



# The Switch Tower

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## Convention Layouts

"By 1853 the line has reached Woodsville, NH and now connections can be made so passengers are brought to the doorsteps of the famous White Mountain hotels. It is an exciting time and the eventual Boston & Maine's White Mountain Division is being born!"

This quote by Dave Sias about the White Mountain Division gives us insight into the rail line that Dave has superbly modeled and will make available for Tracks To Lakeport 2013 participants from October 17-20th.

Key parts of every NMRA convention are the layout open houses and operating sessions. The Seacoast Division is fortunate to have many layouts available for "convention duty." In addition to Dave's, up to another 20 layouts are planned for viewing with operating sessions planned at many of these. While most of the layouts are in southern & central New Hampshire, there will be a few west of Boston for travelers enroute to Laconia.



"The Alouette" southbound from Montreal makes its stop at The Weirs on Lake Winnepesaukee. The large white building, Winnepesaukee Gardens, was a popular dance hall in the 1930's and 1940's, and the Lakeside Hotel provided accommodations for the performers. Often to promote the shows, performers would sing on the boardwalk, as depicted in this scene on Dave Sias' beautiful HO scale layout, The Boston & Maine's White Mountain Division. (photo by Rich Breton)

## Service Appreciation

The Seacoast Division of the National Model Railroad Association gratefully acknowledges the leadership provided by Bruce E. Robinson during five one-year terms as President of the Division ending on January 12, 2013. Although Bruce did not originally seek the role of President, he accepted the responsibility when handed to him with high energy, passion, and enthusiasm. He immediately embarked on a sustained campaign to make the Seacoast Division an even better organization for its members. He impressed the members of the Division with his principles, consistent philosophy, and hard work in:

- Conducting the affairs of the Division with openness and transparency,
- Spreading the work among the members so as not to overburden any individual,
- Constantly seeking ideas to improve the services offered to the Division's members,
- Reaching out to the public to better inform them of the hobby and teaching them basic model railroading skills, and
- Representing the Division at train shows, NMRA events, and other venues.

During Bruce's terms as President, and aided by his leadership, the Division has accomplished many things, including:

- Won a bid to host the Northeastern Region's convention, Tracks to Lakeport 2013.
- Substantially upgraded the Division's website to make it a useful resource for model railroaders.
- Initiated in 2010 a layout operations weekend program for the Division which has been held

annually ever since.

- Restated the Division's bylaws in 2012
- Undertook a written survey of the Division's members in 2012 and analyzed the data that resulted from the members' feedback to inform future decisions on ways to make the experience of the members more satisfying.
- Increased the content of the Division's newsletter, The Switch Tower, from 4 pages to as many as 17 pages.



Bruce working with the Boy Scouts in May 2012. Bringing more of the hobby to people is Bruce's other major contribution to this pastime. He was one of the founders of the Tour De Chooch and opened his home layout to many for them to learn operations. Thank you Bruce.

- Recruited six members to become Directors, four of whom are still serving on the Board.
- Advocated for adding a Membership Committee and Chair which has resulted in better communications with members, including an accurate list of email addresses.
- Advocated for and added a Member Meeting Activities Director which has resulted in more content for clinics and better presentations at quarterly meetings of the members.
- Formation of the Seacoast Division Modular Group.

Bruce also reached out to neighboring NMRA divisions for purposes of sharing resources and ideas to make the modeling experience of New Englanders even better. He has used his home layout, The Valley Junction Railroad, as a base for bringing model railroaders from many different places and organizations together for purposes of "sharing the fun." Bruce has lived and personified the mantra of this Division: Share the fun of

model railroading.



## Officer & Director Reports

### The President's Lantern by Peter McKenney

This is my first opportunity to communicate in this column since my election as President on January 12. As many of the members of Seacoast Division have not met me, yet, I first would like to introduce myself. Then I will describe my aspirations for the Division for 2013 and thoughts about long-term opportunities for enhancing the model railroad hobby in Maine and New Hampshire.

I joined the NMRA in 1998 so that I could attend my first NMRA National Convention held that year in Kansas City. I started attending Seacoast Division meetings on an irregular basis in 2000. I became a more regular participant in Division meetings in 2009, when I retired. In May, 2010, I became Chair of the Membership Committee and was elected to the Board of Directors in January 2011. I am working on my second HO scale layout based on the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad. I am a member of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club, The 470 Railroad Club, and Maine Narrow Gauge Railroad Company Museum.

I committed to the Directors in January that I would focus on the following in 2013:

- Provide resources to help make Tracks to Lakeport 2013 successful.
  - Provide leadership so that members would have access to satisfying model railroading experiences throughout the year. The 2012 Member Survey and the analysis of it provide ideas that deserve to be experimented with.
  - Lead a discussion on the mission, vision, goals and strategies for making the Division successful long-term.
  - Continue and enhance existing Seacoast Division programs and resources: Informative clinic presentations at the regular quarterly meetings of members, layout operations opportunities, Seacoast Division Free-mo Modular Group, the Switch Tower, and the Division's website.
  - Improve the flow of Board of Director meetings by involving all Directors in planning the agenda and asking for reports to be submitted in advance and published for all of the members to read.
- ...continued on page 9

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### Treasurer's Report

See page 14

### Seacoast Division Board of Directors' Winter Meeting

Saturday, January 12, 2013  
First Congregational Church, UCC  
301 Cottage Road, S. Portland, Maine

Vice-President Mike Grahame called the meeting to order at 1:40 pm.

