



# The Switch Tower

Vol. 23 No. 2

April 2016

Seacoast Division NMRA [www.seacoastnmra.org](http://www.seacoastnmra.org)



**Spring Event April 9 2016 10am-2pm**  
**Rochester Community Center, 150 Wakefield**  
**Street, Rochester, NH**

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Mark Your calendars' everybody, this spring event is not to be missed. Rich Breton and other New Hampshire members have been working to construct historically accurate replicas of the Boston and Maine in 1909 at the Wakefield Heritage Commission's model railroad. Rich is going to present a clinic on his experiences in constructing a scene on the layout. Rich will explain the process used in developing a scene to accurately represent East Wakefield, including photo backdrop, mountain scenery constructions, rock outcroppings, trees, roads, scratch-built structures, details such as period RR crossing sign and wild flowers. This scene is one of the five villages represented on the layout.

Paul Lessard will explain features of hopper cars used on the B&M RR from the 1930's to 1980's including modeling tips.

Larry Cannon will show how to use available kits to produce multiple structures. Larry used 3 of Walther's Corn Receiving and Storage Building kits to make 10+ unique structures. This Power Point presentation will show what he was able to generate from the parts included, along with a few extra materials.

The Division is very fortunate that John Doehring, NER President will attend the Event and present his vision of the future of the Northeastern Region of the NMRA and respond to questions. The NER has lots of opportunities to enhance our modeling experiences and you should be aware of how, as well as how you might become involved. There will be ample time for Show and Tell and Ask, and to socialize. After the formal meeting, a special open house will be held for the NMRA members at the Wakefield Heritage Commission's Union Station Freight House so you can see what Rich Breton and the other volunteers have been producing on the HO layout.

The Wakefield Heritage Commission's layout in the old freight house as well as the 1903 snow plow and the 1911 Boston and Maine Station museum will be open from 12: pm to 4:00 pm and is located at 282 Main St Union New Hampshire. All are encouraged to stop by after the meet in admission is free , donations accepted

Enjoy a trip through the [Seacoast Division's Web Site](http://www.seacoastnmra.org).

## The President's Lantern by Erich Whitney

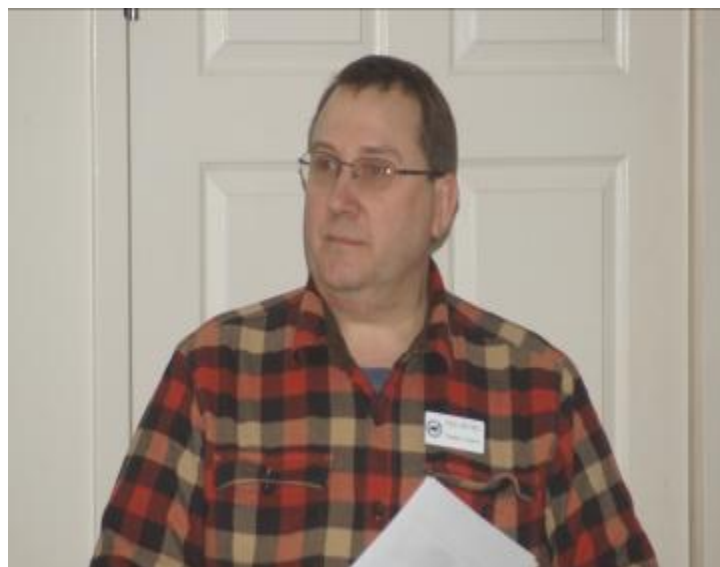
Greetings Seacoast Division NMRA members! First and foremost, a huge Thank You to all of our volunteer members who take a bit of time out of their busy lives to help make the Seacoast Division NMRA an organization that I am proud to be a part of. I am continually amazed at the diversity of talent we attract to our roster. And I am most proud of how our members are so willing to help others learn new skills and exchange really cool ideas. I feel it is important to make the observation that the level of activity in our division belies our numbers. The Seacoast Division NMRA Board of Directors represents 5% of the total membership. Over the past few years we've seen as much as about 20% membership attendance and participation at our quarterly meetings. One third of our Board of Directors also serves at the regional level for the NER NMRA. In January, we reached out to all Seacoast Division NMRA members with a survey designed to help us decide how best to allocate our limited resources to best serve our members. We received only 12% of those surveys back. Please don't get me wrong, I am very thankful for the feedback we did receive and we will incorporate that feedback in our discussions. The picture I'm trying to paint for you here is that we have a very active few doing the work of many for a small number of engaged members. I think it would be irresponsible of me not to point out that this is an unsustainable situation. I recognize my own difficulty in asking for help—it's hard not to feel that asking for help is like admitting defeat. But this is a flawed argument. If there's one thing I've learned about working with all-volunteer organizations, "many hands make light work". So on behalf of the Seacoast Division NMRA Board of Directors, I am asking for your help. How can you help you ask? All of our directors and committee leaders are accessible on the contact page on our web site—email, call, or write! Talk to us! Starting with this issue of the Switch Tower, I am publishing a list of tasks that could really use your help.

