

# The Switch Tower



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



Deadline for the next issue is

**DECEMBER 1, 2009**

Send your article & photos to:

[tpking@roadrunner.com](mailto:tpking@roadrunner.com)



P.O. Box 5942, Albany, New York 12205

## JOEL C. DiTROLIO

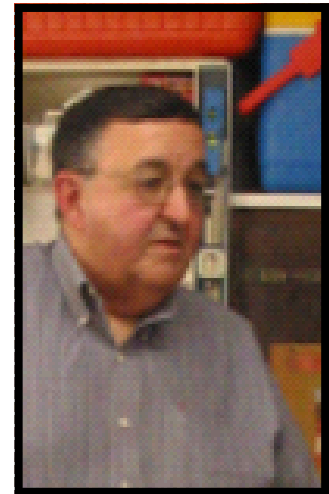
The Seacoast Division Secretary, Joel DiTrolio passed away on July 23, 2009 from lung cancer at age 63. Joel, who lived in Hollis, New Hampshire, was well-known among modelers in southern New Hampshire and eastern Massachusetts for his HO scale model railroad of the Rutland's Bellows Falls Sub.

Born, raised, and educated in New Jersey, Joel worked in the field of healthcare finance and it was in this capacity, while working in Brattleboro, VT, that he discovered the Rutland Railroad.

Joel took great pleasure in the operating aspects of model railroading and his Sunday evening operating sessions regularly attracted about 14 participants ranging from teenager to retiree. He also provided dinner and if the trains hadn't attracted us, the food would have! These operating sessions, and the camaraderie that went along with them, were always great fun and brought together a group of people whose paths, but for our common interest in trains, might never have crossed.

A few weeks before Joel passed away, Model Railroader photographer Lou Sassi visited the Bellows Falls Sub to take some photos. These are tentatively scheduled to appear in the December, 2009 issue of MR.

Joel had a great sense of humor. For the past several months he had been having a problem with mice in the railroad room and they seemed to best his every effort to eliminate them. In his last e-mail to the



Joel C. DiTrolio

operating group, just over a week before he died, Joel was asking whether anyone would be interested in moving the Bellows Falls Sub to a new location, reassembling it, and continuing the monthly operating sessions. His parting comment was, "By the way, I'll make sure that the mice stay here in Hollis."

Joel is survived by his wife, Rita, two sons, a daughter-in-law, and two grandchildren.

Written by Jay Conant (edited by BR)

## EXCITING & INFORMATIVE DIVISION MEETING

At our May 2009 Seacoast Division meeting in Rochester, we had a chance to learn and practice new building construction techniques. Bruce Robinson invited Jill Bollinger to present information on BEST Trains scale structures as part of our typical clinic and show-n-tell portion of our meeting. Expecting to hear about Bollinger Edgerly Scale Trains products and operations, we were surprised by Jill who not only explained about the local manufacturer of fine kits, but also took us through actual kit construction tips and techniques. Jill gave each attendee a single car detached garage kit and extra materials to demonstrate

laser cut roofing shingle installation. This made for a very informative meeting and provided extra incentive to complete construction of a simple but detailed structure when we got back to our own home workshops.

I first painted the garage walls with gray primer, and then used rubber cement to create the peeling paint effect, before spraying the top coat white. By gently rubbing with a rubber eraser the original gray color

*(Continued on page 3)*

# MINUTES

## Seacoast Division Meeting Minutes – July 17, 2009

Location: Auburn Maine, Great Falls Model Railroad Club

Meeting opened at 11:50 am with eight members in attendance.

Minutes as published in the Switch Tower were accepted. Treasury report was read and accepted; current balance prior to meeting was \$2323.79.

Newsletter report was read; currently have 45 paid subscriptions, next issue deadline is September 1, and looking for material submission. The value of mailing newsletters to hobby shops and manufacturers was discussed. Now that the newsletter is electronic, it would be better to use E-mail for these. We will continue to send newsletters to NMRA contacts, such as Scales Rails editors.

NMRA Infonet Newsletters now will be received monthly, started in July.

The NER Northern Regional Director position will be open this year in December. This is a four year term, and includes attending four meetings per year including one at the NER regional conven-

tion. The next meeting is August 23 in Wethersfield, CT but is a conflict with the Concord Train Show which has already been committed to.

We are looking for convention support for the Maritime Convention in St. John, scheduled for May 2010. Passport and Custom guidelines for transport of models were discussed.

Hartford National Convention reports were given, positive feedback, many clinics offered, with numerous Seacoast Division attendees. Tom Coulombe had good experience helping with the Op SIG programs. Bruce Robinson collected numerous copies of the July 2009 issue of Scales Rails for use as handouts at Seacoast Division train show information booths.