Present at the meeting were Mike Grahame (Vice-President), Directors Peter McKenney, Rich Breton, Larry Cannon, Tom Coulombe, Paul Lessard, Erich Whitney, and Chip Faulter. Bruce Robinson had resigned as both a Director and as the Division President at the Annual Meeting of members which preceded the BOD Meeting.

Vice-President Mike Grahame called for the Secretary's Report from the Oct 13, 2012 BOD meeting. Larry Cannon made a motion to dispense with the reading of the Meeting Minutes and accept the version posted on the Division website and published in The Switch Tower. The motion was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.  
...continued on page 10

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### Seacoast Financial Report for 2012

January 22, 2013  
Board of Directors  
Seacoast Division, Northeastern Region  
National Model Railroad Association

Gentlemen:

At the direction of the President we have reviewed the financial records of the Division maintained by the Treasurer for the period January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012. As Division financial records are maintained on a cash basis, reported financial transactions were verified against the Division's bank statements and deposit/check register.

Our review found agreement between these three sources as to dollar amounts involved and no differences were noted. We did note that documentation of expenses and net cash receipts need improvement. In nearly all cases, expenses are now fully documented and the organization cash receipts during the period reviewed are nominally material.

...continued page 9, column 2

## Winter Meeting by Chip Faulter

### Diverse & Interesting Clinics

The Seacoast Division Winter Meeting was held Saturday, January 12, 2013 at The First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ in South Portland, Maine. In addition to the annual members meeting and the Board of Directors meetings there were a number of clinics presented.

Erich Whitney kicked off the Winter Meeting with a welcome to all, and an introduction of Mr. Fred Hessler who gave the first clinic.

Mr. Hessler gave an excellent one hour clinic on Free-Mo. Free-Mo, short for free-form modules, emphasizes flexibility in track design, and prototypical scenery and operations. Free-mo standards essentially fix the configuration of the end plates, where you mate with someone else's modules, and what is created in between is up to you. The length and track configuration of a Free-mo module is up to the modeler. Free-mo modules may be long or short, straight or curved, and may even be composed of several sections, to form a module. Mr. Hessler and Mr. Bill Hodges each had one module set up and on display. Mr. Hessler module used 2 sections and Mr. Hodges three. Most everyone present gave these modules a good look over, and under! For more information, see the following websites:

<http://www.free-mo.org/>

<http://www.trainweb.org/northgamodurail/freemo/gentleguide.pdf>

<http://home.comcast.net/~jameskoretsky/NEFree-mo/index.html>



Bill Hodges (left) and Fred Hessler (right) setting up Free-Mo modules.  
All photos by Chip Faulter.



Fred Hessler giving his clinic on Free-Mo Standards to 30 attendees.

The second clinic was given by Mr. Bob Bennett. For readers of Model Railroad Craftsman magazine, you may have read some of his articles. Mr. Bennett is an accomplished modeler and author, and gave a 30 minute clinic on HO and O scale structures. Mr. Bennett touched upon types of structure models (kits, kit-bashed and scratch-built), construction materials (wood, styrene, resin and plaster), tools, adhesives. A number of modeling tips and techniques were mentioned throughout the clinic. Mr. Bennett also had about a dozen completed structure models with him that he used as props throughout the clinic to demonstrate the points he was making. This clinic was also very well received by the group.



Bob Bennett demonstrating structure building techniques during his clinic on HO and O scale structures

Mr. Tom Oxnard provided the group a 10 min impromptu presentation on several structures that he had kitbashed using Walther's kits as a starting point. The

## Winter Meeting

structures were based upon factories and mills that Mr. Oxnard had seen and photographed in his travels. Although the buildings were not exact replicas of the prototype, the models captured nicely the look and feel of the original structure.



Tom Oxnard's mill and factory structures he kitbashed from Walther's kits using personal photographs as a starting point

The final clinic of the day was given by Seacoast Division Directors Mr. Erich Whitney and Mr. Peter McKenney, and provided an overview of all of the tasks and planning that go into running an NMRA convention. In about an hour, Mr. Whitney and Mr. McKenney provided a comprehensive presentation on the inner workings of an NER convention, and how the Seacoast Division intends to make the NER 2013 Convention in Laconia, NH a success. One of the goals of the team is to provide more convention activities to do than there is time for any one person to do.