My only regret since I started volunteering for the Seacoast Division NMRA was the unavoidable consequence of being the 2013 Tracks to Lakeport NER NMRA Convention Chairman. You see, I didn't get to do many of the really fun things we planned because I was busy trying to make nothing major went wrong. But that experience gave me a much

deeper appreciation for what goes into a convention so now when I attend one I think I get more out of it. Can I tell you that serving on the Board or being president doesn't impact my own modelling? No, but it doesn't keep me from it! I'm still actively developing our HUB modules—which I presented at the March Derry Model Railroading Fun Night. I've been digging into the newest technology involving Arduino computers with Model Railroad Control Systems' cpNodes for an inexpensive C/MRI signaling system. In fact, I'm giving a clinic on this exciting technology at the HUB Spring TRAINing show in Waltham on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. I would be more than glad to present this material at a future Seacoast Division NMRA event—let me know if you're interested! I used this clinic idea as an excuse to build a demonstration module with some hand laid turnouts using my Fast Tracks jig and practice hand laying track. I am so glad I did—it's a lot of fun! On my bench is a collection of older DC locomotives that I'm putting decoders in. I'm trying out the new SoundTraxx Economi and TCS WOW Sound decoders. I just installed a Loksound 21-pin decoder in the Rapido FL9 I found at the Amherst Railway Society show in January. Oh, yes I have my full time job, a family, and I'm involved in scouting. Volunteering is a personal decision but I will say that for me, participation has given me a lot more than what I think I put in.

Sincerely,

Erich Whitney



## **Winter Event Photo's and News by Chip Faulter**

The 2016 Seacoast Division NMRA Winter Event was held Saturday, January 9, 2016 at the First Congregational Church in South Portland, ME. The weather cooperated (for the most part) and almost 40 members and guests were in attendance. The agenda provided for a diverse set of presentations that stretched over 3 hours. Bob Holland gave a quick overview of the Boothbay Railway Village and its' large HO scale layout then provided the group with a comprehensive review of his work to date in designing and installing an operating signaling system on that layout. Bob Bennett followed with a presentation on modeling scale fire apparatus. Bob brought a number of his models with him including a few unassembled kits that he was willing to sell to anyone interested. George Carhart then provided the group with a presentation on his experience in working with Sculpey (copyright) clay. George also brought a module where Sculpey Clay had been used in several applications including the construction of a castle, retaining walls and the side of a stone arch bridge.

Several members participated in the show and tell segment of the program. Tom Oxnard showed his scratchbuilt model of the BAR station in Fort Fairfield, ME. Chip Faulter followed with his scratchbuilt model of the BAR combination station in Fairmount, ME. Larry Cannon showed how you could use canisters that munchies come in to build fairly realistic background industrial storage tanks. James van Bokkelen showed the group the signal masts he has been working on for his home B&M based layout. These masts fit into a socket in the layout and when knocked over simply pop out the socket rather than being broken. Paul Lessard showed several of his HO scale fire apparatus and Geoff Anthony showed the group BAR woodchip cars that the EMMRRC sells. Geoff was instrumental in the development of these models.

Annual Meeting summary and Board of directors meeting.

. Treasurer Doug Hartwell stated that Division had just over \$7000 in the bank. Membership Committee Chair Dave Dias reported that membership continues to hover around the 180 member mark. President

Erich Whitney recalled some of the great events during the previous year, all of which would not have been possible without great volunteer support. President Whitney appealed for continued volunteer help and pointed at the upcoming National Narrow Gauge Convention in Augusta in September. The Seacoast Division NMRA is a co-sponsor and will need volunteer help. Finally, Nominating Committee Chair offered three candidates (Larry Cannon, Dave Sias and Tom Coulombe) for the three available Director positions. The slate was subsequently voted into office. A full version of the minutes from this meeting may be found on the Seacoast Division NMRA website at [www.seacoastnmra.org](http://www.seacoastnmra.org).

### **Board Of Directors meeting Summary**

The Seacoast Division NMRA Board of Directors (BOD) met for an hour directly following the Annual Meeting of Members on January 9, 2016 at the First Congregational Church in South Portland. Erich Whitney and Chip Faulter were voted back in as President and Vice president, respectively. President Whitney proposed that the slate of appointed positions (Secretary, Treasurer, Achievement Program Co-Chairs, Webmaster, The Switch Tower Editors, membership Committee Chair and Activities Committee Chair) remain unchanged and it was subsequently approved by the BOD. A total of 14 Achievement Program Certificates were awarded to Seacoast Division NMRA members during 2015. This was a significant percentage of all the certificates awarded to Northeastern Region (NER) members ! NER Northern New England Area Director James Van Bokkelen provided an overview of changes in leadership at the helm of the NER. Dave Insley has taken over as NER Convention Committee Chair. Besides the NER Convention scheduled for this September in Albany (see <http://www.hbdpacemaker.org/>) plans are underway for conventions in 2017, 2018 and 2019 ! Also, Jeff Paston has taken over as editor of The Coupler. Jeff plans to get The Coupler back on track (no pun intended) and improve the quality and content of the newsletter. The Derry Fun Night continues to be huge success with in excess of 30 people in atten-



