



Vol. 19 No.2 Second Quarter

April 2012

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

Chartered on November 17, 1968



Division Elections

Elections

Are you interested in giving something back to the Division? Do you have special skills or fore-sight that you could bring to the Division? Do you have a desire to work in improving what the Division does? Then we have a job for you!

The Seacoast Division runs on volunteer input and members who contribute their time, energy and skills to advance the mission of the NMRA and our Division. This means that without your input and donation of time and energy then we might be missing out on your valuable skills and enthusiasm. The Division needs the help of its members to stand up and be counted. The nominating committee will be asking for candidates to the Board of Directors at the July meeting. Take this opportunity to make a difference and contribute to the membership so we all can "Share the Fun of Model Railroad-ing".

Appointments

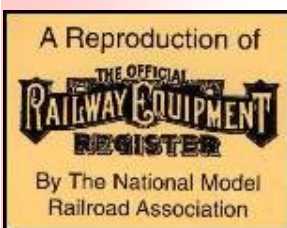
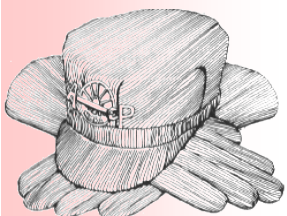
The following appointments are open and need to be filled: Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary/clerk, AP Chairman, Web Master, Modular Group Coordinator and Newsletter Editor.

The Division is in critical need for a new editor for the newsletter. The newsletter editions for January and April were published late due to not having an editor.

If you have an interest in contributing to any of these positions please contact me with your intent prior to the April 21st Quarterly meeting. My contact information is listed on the content page and on our web site.

Please give these requests some thought. It is time for you to contribute your valuable ideas and time to the Division. I am looking forward to hearing from you.

Bruce Robinson



Treasurer's Report by Tom Coulombe

Funds to help support the activities of the Division come from the Northeast. As for expenses, the major expense is for printing and postage of the newsletter. Some of the facilities that we use for our meeting are reimbursed a nominal amount. Our balance as of October, 2012 is \$1,992.18.

THE SWITCH TOWER

CENTRAL VERMONT RAILWAY

What New England Prototype to Model? by Paul Lessard

For the New England modeler there are numerous choices in prototype railroads to model. One interesting selection is the Central Vermont Railway running from Rouses Point, VT south to New London, CT. When the railroad was first chartered it was known as the Vermont Central RR and grew rapidly in the nineteenth century to reach 796 miles. In later years the over-extended system was gradually pruned down to a more sustainable size and emerged as the Central Vermont Railway in 1896. The railroad continued with this name until 1995 when the parent, Canadian National, sold it off to become today's New England Central.

There are many features about this railway which have endeared it to the railfan and modeler. In the steam era it rostered several classes of 2-8-0 consolidations. While brass versions of these locomotives have been offered a credible plastic model can be made by utilizing the excellent Bachman 2-8-0 in HO scale. Central Vermont owned the largest steam locomotive s ever to operate in New England, the 2_10_4 Texas type bought in 1928. If a model of the Texas type is desired in model form only the brass imports where available.

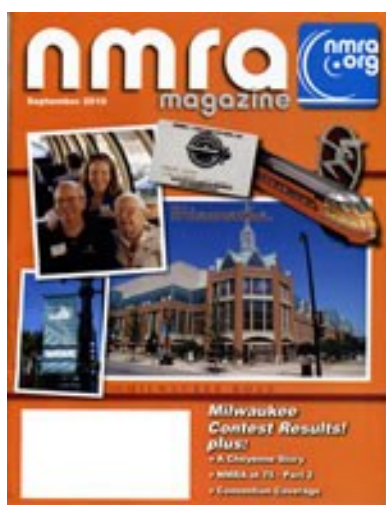
In the diesel era the CV owned Alco S-2's, S-4's, RS-3's and RS-11's and the EMD products included GP-9's, GP-18's, GP-38AC's and SW-1200;s. All of these models are easy to replicate using the products of Athearn, Atlas and Bachman Proto 2000.

