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The Switch **Tower**

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January 2018

Seacoast Division NMRA <u>www.seacoastnmra.org</u>

Seacoast Division NMRA Winter Event Saturday, January 6, 2018, 10:00am-2:00pm The First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

301 Cottage Road, South Portland, Maine





Baileyville Mill switcher at the border and by the wye on the old Maine central. On pg 2 in the Moosehorn wildlife refuge on the way to the mill . Photos by Harry Gordon

The President's Lantern by Erich Whitney

overs from Thanksgiving dinner are still abundant to the members in a division at least once every in the refrigerator. The model railroading season is in full swing with train shows and we're just back from the NER 2017 convention, Rails to the Gilded Age in Newport Rhode Island. By the time you read this, one of my favorite shows of the vear, the HUB's NEMTE show in Marlborough, Mass will be in the books and we'll be gearing up for the 50th Amherst Railway Society's Railroad Hobby Show in Springfield, Our 2018 Seacoast Division NMRA Annual Meeting (Saturday, January 6th) will also be my last meeting as your president. I have decided to step aside to give someone else an opportunity to lead this organization. I will continue to serve my term as Director and I will fully support my successor. I firmly believe that a healthy organization, especially an all-volunteer membership organization such as ours, benefits from a regular succession of leadership. I have been fortunate that during my tenure, we have had several members step forward to help make this organization run so well. I have and say that I am grateful to be in the company very grateful to everyone for their support!

When I first got involved with the NMRA, what motivated me to join was meeting some really wonderful people who were welcoming, helpful, friendly, and encouraging. My first NER regional convention in Burlington, Vermont just blew me away and that experience inspired me to volunteer to coordinate the 2013 Tracks to Lakeport convention. I've been to seven regional conventions and just this past August I made it to my first national convention. At the risk of sounding like a broken record, if you haven't been to a convention you've really missed something special about your NMRA membership. I know there are some that will scream at me about the cost of attending one of these events but here's the thing; you've got a lot of friends in this hobby and all you have to do is reach out and talk with them. Sharing the fun of model railroading is about working together—share a ride, share a room, share stories, share the experience. Regional conventions are put on by spon-

As I sit down to write this column, the left- soring divisions so that the conventions get close ten years or so. If you don't know these friends of whom I speak, come to a quarterly meeting and meet them! We move the quarterly meetings around the division as best we can to bring them closer to you at least once per year. If we don't get close enough, help us find a meeting place that will let us host a meeting closer! Our meeting locations are not set in stone—someone has volunteered to help find a spot that we can afford and we can fit in. Over the past few years we have seen a steady growth in attendance at our quarterly meeting program so I think the message is getting out but we still only get at most about 15%-20% of our membership to attend a meeting. Our division clinics, layout tours, and operating sessions are just a glimpse of what you will experience over a weekend at a regional convention and an entire week at a national convention.

> I'll climb at least part way off my soap box of so many dedicated volunteers in this organization. I am grateful and thankful to my fellow directors and committee members for their continued support of our mission to share the fun of model railroading!!!

> > Sincerely, Erich Whitney



Seacoast Division Winter Event/Annual Meeting

All NMRA members and people interested in becoming NMRA members are invited to the winter meeting of the Seacoast Division NMRA in South Portland, Maine.

Clinics and Presentation Topics:

Modular Layout Construction by Chuck Hastings and The Southern Maine Model Railroad Club. Once again, we are very fortunate to have The Southern Maine Model Railroad Club bringing several of their modules to the meeting. Chuck Hastings and his crew will show us the progress they have made with their modules and go over some of the issues they have dealt with during the past year while the layout was under construction.

Backdrop Construction presented by Tom Oxnard MMR. Tom will present a discussion on why you need backdrops and how to make them. The presentation will include sky and clouds, use of perspective, important design elements to consider, choices of hand painting your backdrops or using commercial products, and creating your own photo backdrops from your pictures. Tom will bring sky painted boards and explain good techniques for making clouds from stencils.

