

# The Switch Tower



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



Deadline for the next issue is

**MARCH 1, 2010**

Send your article & photos to:

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



## THE EASTERN MAINE MODEL RR CLUB

The Eastern Maine Model Railroad Club was founded in 1976 and was based in the Bangor/ Brewer area then . We had a layout on Center Street in Bangor in a basement until 1991 . We started selling custom decorated cars in 1983 with the goal of building our own club house. We continue to do custom cars to support the club and layout, please check out our website for our latest offerings. We stated looking in the Bangor area in 1990 for property and looked at a number of lots but ultimately one of our members parents sold us a lot in East Orland just off route One. We started construction in the spring of 1992 and had our Christmas party in our own building that year. The members built the club house which is 30 x 70 without any outside help except for the slab.

The layout is 30 x 40 and we have a 20 x 20 lounge that has an extensive library. Also we have a workshop and storage rooms.

The Layout is the Katahdin Valley lines and consist of trackage bought from the Maine Central and then Bangor and Aroostook. In the workshop is offline staging that we call Waterville as you go through the wall you come to Newport Junction and the second level goes around the walls to Dexter and Dover-Foxcroft. Past the Jct the line runs into Bangor Yard the main terminal on the layout with engine facilities. You can then go two ways on the layout. One takes you through the town of Frankfort on to the End of the line to Searsport where there is a container port. The line takes you around the walls on to another peninsular and you can either go to Bucksport with the Champion paper mill or Brownville Jct. Both islands have hidden staging that allows for passing



and staging of whole trains. The Layout has 95% of the track work in and about 25% of the scenery done.

We welcome visitors any Monday night from 6 to 9 pm or call me Geoff Anthony at 374 -2786 and I will come over and give a tour. Please visit our website at [www.emmrc.freeyellow.com](http://www.emmrc.freeyellow.com)

More on page 4

by Geoffrey Anthony

## MILWAUKEE CONVENTION

• When it comes to activities, the **Milwaukee Convention has been called "a monster."** Here's a sampling of some of the stats:

○ There are 27 separate layout tours scheduled *with no repeats*

○ There are 16 separate prototype tours scheduled *with no repeats*, including Kalmbach Publishing, Walters, and Badger Air Brush

○ There are 9 separate general interest tours *with no*

*repeats*

○ There are 27 different OPSIG layouts open during the convention

○ There are 8 social events scheduled... one for almost every night of the week

○ The RPM is celebrating their 25th Anniversary at the convention

(Continued on page 3)

# MINUTES

**E-MAIL  
SWITCHTOWER**

## Concord Model Railroad Club meeting room

36 Washington Street  
Penacook, NH

*“The Adult Education model railroad course at Timberlane High School will be run during the Spring Semester March 2 – April 20, 2010.”*

Minutes of October 3, 2009 Seacoast Division of the N.M.R.A.:

The meeting was held at the Concord Model Railroad Club, in Penacook, NH.

There were 7 members present, three of which were officers. Seven members of the CMMRC also attended.

The meeting started with the Show & Tell, which featured Rich Breton with the construction of his coal dealer and Texaco Gas station and Paul Lessard with his covered bridge model as placed in the NMRA National contest in Hartford.

There was an outline of upcoming model railroad shows the Seacoast Division display will travel to. Rich Breton, Paul Lessard and Bruce Robinson will be giving clinics at the Bedford Boomers show November 8<sup>th</sup>.

As a result of the membership drive at the National Train Show at the Hartford convention the Seacoast Division gained ten new members.

Mention was made of the Tour de Chooch to be held on November 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.

The Adult Education model railroad course at Timberlane High School will be run during the Spring Semester March 2 – April 20, 2010.

As the Board of Directors did not achieve a quorum there was no business meeting. Business items will be carried over and picked up at the January meeting.

The meeting was adjourned and all present paid a visit to the Concord Model Railroad Club modular layout.

The next meeting of the Division will be held in South Portland, Maine on January 16, 2010.

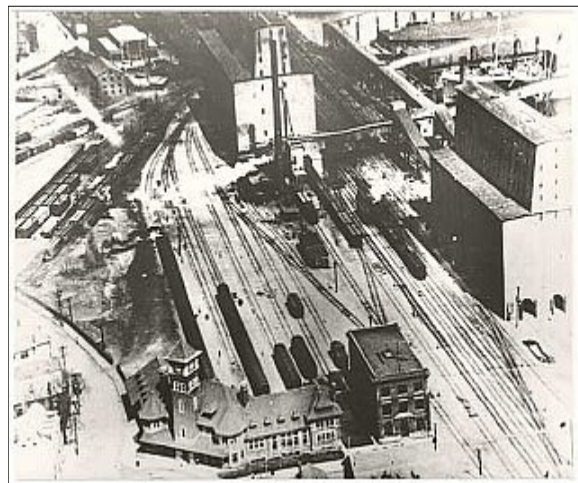
Submitted by: Bruce Robinson

A hard copy of *The Switchtower* costs \$8.00 per year. This is just about the amount that it costs to print and mail your copy to you, with very little left over. First class mailing rates will most likely increase in May 2011, which will mean that we will have to increase this cost to you.

If you choose to receive this publication by e-mail, there is no cost to you.

We can send you a PDF file which is a small file that even dial-up can handle with ease. If you choose to do this e-mail me at [tpking@roadrunner.com](mailto:tpking@roadrunner.com), and your next issue will arrive in April.

By Terrence King



Grand Trunk yard in Portland Me around 1900.