## Winter Event Photo's and News by Chip Faulter

dance some nights. If you live in the area, check it out ! Discussion continued on the planning for the National Narrow Gauge Convention in Augusta in September. See the convention website at <http://nngc2016.org/wp/>. Finally, the Seacoast division NMRA will again be a co-sponsor for the Maine Model Railroad Tour for 2016. Plans are underway for a 2 day tour with one day focusing on Southern Maine (primarily York County) and the other day focusing on eastern Maine. Check the Maine Model Railroad Tour website periodically for updates at <http://mainemodelrrtour.com/>. A complete version of these minutes may be found on the Seacoast Division NMRA website at [www.seacoastnmra.org](http://www.seacoastnmra.org).



Larry Cannon and Tom Oxnard look over Chip Faulter's Fairmount Station ,Chip received a merit award for the structure Interior below



Tom Oxnard's beautiful scratch built station located in Fort Fairfield ME on the Bangor and Aroostook photo by Geoff Anthony



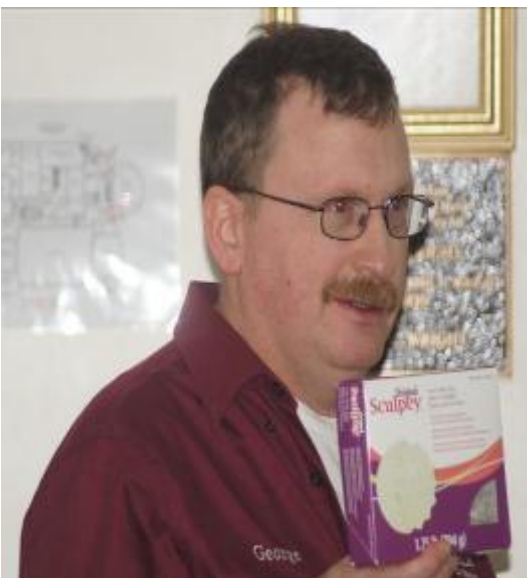
Bob Bennett's wonderful collection of fire fighting apparatus . Some of these models have been seen in national publications. Chip Faulter photo above and top left . Geoff Anthony bottom left photo

**Winter Event Photo's and News by Chip Faulter**

Bob Holland is providing an overview of the Boothbay Railway Village and the large HO scale model railroad housed there. Bob went on to provide a detailed review of his work in designing and installing a working signal system on that model railroad. (photo by Chip Faulter)



Paul Lessard is showing the group several of the HO scale fire apparatus models he brought for show and tell. Paul's brief discussion complemented the presentation provided by Bob Bennett of scale fire apparatus earlier in the day. (photo by Chip Faulter)



George Carhart is discussing his experience with using Sculpey Clay for a variety of applications in modeling. Sculpey Clay is relatively inexpensive and readily available at most craft stores. George discussed his use of the clay for building retaining walls, a stone arch bridge, and a castle among other things. A lively discussion followed on a variety of uses of the product. George's presentation was very interesting and introduced a new modeling product to the group. (photo by Chip Faulter)



This castle was built entirely out of Sculpey Clay by George Carhart. The clay is kept cold (right out of the 'frig) for detail work. As it warms, it becomes more malleable. When it becomes too soft to work with, put it back in the 'frig for an hour and then work some more. When you have exactly what you want, bake it in the oven. When cool, the model can be painted and weathered just like any other model. (photo by Chip Faulter)

The Winter Event has been held in the First Congregational Church in South Portland for a number of years. The Division would like to thank Stan Jordan for making the arrangements with the church each year to use this nice facility.



**Northeastern Region News by Peter McKenney**

NER President John Doehring called two meetings of the NER Board in the first quarter of 2016. Despite his heavy “daytime” workload, John is pushing the right buttons to generate some positive momentum in the NER, primarily through appointing good people to serve the Region and holding regular bi-monthly meetings by conference calling services. New editor of The Coupler, Jeff Paston, has the newsletter returning to timely publication and has built up a good inventory of articles to publish. He also is preparing proposals to make the printed version of the newsletter more appealing. New NER Convention Chair Dave Insley is attentive to coordinating with the Pacemaker 2016 local convention committee and everyone is confident that there will be a great convention in Albany in September. Plus, Dave has good leads for NER conventions the next two years, and a target host for the 2019 convention, as well! Just imagine how good an NER convention can be if the hosts are lined up four years in advance. Dave is also contemplating a sequence for long-term convention hosting responsibilities that will be fair to all divisions, taking into account their size and locations.