On30 Layout Update by Bob Bennett. Bob is one of our most outstanding modelers and he writes, "I am at the point on one end of the layout where I'm confronting the backdrop. I have done a couple of flats for different points. One is a fau covered bridge, another is a grammar school based on the building in Weeks Mills and the third is a bunk house type structure for section and station crews. I also did a very simple tell tale to provide a bit of a heads up before the covered bridge. I also chopped up a completed gas station and turned it into a general store for this area." Bob will discuss some of his techniques he used on

these structures and have them on display for us at the Event.

The Portland, Maine Rail Network by Dr. George Carhart, Ph.D. As the Engineering Archivist for the City of Portland's Department of Public Works, George has access to the City of Portland's DPW Engineering Archives which hold some 100,000 plan sheets and about 1000 photographs that document the infrastructure and developmental history of the city, below and above ground. As a railway and model railway enthusiast, George will be sharing with the group a number of plans and aerial photographs that show the development and the eventual disappearance of the rail network that once encircled Portland.

Track Cleaning Ideas by Dave Sias. Keeping the rails of your layout clean can be a problem. Over the past year or so, some of us in the Division have been turning to Dave Sias for advice with this issue. Dave has kindly agreed to share his knowledge and techniques that he uses on his own layout. This is a short presentation that will have plenty of good advice for every model railroader.

Annual Meeting: The Annual Meeting of members will be conducted during the Winter Event and is open to all NMRA members. At this meeting, the annual election of Directors will take place. Information regarding each of the candidates is listed in this issue on pg 10. Show and Tell and Ask: Everyone loves to see the modeling of our members. If you have something that you would like to show us, please bring it to the meeting and we will give you a few minutes to describe your efforts. If you have any modeling questions for the group, please bring those, as well. We have plenty of experts in attendance and we can

Seacoast Winter Event by Tage Erickson

certainly get you some answers to your questions.

For Sale!: There will be a table set up for any members that wish to buy/sell any surplus modeling items they may have. If you have any model railroad related items (loco's, rolling stock, buildings, etc.) that you don't need and wish to sell, you are encouraged to bring them to the meeting. Please put a tag on each item with your name and the asking price. Maybe one of your fellow members might be interested!

Layout Tours:

Rob Selberg's St. James Sub-Division. The St. James Sub-Division is a modern era, free lanced, N scale layout that is operational, but under construction. Rob has been working on his scenery and is happy to show his modeling skills to all our members. Directions to Rob's house will be provided at the Event.

Please take time to visit this layout on your way home from the Winter Event!

Coffee and light nourishment will be provided at the Winter Event for a donation to offset costs. Please bring your own lunch or snacks. There will be a 30 minute break for lunch and socializing. There are no food establishments within close proximity to the meeting.

There will be a drawing for door prizes, too!

A Board of Directors meeting will <u>precede</u> the program at 8:30 AM.

Come to the Winter Event and Share the Fun of Model Railroading!

Next Event: April 7, 2018 in Rochester, NH (Governor's Inn) Mark your calendar and save the date!!

Derry Fun Nights Announcement By Bruce Robinson

Seacoast Division of the National Model Railroad Association is running their Derry Fun Night program again in 2017/2018. The program is held the second Friday night of each month, 7:00-9:00pm, at the Marion Gerrish Community Center, 39 West Broadway, Derry, NH.

The January program will provide all the materials to build a small laser-cut handcar shed. If you attended the December program bring the base you built to be mated with this shed. Always a part of the program is Model Showcase where modelers bring in the latest project they are working on to show and discuss.

If you are interested in model trains and would like to join other like-minded hobbyists from beginner to expert for a fun evening program come to Derry Fun Night the second Friday of each month.

For additional information go to the Division's website at seacoastnmra.org/calendar.

February 9, 2018- Battery powered locomotives March 9, 2018- Carving rocks for scenery April 13, 2018- Modeling vehicles May 11, 2018- TBD June 8, 2018- Layout building in N-scale



Bruce Robinson Receives Shoneman Award



Bruce Robinson (left) receiving the 2017 Keith Shoneman Award from Dave Insley (right) for his active service in the hobby promoting model railroad operations. This award was presented by the HUB Division and the NER NMRA at the awards ceremony of the NER NMRA Rails to the Gilded Age Regional Convention in Newport, Rhode Island on Saturday, November 11, 2017. The photo was taken by Bob Peters.

