



Vol. 19 No.1 First Quarter

January 2012

THE SEACOAST DIVISION OF THE N.M.R.A.

# THE SWITCH TOWER

Chartered on November 17, 1968



## Division Events by Erich Whitney

### Model Railroading Night in Derry

Second Friday of the month starting in January.  
7PM-9PM, Marion Gerrish Community Center,  
39 West Broadway, Derry, NH (3/4 mile off I-93 exit 4).

We will feature guest speaker at each meeting and time to chat and share the fun of model railroading. This is open to the public and we encourage you to bring friends who may be interested in joining the NMRA. We are asking for a modest donation of \$3 to cover the cost of the room and some light refreshments.

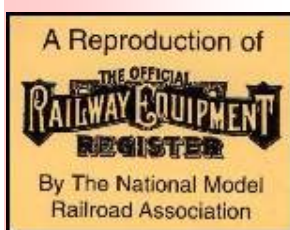
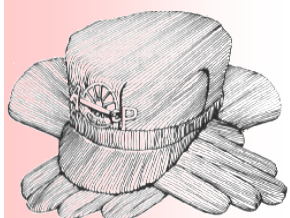
**January 13<sup>th</sup> 2012**, Researching the history of the B&M's M&L branch line through Derry presented by Erich Whitney. I have been researching the railroad through Derry ever since I decided to create the Derry Rail Trail. The M&L is now the central theme to our model railroad. Part of this layout will be built on Free-Mo modules as part of the Seacoast Modular Group.

**February 10<sup>th</sup> 2012**, Stan Ames will give a presentation on running real steam locomotives in Poland. Stan's overseas experiences give a tremendous amount of insight into the operation of steam. Also, Stan and Debbie Ames have an operating outdoor garden layout.

**March 9<sup>th</sup>**, Brian and Jill Bollinger of BEST Trains will be giving a clinic on craftsman kit building. We would like to make this an interactive clinic but we'll need to get a head count in time to put together the material. If you want to come and do some modeling with the masters, please contact me ([erich@blackcatrailroad.com](mailto:erich@blackcatrailroad.com)).

**April 13<sup>th</sup> 2012**, Steve Belforti will be giving a slide presentation—the topic is still in the works. Steve is a professional dispatcher for Pan Am Railways and a member of the Amherst Belt Lines HO Modular Railroad.

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## N.M.R.A. News

The Kalmbach Library's immensely popular "The Postwar Freight Car Fleet" book has sold out.

The Grand Rails 2012 Convention still has some space left for modular layouts at the National Train Show so if someone in your Division or Region wants to show the world what they've done, go to [www.gr2012.org](http://www.gr2012.org) and click on the "Contact us" page. Have them tell

the committee what they've done and the committee will get things rolling.

More Grand Rails 2012 news: The convention has some great things planned for non-rails. There's a cooking demo that will make attendees think they're watching a stand-up comedian do a cooking show and great entertainment at the luncheon in one

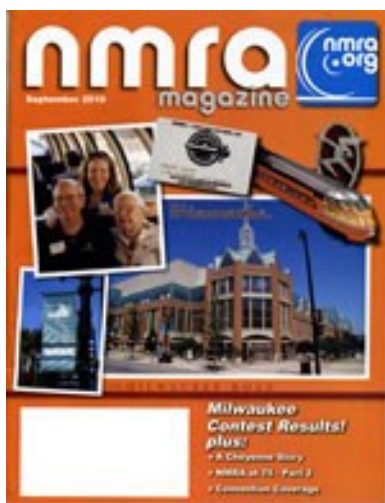
of the most beautiful ballrooms in the country. There's also a ride on a dune schooner to see the 1100 acre Saugatuck Dunes! Have non-rails go to [www.gr2012.org](http://www.gr2012.org) for all the details.

And some of last month's important news bears repeating:

This year registration for Grand Rails 2012 will be handled in a

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## THE SWITCH TOWER



## Division Events CONTINUED

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**May 11<sup>th</sup> 2012**, Jerry Kelley will be giving a presentation, "Hoosac Tunnel Lining Towers" (<http://www.jktrails.net>). Jerry Kelley has been hiking the hills around the Hoosac Tunnel in Western Massachusetts for years searching for long forgotten places of historical interest. He has tried to bring to light the facts that have been previously overlooked. His talk will center on the survey of the Hoosac Tunnel and the methods used to bring the six headings together with amazing accuracy, even by today's standards. He will start with a brief 1928 film of a Hoosac electric locomotive and it's journey through the Eastern and Western portals. The PowerPoint presentation will outline each survey tower location as it looks today with photos and story, some with photos from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Jerry will have on hand his Hoosac model collection for all to see. The end of the show will feature a question and answer session on the tunnel and it's history.



