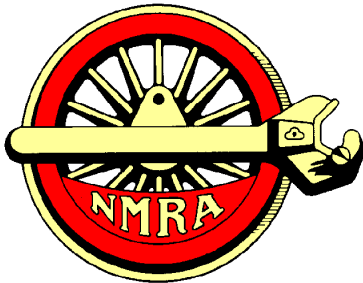


# The Switch Tower



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



## THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club holds regular meetings on the third Thursday of each month at 144 Mill Street in Auburn, Maine. Renovations to the building and construction of permanent layouts in various gauges continue every Saturday morning and Wednesday evening.

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club was started in 1987 by a group of model railroaders who saw each other frequently at *The Freight Station*, a hobby shop in Auburn. About fifteen people came to an introductory meeting at Edward Little High School in Auburn and soon formed a club with monthly meetings there.

For more than ten years before The Great Falls Model Railroad Club was formed, Al Thurston and Wally Chase had sponsored a train show each fall at different locations in Auburn for the Seacoast Division of the Northeast Region of the National Model Railroad Association. Since 1987, the club has sponsored the annual model train show, now held each year on the first Saturday of November at the Auburn Middle School.

The club developed uniform standards for portable model railroad sections so that all members could add their own sections to the modular displays which have been taken to train shows throughout the state.

Because the club has been recognized as a 501(c)3 Educational Foundation since 1993, donations to the club are tax deductible. As part of our mission as an educational foundation, club members have helped



The Great Falls Model Railroad Club, 144 Mill St  
Auburn, Me 04210 Photo by Terry King

Boy Scouts earn railroading badges and have displayed layouts at veterans' homes, nursing homes, libraries, DARE programs, and railroad safety programs sponsored by Operation Lifesaver.

Twice a year, during fall and spring semesters, the club offers an eight week Model Railroading Course at Edward Little High School as part of the Auburn Adult Education program. By actually building modules, the class gets practice in using the tools and techniques for model railroading, including wiring, creating scenery, and following modular standards.

The club's newsletter *The Signal* has grown into an outstanding color publication which reports the club's activities and upcoming events. It is also available to the general public on our website.

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Deadline for the next issue is

**SEPTEMBER 1, 2010**

Send your article & photos to:

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



## "NON-STOP OPS"

The Seacoast Division is currently offering a weekend of "Non-Stop Operations" in October. The event takes place Friday night, Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> and Saturday, Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup>. This will be a three-session, round robin format with at least six different layouts to choose from. In addition to the Friday night session, there will be morning and afternoon sessions on Saturday. All layouts are within a short distance from the NH Seacoast. Sign up notices with full information about times, layout descriptions and operating systems will be forthcoming.

Capping the event will be a dinner and social gathering on Saturday evening. Cost for the dinner will be

separate and has yet to be determined. This will be a great weekend and a chance to meet new people who share the same interests, while having the opportunity to experience different operating systems.

If you are interested in adding your layout to the event, please contact Mike Grahame at 603-778-3099 / [mtgrahame@myfairpoint.net](mailto:mtgrahame@myfairpoint.net).

See you in October!

Mike Grahame

# MINUTES

April 20, 2010

*"Scott Jewell who was the main speaker for the morning followed with a fabulous slide show and discussion about the Boston waterfront and his interpretation of it in his home layout the 'Docs and Rocks'."*

*"Up until 1953, its passenger business had trains with names like, 'Green Mountain Flyer' and 'Mount Royal'. It is easy to see why model railroaders find this railroad so ap-*

The quarterly meeting of the Seacoast Division of the NMRA was held at the Rochester Community Center in Rochester New Hampshire from 10Am -2PM on Saturday 17 April 2010. Thirty Division members were in attendance. The program began with a series of presentations and clinics followed by lunch and the business meeting. To start off the day, Vice President Paul Lessard talked about the Rutland Railroad and had an HO train on display depicting some of the Rutland's typical car types. Secretary Tom Jones followed with a show and tell about the portable modeling table he uses at train shows and when traveling. Scott Jewell who was the main speaker for the morning followed with a fabulous slide show and discussion about the Boston waterfront and his interpretation of it in his home layout the "Docs and Rocks". Scott has done extensive research on the railroads of Boston and was very informative about how goods were shipped in an out at the various port facilities. The attendees asked lots of questions throughout the hour-long presentation. Scott's wonderful clinic was followed by Mike Graham's show and tell about how he puts together backdrop buildings with DPM and Walthers kits. He showed a handy leveling board he uses to keep everything straight. Neil Falby had a display and passed around a decaled truck from Falby's Printing Company.

