



The Switch Tower

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Seacoast Division NMRA www.seacoastnmra.org

HONORING TOM COULOMBE 1947-2016



The Seacoast Division NMRA lost a dear member on June 6, 2016, when Tom Coulombe passed away. Tom fought a losing battle with cancer, but he never stopped thinking about ways to help the Division, his beloved Great Falls Model Railroad Club, and his many friends in the model railroad community.



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Tom opened his seat on the Board of Directors by resigning in April due to declining health, but he still had ideas and suggestions that he presented to other Directors thereafter. The Board of Directors adopted a formal resolution in early May acknowledging Tom's 12 years of service as Director, plus his many other services to the Division. See page 3. On May 3, three of the Directors visited with Tom at his home and read the tribute to him while his wife Carmen stood by. They were both touched by the sentiment expressed.

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

The President's Lantern by Erich Whitney

As of this writing, it's late May and I'm seeing the headlight of June coming straight at me! My oldest will be a high school graduate before you get to read this so as you can imagine we're crazy busy right now. But that doesn't mean I'm not working on some really fun projects in the basement—how else do you think I maintain my sanity with two teenagers in the house? I've been back at the Derry History Museum researching the B&M's Manchester & Lawrence branch as well as the two associated trolley lines: the Chester & Derry Railroad and the Manchester & Derry Trolley. I've also started designing the M&L using the Seacoast Division Modular Group specification in conjunction with the New England Free-mo guys. I've seen a recent renewed interest in Free-mo modular railroading in our division so I'm hoping we can see this activity start to build some momentum. If you're interested in modular railroading, please speak up! We've got the Seacoast Division NMRA Facebook page you can join and there's the New England Free-mo and Free-mo Yahoo groups that you can join as well. These are really helpful resources.

We've got another really great July quarterly meeting in the works and I don't see the railroading season letting off the gas at all this year. I hope you've already registered for the 2016 National Narrow Gauge Convention in Augusta by now. This is going to be a fun-packed convention right in our own back yard. And don't forget about the Pacemaker 2016 NER Convention in Albany just a week after the NNGC. Yes, I know it's a lot all in September but I'm looking forward to both of these wonderful railroad events. Since I brought up the NER convention, have you thought about getting a model ready to enter in the contest room? I've got a list of models I need to finish and I've decided to enter at least one in Albany so I can start to get some experience with the process. I've got a bunch of ideas but it's time to kick the butt in gear and finish something. I hope to see you in Augusta and Albany—look me up and say hi! And remember to share the fun of model railroading!!!

Sincerely Erich Whitney

Meet the NMRA President

By Erich Whitney

Mark your calendars for a chance to meet NMRA President Charlie Getz on **Saturday, September 10**, at the Augusta Civic Center, 76 Community Drive, Augusta, ME. The meeting will commence at 6:00 pm in the Lincoln-Oxford Room on the first floor.

President Getz will be in Maine to attend the 36th National Narrow Gauge Convention 2016, September 7-10. He likes to meet with NMRA members wherever he travels and welcomes an opportunity to meet those who can join him on September 10. The Seacoast Division NMRA is co-sponsoring the NNGC 2016 and also wants to show President Getz a warm welcome to the Division territory.

You will not need to be a registrant at the Convention to enter the facility to meet President Getz. The only convention activity remaining on the schedule during late Saturday will be the Closing Ceremony from 7:00 to 10:00 pm. Our meeting with Charlie is planned to precede that ceremony. Of course, we hope many of you will register and participate in the whole convention!

If you have questions about the NMRA, its direction, or its benefits, this would be a good time to engage in a live conversation with the person who is best suited to answering those questions. If you have some thoughts on what would improve the NMRA, this would be your best opportunity to convey those ideas to someone who can make changes happen. We anticipate that Charlie will want to hear how the Division is doing, what we have found to be useful strategies and tactics, and what we still need in order to improve the Division's value to its members. This meeting should be very fruitful for the NMRA and all of its members. Plan on attending.

Thomas Coulombe

1947- 2016

On behalf of all of the members of Seacoast Division, National Model Railroad Association, the Board of Directors of the Division gratefully acknowledges the many contributions that Thomas A. Coulombe has made to their enjoyment of the hobby of model railroading during his term as Director, 2003-2016.