Gordon Draper demonstrates his Seacoast Division Modular Group Free-Mo Modules at the Seacoast Division Fall Meeting

## N.M.R.A. Continued

(Continued from page 1)

new way. Instead of the large registration package inserted into NMRA Magazine, the full package can be downloaded from [www.gr2012.org](http://www.gr2012.org). Those who prefer a printed piece can send their request, along with their name and address to: GR 2012 Registrar, 4165 Costa NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525. There will also be a registration form and ad appearing in an upcoming issue of NMRA Magazine.

NMRA elections. The official ballot was prepared by the National Nominating Committee according to the procedures laid out in the Regulations and the Executive Handbook (available at [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org)). It will appear

as an insert in the center of the February issue of NMRA Magazine, which will be mailed to all voting members. Ballots must be returned to NMRA headquarters, "Attention Ballot Committee," and must be postmarked by April 10, 2012 and received by April 15, 2012. Here are the job titles and candidates as they appear on the ballot:

◦President:  
Charles W. Getz, IV, HLM

◦Vice President - Administration:  
Howard Goodwin  
Clark Kooning,  
MMR Dave Thornton

◦Vice President  
- Special Projects:  
Bill Kaufman  
James "Lump" Lupfer

◦At-Large North American  
Director:  
Mike Brestel  
Miles Hale, MMR

◦Eastern District Director:  
John Roberts, MMR, HLM

◦Pacific District Director:  
Mike Bartlett  
Kelly Loyd  
Rob Peterson

## President's Corner by Bruce Robinson

### Conventions and Elections

Tracks to Lakeport (we now have a name for the 2013 NER convention) will be held at the Margate Hotel & Resort in Laconia, NH. Erich Whitney has stepped up to be Convention Chairman, Rich Breton will be Outside Activities Chairman and Larry Cannon will be Inside Activities Chairman. Still to be filled is the Publications Chairman. It takes a lot of manpower to put on a successful convention so please step up and volunteer to help put this convention together.

The NER convention in Warwick, Rhode Island was October 13-16 and I know some of the Division's member's attended. The Little Rhody Division and Nutmeg Division pulled together another great convention.

Election of officers will be held at the Quarterly meeting in Portland, ME. There are three Director positions open with only two confirmed candidates. Please come forward and "due your civic duty" and become a candidate for the body that runs, plans and guides **YOUR** Division. The Board needs people with vision and the ability to get things done. Step up. Don't take the easy path and let some else do it.

October 29<sup>th</sup> was the Division's Non-stop Ops weekend. Two layouts in Meredith, NH hosted the eight members that signed up for the fun. Thanks to Dave Sias and Bruce Reynolds for the use of their great layouts and to introducing us to that really neat eatery in Meredith we had lunch at!

Starting on the second Friday night of January a "Fun Night" will be offered in Derry, NH at the Garish Community Center which is located just off Route 93 at exit 4. Be sure to check the web site (seacoastnmra.org) for the schedule.

The January Quarterly meeting is in South Portland, Maine. I hope to see you there and I hope to see you at the NER convention in Laconia in 2013.

Until we meet.....**Share the Fun of Model Railroading!**

### Division Board of Directors Elections

Three openings on the Seacoast Division Board of Directors will be up for election by the membership at the January Quarterly Meeting in Portland, Maine.

The Division nominating committee has submitted the names of Rich Breton and Tom for reelection. The third open position has no candidate but nominations from the floor will be taken at election time.

This is an opportunity to put something back into the Division and serve the membership with new ideas, dedication and insight for what you want the Division to become. Please consider running for any office that is available.

Candidate profiles for Rich Breton and Tom Jones follow.

### Candidate Profile: Rich Breton

I have been an NMRA member for 27 years, serving as Seacoast Division President for six years and continue to serve as Director. I'm currently serving as NER Northern New England Director which covers Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. I am a resident of Rochester, NH, married with three children and two grandchildren. I have a mechanical engineering degree from the University of Connecticut, and was employed at Goss International designing high-speed folders for web printing presses for 32 years. I am a member of the Baltimore & Ohio Historical Society. I have been an avid model railroader for 43 years, modeling the Potomac Valley region of the B&O in HO scale, in 1953.