Seacoast Division NMRA members are doing their part to help lift the NER’s trajectory. Larry Cannon “came out of NER retirement” to participate on a task force to create an NER Investment Policy as well as recommend a new structure for the NER’s investment managers. Peter McKenney served on the same task force and their recommendations were adopted by the Board at its March 8 meeting. Chip Faulter in only his seventh month as NER Secretary and he has already been a catalyst in improving the preparation of everyone for meetings and Chip helps everyone track follow-up. Chip helps President Doehring by preparing and distributing the meeting agenda and he provides an action item list to remind people of their assignments. He solicits written reports from the Area Directors and committee chairs in advance of the meeting and makes sure that reports are appended to the formal meeting minutes which he prepares promptly after each meeting. He and NER Treasurer McKenney have made significant contributions to the improvement of NER governance. Seacoast Division NMRA Webmaster Bill Poor also serves as NER

Webmaster and recently handled a major hacking of the NER and related websites, including the Seacoast Division’s. Bill put many hours into removing malware, installing practices to reduce risk of a reoccurrence, and convincing the host of the websites to open them again to the public. Bill attended the most recent NER board meeting and made a very impressive presentation. More Division members are willing to serve at the NER level. Recently, Ralph Brown volunteered to serve on the expanding NER Convention Committee.

The Seacoast Division NMRA’s good example of following the NER’s By-Laws also has helped the leaders of the NER. For at least five years, the Division’s presidents have complied with the NER By-Laws’ requirement to provide the NER with an “Annual Report.” Apparently, none of the other NER divisions have been complying with the requirement in recent years, thus depriving the NER’s leaders of essential information. The NER Board has seen the value of the Seacoast Division NMRA’s most recent Annual Report and has instructed notices be sent to the non-complying divisions do what the By-Laws require. See a copy of the Seacoast Division NMRA’s Annual Report for 2015 elsewhere in this issue.

For details of what the NER Area Directors and officers accomplished at the last two meetings, read the full minutes which are posted on the NER website, [www.nernmra.org](http://www.nernmra.org). Of note, Steve Erickson, Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee set forth a timeline for completing the long-range planning process for the NER. The NER needs to take a fresh look at how it operates and what it provides for services to its members and divisions. Steve’s goal is to conclude this process and make a report to the NER members at the Annual Meeting in Albany on September 18.

The NER Board next meets on May 15. Stay tuned. Those of us serving the NER from the Division have good feelings about the “trajectory” of the NER is going in.

## Seacoast Division Survey or Survey Say's by Peter McKenney

According to the 28 members who responded to the survey questions printed in the January issue of the Switch Tower, the Seacoast Division NMRA is communicating amazingly well with its members. In fact, 96% of the respondents read the Switch Tower and 89% access the Division's website and as well as receive emails from the Division!! Most also access other NMRA publications. 89% read NMRA Magazine and 93% read the Region's newsletter, The Coupler.

Do these 28 respondents, though, truly represent the nearly 180 members in the Division? The Division conducted a survey in 2012 and 55 members (30%) responded to the online survey. The Board felt that a paper survey form would increase participation because some of the members do not access the internet or do it very rarely. If you have not submitted a survey form yet, please do so soon so that your views and input can be considered, too.

What else have the surveys revealed? The Division's leaders are always wondering what the members want out of the NMRA and this division. The most often mentioned desire, listed on 39% of the responses, was to **meet friends and enjoy fellowship and socialization!!** The next two popular wants, and they are very closely related, are:

Ideas and sharing information (21%)  
Knowledge, how-to-do (18%)

Also mentioned more than once as services that members looked for were 1) local activities and how to find them, 2) communications/emails, 3) staying connected with modelers and getting news about them, and 4) recruiting people to operate on layouts. 70% of respondents had been to a quarterly event, but only 2 (7%) respondents were interested in modular model railroading. About 50% had interest in realistic model train operations and the Achievement Program. Several mentioned that they are currently involved in a local group and an impressive 25% indicated that they are currently leading a local group or have an interest in leading one!

The respondents had a range of traveling that they would be willing to do for model railroading activities. The average of their responses was 90 miles distance, although the average of time willing to travel was 2.5 hours, which would be equivalent to greater than 110 miles if the travel speed averaged 45 mph.

A volunteer organization needs volunteers to function. Happily, several of the respondents indicated that they would consider doing some volunteering.

The characteristics of the respondents in several aspects appear to approximate the demographics of the Division. 68% of the respondents were age 65 or older, 21% were in the age range 55-64, and the remaining 11% were in the age range 45-54. Only 22% are still working for a living.

