other features include a logging railroad, a large paper mill complex, a granite quarry, and a seaport city with a large steamship tied up at a pier. Mainline operations are conducted over a full length upper level loop and a shorter lower level loop. Additional trains are operated over a logging branch, a trolley line and a special section of track devoted to Thomas the Tank Engine.

The most unique feature of the club is that it is open for public viewing at no charge, although donations are accepted. The layout is open every Tuesday-Thursday-Saturday from 10 to 4 from late June until mid-October. Club volunteers man these operating sessions which attract thousands of visitors during Conway Scenic Railroad's busy operating season. As many as seven trains are run continuously during the operating sessions.

The club is not directly affiliated with Conway Scenic Railroad, but occupies the railroad's facilities free of charge in exchange for opening the layout to



Dwight Smith, Treasurer. Roger Robar, Director. Jack Ellis, President. Photo provided by Dwight Smith

the public. The layout visitors are primarily Conway Scenic Railroad's passengers that drop in either before or after their full scale train ride.

The club has about 100 dues paying members, and a core of about 18 to 20 active members that open the layout to the public, maintain the layout, and the space it occupies. The club publishes the "Notch Eight" monthly newsletter and holds two business meetings per year. In between meetings club business is conducted by an elected board of directors. Club dues are ten dollars per year, which funds the newsletter and leaves a little left over for the electric and insurance bills. The majority of the funds for the layout itself are generated in the club layout room by a glass donation jar that sits on a counter next to the guest register book.

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Deadline for the next issue is

SEPTEMBER 1, 2009

Send your article & photos to:

tpking@roadrunner.com



Boothbay
Railway
Museum

Photo by
Terry King

AL THURSTON

Last November Allen Thurston attended our show at the Auburn Middle School for the last time. On April 10, Al died after a long battle with cancer. He had been a resident at Clover Manor Hospice Center for the last few weeks.

Our club owes a lot to Al for his leadership in model railroading over several decades. Al Thurston and Wally Chase promoted the hobby by organizing railroad shows at different locations in Auburn for many

years. Once the Great Falls Model Railroad Club was formed, with the help and encouragement of Al, the club took over the development of the annual fall model railroad show in Auburn.

For more than twenty years, Al and Wally Chase created and developed Maine's involvement in the Seacoast Division of the National Model Railroad Association. Al's inspiration and friendly enthusiasm for

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MINUTES

Seacoast Division Board

Meeting

Rochester Community Center

May 16, 2009



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Members Present Town/State

Paul Lessard *
Manchester, NH
Neil Falby
Wells, ME
George G. Whitaker
Alexandria, NH
Jill Bollinger
Belmont, NH
Bruce Robinson*
Sandown, NH
Rich Breton*
Rochester, NH
Clayton Carl
Barrington, NH
Lawrence R. Carl
Barrington, NH
Sandy Roberts *
Lebanon, ME
Larry Cannon*
Lewiston, ME
Torrance King*
Monmouth, NH
Joel DiTrollo*
Hollis, NH
Tom Johnson
Unity, NH
Barb Johnson
Unity, NH
Arthur Rounds
Mt. Vernon, NH
Rich Teer
Milford, NH
Chris Baughman
Rochester, NH

President Robinson called the meeting to order at 10:00AM. Jill Bollinger of Best Trains attended the meeting and reviewed their manufacturing company. She talked about how they develop some of their kits. Jill also discussed how they try to involve young people in the hobby. She provided copies of the current catalog and noted that people

should visit their website, www.besttrains.com. She brought a sample model to show how easy it is to apply their shingles, and every member received a model garage kit. The group thanked Jill for her informative presentation.

Bruce then invited members to share in a "show and tell" session.

Rich Breton reviewed detailing small scenes with fences, some commercial and some manufactured.

Sandy Roberts reviewed an O scale (Lionel) engine that he has rebuilt to replace the battery.

Larry Cannon showed his "evolution" of a paint scheme for a free lance railroad including motive power and rolling stock.

Paul Lessard showed two back-drop buildings that he has modeled (including a miniature rat!)

Neal Falby reviewed his latest project, a laser kit that he has completed. He also showed a tool he developed for applying glue using a pipette and a "touch and flow."

Bruce thanked the presenters for their participation in the meeting. Bruce then awarded a book on styrene modeling and a railroad puzzle as door prizes.

President Robinson then turned to the business portion of the meeting, starting with committee reports.

Treasurer's Report: Terry King reported and ending balance of \$2,390.95.

Newsletter: Terry King has taken on this responsibility for which Bruce thanked him on behalf of the group. Terry also reviewed the number of newsletters that have sent out. Jun1st is the deadline for submitting material for the next newsletter.

The discussion then turned to the potential for using e-mail to communicate with the membership as well as the further development of the website. The group agreed that the division would attempt to use e-mail as one of its principal means of communication. January 10 was set as the target date for rolling out the updated website. The secretary was directed develop a letter to the membership (samples supplied by Bruce) which would include directions on accessing the website as well as the link to the latest *Switch Tower*. Joel will coordinate with Terry King, Bruce, and the webmaster on the distribution of the letter.