The Seacoast Division has made good progress with improvements in member services and activities. We are hosting our third NER convention, this time in Laconia, NH in 2013, which will require active participation and volunteer help to make this convention a success. I have been active in Division activities since 1999 when I became Vice President. My motto has been "Share the Fun of Model Railroading" which I will continue to do for the Division, the Region, and National, by helping fellow model railroaders enjoy our hobby.

### Share the Fun of Model Railroading

### Candidate Profile: Tom Jones

My name is Tom Jones and I go by the nickname "tj". Like most of us I have been interested in trains for a very long time. In college in Colorado I became fascinated with the mining town of Cripple Creek and took many trips up the "Gold Camp Road" which was built at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century as a short line railroad between the gold mining towns of Cripple Creek and Victor and Colorado Springs. I built a small N-scale layout on a 3'x 5' piece of plywood and transported it to several different duty stations while I pursued my career as a U.S. Navy Pilot. But it didn't survive and train interest was put aside until the early 1990's as I approached retirement. An advertisement for the Valley Forge National Train show in 1993 led me to attending the event and I was again hooked. I joined the NMRA shortly after and have been a member playing with trains ever since. My current layout "The Wyoming & Western" has finally taken over my entire basement (although my wife fought valiantly for the space for several years.)

I have actively supported the NMRA and it's oversight of our modeling community. I have attended 9 National and 5 regional conventions. I volunteered at the last 2 Seacoast sponsored regional conventions and presented clinics at both. I was also fortunate to get my feet wet at the National level by participating as an NMRA Achievement Program contest judge at the 2011 national convention in Sacramento California

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## Minutes

### Seacoast Board of Directors Meeting June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011

The Northeast Region, Seacoast Division Board of Directors met Sunday June 5<sup>th</sup> 2011 at Board of Director Rich Breton's home in Rochester New Hampshire. In addition to Rich meeting attendees were Seacoast President Bruce Robinson, Director and Seacoast Treasurer Tom Coulombe, Director and Secretary Tom Jones, and Directors Larry Cannon, Michael Grahame and Erich Whitney. In addition Ken May the Northeast Region's convention chairman was invited and traveled 3 hours to discuss the Seacoast Division's 2013 convention bid preparations.

Prior to Ken's arrival the board discussed the state of division finances, which stand at \$1755. Discussion of how to generate income for support of membership activities was discussed and it was pointed out that the major source of our income has been the money generated from raffle sales at the division-sponsored conventions. 2002 in Portland Me., and 2005 in Nashua New Hampshire were the previous Seacoast sponsored conventions. Treasurer Tom Coulombe pointed out that the Division has very few reoccurring expenses and we were in good financial shape.

Tom Jones updated the status of the new modular group. There has been very little activity within the group since the April meeting at which time standards were approved. Spring and summer has bitten into train time and it will be later in the summer when the group will attempt to get together for some module building work sessions. Michael Grahame and Tom Jones both have work-

shop spaces that can accommodate work sessions. This works out well as Tom lives in Maine and Michael in New Hampshire. This will make it easier for traveling. It is hoped to have some show and tell by the fall Seacoast meeting. Several of the group is planning on attending the NER convention this fall in Rhode Island and networking with other "Free-Mo" based modular groups from other NER divisions.

Erich Whitney updated the status of the new website. He has been working with the NER to get the division under the umbrella of a regional website for the past couple of months. Work is going well and we should be up and running in the near future. Erich has been working closely with the Division's Webmaster, Rob Carrigan and member Chris Baughman on the setup of the new site.

The main agenda item was 2013 convention planning progress. President Robinson and Rich Breton visited a convention complex on lake Winnepesaukee in New Hampshire and were very impressed with the facility and the Hotel's desire to support our convention needs. The area has an abundance of train as well as general tourist activities and should be a good fit for the proposed convention. The Hotel made an initial proposal in writing which Bruce and Rich presented to Ken May. Rich Breton also had an extensive slide show of the facility and surrounding activities that he presented. Ken was pleased with the initial information and has given President Robinson the go ahead to negotiate with the facility and then

Ken will make take the proposal to the next NER Board of Directors meeting, hopefully the end of July.

A very productive meeting was concluded with a great lunch of dogs, chips, salad, and sodas provided by the Bretons.