Rolling stock rostered on the CV had many styles of wooden box cars which are easily copied in HO plastic. The USRA open hoppers can be replicated using the fine Accurail kits. The railway, located in dairy country, owned a sizeable fleet of milk cars which are available. There are quality plastic and resin kits available as well as brass imports.

Correct passenger car models may be more difficult to acquire. However, it should be remembered that the CV pooled it's passenger fleet with Canadian National, Boston & Maine and New Haven.

The CV traversed through pastoral and historic New England towns. These scenes should be fun to model using plastic or craftsman kits.. Signature scenes might include the stations at St. Albans, Montpelier Junction or Essex Junction outside Burlington, VT. The railway served many industries such as quarries Foundries, sawmills, manufacturing plants as well as the creameries serving the milk traffic.

Excellent sources of information about the CV are the seven volume history of the CV written by Robert C. Jones and the nine volume work **Connecticut River Railroads and Connections** written by Robert Nimke. There are also color pictorial books published by Morning Sun Publications. The Central Vermont Railway Historical Society has more information available.



President's Corner by Bruce Robinson

What did you do last weekend?

As I was trying to think of a subject and title for this quarter's newsletter I was looking over my March calendar and recounting the hobby events I pursued this month. This is what I discovered:

March 9- Derry Fun Night - It was a ball! Plain and simple. Jill and Brian Bollinger came down from Belmont to entertain more than two dozen modelers as they built a small waterfront scene from materials donated by the Bollinger's company BEST Trains.

March 10- Hub Division's Spring TRAINing event. I took in five clinics including two by John Pryke, Chip Steven's "Along the way to MMR" and Jim Harter's "Making your own castings". After the clinic program I attended the HUB Division's annual business meeting, banquet and the after dinner speaker program presented by ESU Loksound. I even "worked" the membership table handing out NMRA Rail Passes to perspective NMRA members. Whew, what a day!

March 17/18- Greenberg Show. I spent two days manning the Seacoast Division membership table at the Greenberg Show at the Shriner's Hall in Wilmington, MA. Twenty-five NMRA Rail Pass applications were handed out to residents from New Hampshire and Maine. I even handed a Rail Pass to a neighbor from Sandown! How cool is that?

March 24- Railrun XXV. I "piloted" at Keith Shoneman's PNE in Acton, MA running Simsbury Yard for the Railrun guest operators. Railrun is an annual operations themed gathering that was founded twenty-five years ago by Bill Borrelli that opens up model railroads to guest operators over a Friday night, Saturday and Sunday schedule. This year there were 86 operators involved.

March 25- Railrun XXV. Again I "piloted" with Brenna Whitney on Deb and Stan Ames' garden railroad in Chelmsford, MA. With nearly 4,000 feet of Fn3 track crews require hours to complete their assigned runs. To quote Erich Whitney: "It was a great run. It only rained for the first two hours!"

March 30- Operating night on the VJRR. The regular crew comes in on the fourth Friday of the month to run the Valley Junction RR. Trains start rolling on their schedule under dispatcher and employee timetable control at 7:30 and the full twenty-four hour "day" is completed four hours later. (There is also a lot of socializing going on as well)

Now that the month of March has passed and I looked back on all the fun times I enjoyed with great people in this hobby another thought occurred to me. Except for Derry Fun Night and my own op session all the other events were in Massachusetts. Why can't there be these kinds of great times offered in Maine and New Hampshire? If you read through these and thought, "Hey, I want to do that or I can do that," then please think about how we might be able to bring these kinds of events to our own backdoor in New Hampshire and Maine.



Erich Whitney presenting "Derry's Railroads" to a packed house at the first Derry Fun Night, January 13, 2012

THE SWITCH TOWER

Get Involved by Bruce Robinson

Get involved!