Secretary: Motion made and seconded to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2009 meeting. Motion approved. Joel updated the group on how he developed the e-mail list.

Webmaster: No report. Chris Baughman volunteered to help the webmaster when he returns.

Bruce then discussed remembrances and contributions to the hobby by Allen Thurston and Roger Belanger.

Under Old Business, updates were given on the NER and Hartford

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Presidents Corner by Bruce Robinson

Quarterly Meetings

Quarterly meetings are the way we, as a Division, can come together and share the fun of this hobby we call model railroading. The meeting held in Rochester, NH May 16th was no exception to this idea of sharing the fun along with the skills and experiences of fellow members.

Best Trains from Belmont, NH was invited to our meeting to showcase their line of structure kits but that was NOT what we received. Jill Bollinger (Brian's wife and "chief of everything" at BEST Trains) came to Rochester with gifts. When she was introduced she just took over the meeting and in her calm and pleasant manner proceeded to hand out kits to everyone for a single car automobile garage, samples of the roofing material Best offers, a copper strip to fashion roof valleys and ridges, a cutting board and all the rest of the materials and tools she, and we, needed to work on the roofs of the garage kit. Jill went on to demonstrate how to use the shingles and how to weather them before applying them to a roof.

The results were really nice and were so easy to do. Thanks, Jill, for a great show-and-tell session.

Members Rich Breton, Larry Cannon, Paul Lessard, Sandy Roberts and Neil Falby also contributed to the demonstrations. We saw how to make fences, experience structure construction, repair Lionel locomotives and paint home road locomotives and rolling stock to give a model railroad a home road identity. With only two hours allotted to the show-and-tell activities there just isn't enough time to enjoy them. Maybe we need to arrange the sessions so more than one will run at the same time.

After a catered lunch (thanks to Rich Breton's family who "delivered" the sandwiches for us without so much as a tip received) the quarterly business meeting was brought to order.

Your Board of Directors has been discussing the possibility of hosting a Regional convention in the fall of 2012 in the Concord, NH area. The focus of the discussions is on coming up with the man-

power needed to run a convention.

The Regional convention planning is broken down into four areas, each with a chairman and a staff. People are needed to help out with the planning and running of the convention in these areas: Convention Chairman and staff, Publicity Chairman and staff, Inside Activities Chairman and staff and Outside Activities Chairman and staff. This is the time to step up to the forefront and volunteer your time and talents for your Division. You can contact any of the Division officers or me to pitch in and help. The go no-go decision to have a Regional convention will need to be made at the July quarterly meeting so please let someone know soon that you are willing to pitch in.

See you in Auburn, Maine on July 18th for the next quarterly meeting.

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Conway Club Continued

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Persons interested in joining the North Conway Model Railroad Club can obtain a membership application form from **Dwight Smith, Treasurer, N.C.M.R.R. Club, P.O. Box 218, Kearsarge, NH 03847.**

Al Thurston Continued

the hobby affected many potential modelers over the years. A multitude of children and adults were invited to see his layout in his barn on Center Street in Auburn. On his layout, Al had a spectacular way to find short circuits. Having worked for many years as a lineman for Central Maine Power, created a device that, when plugged into his layout, would send out enough power to the short circuit to create smoke at the problem location. We

never heard that he started a fire, but the excessive smoke would certainly pinpoint the problem area.

We will miss Allen Thurston as a founding member of the club and a friend and encourager of all.

By Paul Lodge

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Model Railroading is fun!

The Switch Tower On Line

Seacoast Division Home Page

<http://www.trainweb.org/seacoastdiv/NERHomePage>

<http://pages.cthome.net/kenmay/NERHOME.HTM>

NMRA Home Page/Web Site

<http://www.nmra.org>

Deadline for the next issue is September 1, 2009

Seacoast Division, Northeastern Region, N.M.R.A.

~ Chartered Nov. 17, 1963 ~

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Past President, Richard Breton

Vice President, Paul Lessard

Secretary, Joe DiTrollo

Treasurer, Tom Coulombe

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The Switch Tower

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National Convention. Bruce and Rich updated the meeting on the Seacoast Division display at railroad shows in Maine and New Hampshire. Bruce also thanked Paul Lessard, Rich Breton, and the other four instructors for their efforts on the

Model Railroading course. They had 14 students (3 female) for the course.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel D. DiTrollo

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 5 thru 11, 09 National N.M.R.A. convention Hartford CT.

7/18/09 Seacoast Division Meeting, 144 Mill St., Auburn ME 10:00—2:00 p.m.

Lunch will be a Bar-B-Que

8/23/09 Train Show, Concord MRRC Show, Everet Arena, Loudon Rd., Concord NH—10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

9/17/09 Open House, The Great Falls Model Railroad Club, 144 Mill St Auburn Me 04210—Time TBA.

10/ 3/09 Seacoast Division meeting Concord NH 10:00—200 p.m.

11/7/09 Train Show, Auburn Me 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.



**CELEBRATE
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AT THE NEW "KIT-
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MODELING, PHOTO & AD BY TONY GUCCA