## Rutland Railway

A Modeler's Favorite

By Paul G. Lessard

New England was blessed with a number of interesting railroads that we can use as prototypes. Near the top of the list is the Rutland Railway which operated in the states of Vermont and New York. I first got acquainted with

Neil also wanted to specifically thank Dana Everett, Rich Breton and Dick Anderson for their help in getting going with his modeling. Larry Cannon showed a quick gig for cutting rail to the 39' standard length and their were a couple books passed around one on Hon3 and the other showing the car ferry and facilities at Wiscasset Maine across from Bath. The presentations made everyone hungry and mini sub sandwiches; the attendees quickly devoured chips, cookies and soda.

The business meeting was opened at 1:03PM. The treasurer's report was presented by President Bruce Robinson in the absence of Treasurer Tom Coulombe and approved by the members. Terry King, the Newsletter publisher was not present to take some good-humored ribbing on the upside down printing in the last newsletter. President Robinson wanted to thank Terry for the hard work he puts in to the Switch Tower each month. The secretary's report was approved as published in the last newsletter. Rob Carigan made a plea for ideas on content for the Seacoast Division's website which can be found by going to the NMRA site and linking through the North East Region's site. Committee reports were followed by old business. President Robinson shared his email response to the Region concerning hosting an upcoming convention. It was felt we didn't have the manpower to host a conven-

tion in 2011 but will solicit the division for hosting one in 2012. President Robinson then went over upcoming shows and conventions. It was noted that several members of the Seacoast Division will be presenting clinics at the Maritime Divisions "Tracks & Tides" convention in St John, NB. The convention is being held May 20-23. Information can be found linked through the NMRA's website or a Google search on "Tracks and Tides". A flyer was also passed around on the National convention, which is in Milwaukee this July. It is the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the NMRA and is expected to be an exceptional convention and National Train Show.

Under new business, the March "Introduction to Model Railroad-ing" course -March 2-April 20 was cancelled due to lack of students. A small increase in the courses cost and the poor economy were sited as probable reasons for poor signup. Next, Erich Whitney talked about how he and his daughter Brenna are participating in a youth in model railroading group where the kids build modules and participate in running trains at several of the train events in the Northeast. Erich was soliciting interest in developing a similar program in the Seacoast division. Several members with children thought this might be a good way to get young people involved. Anyone with interest in this is encouraged to contact the division and we can put you in touch with

(Continued on page 3)

the busy Burlington to Bellows Falls gateway. Up until 1953, its passenger business had trains with names like, "Green Mountain Flyer" and "Mount Royal". It is easy to see why model railroaders find this railroad so appealing. The steam locomotives included some of the oldest teakettles, as

(Continued on page 3)

## Presidents Corner by Bruce Robinson

### Seacoast Division Happenings

The Rochester Quarterly meeting was great! Thirty members came to see Rich Breton, Neil Falby, Mike Grahame, Tom Jones and Paul Lessard present clinics and how-to-do topics. Guest speaker Scott Jewell did a fine job of describing how water and rail transportation systems worked in the Boston Harbor area during the 1920s. Scott's presentation had some great photos and maps illustrating the interface between water-borne commerce and railroads. He explained in detail how cargo was moved to and fro between ship and shore.

Attendance at the quarterly meetings is continuing to increase and I hope to see more of the membership come to share their experiences and socialize with other modelers. We are indebted to the work that the presenters do to bring these meetings to the membership.

## Minutes

(Continued from page 2)

Erich for more information on the program he and Brenna are sharing together. President Robinson then addressed two other areas of new business; how to increase member services and a proposal for new Division Organizational Chart. To try and increase member's services there were several Division sponsored events proposed. An "Op-to-you-drop" weekend is under consideration for October. Area open houses and member layout tours for division members was suggested, as was the possibility of starting a modular group. The last item of new business was a proposal by President Robinson for a change in how the region is run in an attempt to get more people involved and "share" the workload. Bruce solicited comments and will be discussing the issues at

The next Seacoast Division meeting will be held on July 31 and will be hosted by the Great Falls Model Railroad Club. The quarterly meetings are open to all Division members and you are encouraged to attend. Don't forget to bring a model to showcase and join other modelers as we share our hobby.

I wrote in my last column, "With the membership growing it is time to think about member benefits". Well, I have two items to report. First, the Membership Chairman position has been filled. I am pleased to announce the appointment of Peter McKenney as the Division's new Membership Chairman. Peter will be working on welcoming new members and keeping track of current members, among other tasks.

The second announcement is that Mike Grahame has stepped forward to head a new event for the Division. Mike is well along in

the next Board of Directors meeting in July. No changes can be made without a proposal being made by the board and then voted on by the membership after proper notification. The meeting was adjourned at 2:30PM. The next meeting will be held on July 31 in Auburn, Me. At the Great Falls Model Railroad Club.