Tom Jones

### Seacoast Division, Northeastern Region NMRA Quarterly Meeting Saturday, October 22, 2011

The Fall Seacoast meeting was held at the community center in Derry, NH. There were 16 members present with Tom Nelson being a first timer. Welcome Tom! President Bruce Robinson started the meeting with a discussion of the upcoming Ops weekend, and a review of last year's sessions. Several pictures of the weekend were shared including the railroads of Bruce, Michael Grahame, John Stump, Scott Jewell, and John Newick. Also there were pictures of the dinner that followed the event and the slideshow presentation by John Hall. Dave Sias's layout was previewed on the upcoming Ops weekend but the southern operating sessions were cancelled due to lack of participants.

Getting into the clinic schedule, Bruce briefly recapped the Warwick regional convention that several members present attended. Next up Tom Oxnard shared pictures of his makeover of some hopper cars making them fit his free-lanced 1954 B&M railroad theme. He showed how he cut off parts of the cars, added new and re painted and decaled them. Larry Cannon showed and discussed how he built a deck truss bridge with Atlas bridge parts and also showed some Fallers Brick Paper that he had recently acquired. Neil Falby again delighted everyone with his "Model in a Bottle". A take off on the old ship in a bottle, Neal had just finished building a tiny interlocking lever kit with moving parts. The

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Neil Falby shows us a model of his interlocking lever kit in a switch tower at the Seacoast Division Fall Meeting

## Minutes Continued

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whole thing fit in a pill bottle. Rich Breton continued with a clinic on the use of various products and simple techniques you can use to make different fencing. He had various examples he passed around. Paul Lessard had a presentation on "Modeling Economically". He showed where he had taken several inexpensive plasticville structures and upgraded them with bits of styrene and parts from craft stores and his parts box. He past around several models including a drugstore and a dinner made from an old firehouse kit. Gordon Draper had two of his Free-mo modules on display for the meeting and talked about how he constructed them and how he was planning the track work. Gordon had made the turnouts for the module from "Fast Track" turnout jigs.

The business meeting began at 12:15. Erich Whitney made a short presentation welcome and info about Derry NH. (This was the first Seacoast quarterly meeting in Derry). Tom Jones read the Secretary's report and there was no Treasurer's report available. Peter McKenney the Membership Chairman reported the division's current membership being 178 down a couple from the last report. Erich Whitney talked about the efforts being made to bring on line the various segments of our website and encouraged everyone to take a look at it. (SeacoastNMRA.org). Reports were accepted by vote of the members present. Bruce Robertson then presented the news items from the latest NMRA headquarters info net emailing. Highlighted was an upcoming 2012 dues increase; the presentation of a possible 2016 nation-

al convention cruise and a statement about NMRA membership holding steady for the past several quarters around the 195 thousand number

Under old business, Rich Breton our NER representative updated the group on the annual meeting held at the Warwick convention. Because of a change in editors there will be no 4<sup>th</sup> quarter issue of the Coupler. Rich reported that there were 21 models judged at the convention, which was very good, but very few locomotives. There were 163 attendees at the Warwick convention and the dates of the next couple conventions were firmed up. Next year the convention is in Syracuse NY 6-9 Sept 2012 followed by our convention in Laconia NH 17-20 Oct 2013. The 2014 convention is still considering Palmer MA but there are issues with facilities and available lodging. The Edaville 2012 Scout Jamboree was announced being the 18 and 19<sup>th</sup> of May 2012.

Larry Cannon, Rich Breton, and Holly and Erich Whitney have stepped up to chair our 2013 regional convention. We are looking for a name for the convention with several bantered about. Two suggestions that got some interest were: "Lake side Express" and "Trackside at the Lake" (the most popular choice vocalized). Let us know if you have a suggestion. Our quarterly meeting dates were finalized for next year. Jan 7, 2012 Portland Me, April 14<sup>th</sup> Rochester NH, July 14 Auburn ME and Oct 13 Derry NH.

Under new business:

Three Seacoast Directors will come up for election at the January meeting. They are Neil Falby, Rich Breton and Tom

Jones. They are all standing for reelection. Any other nominations may be made at the January meeting prior to the vote.

The newsletter editor position is open and we are looking for someone to fill it.

The adult education program will be attempted again in Plaistow NH in the spring the dates not as yet set.

Rich Breton inquired whether there was interest in participating in the "Families with autism train day" at the Children's Museum of NH in Dover on 10 June 2012. This would be a good program for the Division to participate in. The meeting was adjourned with the next meeting scheduled to be in Portland ME on Saturday Jan 7, 2012.