When Tom joined the NMRA in June 2000, the Seacoast Division NMRA had fewer than 30 members. Today, the Division has approximately 180 members. Tom became a significant volunteer very early on. Within 16 months of joining the NMRA, Tom became Treasurer of the Division in October, 2001, working diligently to streamline and stabilize the Division's financial processes. He continued in that position for 15 years, handing over the role to his successor in 2015. He was first elected to the Board of Directors in October, 2003, and served over 12 years in that role until his resignation in April, 2016. During this period, Tom's calm and patient nature, as well as his common sense and generosity, helped lead the Board to make sound policy decisions which have transformed it from a small collection of model railroaders to one of the most dynamic and effective divisions in the Northeastern Region of the NMRA. His many ongoing contributions to the Board's deliberations will be hard to replace.

Tom volunteered for other roles in the Division, also. He was a key leader when the Division hosted NER conventions, and he helped promote the NMRA and the Division at train shows. The Division lead the way in organizing the Maine Model Railroad Tour in 2015 and Tom's experience and advice was critical in developing policies and procedures to make it successful. Tom encouraged the Division to adopt a Values Statement so that a friendly and nurturing environment would always exist at Division activities.

Tom helped the Division to welcome young people to our hobby, often through Boy Scout activities. He was very active in counseling boys who wished to earn the Railroading Merit Badge, participating at

several local, regional and national jamborees as a merit badge counselor. He provided valuable advice and instruction for the inaugural of a highly popular Railroading Merit Badge program in Union, NH, in 2015. He has instructed youth as well as adults in many other model railroading classes, too, and been a presenter in the Operation Life Saver program. The Northeastern Region NMRA recognized Tom's devotion to attracting youth to the model railroading hobby by awarding him the 2014 Robert W. Spate Public Service Award.

One very special member of the Seacoast Division NMRA, the Great Falls Model Railroad Club, particularly has benefitted from Tom's unflagging involvement in its activities. Tom has served as its president, served on its Executive Committee, and in recent years has been both its treasurer and station master. He also helped the Club and the Division coordinate their activities. Tom's strong work ethic, patience, empathy, and good judgment have enabled this 135-member club to manage its finances, large clubhouse and multiple scale layouts very successfully.

Tom's personal qualities also set him in very high esteem with others. He exemplifies the Division's values: He is always FUN to be around, and he is RESPECTFUL, OPEN-MINDED, SUPPORTIVE, INFORMATIVE, and he definitely PARTICIPATES! He is an example of the adage "If you want something done, give it to a busy man." Tom handles stress amazingly well and presents an appearance that calms those around him. He often recognizes problems or opportunities well before others do and formulates plans to deal with them timely. Most importantly, he welcomes new members and friends so that they remain engaged. Throughout his accomplishments and services to the Division and other organizations, Tom has continued to be a humble, caring, and endearing fellow. He is a "star" in our eyes and his star will forever shine on the model railroad hobby.

May 1, 2016

Thomas Coulombe

1947-2016



Here is Tom doing what he was known for, promoting the hobby and helping others. His ability to communicate and share were an inspiration and the hobby could use more examples like him. These photo's came from the Great Falls Model Railroad Club website where there is a nice tribute to him. Our thoughts are with his family and friends. His full obituary can be found at the Lewiston Sun Journal June 21, 2016



Seacoast Division Summer Event July 23, 2016 at The Great Falls Model Railroad Club 144 Mill ST Auburn ME

Summer event schedule

Clinic Topics:

Case Study- Creating a Prototype Scene by Peter McKenney. Tom Oxnard, MMR, wanted to earn the Master Builder- Prototype Models Achievement Certificate but lacked space in his layout room, and needed some historical data to base his work on. Peter McKenney had space and a lot of historical data on his favorite railroad. Last summer, they decided to partner to create a highly accurate model of the end of the Fort Fairfield Branch of the BAR. Peter will show how they collaborated over the intervening months and give a status report.

Building the Chester & Derry Trolley by Erich Whitney. Recreating historic scenes of Derry, NH, has motivated Erich to take a new tack in his modeling endeavors. In addition to standard railroad scenes in Derry, there were two local trolley lines. Erich explains how he has researched the C&D and how he makes decisions on how to recreate a model of it while pursuing elements of the Achievement Program along the way.