The directors, officers, and committees can use this information for planning future efforts. Some activities can be increased and others may be de-emphasized if not as popular as others. Thanks to all who provided the Division's leaders with input **Submit a filled out 2016 Survey Form if you have not already done so! See the January 2016 Switch Tower Issue that was mailed to you to obtain the survey form for your use!!**

### HUB Division of the NMRA 2016 Spring Train Show

HUB Division NMRA 2016 Spring TRAINing  
At the Embassy Suites, 550 Winter Street, Waltham, MA  
Route 128/I-95 at Exit 27 B (North or South)  
Sunday, April 3, 2016 10AM to 4PM  
All Star Clinics and Train Show  
\$7 admission; Children under 12 Free

# FUN OPS IN MEREDITH 2016



## FUN OPS IN MEREDITH 2016

Seacoast Division NMRA has continuing its popular realistic layout operations program held annually in Meredith, NH. This year, up to 14 operating slots will be available on a first come, first served basis. Everyone will have a chance to operate on two super home layouts, one in the morning and a second one in the afternoon. All layouts are HO and use DCC. There is no charge for this program. If you have not operated on a layout before, or very little, do not worry. This program is intended to minimize stress and maximize FUN. The hosts and the other operators are helpful and friendly. If you are an experienced operator, great! You can take on stimulating assignments and also enjoy yourself. Plus, everyone gets to see good modeling examples and “talk trains” with supportive people. Bring a friend, too. Submit your names now!

May 7, 2016 from 9:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

B&M Zealand Valley Division (HO), Bruce Reynolds, Meredith, NH

The layout is set in the 1930's and is based on the B&M branch running from Concord to Woodsville with the modeled portion being the Lakeport to Plymouth/Lincoln section. Local switching and through trains utilize car card waybills. Mostly sound locos. NCE DCC.

Boston & Maine RR (HO), Dave Sias, Meredith, NH  
The layout is based on the B&M branch running from Concord to Woodsville, NH in the 1940's and up to 1954. Point to point operations for freight and passenger trains using operating semaphore signals and a dispatcher. Freight car movement utilizes car card waybills. All sound locos. NCE DCC.

Registering is EASY-PEASY: Call or email Dave Sias, 603-279-4553; [Indsias@gmail.com](mailto:Indsias@gmail.com).

Do not get shut out!! Call Dave now!!  
There will be a lunch break from 12:30 until 1:30. To maximize operating time, bring your own lunch. Alternatively, there are food vendors in the area.



If you have not already done so, mail in your registration for this May 19-22 NER joint-sponsored convention in St. John, NB, asap in order to have an opportunity to sign up for one or more of the three rail prototype tours or one or more of the operating sessions. Remember to put a \$1.20 stamp on the envelope to Canada! While you can also register at the convention when you get there, you'll probably be unable to sign up for the special activities, which include a hands on clinic, making turnouts with Fast Tracks jigs. Sign-up for the Saturday night banquet must be done at least 10 days before the event. It only costs US\$25 and the featured speaker is none other than Jason Shron of Rapido Trains. Jason is a very entertaining speaker and you will drive home chuckling at his many quips. Of course, bring a US passport so you can return to your friends and family. If you transport any models to St. John that you wish to return to the US after the convention, present a list of them to the US Customs and Border Protection officers prior to leaving the US. For more info <http://pcr2016.weebly.com>



## Annual Report to Northeast Region by Erich Whitney

### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SEACOAST DIVISION TO THE NER PRESIDENT

As required by NER By-Laws, Article IX, Section 2: F and G, I submit the following report.

Division officers' names and addresses

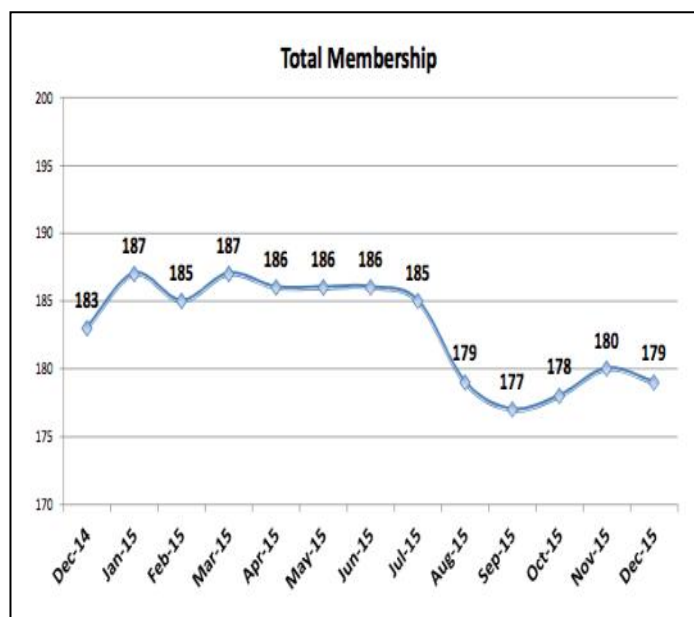
Erich Whitney Derry, NH President

Chip Faulter, Phippsburg ME Vice President

Tom Oxnard, Exeter NH Secretary

Doug Hartwell Sanbornville NH Treasurer

The membership in the Division at the end of each month according to NMRA data:



#### Meetings in 2015

The annual meeting of the members was on January 10, 2015. Other regular quarterly meetings of the members were on April 11, July 18, and October 17. All of these meetings usually have 3 hours of clinic presentations, show and tell, and other modeling education opportunities, along with some socialization period for those in attendance. The Board of Directors met five times during the year, Jan. 10, April 11, July 18, October 17, and a special board meeting held on December 13. Derry Model Railroad Fun Nights were held 9 times.

The general financial status of the Division is excellent. The Division's fund balance at the beginning of

the year was \$6,385 and at the end of the year it was \$7,129.

The Division produces a quarterly newsletter called the Switch Tower. It distributes the four issues by electronic mail with the exception of one remaining hard copy subscription which is paid for (\$10 per year). The Switch Tower is available on the Division's website. It averaged 18 pages per issue. An Editorial Advisory Board has been created to assist the editor on future policy issues. Board voted to produce a black and white hardcopy of the January 2016 for every member and mail it at no cost to them to increase member awareness of the publication as well as the activities that the Division is involved in.

The Board of Directors continues to address issues outlined by the Division's Mission Statement and adopted a Vision Statement (Nov. 3, 2013) and Values Statement (Jan. 11, 2014). For example, the Division has reached out even more to its members and model railroad clubs/groups in 2015 with the very successful Maine Model Railroad Tour inspired by the Tour de Chooch. And we have embarked on a joint agreement with the 36<sup>th</sup> National Narrow Gauge Convention organizers to bring the NMRA presence to this September 2016 event in Augusta, ME. Additionally, the Division expanded its role with the Wakefield Heritage Commission in Union, NH and rolled out a summer program including hands-on classes in model railroading and a Boy Scout Railroading Merit Badge workshop. The Division continued to sponsor a Fun Ops in Meredith session on May 9. Members from the HUB Division were also invited to participate.

The division's website has been enhanced and serves as a great resource for all model railroaders living in Maine and New Hampshire, <http://www.seacoastnmra.org>

Respectfully submitted

Erich Whitney President

5 Wilson Ave Derry NH 03038

603-537-1120 [ecwhitney@icloud.com](mailto:ecwhitney@icloud.com)

## What's on My Workbench?

Tom Oxnard, MMR



Fig 1

This month I have been making 4 large potato warehouses that once were in Ft Fairfield, Maine across from the BAR railroad station. I have a few pictures of them and other pictures of potato houses in Aroostook County from George and Katherine Melvin's book about the BAR. They are large structures. The ones I am building are 100 feet by 40 feet. They are clapboard-sided and joined end to end with large concrete walls in between to prevent the spread of fire. The foundation walls are revealed 4 feet high on the track side and 2 feet on the truck side for loading heavy barrels of potatoes. (fig 1)

The construction of these turned out to be fairly easy, but they did require a lot of materials, including a large roof area that was shingled. For the essential bracing of these long walls I decided to use 1/4 inch foamcore board. I cut 5 full profile braces for each warehouse and spaced them evenly.

After trying to glue the whole structure together at one time I quickly learned that that was impossible. So I glued the 5 divider walls to one side clapboard wall with carpenter's glue, and let that dry first. I then glued the second clapboard wall in place using appropriate weights. The potato houses at the end of the row have a clapboard end wall. Keep checking to see that the walls remain 90 degrees square.

(Fig 2,3&4)



Figure 2



Figure 3

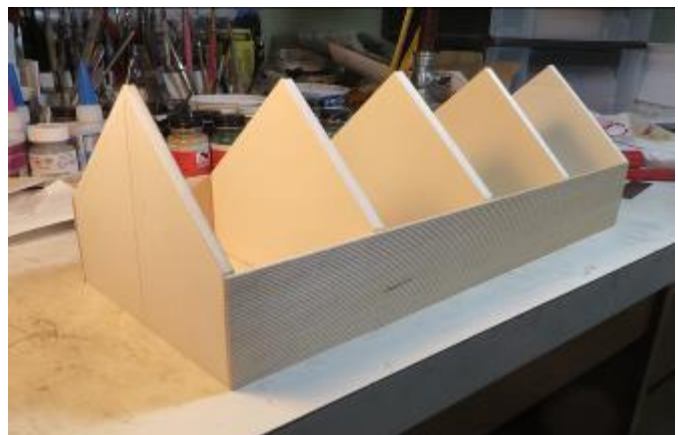


Figure 4

## What's on My Workbench?

**Tom Oxnard, MMR**

After the glue dried, I sprayed the structure with gray primer, and then painted it the final color. I cut the 2 and 4-foot high visible foundation walls from foam-core board and glued them on. I made sliding doors from 1/32" thin scribed siding (6 x 7 feet) and made a track 12 1/2 feet long from 1/16" basswood. That made the construction even easier as I did not have to cut into the doors into the clapboard siding. (Fig 5)



Figure 5

The large roofs were made from matte board. Having no desire to spend a day shingling each roof, I printed sheets of shingles from Bill Brown's LARC Products Railroad Graphics CD Vol 5 on 65 weight paper. He has several roofing choices on the CD with metal roofing and different colors of shingles.