## Rutland

(Continued from page 2)

well as some of the most modern in New England. The diesel fleet was a hallmark of simplicity. Except for a lone GE 70-tonner, the roster was entirely filled with Alco RS-1s and RS-3s. The passenger cars were generally quite old with some wooden cars still active in the later years. During the 1950s, the company focused on the freight service and modernized its fleet with new boxcars, covered hoppers and gondolas bought from the Pullman-Standard Co.

putting together an operations-oriented weekend in October. See Mike's article elsewhere in this issue for details. If you are an Old Hat at operations or want to learn how much fun this is, stay tuned to Mike's announcements. This operations weekend is intended to be a yearly event. We hope it will be run elsewhere in the Division as well.

I have presented some new ideas about how our Division is organized, and I will be pursuing more discussion on this topic at the July meeting. Please bring to Auburn your ideas about what the Division should do and how to do it!

Until July 31st.....**Share the fun of model railroading!**

The Northeastern Region  
of the National Model Railroad Association  
Welcomes to Vermont the 2010 Convention  
*The Champlain Flyer*  
September 9th through 12th



*"Finally, I would like to dedicate this article to our late Seacoast Division secretary, Joel Ditrilio, who was a Rutland fan and modeler."*

Even so it still had a substantial number of wooden cars. Despite all of these efforts to improve service and reduce costs, the Rutland came to a sorry end in 1962 after a protracted labor strike.

In our model railroad world, however, the Rutland is still vigorous and thriving. There are well known hobbyists such as Brian Whiton, and Andy Clermont with Rutland-themed pikes. Let's not forget Lou Sassi who included Rutland trains in his Hoosic Division. The late Bob Nimke wrote a comprehensive nine-volume history of this railroad and its operations and I am fortunate to have this history in my collection.

Finally, I would like to dedicate this article to our late Seacoast Division secretary, Joel Ditrilio, who was a Rutland fan and modeler.





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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 June 1, 2010

## 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*, Tom Jones

*Treasurer*, Tom Coulombe

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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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Please note new mailing ad-  
dress for the division.

## The Great Falls Club

(Continued from page 1)

The club's first "permanent" location for modules and meetings was at a vacant bookstore in Lewiston's Promenade Mall, where the general public could watch club members operating trains and working on modules. Modules were dismantled and taken to shows and put together again between shows.

The next big move was a rented space in the basement of a downtown business location on Canal Street Alley in Lewiston near the Bates Mill complex. Here a permanent layout was built without the use of modules. New and original members created an outstanding layout and learned to use DCC.

In 1997 Auburn's local cable access station, Great Falls TV, offered a class teaching how to develop programs for their station. They were also looking for volunteers to help with their internal video needs. As a result, club members who enjoyed videotaping trains started a show called *TRAIN TIME*. The group has produced more than two hundred 30-minute shows which are now seen throughout Maine on Time Warner Cable Channel

9, more than 25 additional local cable access stations in Maine, and several channels in New Hampshire. As well as videotaping trains in Maine for the program, some *TRAIN TIME* team members have traveled to New York, Pennsylvania, and California. The shows also include a number of model railroad clinics and model railroads in different gauges.

In 2007 the club purchased a 6,000 square foot building in Auburn. After more than a year of renovations, we are now putting up benchwork and laying track for the club's HO operating layout. Another section of the club house will feature G-gauge and N-scale layouts. Other parts of the building are used for meeting space, surplus inventory sales, and an extensive library. The library is continuously growing and currently has over 10,000 picture slides, 600 books, and more than 6,000 magazines, many of which are complete sets dating from the 1950's or earlier to the present.

In November of 2009, the club sponsored its first Christmas theme "ExTRAINaganza," with different gauges of trains under decorated Christmas trees and special activities for children. Visitors enjoyed watching several operating modular

## CALENDER OF EVENTS

July 31 Seacoast Division Meeting at The Great Falls Model Railroad Club, 144 Mill St., Auburn, Me 04210 - 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

September 9 through 12, Region Convention, Burlington VT

October 9 Seacoast Division Meeting at the Concord Model Railroad Club, Washington Street School, 32 Washington St. Penacook, NH, 03303

October 22 & 23 Non-stop Operations weekend. Contact Mike Grahame [mtgrahame@myfairpoint.net](mailto:mtgrahame@myfairpoint.net)

layouts and stand-alone units. About five hundred adults and three hundred children visited the club building for the ExTRAINaganza, with some staying for hours to enjoy the trains and activities.

To find out more about our club, check our web site at [www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org](http://www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org)

by Paul Lodge