Editors note: Thanks to Erich Whitney for passing this on to me and congratulation to Bruce. If you ever get the opportunity to operate on Bruce's layout do not pass it up. Thanks to Bruce for the past articles he has written for the Switch Tower and all he has done to advance the hobby in the division. All members are welcome to pass along articles and news in the division. The Switch Tower can not operate without your participation. Thanks Geoff

Seacoast Division Fall 2017 Event by Tage Erickson

The Board of Directors meeting began at 0830. The report for that meeting will be contained in separate correspondence. The General Meeting started promptly at 10:00 AM with opening remarks by Tage Erickson. This was followed by new member and guest introductions. We also welcomed John Simms and Russ Schundler from the Lakes Region Model Railroad Museum, which is now a sustaining membership. It was great to have them in attendance.

Erich Whitney, our Seacoast Division President, gave his opening remarks. Erich welcomed everyone and then spoke briefly about the recent NMRA National Convention, The "Orange Blossom Special," and also about the upcoming NER Convention, "Rails to the Guilded Age." He asked for a show of hands as to who is planning to attend. Based on the response, we should have a very good representation from our Division at the NER Convention. Erich also reminded the members that the division still needs help from the members with articles for the "Switch Tower" and with the other modeling events that the Division supports throughout the year.

The next presenter was John Simms, the president of the Lakes Region Model Railroad Museum. John discussed the beginnings of the LRMRM and then went through a brief presentation which covered their building and plans for the future. We want to welcome the LRMRM and their members to the Seacoast Division and we will be happy to support their activities to the maximum extent possible.

The first clinic of the day was presented by Glenn Mitchell, one of the Division's 9 directors. Glenn's presentation was on "Basic Layout Design using

XTrackCAD." Glenn is obviously well skilled with this program as he showed us how to put down the basic track shapes, link them together and then modify the design to suit individual purposes. We learned about layering, saving, deleting, transitions, and turnout design. Glenn demonstrated howconstruct a ladder yard and a passing siding with relative to ease. This could be a big time saver when designing a layout!

The next presentation was by Tage Erickson who spoke about "Lighting Solutions For Your Model Railroad." Tage discussed the basic parameters used when making decisions about lighting. These included Kelvin Temperature (K), Correlated Color Temperature (CCT), Lumens (L), and Color Rendering Index (CRI). The presentation also included brief comments from members Larry Cannon MMR, Chris Oliver, Lou Champagne, and Rick Mills, who discussed the lighting solutions they each used for their own layouts. This generated some questions and lively discussion from the members.

Erich Whitney and Tage Erickson then gave a presentation on their experiences at the recent NMRA National Convention. This consisted of a slide presentation showing some of the exhibits at the National Train Show, while Erich discussed the merits of attending the convention with all the clinics and hands-on experiences that are available. Tage discussed the three operating sessions that he attended and presented pictures followed by a presentation of a particularly difficult switching problem that he couldn't solve at the final operating session. The members were given a chance to figure out the problem during the lunch break.

Seacoast Division Fall 2017 Event by Tage Erickson

Just prior to the lunch break, Tom Oxnard MMR and Larry Cannon MMR presented achievement awards to Bruce Robinson and Peter McKenney for "Master Builder - Scenery" and "Model Railroad Author," respectively. A very hearty congratulations to Bruce and Peter.

Following the lunch break, Jack Lutz presented his clinic on the design and his decision making process for his Coos Bay & Coos County Railroad. Jack is a great presenter who methodically and humorously described how his thought process led him to the layout that he is presently constructing. It was a really great presentation and we wish Jack well as he continues the construction process. We hope to get an update from him at some point in the future.

Tage then went over his solution for the switching problem that was presented prior to the lunch break.

The final segment of the event was the Show & Tell & Ask session.

Rick Mills showed us how he constructs background buildings from discarded cell phone boxes using inexpensive materials that are easily obtained. These buildings look great, don't take much effort to complete, and can help you add detailed finishing touches to your layout.

Peter McKenney gave us a short presentation on the status of his Fort Fairfield Bangor & Aroostook Railroad layout that has been moved to his new home's basement. The pictures were great and the progress that has been made in such a short time is highly commendable. Larry Cannon MMR showed us truck bodies that he made using the resin casting process. He described the mold making process and showed us how items can be duplicated this way, keeping in mind that you cannot offer these items for legal resale. They must be for personal use only.