Erich Whitney kicking off the clinic on running and NMRA convention

Planning for an NER convention commences nearly 3 years before the actual event and requires the coordination of many activities including:

- Selecting general location and the host hotel
- Finding volunteers to staff the key positions that will coordinate the convention
- Establishing all of the events that will be offered (operating sessions, layout tours, rail and non-rail tours, clinics, etc.) and gaining a commitment from the hosts, presenters and owners on each individual activity
- Scheduling all of the events so that convention attendees can take maximum advantage of what is being offered
- Actually running the convention
- Wrapping up all of the loose ends after the convention including things like thank you notes to contributors and volunteers

The presentation was not intended to scare people away but rather give them an appreciation for the work being done by the convention committee. Finally, the presentation was an appeal to the membership to volunteer. The convention committee cannot pull this off alone, especially covering the wide range of things that need to be accomplished when the convention is actually running. Please, if you have an interest, contact Erich Whitney.

This concluded the Winter meeting for the members. Immediately following this meeting was the Annual Meeting of Members, a Seacoast Division Board of Director's (BOD) meeting, and meeting of the Tracks to Lakeport Convention Committee. Members were invited to stay for all of these meetings. See the separate meeting minutes for the Annual Meeting and the BOD meeting.



## Last Run

SANFORD L. ROBERTS (1933-2013)

Sandy Roberts grew up in Missouri. He became interested in model railroading in 1941, when his aunt gave him and his brother a Lionel train set for Christmas. She had purchased the set 18 days earlier, on the day Pearl Harbor was attacked! Through 1993, he was an electrical engineer with McDonnell Douglas, working on the U.S.



He authored an article on his Lionel layout for the Seacoast Division's newsletter in 1997, served on the Division's Board of Directors, and served as the Division President in 1997-98. Sandy also frequently opened his layout for visits after Seacoast Division meetings and during NMRA Northeastern Region conventions. Sandy



Sandy Roberts displayed a Lionel table top layout at many train shows and similar events in northern New England over the years, sharing his enthusiasm for the model railroad hobby with many people. In June, 2012, Sandy set up his display at the Children's Museum of New Hampshire in Dover for "Train Day." Rich Breton left photo, Paula Rais right photo, used with permission of Children's Museum of NH.

space program and military fighter planes. While employed there, he joined its model railroad club as well as the Lionel Operating Train Society. He developed his own three-rail layout in his home. When he moved to Maine from the Midwest in the early 1990s, he moved his home layout into an upstairs room in his Lebanon, Maine, barn. The 1941 Lionel train set was proudly displayed above his layout. Once in Maine, he joined the NMRA and became involved in the reactivation of the Seacoast Division, along with his new friend, David Collinge of New Hampshire.

will be remembered for his cheerful and helpful attendance at many northern New England train shows with his table of Lionel and scale model railroads, and for his ability to repair three-rail model equipment. He will be sadly missed by Maine and New Hampshire modelers. We send our deepest sympathies to his wife, Judy Roberts, and his family.

## NMRA InfoNet

### Welcome to the InfoNet-News For March, 2013

NMRA Museum Gallery Exhibit Donation - The WISE Division in Wisconsin recently voted to donate \$5,000 to the NMRA Museum Gallery Exhibit with an immediate payment of \$2,500 and a second payment of the same amount later in the year or early next year.

### Atlanta 2013 Convention Update

- All tours are selling briskly, so be sure to register now to avoid disappointment. Most of the prototype and general interest tours are limited to 50 people due to venue limitations.
- A team of PTE convention reps visited the American Maglev Technologies test track on Feb 22 and were treated to a most informative and entertaining tour. This tour is offered on Tuesday, July 16 (P352) and again on Wednesday, July 17 (P457). If you're interested in the future of transportation, don't miss this tour.
- The tour to the CSX Training Center (P355) has been expanded to include a visit to the Georgia Northeastern RR, where you'll get an overview of their operations from GNRR president, see some of their locos, and visit their dispatch center and yards.
- The convention hotel, the Waverly Renaissance, is 40% booked at this time, so don't hesitate in reserving your room at this great venue.
- The clinic schedule has been posted to the website as well as updates to some of the other events. Visit the website at [www.NMRA2013.org](http://www.NMRA2013.org).
- A very active and entertaining general interest/non-rail program is available, so bring the family, sample some southern hospitality, and see all that Atlanta has to offer.

NMRA BOD appoints new At Large North American Director The NMRA Board of Directors has appointed Mike Yurges the new At Large North American Director, a position vacated by Miles Hale, MMR. Mike resides in Sherman, Ill., and is a Director of North America Railroad Products for a large hydraulics company. He was recently elected Vice President of the Midwest Region, and prior to that was District 5 Trainmaster for the Illinois Valley Division. Mike also served as Chairman of the

"Railsplitter 2012" Midwest Region Convention Committee.

NMRA BOD appoints new Vice President – Special Projects The Board has also confirmed the appointment of Gerry Leone, MMR, Vice President-Special Projects. Gerry served as NMRA Communications Director for five years, and, prior to that, was Deputy Chair of the NMRA's Member Services Department. He also served on the boards and edited the newsletters of the Thousand Lakes Region and Twin Cities Division. Gerry received the NMRA President's Award in 2010, and the Meritorious Service award in 2012. Gerry replaces Bill Kaufman, who resigned in mid-February.