The Seacoast Division will host the NER Regional Convention in May 2012 in Concord NH area. Four position chairmen need to be identified; Convention Chairman, Inside Activities, Outside Activities, and Publicity Chairman [Norm Jones possible chairman candidate, Terry King willing to work convention program, Rich Breton willing to work layout tour

map book]. Three possible locations discussed; Concord, Meredith, and Durham (Note: New England Center closing was announced after our meeting).

Bruce Robinson explained that Joel DiTrollo must resign as Division Secretary due to failing health; sadly Joel passed away on July 23, 2009. Seacoast Division members attended funeral in Nashua, NH.

A nomination committee is necessary to identify candidates for annual elections for directors.

Next train shows: August 23 in Concord, NH; November 7 in Auburn, ME; November 8 in Bedford, NH; and April 24 in Topsham, ME.

Next Seacoast Division meetings: October 3, in Concord NH, visit Concord Model Railroad Club. Annual meeting January 16, in South Portland, visit Bar Mills Scale Model Works.

Barbeque lunch was served by Great Falls Model Railroad Club and enjoyed by all.

Meeting adjourned at 2:08 pm.

Rich Breton

*"Next Seacoast Division meetings: October 3, in Concord NH, visit Concord Model Railroad Club. Annual meeting January 16, in South Portland, visit Bar Mills Scale Model Works."*

*"On Saturday, September 19, 2009, The Great Falls Model Railroad Club celebrated the dedication of its newly renovated building at 144 Mill Street in Auburn, Me."*

## GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB OPEN HOUSE

On Saturday, September 19, 2009, **The Great Falls Model Railroad Club** celebrated the dedication of its newly renovated building at 144 Mill Street in Auburn, Me. Festivities included a barbecue for current and former club members, local and national politicians, and former students of the Auburn Adult Education Model

Railroading Class which the club has sponsored for about fifteen years. Over one hundred guests participated in the event. Throughout the morning, club members gave tours of the building and explained club programs and activities.

Guests touring the upper level of

the building saw the meeting area (which was used as a cafeteria for the day), the kitchen serving area, the extensive library, the hall with its display cases and memorial plaque, the rooms currently being used for the N-gauge and G-gauge layouts, and the excess inventory sales area. On the lower level, guests saw the class-

members.

## Presidents Corner by Bruce Robinson

### After the NMRA National Convention

The NMRA National Convention held in Hartford, Connecticut has now passed into history. I had the opportunity to participate in a couple of the events. I was a helper at Deb & Stan Ames garden railway in Chelmsford, Mass. for the OPSIG group's visit on Sunday and the three bus loads of visitors that came on Tuesday. Doing helper service on a garden railway in the rain was certainly a new experience!

Then on Friday and Sunday I got to attend the National Train Show to see all the fine displays put on by the hobby's leading manufacturers and vendors. Approximately 17,000 people visited the National Train Show over the two and a half days it was running. I did an hour helping out at the NMRA information booth also. As a result of the recruitment from the booth

One of the highlights was having a chance to chat with Terry Thompson of Kalmbach Publishing. Terry was very interested in the course the Division runs each year in Plaistow, NH and asked for a copy of the course outline. I also got to chat with the people from Lenz, NCE, Athern, Atlas, Woodland Scenics, Rapido and several Seacoast Division members.

I would encourage any NMRA member to attend this national event and experience the great camaraderie they I got to experience in Hartford.

The Division has some openings coming up for the Board of Directors. Positions of Director and Secretary will need to be filled for the January meeting in Portland. If you are interested in filling these positions please contact me.

The Seacoast Division traveling display has begun its rounds in August showing at the Concord

MRRC Show. The next shows will be October 7th in Auburn, Maine and October 8th in Bedford, NH. Stop by and say hello to the folks who take the display out to introduce us to the hobby world.

On July 22<sup>nd</sup> our Division Secretary, Joel DiTrilio, passed away. Joel was working on up-dating the Division's e-mail lists and membership address lists to help bring our member contact information current. These projects were completed just before Joel's passing.

The next Division Quarterly meeting will be hosted by the Concord Model Railroad Club at their headquarters at 36 Washington Street, Penacook, NH on October 3, 10:00am to 2:00pm. I hope to see you there!