Bruce Robinson described the "1 Foot" square model dioramas that were on display. These were built by modelers that have been attending the monthly "Derry Fun Night" meetings which are sponsored by the Seacoast Division. Each one of these models was expertly done and proudly displayed.

Following the Show & Tell & Ask, the event was adjourned at around 2:20 PM so the members could visit the layouts in the local area that were available for tours.

Many thanks go out to Tom Oxnard, Bruce Robinson, and Mike Grahame for allowing us to visit their layouts.

A special thanks goes to Mike Grahame for procuring the use of the Fire House for the meeting. Thanks Mike!

The attendance for the Fall Event was 34 members and 3 guests. Thank you for your participation and your dedication to our great hobby!

The next Quarterly Event will take place in South Portland, Maine, at the First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, 301 Cottage Road, on Saturday January 6, 2018. Please save that date and plan on joining us!

Seacoast Division Fall 2017 Event by Tage Erickson Photos by Ralph Brown



Top Photo Rick Mills display of background buildings made from cell phone boxes.

Bottom photo, Bruce Robinson receives his Master builder Scenery certificate in the achievement program from Tom Oxnard with Rich Breton looking on



Seacoast Division Fall 2017 Event by Tage Erickson Photos by Ralph Brown



Top Photo: Peter McKenney receives the Author achievement certificate from Maine AP chairman Larry Cannon

Bottom Photo , Three examples of the square foot modeling challenge from Derry Fun Night







Board of Directors Candidates







Glenn Mitchell

Glenn Mitchell seeks the position of Director of the Seacoast Division. He has been a Director for the past 13 months since was appointed to fill a vacant position. He resides in Concord, NH. He has been a NMRA member since 2008 is working on several NMRA Achievement Program Certificates. He recently presented a clinic "Basic Layout Design with XTrack-CAD" at the fall 2017 Seacoast event. He has been a member of the Bedford Boomers since the early 80's. His retirement in 2015 from BAE Systems where he was an electrical engineer and project manager for 34 years has made time available to step up and give back to the hobby and the NMRA. His modeling has been primarily limited to HO scale modules in the past, however the recent purchase of a new basement (with home attached) is enabling him to build an HO scale layout based on the C&NW and EJ&E in Illinois and Indiana in the 70's.

Chip Faulter

Like most of us in this hobby, I started out with Lionel trains at an early age but switched to HO at around 10 and started my first layout. This layout d taught me my first lessons about track laying, modeling operations and scenery. Fast forward to 1986 when I could start another layout. I have been working on that layout ever since. It is like the history of model railroading and shows the advances both in the technology and quality of models available to us today, and in my own modeling skills. I have been a Director in the Seacoast Division NMRA since 2012 and the Vice-President of the Division for the last 3 years. I am also the secretary for the Northeastern Region (NER) NMRA. I am retired from the Bath Iron Works with a 34 career in engineering and design management. That experience is transferable to the leadership of the Seacoast Division NMRA. I look forward to giving back to the hobby that has given so much to me over the years.

Ralph Brown I was appointed to the Board of Directors December 1, 2016 to fill the term of Peter McKenney after he resigned. I am running for the Division Board of Directors for a three year term. I joined the NMRA (MER and New Jersey Division) while stationed in Atlantic City, and have been a life member since 1971. In addition to serving on the Seacoast Division Board of Directors, I serve on the NER Convention Committee. During the 1980s, I served on the NMRA Promotion Committee, My interest in railroad modeling began at age 5 with a Lionel train set at Christmas. I migrated from tinplate O to O-Scale, and then made the change to HO scale in 1968. My modeling is focused on the Pennsylvania Railroad and the related Long Island Rail Road and Pennsylvania-Reading Seashore Lines (WJ&S) during the first half of the 20th Century. Planning for a revised multi-deck PRR/LIRR "Keystone & Sunrise Division" is well underway. I am now retired and, in addition to railroad modeling, the NMRA and the PRRT&HS, devote my time to family, gardening, woodworking and "home improvement."