### Email addresses for the NMRA eBulletin

If any of your members did not receive the first issue of the NMRA eBulletin, which was mailed out on March 5, it means either their SPAM filter is preventing it from getting through, or their email address on file with NMRA Headquarters isn't current. Please have them visit <http://www.nmra.org/member/content/member-info-update> to update email information. Also let them know that it may take a little bit of time for the update to take effect, since this is currently being done manually by HQ staff. The next issue of the NMRA eBulletin is scheduled to be mailed out in early May.

New Email address for Division Business Car Column Jim Zinser has announced a new email address for his Division Business Car Column. The new email address is [divbizcar@outlook.com](mailto:divbizcar@outlook.com)

If you have any questions or comments about any of the above, please send them directly to a Director or Officer. You'll find those addresses at [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org) on in the NMRA Magazine.

If the person holding a region or division office changes, or their email address changes, please contact me at [tcdraider@aol.com](mailto:tcdraider@aol.com) with the corrected information

Regards,  
Tom Draper  
Director – Support Services

# Tracks To Lakeport Switchlist

## Convention Raffle

### *Good Stuff Needed*

How many of you have something in your closet, or on a shelf in the train room, or stuffed under the layout somewhere that you couldn't live without but now realize you may never need or assemble? I have the perfect solution for you. Donate that *valuable* but no longer wanted item to the convention raffle! The Seacoast Division is hosting the 2013 NER Convention in Laconia, NH in October, 2013. We are pulling together a great raffle for convention attendees. A comprehensive solicitation of commercial model railroad vendors is underway but you can help us as well.

If you now have something that you can actually live without, please consider donating it to the raffle. Donations can be sent to Seacoast Division treasurer Tom Coulombe at 465 Pond Road, Lewiston, ME 04240 for safe keeping. If that is a problem, call or e-mail me, Chip Faulter (raffle committee chair), and we will figure it out. It is our intention to recognize all donors at the convention. If for some reason you would like to remain anonymous, no problem. Just let me know and your generosity will be recognized as such. While there is no hard time-line for the donation to be received, the sooner we know about it, the better we can plan the raffle. Thanks in advance for your support and generosity!!

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## Convention Contacts

Northeastern Region Convention Committee

Convention Chair: Ken May

kenneth.may@comcast.net 860-872-3441

Seacoast Division Convention Committee

Convention Chair: Erich Whitney

ecwhitney@me.com 603-537-1120

Inside Activities Committee Chair: Larry Cannon

larrycannon@roadrunner.com

207-786-3929

Outside Activities Committee Chair: Richard Breton

rbreton@worldpath.ne 603-332-8257

Publicity Committee Chair: Peter McKenney

mckenp@maine.rr.com 207-776-2033

## Speeders Anyone!

For the first time at a NER Convention the Sandown Historical Society is offering a track speeder trip.

After the fun and all the great activities at the NER Convention how about taking a motor car (aka "Speeder") trip through New Hampshire wood lands. The trip covers eight miles of track owned by the State of New Hampshire through forest and waterways used by beaver and other native animals and during the fall convention dates the autumn foliage colors will be at their peak.



See New Hampshire's spectacular fall foliage in this very unique way aboard a Speeder!

You will climb onboard one of speeders with the operator and after a brief safety discussion will be off to end-of-track and lunch at a local diner. After lunch you will help turn your flanged chariot for the ride back to the starting point. The whole trip will take three hours, including lunch time and cover sixteen miles. Lunch at the diner will be at your own expense.

The speeder trip will be sponsored by the Sandown Historical Society and Museum as a fund raiser to continue the restoration work on their former Maine Central M-119 motor car. A signed waiver form will be required prior to the trip.



### President's Lantern cont.-

- Lead a discussion on how to increase volunteerism in the Division.
- Create a process for enhancing relationships with model railroad clubs and other hobby related entities in Maine and New Hampshire.
- Reach out to other NMRA divisions to share ideas and resources that could make the experience of Seacoast Division members better.

This is a daunting list of commitments. In short, we are examining what may be lacking in this Division and attempting to react in a positive way. As we anticipated, the special work necessary to produce a regional convention will slow our rate of progress on these and other goals for 2013, but we will make progress on them as best we can, laying out basic principles and processes for continuing to address the issues that will make the Division successful, and address them more vigorously after the convention.

Of course, organizing a regional convention actually makes a Division stronger and better, also. We are learning more about the Division's members and some members have already become more aware of the Division. I am very happy to report that the Local Convention Committee has made wonderful progress in planning for Tracks to Lakeport 2013. Erich Whitney has brought new perspectives to the planning process as Chair, and veteran convention leaders Rich Breton and Larry Cannon have used their knowledge and wisdom to not only add new ideas of their own, but also make sure that there will be no repeat of prior mistakes made in other NER conventions. I have observed their deliberations and it is inspiring to see how they can resolve differences of opinion in a cordial and productive way to make the best choices possible for this convention. More work will be needed and I am also proud that others are starting to volunteer, several of whom started to step forward at the January meeting.