## DIVISION MEETING CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

became visible. I then added a few nail holes using a fine point inking pen, and some small cuts for clapboard siding joints. I selected and used the steel gray standard 12" 3-tab self adhesive shingles on my garage. The roofing is fairly easy to install, carefully aligning each row to stagger the splits on each course and keeping each parallel by using the two guide strips first installed on the cardstock roof. I used individual cut shingles to create the ridge, by folding and overlapping each along the ridge, a bit tedious (good TV time project) but worth the effort. I finished the roof using a few shades of gray / black chalks, being careful to lightly apply as the paper shingles pick

up the color easily. It is better to go light by only using a small amount of chalk on the brush and gradually apply additional color as needed.

Roofing this smaller size building provided the needed practice to now tackle larger projects using the fine laser cut shingle materials. See the attached photo for my completed garage. I will now be able to tackle my other two BEST laser cut structures, Sawyer River Station and Car House, with some new found hands-on experience and confidence. Thank you to Jill and the rest of the Bollinger Edgerly Scale Trains organization for your excellent presentation and kits.

Share the Fun of Model Railroad-ing.

By Rich Breton



Roger Williams locos in Lincoln NH.

By Larry Cannon

*"Roofing this smaller size building provided the needed practice to now tackle larger projects using the fine laser cut shingle materials. See the attached photo for my completed garage. I will now be able to tackle my other two BEST laser cut structures, Sawyer River Station and Car House, with some new found hands-on experience and confidence."*



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## Model Railroading is fun!

### The Switch Tower On Line

Seacoast Division Home Page

[http://www.trainweb.org/seacoastdiv/NER  
Home Page](http://www.trainweb.org/seacoastdiv/NERHomePage)

[http://pages.cthome.net/kenmay/NERHOME.HT  
ML](http://pages.cthome.net/kenmay/NERHOME.HT<br/>ML)

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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[brobinson85@comcast.net](mailto:brobinson85@comcast.net)

*Past President, Richard Breton*

*Vice President, Paul Lessard*

*Secretary, Joe DiTrollo*

*Treasurer, Tom Coulombe*

#### *Directors*

Rich Breton, Tom Coulombe, Larry  
Cannon, MMR, Terrence King, Paul  
Lessard, Ron Palmquist, Bill True-  
hart, Sandy Roberts

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## The Switch Tower

The Switch Tower is the official publication of the Seacoast Division, Northeastern Region of the National Model Railroading Association, and it is published four time per year. Subscriptions are \$8.00 per year. Checks or money orders should be made payable to Seacoast Division, NMRA, and submitted to:

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## GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB OPEN HOUSE CONTINUED

(Continued from page 2)

room area, the work room section, and the amount of space available for the club's HO operating layout, which is already under construction.

Three televisions in different sections of the building showed varying aspects of the club's activities. Operation Lifesaver railroad safety videos were a hit. Another television featured programs from *TRAIN TIME*, the half-hour show produced by the Great Falls Model Railroad Club for local cable channels throughout the state. Just inside the entry to the building, a third television presented a show about the club. A bulletin board near the television featured newspaper clippings publicizing club activities. Railroad safety materials and club handouts were available on the table. Also on the table was a framed letter from Senator Olympia Snowe, congratulating the club on its accomplishments and contributions to the community.

At about noon, guests and club members were asked to meet outside for the formal dedication of the building. President Stephen Martelli thanked club members for their support, efforts, and accomplishments in renovating the building and in

making preparations for the dedication. Larry Cannon was recognized for his contribution in getting the building project started during his two terms as president. **Great Falls Model Railroad Club** Secretary, Paul Lodge, read the letter from Senator Olympia Snowe to all those assembled. President Martelli then unveiled a three-foot club logo sign attached to the side of the building near the entrance.

Terry King, the club's librarian and archivist, led guests through the library and also sold items from the excess inventory display case. Many of the club's extra model railroad magazines were given away. Terry had also created interesting "Before and After" photo displays at several locations throughout the building, showing improvements in those areas from the beginning of the renovations to the present.

Members George and Kathy Melvin expressed excitement about the possibility of building their own layout, using N-scale-sized buildings and equipment to represent the Norway and South Paris area. George

## CALENDER OF EVENTS

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

**10/3//09** Train Show , East End  
Community School, 195 North St.,  
Portland Me . 10:00—4:00

**10/17/09** North Shore Train Show &  
open house. 10:00—3:00. American  
Civic Center, 465 Main St, Wakefield  
MA

**11/7/09** Train Show, 610 Court St,  
Auburn Me 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

and Kathy were invited to bring in copies of their new book, *Tebachapi Today!* Several club members purchased the attractive book, which features outstanding railroad photographs taken in the mountains of southern California by both George and Kathy. Several members purchased the attractive book and asked the Melvins to autograph personal copies.

By Paul Lodge, GFMRR