The concrete walls between the warehouses are made from 1/8" balsa wood. I always spray the wood with primer first before painting to minimize the warping from the water based paint. I finally added the various dormers, the chimneys, and the roof vents.

I was able to keep the cost of these large structures low and speed the construction by using the foam-core board and the printed shingle sheets. When they are weathered and scened, they still make unique and "attractive" potato warehouses.





## What's on Your Workbench?

## Member Submission's

This is Abigail with two “work bench” projects. The first is a wood walkway that will go into a caboose service facility and the second is a new canter levered signal bridge with scratch built relay cabinet. The signal equipment is ready for painting in this photo. There is usually more than one project going on at the work bench at a time. Bruce Robinson photo and owner



Cherryfield station was a kit made by Banta Model's for the Eastern Maine Model Railroad Club. Plans were drawn up by club member and architect Bill McHenry and produced by Bill Banta. This was a great kit to build and it is laser cut so everything fits. Painted with Tamiya paints and weathered with the old standby alcohol and india ink. Some subtle use of pan- pastels on the roof. Photo and model by Geoff Anthony.

**To All Seacoast Members please send me your pictures so we can make this feature a success!**

# OPS'S TILL YOU DROP SYRACUSE & UTICA NY

April 16 and 17 marks the weekend for “Ops ‘til You Drop”: two days packed with 10.5 hours of railroad operations on some of the best layouts in the region. Several of the host layouts have appeared in national publications such as *Model Railroader*, *Railroad Model Craftsman*, and *The Narrow Gauge Gazette*. This will be the third year that the Central New York Division has hosted this event that is open to any rail enthusiast. This year there are seven layouts involved including two new additions: the fabulous Brunswick and Tuscan of Mike Shanahan, and the expansive Sioux City Lines of Bob Vickery. The cost is \$10 per person...YES THAT'S RIGHT...just \$10 to cover snacks at each layout AND your Saturday evening dinner! Each participant will choose three of the seven layouts. Festivities begin at 12:30pm on Saturday with an afternoon 3.5 hour session. Operators eat dinner there then move to their second layout for an evening session. Everyone meets at a Sunday morning breakfast then begins their third session, heading home after 2:30pm. For more information visit [www.cnynmra.org](http://www.cnynmra.org) or contact Bill Brown at [LARCProducts@yahoo.com](mailto:LARCProducts@yahoo.com).



The fabulous Brunswick and Tuscan of Mike Shanahan has been equipped for operations for the first time in 4 decades. The Pennsey based layout features the famous Horseshoe Curve.



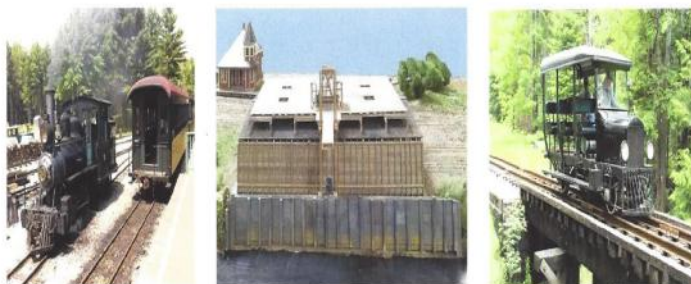
Bob Vickery is opening his expansive Sioux City Lines for this event for the first time, featuring 25 to 30 mainline trains through 5 Midwestern towns.



*Celebrate Maine's Two-Foot Gauge Heritage !*

## 36th National Narrow Gauge Convention

Augusta, Maine Civic Center, Sept. 7-10, 2016



- Four days of top-flight model railroading, railroad history, and rail preservation.
- Fifty clinics on prototype history and modeling techniques by Lou Sassi, Tony Koester, Dave Frary, Bob Hayden, Peter Barney, Miles Hale, and dozens more.
- Over eighty vendors in all scales.
- Seventeen modular layouts, in Nn3, HOn30, Sn2, On30, On3, Gn15, 7/8n2 and more, including large-scale live steam.
- Operating prototype two-foot steam.
- Model and photo contests featuring the hobby's best.
- Guided tours, home layouts, special two-foot photo events, more.