Since I became Membership Chair over two years ago, I have enjoyed communicating with many of the members of the Seacoast Division. I have become aware of many different situations these members are in and how many different aspects of the hobby appeal to them. This variety of situations and interests, plus the wide geographic dispersion of the members, creates significant challenges for the Division to provide suitable services. We need to be creative and willing to customize programs to fit the various situations. All of the members can help meet these challenges by talking to one or more of the Directors, ...continued next column, top

or coming to a quarterly meeting, and sharing your thoughts. The Directors and I need all of the help that we can get from you. I hope to see many of you at the April 20 meeting in Rochester, as well as Tracks to Lakeport 2013 in Laconia, NH, October 17-20. In the meantime, please call, email, or write to me on any topic. Share the Fun of Model Railroading.

Note: For the past five years, this column has been called "President's Corner." For 10 or more years before that, it was called "President's Message." I invited the Directors to suggest a new title for this column that would signal more clearly what the leadership needs to be doing. I received 11 suggestions. David Sias concurred with the need for planning and thought it wise for the Division to have "a light for our future." He, therefore, suggested "The President's Lantern." Thanks, David, and all of the other Directors. You are serving the Division well.

### Financial Report cont.-

There were a small number of timing differences between monthly financial reporting and check or bank statement dates.

Except for the lack of receipts or invoices for some expenses and net cash receipts, financial records are adequate for material transactions. Included with this report are suggestions for improvement of internal financial routines and controls.

Respectfully,

Larry Cannon ; Chip Faulter

Seacoast Division Financial Transactions Review

January 1, 2012 - December 31, 2012

Internal Routine and Control Recommendations

- Receipts , Invoices and Documentation for Expense Checks:

All checks should be supported with invoices, receipts or other forms that are grouped and identified with the date paid and check number if possible.

- Cash Receipt Transactions:

Many of the Divisions receipts are cash transactions for the newsletter, other Division services or donations for food or refreshments at Division meetings. Net receipts should be documented with a simple accounting of the gross receipts and invoices or receipts for expenses reimbursed. Donations in excess of receipts, as well as net receipts should be noted should tax return reporting ever be required.

Other Recommendations:

- Transactions in the check register should be dated.
- Older transactional records should be archived.
- Care should be observed that transactions are reported in the correct period.

### Board of Directors cont.-

Vice-President Mike Grahame then called for the report of the Convention Committee. Peter McKenney made a motion that the report of the Convention Committee be deferred until the Convention Committee Planning Meeting that will immediately following the BOD meeting. The motion was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

Vice-President Mike Grahame called for a report of the Bylaws Ballot. Secretary Chip Faulter reported that nearly one quarter of the eligible members voted which is a pretty high return for this type of vote. A total of 44 ballots were received by the Dec 8 deadline (no ballots were received after the deadline). There were 41 yes votes, 1 no vote and 1 conditional yes vote. The conditional yes was dependent upon correction of a number of grammatical errors pointed out by the member. 1 ballot was signed but had neither yes or no selected. Therefore, the vote met the criteria to accept the proposed changes to the Bylaws. Rich Breton moved to accept the Bylaws ballot report as presented. The motion was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

The grammatical errors in the proposed Bylaws changes that were identified by a voting member during the ballot process were reviewed by the Bylaws subcommittee of the BOD. The Bylaws Subcommittee recommended to accept all but 2 of the proposed changes as editorial changes, none of which changed any of the substantive provisions of the proposed bylaws. Erich Whitney moved to accept the subcommittee recommendation to make these editorial changes to the Bylaws. The motion was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

Vice-President Mike Grahame then called for the report of the Nominating Committee. Rich Breton first recognized and thanked Bruce Robinson for his service as a Director and as the Division President. Erich Whitney echoed Rich's sentiments. Rich Breton then went on to state that the Nominating Committee was nominating Peter McKenney for Division President, and Erich Whitney for Division Vice-President. Both Peter and Erich had agreed to accept the nominations. Rich Breton called for any other nominations from the floor. There were no nominations from the floor. Larry Cannon made a motion to accept the nominations as presented. The motion was seconded and passed by unanimous vote. Larry Cannon then made a motion to vote the slate into office. The motion was seconded and the vote passed unanimously.

New Division President Peter McKenney took over as

chair of the meeting.

President Peter McKenney then recognized Bruce Robinson for his service as a Director and as President of the Seacoast Division. President McKenney read aloud a written recognition of Bruce's accomplishments. A motion was made to adopt the written statement as a Board Resolution. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The written recognition is attached as an addendum to these minutes.

President Peter McKenney stated that he would consider and appoint a replacement Director for Bruce Robinson as soon as possible, and make that appointment known to the rest of the BOD.