Tom Jones

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### Candidate Profile: Tom Jones

this past July. I have been the secretary for the Seacoast Division as well as Director for the past 2 years. I try to attend all of the Seacoast quarterly meetings I can and have presented small clinics and "show and tells" at several of them. I am involved with the up coming 2013 Seacoast Sponsored regional convention and will be volunteering my time in supporting the Clinic Chairman as he develops his program. I have also volunteered my time to the Membership chairman in his recruiting efforts of new members to the division at local train shows.

I personally am in the early stages of working on several AP certificates and think this is an area the Seacoast officers and Directors can effectively enhance more member benefit. The certificates for Civil, Electrical and Chief Dispatcher lend themselves in part to group participation and I am hoping we can discuss this at our January meeting in Portland and develop AP clinic days to work on them as a group.

That's my Bio and I am sticking to it!

tj



Rich Breton in action giving his people-painting clinic

## THE SEACOAST DIVISION OF THE N.M.R.A.

**Editor:** Holly Whitney

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Derry, NH 03038

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***The Switch Tower on Line***

Seacoast Division Home Page

<http://www.seacoastnmra.org>

NMRA Home Page/Web Site

<http://www.nmra.org>

**Dead Line For May  
Issue: April 1, 2012**



### Seacoast Division Officers:

**President:** Bruce Robinson, 603-887-5922

**Vice President:** Paul Lessard, 603-623-4093

**Directors:** Richard Breton, 603-332-8257. Larry Cannon, 207-786-3929. Erich Whitney 603-537-1120.

Michael Grahame, 603-778-3099. Neil Falby, 207-646-1820. Tom Coulombe, 207-784-5962. Tom Jones, 207-725-0712.

### CALENDER OF EVENTS

**Jan. 7, Portland, ME.** Seacoast Division NMRA Quarterly Meeting.

**Jan 13, Derry, NH.,** Seacoast Division Modeling Night in Derry.

**Jan. 28 & 29, 2012, West Springfield, MA.,** Model Railroad Show, Eastern States Fairgrounds.  
[www.amherstrail.org](http://www.amherstrail.org).

**Feb. 10, Derry, NH.,** Seacoast Division Modeling Night in Derry.

**Mar. 9, Derry, NH.,** Seacoast Division Modeling Night in Derry.

**Mar. 10, Taunton, MA,** HUB Spring TRAINing show [www.hubdiv.org](http://www.hubdiv.org).

**Mar. 24, Augusta ME.,** Maine 3-Railers Model Railroad Show, Fred Guth [poppycaboose@yahoo.com](mailto:poppycaboose@yahoo.com).

**Apr. 13, Derry, NH.,** Seacoast Division Modeling Night in Derry.

**Apr. 14, Sanford, ME.,** Sanford Lions Club Annual All Gauge Model Railroad Show, Bill Catanesye (207) 636-3842, [billcat@metrocast.net](mailto:billcat@metrocast.net).

**Apr. 15, Rochester, NH.,** BSA Troop 356 Model Railroad Show.

**Apr. 15, Hooksett, NH.,** Hooksett NH Lions Club Train Show.

**Apr. 21, Rochester, NH.** Seacoast Division NMRA Quarterly Meeting.

**Seacoast Division Winter Meeting  
Saturday, January 7, 2011 10:00am-2:00pm  
The First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ  
301 Cottage Road South Portland, Maine**

**The meeting will be in the first floor meeting room with entrance from the rear parking lot.**

All Seacoast members, non-members and guests are invited to the winter meeting in South Portland, Maine.

**Robert Bennett** will present samples of steam and diesel locomotives that he has worked on, plus some other rolling stock, many of which have won awards and appeared in published articles in magazines such as Model Railroad Craftsman. He will share his processes for researching, detailing, painting, and weathering of these pieces, plus other modeling ideas. His focus is on railroads of Maine and the northeast. Bob grew up in southern Maine and has had a life-long fascination with railroads and modeling. He is a history teacher and brings his love of history to his work. He is also an accomplished photographer and, besides MRC, has published in Mainline Modeler, the Hon3 and On30 Annuals, the Narrow Gauge and Shortline Gazette, and Model Railroader.

Other clinics on model railroad building will also be part of the program. Clinics are a way of sharing skills and techniques. You always pick up something new to take back to your home layout.

There is always the "bring it and show it" time, too. Members are encouraged to bring something they are working on or have built and share it with the rest of us. Ask your questions, too!

Coffee and light nourishment will be provided on-site for a donation to offset costs.

A quarterly business meeting will follow the clinics and is open to all NMRA members. At this meeting, the annual election of Directors and President will take place.