Election of officers for the three open Board of Director positions took place at the January Quarterly meeting in Portland. Rich Breton and Tom Jones were re-elected and new-comer Peter McKinney was elected to a three year term. Welcome to the BoD Peter.

“Derry Fun Night” has started off with good attendance and some really good programs. The audience has been coming from Division members, members of the HUB Division and the B&M Historical Society as well as the communities around Derry. New members to the NMRA have been gained from the night as well. It is looking like a real win-win activity. Jill & Brian Bollinger from BEST Models had a hall full of people enjoying hands-on building of a water bank scene with a pier on a piece of base only eight inches square. Be sure to check the web site (seacoastnmra.org) for the schedule and presentation topics. It is a terrific way to spend the second Friday of every month.

The April Quarterly meeting is in Rochester, NH on Saturday, April 21. I hope to see you there and I hope to see you at the NER convention in Laconia in 2013.

Until then.....**Share the fun of model railroading!**



The Seacoast Non-stop Ops operating session hosted by Dave Sias, Meredith, NH October 29, 2012

The Seacoast Non-stop Ops operating session hosted by Bruce Reynolds, Meredith, NH October 29, 2012



Get Involved by Bruce Robinson



Industries to be switched on Bruce Reynold's layout

Waterfront on Dave Sias' layout.



Erich Whitney and Tom Oxnard railfanning on Dave Sias' layout.

THE SWITCH TOWER

Get Involved by Bruce Robinson



TRAIN	CREW	TRAIN	CREW
0 Concord Yard	Bruce Milk	9 LKPT SW-ASH	
W Woodsy. Yard	Bruce	10 #42 FRTXTRA	
1 #1 Paper/4301	Peter	11 #20 Alouette	
2 #402 Kears.	Fitch	12 #1001	
3 LKPT SW-Cari	Tom	13 OC-2	
4 #41 FRT Xtra	Don/BK	14 #9	
5 J.L. Turn		15 #24 Winni	
6 S Alouette		X Work/Play	
7 CO-1		M Milk	
8 #416 Urcan		D Dispatch	

Crew assignments on Dave Sias' layout.

Be careful how you
"knock" cars around...
The boss is watching.
Non-stop Ops weekend
on Bruce Reynold's lay-
out.



"Was it two cars on track 1 or one car on track 2?" Tom Oxnard checking the waybills on Bruce Reynold's layout.

N.M.R.A. News

News from the February NMRA Board meeting:

- Tom Draper, manager of the National Train Show, reported that the number of booth sales for the show at Grand Rails 2012 is currently at the same level it was at this time last year for the show in Sacramento.
- After a necessarily short search by the NMRA Canada Nominating Committee, Clark Kooning volunteered for an appointment as NMRA Canada Director when Don Hillman stepped down from the job for health reasons. We wish Don all the best, and thank Clark for his willingness to serve at the last minute.
- Financially, the NMRA ended 2011 in very good standing and is currently rebuilding some of its funds from which it had borrowed in the past. In addition there is currently enough money in the budget to hire an IT professional to repair, maintain, and update the NMRA website.
- The NMRA has announced an agreement of cooperation between itself and the Hasea.com Model Railroad Association (HRMA) of China, a community of over 100,000 railfans and model railroaders. The HRMA, a relatively young organization, is interested in learning how the NMRA is organized, and will promote NMRA standards in China. Members of both organizations will be able to enjoy the many benefits of each. A press release and story will appear shortly in NMRA Magazine.
- The Board is in the initial stages of studying electronic balloting as a way of both saving on postage and encouraging additional member participation.
More Board meeting news next month!