*Co-sponsored by Seacoast Division, NMRA*

**Visit [nngc2016.org](http://nngc2016.org) for full details**

36th National Narrow Gauge Convention, Inc.  
PO Box 1406, Gray, ME 04039



Second Annual Layout Tour in Maine

# FREE ! FREE! FREE!

Self-guided, all scales. New Layouts

Eastern Maine September 24, 2016

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Learn more at [WWW.mainmodelrrtour.com](http://WWW.mainmodelrrtour.com)

Suggest layouts in these areas to put on the tour

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## Derry NH Fun Night by Bruce Robinson

## Budget Model Railroading by Rick Mills

Derry Model Railroading Fun Night  
Second Friday, 7:00pm – 9:00pm

So, you want to learn how to .....

“Model trains can be made to copy the movements you see real trains do. Members of Seacoast Division, National Model Railroad Association will be explaining how to plan for model train operations, how way-bills work, and what a train schedule is and how it works, what makes up a train crew and how to use the mainline, yards and sidings to serve model customers like the real trains do. There will be an opportunity available to put into practice what is learned in this clinic.”

This was the announcement that went out to area modelers to come to Derry Fun Night to learn and share experiences in this great hobby we all pursue. For four years DFN has put together a monthly program of far ranging topics from model railroad operations to soldering to railfanning to painting backdrops. Every month is different and every month brings modelers together to share their skills, talents and experiences. Model Showcase is always a big part of the program and everyone is encouraged to bring in whatever they are working on.

Derry Fun Night meets at the Marion Garish Community Center, 39 West Broadway, Derry, NH (Just off Rt 93- exit 4 on Rt 102) the second Friday of each month September through June at 7:00-9:00pm.

Join us for the next Derry Fun Night and Share the Fun of Model Railroading!

For additional information please go to <http://seacoastnmra.org>, and click on the Calendar link.



In the beginning of time, every department store had a model railroad section. I remember looking over the offerings and saving my allowance for a \$2 freight car, \$3 structure kit, or a \$12 locomotive. Those days are long gone now, and it's rare to find a place where kids can have a hands-on look at model railroad equipment, let alone afford it.

My recent adventure started at my office. A co-worker, with retirement imminent, mentioned the desire to start a model railroad with his newfound leisure time. With all best intentions, I gave him some issues of Model Railroader magazine. The next week he brought them back, saying he never realized how expensive the hobby is, and that he could never afford it!

This perception came from the ads for \$300 locomotives, \$200 controllers, and \$75 cars. No wonder he was discouraged! Of course, the magazines cater to their advertisers - and tend to emphasize articles on buying rather than building. How can kids, teens and retirees possibly afford something like this? Like any pursuit, model railroading is only as expensive as you choose to make it. I hope I salvaged his dream by explaining that perfectly suitable equipment is widely available used at low cost, either online or on the train show circuit. My own layout is primarily stocked from eBay finds.

In an effort to dispel the misconception that this is the rich person's hobby, I started a Facebook group called BUDGET MODEL RAILROADING. This group is for the exchange of ideas on low cost model railroading - such as improving low-end trainset equipment, and making your own structures. Members post photos of their projects - such as 'cereal box' buildings and recycling of common items into the layout.

To find us:

1. In the Facebook search box, just type in BUDGET MODEL RAILROADING and the group should appear in the search results.
  2. or, go to <http://tinyurl.com/budgetmodelrailroading>
- Enjoy the satisfaction of BUILDING a model railroad, rather than BUYING a model railroad!



## Ap Report by Tom Oxnard NH Larry Cannon ME

Golden Spike :  
Charles Cole, March 2016  
Gerald Covino  
MR Engineering Civil  
James VanBokkelen  
Master Builder Scenery  
James Van Bokkelen  
Association Volunteer  
Gerald Covino

## New Members

Doug Butrymowiz, Claremont NH  
Harvey MacLeod , Kennebunk , ME



Photo's by Harry Gordon top CMQ 9014 at Northern Maine Jct  
Bottom CMQ 9014 crossing West Seboeis Stream

## Timetable

April 8	Derry Fun Night	Derry NH
April 9	Seacoast Spring event	Rochester NH
April 9	Wakefield Museum and Model Railroad	Union NH
April 16-17	Op's till you drop	Syracuse NY
April 24	Hooksett Lions Club Model Railroad show	Hooksett NH
April 30	Great Falls Model Railroad Show	Topsham ME
May 7	Fun Ops in Meredith	Meredith NH
May 13	Derry Fun Night	Derry NH
May 19-22	Port City Rails	ST John New Brunswick CA
July 3-10	National Convention NMRA	Indianapolis IN
July 23	Seacoast Summer Event	Auburn ME
Sept 7-10	Narrow Gauge Convention	Augusta ME
Sept 15-18	NER Convention Pacemaker	Albany NY
Oct 15	Seacoast Fall Event	Stratham NH

*Always check the Division's Calendar of Events on its website for more details and events.*







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