New Techniques in Weathering Structures and Rolling Stock by Brian Inch. Brian's company, Model Rail Scenes of Dover-Foxcroft, is a custom model train layout builder serving customers throughout the US. FMI go to www.modelrailscenes.com. He is also a highly talented scratch builder of structures and offers his work for sale at train shows. As a result of his work, he has experimented with many different methods of weathering structures and rolling stock and will share his findings with us.

Reports from the National Convention Several members of the Seacoast Division are going to the NMRA convention in Indianapolis earlier in the month and will report on new products and techniques as well as other news.

Show and Ask: Participants are encouraged to bring

1) examples of their modeling to show to other attendees for educational purposes (two-way!) AND 2) questions on model railroading topics to pose to the others. Take advantage of the cumulative experience of all of the attendees to make your modeling experience more enjoyable. Contact the Summer Event organizer, Peter McKenney, with any questions or information about your showing.

Maine Modelworks Meet Tim Swenton who has purchased Maine Modelworks from Pete Apuzzo and moved it to Yarmouth. Tim will have some good custom builds and weathering pieces to display and will introduce himself to the members. Tim offers to give clinic presentations at future Events.

Other: There will be awards, opportunities to socialize, and other fun activities. You can view the Club's layouts; operations will be underway by Club members on the large HO layout.

Special Activity: After the program, you may visit two other local layouts in nearby Minot: 1) Paul Lodge's mushroom style HO scale layout with operating hump yard and live coal loading sites (NOT handicap accessible), and 2) Jerry Johnston's Rocky Ridge Railroad with its 1960-70s New England diesel railroading.

Lunch will be available on-site for purchase from GFMRR Club, or bring your own snacks.

Come to the Summer Event and Share the Fun of Model Railroading.

Meeting of the Board of Directors will follow the program at 1:30 p.m.

Next Event: October 15, 2016 in Stratham, NH (Stratham Fire House, 4 Winnicutt Road) Mark your calendar and save the date!!

Seacoast Division NMRA Spring Event

The Seacoast Division NMRA Spring Event was held on Saturday April 9, 2016 and attended by 30 members. The first part of the event was held at the Rochester, NH Community Center and featured several presentations including a comprehensive talk by Rich Breton on Modeling the Village of East Wakefield – From Benchwork to Finished Section to a museum quality level of completion, a presentation by Paul Lessard on Modeling B&M Open Top Hopper Cars and a presentation by Larry Cannon on Kitbashing Multiple Structures from a Single Walther's Kit.

John Doehring, NER NMRA President also attended the event and gave a short "state of the NER" address to the group. Following the presentations, several

members participated in the show and tell segment of the program. Mike Pederesen talked about the 2nd annual Maine Model Railroad Tour Program scheduled for Sept. 24-25, 2016. Sept 24 will fea-

ture layouts open in Downeast Maine and Sept 25 will feature layouts in south and southwestern Maine. See the layout tour website at <http://mainemodelrrtour.com/>. Bruce Campbell described his experience of attending The Fine Scale Model Railroader Expo in Danvers, MA on March 31 through April 2, 2016. The Fine Scale Model Railroader Expo is a convention focused primarily on model railroad structure construction techniques, either building from scratch or from craftsman kits. See the convention website at <http://www.modelrailroadexpo.com/>. Rich Breton showed the group how he glues with tacky glue or similar his

HO scale figures to the head of a roofing nail for easy handling during painting. The nails can then be put in a board or piece of foam for drying or holding for the next color. Finally, Neil Falby ended the first portion of the event with his ever-popular Show and Ask segment. Neil's question was "How do you keep from breaking those tiny #80 drill bits?" The most common answer was to chuck them up as far as possible and still be able to drill the hole minimizing the amount of flex in the bit.

The second portion of the event was an open house at the Heritage Park Railroad Museum in Union, NH. See their website at [http://](http://www.historicwakefieldnh.com/)



30 NMRA members and guests attended the Spring Event of the Seacoast Division NMRA at the Rochester, NH Community Center. (Chip Faulter photo)

www.historicwakefieldnh.com/. The focus of the open house was on the expanded model railroad layout (discussed by Rich Breton in his clinic) in the restored freight house that was built in 1875. The model railroad provides an exceptionally accurate portrayal of how the Boston & Maine served the 5 communities around Wakefield, NH in 1909.