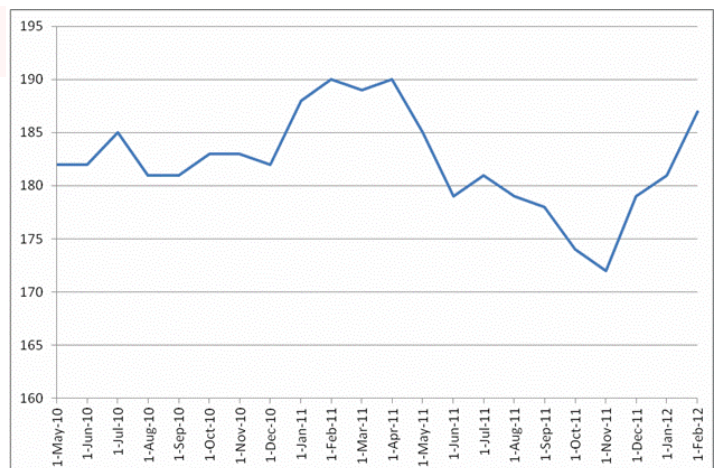
And some other news:

- The Grand Rails 2012 website at www.gr2012.org now has these new features:
 - A page for the Layout Design Special Interest Group
 - The Operations Special Interest Group Sign-up sheet
 - PDF copies of all of the traditional Registration forms
 - A complete list of all of the extra fare events and tours
 - A schedule of days and times for most scheduled events
 - More Sidetracks events for the non-rails
 - The Silent Auction schedule
 - The contest room schedule
- Have members who are interested in the Achievement Program? Yours truly was interviewed on The Model Railway Show about it. Trevor Marshall talked to me about my road to MMR, and the hurdles and joys of taking it. Episode 32 is available for listening or downloading now at www.themodelrailwayshow.com or through iTunes, and will be available through The Model Railway Show's online archives after March 1.

Seacoast Division Membership

The total membership in the Division as of February 29, 2012, was 187, a growth of 4.5% since the end of 2011.

As you and the directors realize, though, the membership level in this Division has been quite uneven, as the chart below demonstrates. The peak membership was 190 and the lowest level was 172 during the prior 21 months.



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

Editor: Holly Whitney
5 Wilson Ave
Derry, NH 03038
editor@seacoastnmra.org

The Switch Tower Online
Seacoast Division Home Page
<http://www.seacoastnmra.org>

NMRA Home Page/Web Site
<http://www.nmra.org>

**Deadline For July
Issue: June 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.

Peter McKenney, 207-776-2033. Tom Coulombe, 207-784-5962. Tom Jones, 207-725-0712.

CALENDER OF EVENTS

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

May 11, Derry, NH. Seacoast Division Modeling Night in Derry.

May 18-20, South Carver, MA. 2012 Railroading Camporee for Boy Scouts.

May 19-20, Rockland, ME. HUB Division East Wind Rail Fan Trip, www.hubdiv.org.

June 8, Derry, NH. Seacoast Division Modeling Night in Derry.

June 10, Dover, NH. Train Day at Children's Museum of New Hampshire.

Next Division Meetings Mark your calendar; save the dates!!!!

July 14, 2012 in Auburn, ME (Great Falls Model Railroad Club)

October 13, 2012 in Derry, NH (Marion Gerrish Community Center).

Next Meeting

Seacoast Division Spring Meeting
Saturday, April 21, 2012 10:00am-2:00pm
Rochester Community Center
150 Wakefield Street, Rochester, NH 03867

(Behind the High School on Community Way and across from McDonald's on Rt. 125)

Join your fellow Seacoast Division members in "Sharing the Fun of Model Railroading."

The Clinic Program:

- Paul Lessard will give a presentation on the Central Vermont Railroad.
- Rich Breton will give a clinic including detailing.

Show and Ask. Participants are encouraged to bring examples of their modeling to show to other attendees for educational purposes (two-way) AND to bring their questions on model railroading topics to post to the others. Take advantage of the cumulative experience of all of the attendees to make your modeling experience more enjoyable.

Lunch will be provided on-site (a donation would be appreciated) and the business meeting part of the day's activities will follow the clinic program. If you know a person interested in model railroading who might be interested in joining the NMRA, please invite him or her to accompany you to the meeting.