President Peter McKenney provided his nominations for other Division Officers, Committee Chairs, Committee Members and other positions for approval by the BOD:

- Treasurer- Tom Coulombe
- Finance Committee: Larry Cannon and Chip Faulter
- Secretary- Chip Faulter
- Newsletter editor- Bill Hodges
- Editorial Board members: Erich Whitney and Chip Faulter
- Webmaster- Rob Carignan
- Website Committee: Erich Whitney and Bill Hodges
- Regular Meeting Activities Director- Paul Lessard
- Activities Committee: Rich Breton and Larry Cannon
- Membership Committee Chair: Chip Faulter
- Membership Committee: Paul Lessard, Rich Breton, Ken White, and Mike Grahame
- Division layout operations events: Mike Grahame
- Registered Agent: Tom Coulombe
- Seacoast Modular Group
  - Coordinator within the Group: Bill Hodges
  - Board liaison to support the Coordinator: Rich Breton

Chip Faulter moved that the entire slate of nominations be accepted by the BOD. The motion was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

President Peter McKenney provided the following dates, locations and Point of Contact (POC) for the actual meeting room for quarterly member and BOD meetings for BOD consideration:

- April 20, 2013 Rochester, NH Rich Breton
- July 27, 2013 Auburn, ME Tom Coulombe
- Sept. 14, 2013 Lakes Region or Concord, NH Erich Whitney or designee
- Jan. 11, 2014 S. Portland, ME Stan Jordan

Chip Faulter moved that the proposed dates, locations ...continued next page, column 1



### Board of Directors cont.-

and POCs be accepted by the BOD.

The motion was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

President Peter McKenney opened a discussion on which train shows or other railroad events should the Seacoast Division make an appearance. The list below was provided as a sample list of shows to consider:

Springfield- NER Jan 26-27, 2013 (publicity for Tracks to Lakeport 2013)

Rochester, NH: April 7

N. Sutton, NH, CVMRRC/ Upper Valley Model RR Show: April 14

Sanford, ME: unknown if the show will be held this year

Topsham, ME, GFMRRRC: April 27

Tatamagouche, NS (MFRS): May 31, June 1

Concord, NH, Concord MRRC: August?

Auburn, ME, GFMRRRC: Nov. 2

Brewer, ME, EMMRRC: Nov. 16

Other train shows in 2013?

The sentiment of the Directors was to focus on Maine and New Hampshire train shows, plus those near the New Hampshire border well-attended by railroad modelers from the Division, e.g., the Pepperell Siding Model Railroad Club's show in Pepperell, MA. Further discussion resulted in the Membership Committee Chair (Chip Faulter) being tasked with drafting a proposed plan for event attendance which he would inform the BOD of. Rich Breton noted that he has reserved 2 tables for himself at the April 7 BSA show in Rochester, NH and believes he could get a third for no cost if the Division wanted to staff an appearance. President Peter McKenney also asked that Paul Lessard keep the NH event kit.

President McKenney opened discussion on "What do we want Seacoast Division NMRA to be?" Over the next 9 to 12 months, the BOD needs to agree on a process and timeline for resolving this question, and subsequent planning on how to implement the decisions made. (E.g., a series of internal communications on vision, mission, and strategy to the membership). Although the convention is our first priority, we need a steady push on this. No specific action was assigned but there will be further communication on this subject and the sentiment of the Directors was that this was a very important initiative to undertake.

Larry Cannon move for adjournment at 2:35 pm. The motion was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

Editor's note: The tribute to Bruce Robinson submitted with these minutes is presented as an article on page 2.

### Division Membership

December Count per NMRA	171
Names dropped in January	-4
Names added in January	12
January Count per NMRA	179
Names dropped in February	-5
Names added in February	3
February Count per NMRA	177



### Seacoast Division Layout Operations Opportunities

Many Seacoast Division members have indicated a desire to have more opportunities to enjoy realistic model train operations on layouts within the Division. For the past three years, one weekend in October has been devoted to this activity, but the Division aims to increase the geographic coverage of this activity and its frequency. To do that, more home and club layouts suitable for operations will be needed. Thankfully, Dave Sias in Meredith, NH, has already offered to provide this opportunity in his part of New Hampshire. Dave makes available 2-4 operator slots for Seacoast Division members on his wonderful home layout, "The B&M's White Mountain Route." He generally schedules these monthly sessions on the first Saturday of each month from 9 am to 1 pm. If you would like to learn more, or sign up for a slot, please contact Dave in advance at 603-279-4553, or [Indsias@earthlink.net](mailto:Indsias@earthlink.net). His next three operating sessions for Seacoast Division members are scheduled for April 13, May 4, and June 1. He will resume scheduling operating sessions in October.

...continued on page 12, column 2

## **Seacoast Division Annual Meeting of Members**

Saturday, January 12, 2013  
First Congregational Church, UCC  
301 Cottage Road, S. Portland, Maine

### **Meeting Minutes**

Seacoast Division President Bruce Robinson called the Annual Meeting to order at 1:15 pm.

President Robinson provided a short summary of the Derry Fun Nights (DFN) which had been held in Derry, NH throughout the fall. President Robinson then provided \$147 to Seacoast Division Treasurer Tom Coulombe. This money represented the donations collected at the DFN that had been given by the various participants during the fall series. Seacoast Division Director Erich Whitney said that if the DFN were going to continue this year, volunteers would be required to coordinate the various aspects of these events because he did not have time until after the NER Convention in October.

President Robinson then recapped his tenure as a Seacoast Division Director (7 years) and as the Seacoast Division President for the last 5 years, and then submitted his oral resignation as a Seacoast Division Director and President, effective immediately.

Seacoast Division Vice-President Mike Grahame then presided over the remainder of the meeting, establishing that there was a quorum of the members present, and that the meeting could proceed.