The Seacoast Division Summer Event is scheduled for July 23, 2016 at the Great Falls Model Railroad Club, 144 Mill St., Auburn, ME.

Seacoast Division Spring Event



Built in 1875, the freight house at the Heritage Park Railroad Museum in Union, NH served the B&M railroad there for many years. Today this restored structure is home to a beautiful model railroad accurately depicting the local area. (Rich Breton photo)



NER President John Doebling attended the Seacoast Division NMRA Spring Event and provided an overview on the “state of the NER.” John’s message was simple. The NER is on the move as evidenced by the upcoming convention in Albany and improvements to The Coupler but the organization needs more volunteers to keep the momentum going! (Chip Faulter photo)



Paul Lessard is describing the various features of Boston and Maine open top hopper cars. (Chip Faulter photo)



Larry Cannon is describing how he kitbashed several buildings from the Walther’s ethanol plant kit. (Chip Faulter photo)

View of the Heritage Park Railroad Museum layout area that was the subject of Rich Breton’s presentation at the Seacoast Division Spring Event. Rich described how he proceeded from an open area on the benchwork to this completed scene. (Rich Breton photo)



Port City Rails 2016 Experience by Peter McKenney

Port City Rails 2016 in St. John, NB, May 19-22, definitely lived up to my expectations. I had attended a convention there in 2010 and knew what to expect from the hosts and other participants. All were friendly and relaxed, yet serious about model railroading. 118 modelers from 7 Canadian provinces and 7 US states came together to enjoy the hobby of model railroading.

Having a good friend along for the trip made it super enjoyable. Tom Coulombe, who shared the experience with me 6 years ago, told me in February that he was not up for returning to St. John with me this time. Happily for me, Tom Oxnard wanted to travel with me and we enjoyed conversations about model railroad topics on the roughly 5-hour drives in both di-

ones.

Tom and I ate a quick dinner early and then headed to our first operating session at Steve McMullin's Carleton Railway. Steve, as described in the article on Month of Operations, has a well-designed operating scheme and provides operators with ample instructions and reference points. The outcome of the night was a perfectly fun time in operations. If only I had not locked my keys in my car, we could have returned to the hotel straight away. But my AAA membership translated perfectly to CAA service and we watched how a pro can open a car door in just a few minutes.

The Friday convention schedule included six clinic sessions. With two rooms devoted to clinics at the



rections. Plus, we shared a room and saved some money to be used for buying some supplies at the train show.

We arrived at the convention hotel in mid-afternoon Thursday, just in time to check in and then drive to an open house of the St. John Society of Model Railroader. The Society, which was the host for the convention on behalf of the Maritime Federation of Model Railroaders (MFMR), has had better luck in finding a fixed base for its layouts in recent months, so its modules were set up in a shopping plaza's vacant retail space. Consequently, the members have been able to add to their modules and improve existing

same time, we had 12 superb clinics to choose from. See the sidebar of what clinics I chose to attend to get a flavor of the learning opportunities at a good convention. Alternatively, one could choose to go on up to three guided bus tours of industrial facilities. Local industry was much better about being involved in this event than in recent convention communities in the US. There were tours of the port facilities, an oil refinery and a paper mill. In the evening, there were three more operating sessions to choose from, and a home layout tour. Tom and I had a blast operating on Doug Devine's Island Central Railway. Again, refer to the Month of Operations article for more details. At 9:00 pm, how-

Port City Rails 2016 Experience By Peter McKenney

ever, all of us returned to the convention hotel for a “meet-and-greet” reception. Model railroaders can get lively, even “late” in the evening. We recognized and chatted with several NMRA members from the Seacoast and HUB Divisions in attendance, plus others from the Northeastern Region. We also got to know our Canadian colleagues better. “

Tom Oxnard receiving his best in show trophy



Tom Oxnard receives his best in show trophy

Sharing the fun of model railroading” involves socialization, after all.

The biggest daytime activity on Saturday was the train show at the nearby hockey arena. I did not have high expectations that I would find many interesting items to purchase because the number of vendors at this show is modest, and they naturally focus on Canadian proto-types. I was able to buy some ballast that fit into my immediate modeling needs, see some more modules set up in the arena, and chat with several NMRA members in attendance at the show. There were modular layouts set up, including the impressive HUB Division’s layout. The highlight of the train show for me was the contest room. We could admire

the work of many modelers and cast votes for our favorites (peer judging, only, at this convention). More on this below. Another daytime activity Saturday was a passenger train excursion on the New Brunswick Southern.