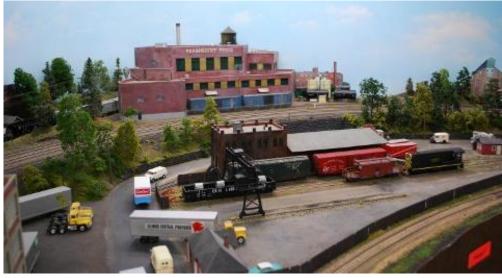
NER Gilded Rails Convention 2017 Photos by Ralph Brown



Photos on this page are of Jim Reddington's layout Although as editor I did not get to go this year Regional convention, they are a great way to meet new people and get inspiration for your layout.

According to Ralph who provide the photos, Jim has a couple of very talented friends who have helped him construct his layout.





http://seacoastnmra.org

NER Gilded Rails Convention 2017 Photos by Ralph Brown







The first two picture are more of Jim Reddington's layout. The layouts scenes come alive with all the detail in them. I like the second shot especially as it shows that adage that you can never have enough staging. Also demonstrates that flat surfaces get covered quickly with various objects that have no other place to be. That's how my layout is.

The last photo is why they called it the Gilded Age. Its an inside shot of the Breakers mansion. Built by Cornelius Vanderbilt II in 1893 it has 70 rooms and over 125,000 sq ft. Imagine the layout you could build. The Breakers is one of America's most visited homes.

Don't forget that next years convention is in Mahwah NJ and its being called the Erie Limited. Dates are September 13-16 2018 and can be found online at Erielimited.org Registration should be available soon.

Into the Swamp by Jack Lutz

The Coos Bay and Coos County (CBCC) is a freelanced model railroad that is made up of a wide variety of former B&M, MEC and other lines in northern New England that connects with the Canadian Pacific in Rouses Point, and is part of a transcontinental railroad alliances with CP and BNSF.

The CBCC is currently under construction in my office. The room itself determines where the main line will run, so the main line can be built and trains can be run before some of the layout design elements are determined. At the entrance to the office is a return loop with a 30-inch radius, where the track comes within 2 inches of the edge of the framework.



Since this is right at the entrance to the office, this is the first thing visitors see as they enter. So, it needs to look good as soon as possible. And, since I am not yet certain what this area is supposed to look like (there will be a siding at this end, but leading to what?), I've opted for some temporary scenery so visitors don't just see the plywood sub roadwork and framework.

The wider parts of the edge of the world are begin turned into a swamp with alders and cattails and lily pads, roughly modeled on Mud Pond in Dexter, ME. Mud Pond (which Google Maps calls Lily Pond) is located right next to the rail trail (the old MEC line) between Newport and Dover-Foxcroft, ME is about three miles north of Dam Street in Dexter.



The base of the swamp is made of clear plastic from old report covers. There are three pieces cut to fit the gaps between the plywood sub roadbed and the edge of the frame. The underside of the plastic is painted with a mix of green and brown shades of acrylic paint. This keeps the surface smooth and shiny. (While the surface of lakes and large ponds will usually be disturbed by the wind, tiny water bodies will often be quite still as they are protected from the wind by the Cattails are available from both Busch



and Faller, but I wanted to minimize expenses for this temporary scenery, so my cattails are made from some baling twine I found in the shed. It is unwound and painted with a green acrylic surrounding forest.)



Into the Swamp by Jack Lutz

When dry, 4-6 scale foot cattails are cut from the piece of twine. Bunches are gathered and held with alligator clips. A dot of cyanoacrylate (CA) is applied to the base of each clump to hold it together.



Clumps of cattails are then glued to the surface of the swamp with CA. Given the small area of the swamp, I can only glue a couple of clumps to the swamp at a time. The alligator clips rest on a thin piece of scrap wood to keep them being glued into the swamp.



Lily pads are painted on to the surface in other spots. (They look round to the older eye in dim light, but closeup photos show they are not quite as round as first thought.)



Ground foam clumps (from Woodland Scenics) are glued to the edge of the sub-roadbed, to simulate alders growing along the edge of the swamp.



The seam where two pieces of "swamp plastic" meet is hidden by a fallen tree.