Vice-President Grahame called for the Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Tom Coulombe reported that the Division had a starting balance of \$2089 in Jan' 12, had \$305 of income and \$583 of expenditures, leaving a balance of \$1810 as of the date of this meeting. Larry Cannon made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. The motion was seconded, and was accepted by unanimous vote.

Vice-President Grahame then called for the Membership Report. Director Peter McKenney reported that in January, 2012 the Division had 178 members. The membership was as high as 188 in March, 2012 and currently stands at 171. He believes the greatest impediment to sustaining or growing membership is the cost of NMRA membership. Since the Seacoast Division has no control over NMRA dues, it has to focus on what it can control: enhancing the value that its members perceive that they are getting in return for paying membership dues. Larry Cannon made a motion to accept the Membership report as presented. The

motion was seconded, and was accepted by unanimous vote.

There was no President's Report given the resignation of Bruce Robinson earlier in the meeting.

Vice-President Grahame then called for the Nominating Committee Report. Director Rich Breton stated that Tom Coulombe, Larry Cannon and Mike Grahame had all indicated their willingness to stand for another term as Directors. Director Breton also called for any nominations from the floor. There were no nominations from the floor. Larry Cannon made a motion to close the nominations. The motion was seconded, and was accepted by unanimous vote. Larry Cannon made another motion to accept the slate of Directors as nominated. The motion was seconded, and was accepted by unanimous vote.

Vice-President Mike Grahame called for any comments or open discussion from the floor. Neil Falby asked what the Division's position was on making donations to the California museum. Larry Cannon clarified that the new museum exhibit will absorb the current Howell Day Museum collection which is currently in storage at NMRA headquarters. After some discussion and statement of personal opinions, the Directors stated that the Division does not have a position on making donations to the new museum at this time. There was no other discussion from the floor.

Larry Cannon made a motion for adjournment of the Annual Meeting of Members. The motion was seconded, and was accepted by unanimous vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 pm.

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### **Operations Opportunities** cont.

There will also be many layout operating slots available to Seacoast Division members and others who attend Tracks to Lakeport 2013, October 17-20, as well as clinic presentations on how to design and use layout operating systems. Future quarterly meetings of Division members will also feature clinics on operations. If you want to host an operating session for Division members on your layout, or if you would like to have more opportunities to participate in realistic layout operations, please let any of the Directors know. Join the fun of this fast-growing activity within the model railroad hobby.



## Ops Opportunities

Dave Sias' B & M White Mountain Division.

HO Meredith, NH. 603-279-4553,  
lndsias@earthlink.net.

Sessions:

Sat, April 13, 9am-1pm

Sat, May 4, 9am-1pm

Sat, June 1, 9am-1pm

No sessions July, Aug, Sept

Need operators for your layout?  
Send your layout info, phone and  
email address with the schedule of op  
sessions to editor@seacoastnmra.org  
or Bill Hodges, P.O. Box 1604,  
Ellsworth, ME 04605

## New Division Members

Robert Cronan  
South Portland, Me  
Myles Gadon  
Beford, NH  
Richard Hazzard  
Greenland, NH  
Leo Quinn  
Henniker, NH  
Carter Sawtell  
New Portland, ME  
Matthew de Jongh  
Sanford, ME  
Richard Feld  
Waldoboro, ME  
David Olson  
Moultonborough, NH

## Timetable

April 7, 2013 10:00 - 2:00	Rochester Boy Scout Troop 357 Model Railroad Show	Rochester Civic Center 150 Wakefield St, Rochester, NH Admission \$5, Scouts in uniform free.
April 14, 2013 10:00 - 3:00	Dartmouth / Lake Sunapee Area Model RR Show	Kearsarge Regional Middle School Guild Pond Rd., North Sutton, Dartmouth, NH Admission \$5.
April 20, 2013 10:00 - 2:00	Seacoast Division Quarterly Meeting	Rochester Community Center, 150 Wakefield Street, Rochester, NH 03867. Behind the High School on Community Way- across from McDonald's on Rt 12
April 20, 2013 10:00 - 3:00	Ammonoosuc Valley Railway Association Model RR Show	Cooperative Middle School Morrill Drive, off Route 116 North Haverhill, NH
April 21, 2013 10:00 - 3:00	Hooksett Lions Model Railroad Show	David R. Cawley Middle School Hooksett, NH
April 27, 2013 10:00 - 3:00	Great Falls Model Railroad Club Train Show	Mt Ararat High School 75 Eagles Way / U.S. Route 201, Topsham, ME \$4.00 Kids (15 & under) - \$2.00
May 18, 2013 10:00 - 4:00	Bartlett Roundhouse Preservation Club Model Train Show	Bartlett Elementary School Route 302, Bartlett, NH Admission: Adults \$5.00; Children 6-14 \$3.00; 5 and under free.
July 27, 2013 10:00 - 2:00	Seacoast Division Quarterly Meeting	Great Falls Model Train Club, 144 Mill Street, Auburn, ME.
September 14, 2013	Seacoast Division Quarterly Meeting	Center Harbor, NH
October 17 - 20, 2013	NMRA Northeast Region Convention	Hotel Laconia, New Hampshire
January 11, 2014	Seacoast Division Quarterly Meeting	The First Congregational Church 301 Cottage Road, South Portland, Maine The meeting will be in the first floor meeting room with entrance from the rear parking lot.