Volunteer for the National Narrow Gauge Convention by Peter McKenney

The National Narrow Gauge Convention 2016 “Wants you!” If you provide approximately 4 hours of “volunteer” service between September 7-10, you “will be rewarded.” Accepting an assignment of this duration and fulfilling it will be rewarded by a cash payment of \$99. To earn this reward, you

Need to be registered with the convention

Need to indicate on your registration form that you wish to volunteer by checking a box, or indicate to Peter McKenney of your willingness to volunteer

Complete your assignment

Volunteer positions:

Badge checkers- monitor access points to be sure people attempting to enter are wearing a convention badge

Vendor move helpers- answer questions of vendors and giving them guidance during their moving into or out of the vendor hall

Modular layout helpers- help set the rooms up or answer questions or give guidance to modular layout owners during setup or take down

AV assistant- be on-call to back up the chief AV professional during all clinic hours

Contest room door monitors- monitor either the front or back entrance of the contest room

Seacoast Division NMRA is a co-sponsor of this convention and its members can help it fulfill its role by volunteering and attending the Convention. Many slots are filled already. The sooner you register and volunteer, the better chance that you have of having an assignment to your liking.

What's on My Workbench by Tom Oxnard MMR

At the Fine Scale Model Railroader Expo 2016 on April 1 in Danvers Massachusetts, I saw many great models in the contest room, heard some wonderful clinics by well known modelers and authors, got to speak with the manufacturers directly, and impulsively bought a Fine Scale Miniature Barnstead Lumber Co craftsman kit No. 159 from 1982. I had been thinking about building a lumber company at the end of my shelf in Ashland and this kit seemed perfect.

It was expensive (\$190) but George Sellios makes a high-end kit with an amazing number of metal castings. The dealer made an interesting comment that the prices for these out of production kits by Fine

ter-maintained business in the 1950's and added some gates for customers to gain access. I narrowed the wood cutting shed by 2 feet, changed the wall shape, and raised the roof by 2 feet so that it is easier to see inside. I added an Engineering LED light that I bought at the Expo to show the interior details. I also removed some of George's Victorian ornaments and gave it a slightly more updated paint scheme.

There were two signs for Barnstead Lumber Co. To change the signs, I started by painting some very thin window acetate Grimey Black and a slightly darkened Zinc Chrome Primer. I then cut these to size to just cover the word "Barnstead". I used the appropri-



Scale Miniatures, South River Model Works and others are coming down as the demand for building complex kits is declining and collectors are starting to sell theirs.

I will frequently take a craftsman kit and move buildings around to fit the site that I have. After removing some track and marking out my available real estate I was able to build the kit as advertised with some changes that I wanted to make.

The FSM kits that George produces seem to show the height of the Depression with decaying buildings and trash and clutter and weeds everywhere. I brought the lumber company back to a thriving, respectable, bet-

ate sized white Microscale Decals Railroad Gothic Letters to make "Ashland" and glued that on each sign. I then photocopied the sign to make it flat and put it on the structure.

I added background photographs from Bill Brown's LARC Products photo backdrops CD volume 5. With the images of woods and hills in the background, I was able to make a great craftsman kit fit a small space, and with the signs and some other changes make it more suitable to the time and place of my railroad. Now the trains can deliver the lumber from the saw mill to the lumber company.

Photo by Tom Oxnard

What's on my Work Bench by Tom Oxnard

Photo's by Tom Oxnard



Some more photo's of Tom's handiwork. Please send the editor what's on your work bench photo's . It does not have to include a whole story just a few lines describing what's in the picture. We need your participation to continue the quality of the Switch Tower. This is a great way to get involved with the division even if you can't get to the quarterly meetings .



SEACOAST and NER NEWS by Peter McKenney

Maine Modelworks Transition

Tim Swenton has purchased Maine Modelworks from Pete Apuzzo and moved it to 374 US Route One, Yarmouth. Store hours are slightly different. It will be open 10:00 am until 6 pm Monday through Friday, and 10:00 am until 2 pm on Saturday. It will be closed on Sunday.