A moose will eventually find his way knee-deep into the swamp, but he needs a little more paint work before he becomes a permanent resident (those silver antlers currently make him a prime target for hunters).



There is still a lot to do to hide the plywood and framework at this end of the CBCC, but the swamp will hide the underpinnings along this part of the edge for now.

What's on my Workbench by Larry Cannon

Since I have filled all but one space on my layout for anymore major structures and I enjoy building structures, I am down to redoing some of my earlier efforts or removing and replacing structures. My first loader for my talc plant lacked some of the logical loading detail because it was on bench work low enough so you looked primarily at detail on the top on the previous level. Now it was on the upper level of the new layout and the top detail was not visible and the missing detail was obvious.



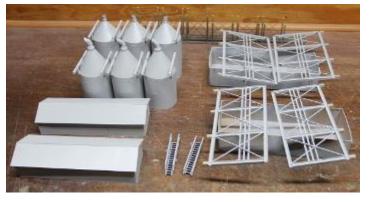
I salvaged six silos or bins and a stairway from parts of an old, AHM I believe, gravel plant building purchased at a train show.



Using some of the inventory of Evergreen structural shapes that I have accumulated over the years to fabricate two similar bases for the silos that are two different shapes. Having the separate bases implies that there is "add-on" architecture involved here.



Using two different sizes of Evergreen Metal Sidings I cut and fitted the penthouse sides and roof using .060" plan styrene for floors.



As you can see, the painting frustration level was minimized. The piece in the background is the part of the purchased structure that was not utilized.



January 2018

What's on my Workbench by Larry Cannon

2018 ERIE

ner convention

I knew painting this structure after it was assembled would probably be a study in frustration, so I designed "paintable" components instead. The picture also shows the maintenance access doors installed on the ends.

Mahwah, New Jersey September 13-16, 2018 **ErieLimited.org**

NMRA

Access is via cherry picker or crane basket.

Seacoast Division NMRA Engraved Name Tags Now Available

The structure has been placed in its new location. The "concrete" support bases are hollow square

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.

and the "steel" plates to span the gaps in the walkways between the two sections will be added.

Editors Note: My Thanks to Larry for another great article. This space is for all members to share what they have on there workbench. Please send me pictures and brief descriptions and I will use them in fu-

ture issues . I know there is some great modeling out

tube and once an operating session or two proves the

structure is properly placed, brads set into the layout

that fit into the square tube will help hold it in place

0	MIKE GRAHAME
C	Director
	DEDVIN

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	\Box		П			T	T	Γ	

Make check payable to: Seacoast Division NMRA Mail order form to: Geoff Anthony PO Box 187 Blue Hill, ME 04614 Send completed name tag to: Name

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there so let other members see it.

The Switch Tower

AP Report by Tom Oxnard MMR NH

Larry Cannon MMR ME

Tom and I have no activity to report since the last BOD meeting. We both know of people who are working on AP Certificates and there is one person from the Maritime Region who I have worked with has approval from NMRA national pending for Scenery. With 3 AP certificates from Mew Hampshire and two from Maine and credit for helping produce three Gold Spiked from New Brunswick, the Division placed high in AP production between NER Conventions and was recognized at the Newport, RI NER Convention.

New Members Welcomed Dave Sias Membership Chair

Mel True, E. Derry, NH Adam Cavanaugh, York, ME Mathias Poulin, Hermon, ME, James Husson, Hampden, ME Lakes Region Model Railroad Museum Wolfeboro, NH

January 2018

Timetable

Jan 6	Seacoast Winter Event	S Portland ME
Jan 27-28	Amherst Show	Springfield MA
Feb 17	Whitefield Lions show	Augusta ME
Feb 25	Worcester Model Railroaders Show	Worcester MA
March 4-5	Bay State Model Rail- road Museum show	Roslindale MA
March 10- 11	Spring Model Rail- road Show	Hingham MA
March 24	Maine 3 Railers Show	Augusta ME
April 15	Dartmouth/ Sunapee Show	North Sutton NH
April 22	Hooksett Lions Show	Hooksett NH



Baileyville Switcher pulls into the old MEC Calais roundhouse lead to let New Brunswick Southern train by . Photo by Harry Gordon







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