## Treasurer's Report

### Seacoast Division, NMRA Financial Report for First Quarter 2013

#### Revenue

2012 Derry Fun Night net surplus of donations over costs of program (remitted to Division on January 12, 2013)		147.00
Interest income, January-March		0.49
Donations for refreshments at January meeting	25.00	
Less actual cost of refreshments	(49.65)	
Net donations		(24.65)
<b>Total revenue</b>		<b>122.84</b>

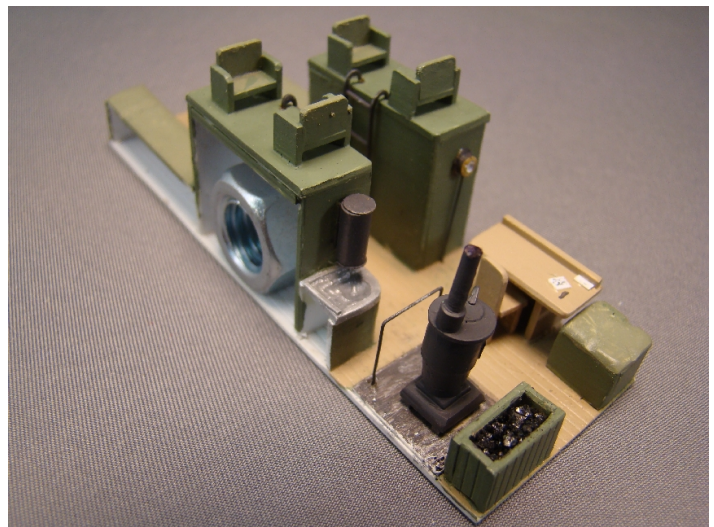
#### Expenditures

Room rental for January meeting	40.00	
<b>Total expenditures</b>		<b>40.00</b>
Net change in fund balance		82.84
Beginning fund balance, January 1, 2013		1,809.73
<b>Ending fund balance, March 31, 2013</b>		<b>1,892.57</b>

The last issue featured Rich Breton's award for his B&O caboose. Here are more photos by Rich of that model.



Contest model of Baltimore & Ohio caboose class I-5C which received second highest point total at 2012 NER convention in Syracuse, NY. Contest display included a mahogany wood display base with inlaid mirror to show scratch-built brake detailing.



Interior detailing of B&O I-5C caboose is all scratch built including the coal stove. Only exception is the full size "hardware" in the cupola closets, which is not visible when installed in caboose, but is useful to achieve proper car weight per NMRA recommended practice.



# The Switch Tower

April 2013



**PEACHTREE EXPRESS**  
NMRA NATIONAL CONVENTION  
[nmra2013.org](http://nmra2013.org)

## Officers & Directors

### Officers:

President:	Peter McKenney	<a href="mailto:mckenp@maine.rr.com">mckenp@maine.rr.com</a>	207-776-2033
V. President:	Erich Whitney	<a href="mailto:ecwhitney@me.com">ecwhitney@me.com</a>	603-537-1120
Treasurer:	Tom Coulombe	<a href="mailto:ctcoulombe@aol.com">ctcoulombe@aol.com</a>	207-784-5962
Secretary:	Chip Faulter	<a href="mailto:faulter@comcast.net">faulter@comcast.net</a>	207-443-3135

### Directors:

Richard Breton	<a href="mailto:rbreton@worldpath.ne">rbreton@worldpath.ne</a>	603-332-8257
Larry Cannon	<a href="mailto:larrycannon@roadrunner.com">larrycannon@roadrunner.com</a>	207-786-3929
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Dave Sias	<a href="mailto:indsias@earthlink.net">indsias@earthlink.net</a>	603-279-4553

### Contacts:

#### Membership Chair:

Chip Faulter	<a href="mailto:faulter@comcast.net">faulter@comcast.net</a>	207-443-3135
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#### Activities Chair:

Paul Lessard	<a href="mailto:plessard74@comcast.net">plessard74@comcast.net</a>	603-623-4093
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#### Switch Tower Editor:

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#### Achievement Program manager:

Larry Cannon	<a href="mailto:larrycannon@roadrunner.com">larrycannon@roadrunner.com</a>	207-786-3929
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#### Free-mo Module Coordinator:

Bill Hodges	<a href="mailto:hodges_b@myfairpoint.net">hodges_b@myfairpoint.net</a>	207-266-7099
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A new speed boat arrives at Irwin Marine on Dave Sias' Boston & Maine's White Mountain Division. (photo by Rich Breton)

The Switch Tower is the quarterly publication of the Seacoast Division of the Northeastern Region of the National Model Railroad Association. Past issues can be down loaded from <http://seacoastnmra.org/seacoast/Newsletter.html>. Contributions are welcome and encouraged. Email them to [editor@seacoastnmra.org](mailto:editor@seacoastnmra.org) or surface mail to Bill Hodges, P.O. Box 1604, Ellsworth, ME 04605.