The parties collaborated nicely in this transition. Tim will continue to use the familiar website and phone number and will carry a similar inventory. His specialty is weathering and painting. Local customers are pleased that a local model railroad shop will continue to assist them with their modeling efforts and hope that the new owner has great success. They also expressed appreciation for the many years that Pete Apuzzo provided them service.

Tim has accepted an offer to attend the Summer Event on July 23.

Southern Maine Model Railroad Club

Several young “serious” modelers have initiated a new model railroad club in the southern Maine area! The Southern Maine Model Railroad Club organizers intend to focus on HO modules with a contemporary railroad theme. Anyone interested in learning about them should send an email to southern-mainemrc@gmail.com. They have filed for 501(c)(3) tax exempt status and aim to start a swap meet and train show in the Portland area in the spring of 2017.

Several of the organizers met in New Gloucester on Sunday, June 19. Some Seacoast Division NMRA members attended and learned that the new club will offer full membership for \$100 per year and associate membership for \$40. Organizers are in the process of establishing a concrete development plan and studying potential standards for modules. More information can be obtained from organizers such as Chuck Hastings (207-890-5127) and Tim Swenton (781-8300).

Seacoast Division NMRA’s mission includes “supporting local model railroad groups.” The Division already works well with many of the clubs in

Maine and New Hampshire and hopes to help this new club. Representatives of the SMMRC have been invited to join the Division members at a future Event so the parties can introduce themselves to each other.

Website Difficulties

The Seacoast Division NMRA website has not been easy to update for the past few months due to a hacking incident that directly impacted the website of the Northeastern Region of the NMRA. The Division’s website account is related to the NER’s and the Division had to undergo the same security enhancement procedure as the NER did. This has greatly slowed updating processes. Webmaster Bill Poor hopes to have the situation resolved in July. In the meantime, please understand that the Division’s website may not be refreshed with news and postings as often as in the past.

NER News

The NER Board of Directors held a 2-hour, 44-minute online meeting via Go to Meeting during the evening of May 17. President Doehring’s efforts to populate NER leadership positions are starting to pay off. Joe Santoro of the Seacoast Division NMRA will chair the new Investment Committee. Editor Jeff Paston proposed converting The Coupler to a color (hardcopy) publication and increasing the annual subscription rate from \$7 to \$10, which is in line or lower than most of the other regions. The Board approved his proposal. This will be effective for the January issue. The Board approved a budget for the fiscal year to start on July 1 that has a modest surplus forecast and provides funds to afford an annual subscription to Go to Meeting if freeware will not suffice. The online meeting resource will be available to divisions to use, too.

The Pacemaker 2016 NER convention in Albany, NY, appears to be well-organized and worth attending. On the other hand, the NER strategic planning process is not progressing at a satisfactory pace. Thanks to persistent solicitations of Chip Faulter, all

SEACOAST and NER NEWS by Peter McKenney

11 active divisions submitted annual reports as required by the NER bylaws. These reports revealed a large disparity of conditions between the divisions. The NER will have to customize its approaches to supporting the divisions in order to make a positive difference in their futures. President Doehring recognizes that communication between the Region and the divisions has been inadequate. He committed to taking personal action to improve that communication and also improve communication between divisions, primarily by reactivating the division leaders' forum. Also, he called for nominations for the Spate Award. The next meeting will be Sunday, July 17, starting at 7:00 pm and will be online.

Seacoast Division NMRA Board Meeting Summary

The Directors convened for 1.75 hours by telephone conferencing at 7:30 pm on May 31 because a quorum was not present April 9. They reviewed the results of the recent paper survey submissions and committed to reaching out to non-respondents who are not known to the Directors. President Whitney will arrange for Division members to meet NMRA President Charlie Getz in Augusta during his attendance at the National Narrow Gauge Convention. The Directors voted \$100 to support the Maine Model Railroad Tour 2016, primarily to reimburse costs for its website. They chose not to support specific railroad preservation projects, however, as it is not within the Division's mission. Instead, they encourage individual members to use their discretion to support such endeavors. A policy of rewarding guests who appear at two meetings in one year has been adopted. Such guests will be provided a free Rail Pass membership (6-month trial; \$9.95 value). Per NMRA policy, guests cannot attend more than two meetings before they must become an NMRA member before attending additional meetings. Chip Faulter will become corporate clerk replacing Tom Coulombe. A team to review the financial records of 2015 was organized. The official minutes may be obtained from any of the Directors, or from the website once they can be posted.