*“Spring Semester  
March 2- April 20,  
2010 (8 weeks)  
Timberlane Regional High  
School  
Plaistow, NH”*

## MODEL RAILROADING COURSES

Seacoast Division is offering a Course

Spring Semester  
March 2- April 20, 2010 (8 weeks)  
Timberlane Regional High School  
Plaistow, NH

The beginning of a great hobby:

### MODEL RAILROADING

The Seacoast Division of the National Model Railroad Association will be sponsoring a course in

the fundamentals of becoming a model railroader.

The course will cover how to select locomotives and cars, bench work, track laying, scenery, wiring, kit building, track plan-

(Continued on page 4)

## Presidents Corner by Bruce Robinson

### Seacoast Division Membership

Membership in the Division is standing at 178 at the end of October. There are 109 members (61%) from New Hampshire and 69 members (39%) from Maine. Rich Breton, Paul Lessard and I have been attending shows in New Hampshire, Maine and south of the border in Massachusetts to make Seacoast Division visible to modelers in our area and attract new members. Each spring seven Division members have been conducting an Introduction to Model Railroading course at the Adult Education program in Plaistow, NH. These classes have been successful in attracting new members and will continue to be run. The next course will be run March 2 thru April 20, 2010.

There are three open positions in the Division's slate of officers: two Directors and Secretary. I would like to propose that another position be established at the up-

coming business meeting in January: Membership Chairman. This position will be responsible for promoting the Division at shows and other displays, welcoming new members and maintaining the member contact information in an up-to-date manner.

The next Seacoast Division meeting will be held on January 16, 2010 in South Portland, Maine at The First Congregational Church, 301 Cottage Road, South Portland, Me. This quarterly meeting is open to all Division members and you are encouraged to attend. If you are interested in serving in any of these positions please come to the January meeting.

The quarterly meetings are based around sharing the hobby and there is always show-and-tell and clinics on every aspect of the hobby. Come to Portland, bring a model to showcase and join other modelers as they share their hobby.

The business meeting is also open to all members and your inputs and opinions are solicited and greatly appreciated. One of the subjects to be discussed at the Portland meeting will be "Where is the Division is going?" The future activities of the Division need to be looked at and a solid plan of action worked up.

The next event to be plugged is the Amherst Railway Society show in Springfield, Mass. January 29 & 30, 2010. Be sure to stop by the NER booth in the Better Living Center building and say: "Hi, I'm a Seacoast Division member". I will be helping out at the booth over the weekend and would like to meet as many members as possible. If you have some spare time there are shifts to man the display to be filled. Drop me an e-mail at brobinson85@comcast.net if you came spare an hour at the show.

***"The next Seacoast Division meeting will be held on January 16, 2010 in South Portland, Maine at The First Congregational Church, 301 Cottage Road, South Portland, Me."***

## MILWAUKEE CONVENTION CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

O The National Train Show already has 69% of its booths sold

O PLEASE NOTE: *Contrary to what was published in the last NMRA InfoNet, the Beer & Brat Social on Sunday will not be free; there will be a charge for this activity. Sorry for any inconveniences this causes; the error was mine.*

In February the NMRA will officially kick off its **Diamond Club fundraiser**. Diamond Club funds will go towards scanning and digitizing the 100,000 photographs in the NMRA's Kalmbach Memorial Library. Thumbnails of the photos will be displayed online at [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org) where members and paying researchers can purchase prints. See the February 2010 issue of *Scale Rails* for

more information.

The NMRA and California State Parks have signed a Memorandum of Understanding that paves the way for the development of a **model railroading exhibit** at the California State Railroad Museum (CSRM) in Sacramento, Calif., one of the country's premiere railroad museums. The CSRM is California's third ranking tourist attraction, and welcomes over 600,000 visitors each year. The planned exhibit will be approximately 3,500 square feet and will be constructed in the CSRM's Roundhouse Gallery. The exhibit will trace the history of the hobby from its beginnings in the early 19th century to the present. No dues money or other NMRA funds will be used for the exhibit, but instead the Howell Day Museum of the NMRA will hire a professional fund raising organi-

zation to solicit the needed funding from corporations and other donors. For more details, see the press release located on the NMRA website at <http://www.nmra.org/national/news/hmdcsrm.html>.

O Among other business, the Board of Directors, along with Department Chairs and Officers, is currently discussing ways to both lower the cost and **bring more value to the NMRA's annual convention**.

The **mid-year Board of Directors** meeting will take place in San Diego, Calif., February 19-20, 2010. Members are invited to attend.

***"PLEASE NOTE: Contrary to what was published in the last NMRA InfoNet, the Beer & Brat Social on Sunday will not be free; there will be a charge for this activity. Sorry for any inconveniences this causes; the error was mine."***





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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.

~ Charted Nov. 17, 1963~

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*Secretary*, Joe DiTrollo

*Treasurer*, Tom Coulombe

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## The Switch Tower

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Photos by Alan Reynolds

Check out their web site for more photos.



## CALENDER OF EVENTS

**1/16/10** The next Seacoast Division meeting will be held on January 16, 2010 in South Portland, Maine at The First Congregational Church, 301 Cottage Road, South Portland, Me

### MODEL RR COURSES CONTINUED

(Continued from page 2)

ning, model railroad operations and how to have fun in a great hobby.

The course is open to anyone interested in the hobby and family members are encouraged to come.

The course fee (\$80) will cover supplies used to create a miniature railroad each student will work on and take home with them. The single fee applies to a single participant or a family up to four. Children 12 or over must be accompanied by a parent. Register with the school early as seats are limited. Registrations will be accepted until February 23rd.

By Bruce Robinson