Maine Model Railroad Tour

Organizers have been collecting descriptions and photos of the layouts that will be in the Tour September 24 and 25. Soon these will all be posted to the Tour's website, www.mainemodelrrtour.com. Once those details have been posted, you can use your existing user name and password to open up the pages with the Tour details in them. If you have never registered before, you will have a chance to register online again. Due to attempts by hackers, the registration form has been temporarily deactivated. At present count, there will be 9 layouts in eastern Maine on Saturday and 12 layouts in southwestern Maine on Sunday. There still is time to add layouts, so let the organizers know of additional layouts! Close to the dates of the Tour, helpful mileage logs will be posted as well. Keep monitoring the website close to the Tour. Have fun.

Fun Ops in Meredith 2016

Dave Sias and his supporting cast did another fine job in organizing a great day of operations for fellow modelers on May 7. Thank you Dave, Bruce Reynolds, Nelson Kennedy, and John Tyndall! 13 operators experienced smooth operations and friendly interplay. See photos in this issue for more details.

CALL FOR CANDIDATES

Three Directors' terms will end in January 2017 at the Annual Meeting of Members in South Portland, ME. The Nominating Committee is currently seeking members who may be interested in filling any of these positions. A Seacoast Division NMRA Director position is a great way to contribute to the hobby we all love. The time commitment is modest, really just 4 BOD meetings per year that normally coincide with the members' events. The only pre-requisite for the position is to have a passion for model railroading, and a desire help your fellow model railroaders. Anyone with interest in becoming a Director, or anyone who believes they know someone who would make a good Director, should contact one of us on

SEACOAST and NER NEWS by Peter McKenney

the Nominating Committee, or another of the current Seacoast Division NMRA Directors.

Chip Faulter
Tom Oxnard
Peter McKenney

**Youth in Model Railroading Visit the Valley Junction
By Bruce Robinson**

Saturday, April 9th was YMR (Youth in Model Railroading) Day on the Valley Junction RR. From time to time the VJRR hosts these very enthusiastic kids that belong to the Lowell, MA chapter of the National YMR organization. The chapter is headed up by Steve and Kim Lamb and number approximately 68 members that meet once a month to learn about model railroading, build modules and show their modular layout at several shows every year.

After some (too lengthy?) orientation crew assignments were made by lottery and the fast clock turned on. As is usual things were slow starting but it didn't take long before kids and parents were running "on the clock" and having a great time. You know the session was successful when at the end the Valley Branch Lines operator announces that his work was done and he was ahead of schedule!



When asked if they had enjoyed their time running on the VJRR and would they do it again there was a resounding "YES!" Enjoying this hobby doesn't get any better than this.

[Youth in Model Railroading - <http://www.ymr-online.org/> -Ed.]

A Month of Operations by Peter McKenney

The month of May was a banner month for me. I had the privilege of operating on six different layouts during May! The layouts all had their distinct characteristics and methods of realistic operations. I made some new acquaintances and everyone shared a lot of information, experiences, and laughter. I hope that more of us can enjoy more frequent operating experiences in the future. Thanks to all the hosts and their helpers!! Immediately after returning from my Florida winter home, Lou Champagne held an operating session in Kennebunkport on Tuesday, May 3rd on his **Cape Porpoise and Western Railroad**. Weekday operating sessions target the “retired” subset of modelers.

Larry has a container of snack food near at hand. Running a model railroad requires a lot of energy and good hosts provide a supply of energy foods lest the railroad crew become a little testy. Lou has been expanding



this area of his layout recently and there are many switching opportunities.

Dave Sias lead the effort for **Meredith Fun Ops 2016** which consisted of two layouts having both a morning session and an afternoon session on May 7. In the morning, I operated at Dave’s fabulous **B&M White Mountain Route**.

In The afternoon we operated on Bruce Reynold’s **B&M Zealand Valley Division** it attracts many modelers and operators because of its quality scenery and operating scheme. The 1938/40-era layout has many fine working steam engines.

On May 19 during **Port City Rails 2016**, Steve McMullin of St. John, NB the owner of **Carleton Railway**. Steve’s double-deck layout has a 270-foot main line set in rural 1965 in an agricultural region of NB, complete with potato fields and structures! Steve now serves as NMRA President Canada, as well as NER Area Director for Canada (Maritime Provinces and Quebec Province). . Steve has perfected an operating scheme that provides operators with excellent instructions on how to fulfill their assignments. Operators receive an “Employees’ Operating Time Table,” a specific train order for their train, as well as a set of car cards with waybills or instructions in pockets on the cards. [

Doug Devine’s **Island Central Railway** was open for operations on May 20. Although it is a “single deck” layout, there are actually three levels of track on parts of the layout.

One of the pleasures of operating on a nice layout is observing some fine scratch-building. . Doug employs small colored tacks on top of the rolling stock to inform the operators where to forward individual cars. No car cards here! The tacks are small enough not to detract materially from the appearance of the cars.

The Switch Tower

Tom Oxnard, MMR, is famous for his beautiful layout, **Boston & Maine**, and his amazing scratch-built structures, but he also has been developing an operating scheme for his layout. On May 26, Tom hosted an



Seacoast Division 2nd qtr report Treasurer Doug Hartwell

Income

Patches and name tags	9.00
NMRA rebate	160.97
Interest	1.60
Total	171.57

Expenditures

State of Maine filings	40.00
Donations	600.00
Total	640.00

Cash beginning	6,444.47
Receipts	171.57
Expenses	640.00
Cash Ending	5,975.84

July

2016

Nominations for the Robert Spate Award

The Robert W. Spate Public Service Award was created in the memory of Robert W. Spate. The award is presented annually to an NMRA member person or organization, or other non-NMRA member person or organization, within the area served by the Northeastern Region of the National Model Railroad Association (NER NMRA) who best exemplifies the promotion of the hobby of model railroading.

An individual, group or organization may be nominated by the Boards of active NER Divisions or through the cognizant NER Area Director in the case of inactive Divisions. The award is not for service to a specific Division or the Region. It is for exemplary service to the hobby.

[To find out more about Robert W. Spate and the nomination process, please visit the NER Website.](#)

Seacoast Division NMRA Engraved Name Tags Now Available

The Seacoast Division of the NMRA is now making available to members engraved name tags with up to three lines available, 25 characters per line. The badges will be \$5.00 per badge and \$3.50 for postage or you can wait and pick them up at a Division event. Orders will be held until we have ten badges ordered. Badges include the attractive Seacoast Division logo.

Please mail orders to Geoff Anthony, PO Box 187, Blue Hill ME 04614 -0187. Make checks payable to SEACOAST DIVISION NMRA. Please include your mailing address if you want it mailed.



Seacoast Division NMRA Engraved Name Tags Available

You may have up to three lines on your name tag. Badges will be at cost to Seacoast Division NMRA (currently \$5). If you wish the tag mailed to you, add \$3.50. Otherwise, your tag will be handed to you at the next regular Seacoast Division NMRA meeting that you attend. Orders will be submitted to engraver in batches of a minimum of 10.

First Line	
Second Line	
Third Line	

Mail order form to:	Send completed name tag to:
Make check payable to:	Name _____
Seacoast Division NMRA	PO Box 187
	Street _____
	Blue Hill, ME 04614
	City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Ap Report by Tom Oxnard NH Larry Cannon ME

Lucien Champagne shown in the picture received his Dispatcher Certificate at his home recently because he anticipates not being available for our July meeting. At the July meeting Chip Faulter will be presented his Dispatcher Certificate and Dave Sias, his Volunteer Certificate. Tom has submitted his Statement of Qualifications for Volunteer and we are awaiting notification from NMRA of its acceptance. All four certificate represent a significant commitment of time and effort by these members. Well done!



New Members

Nelson Baum, Westbrook, ME
Don Woodward, Exeter, NH

Timetable

July 3-10	NMRA National Convention	Indianapolis IN
July 9-11	National Train Show	Indianapolis IN
July 16	Modeling the Villages of Wakefield 1909	Union NH
July 23	Seacoast Division NMR Summer event	Auburn ME
Aug 21	Concord Model Railroad Show	Concord ME
Sept 7-10	Narrow Gauge Convention	Augusta ME
Sept 9	Derry Fun Night	Derry NH
Sept 15-17	NER Convention	Albany NY
Sept 24-25	Maine Model Railroad Tour	Eastern And Southwest ME
Oct 8	Derry Model RR fun night	Derry NH
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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