



The Switch Tower

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Seacoast Division NMRA www.seacoastnmra.org



Seacoast Division NMRA Fall Event
Saturday, October 13, 10:00am-2:00pm 2
2 Winnicutt rd Stratham Fire House
Stratham NH

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Brandon Kulik's Northern Terminal top photo

Rob Selberg's Port Asbestos layout bottom photo. Both part of the Maine Layout Tour this year

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

The President's Lantern by Chip Faulter

Well, I didn't think I would be writing my last President's Message so soon but by the time you read this, I will have resigned as President of the Seacoast Division NMRA and turned the helm (throttle?) over to Tage Erickson. I was diagnosed with cancer in July and I need to spend most of my energy on fighting through this ... issue. I intend to stay on as a director as long as I feel I am contributing. Talk about turning your world upside down ! Well, you go through the whole range of emotions ... surprise, grief, despair, anger and many others. I had pretty much written model railroading off the list. I mean, why bother? Why continue to create something that will be torn apart or enjoyed by others. I am blessed to have wonderful friends, many of which I met through this hobby. They helped me work through "why bother" stage and I am now productive again.

My illness brings home many things you have read about or may even have experienced about our hobby. Highlighting a few of these:

The friendships you make in this hobby last a lifetime. These friends are not just "train buddies", they are there to support you through good time and bad. Cherish and foster these relationships.

If you haven't attended a regional or national NMRA convention, do it ! I was not able to attend either the NMRA national convention in Kansas City or the NER NMRA regional convention in Mahwah. I really missed being there. While my buddies kept me up to date on which tours they were on and which layouts they had seen, it really made me realize how special those events are.

You need to document your model railroad.

I have a spreadsheet that documents each item on the layout. This data against each item includes purchase price and date, current estimated value and a whole bunch of modeling-related things. Somewhere down the road, your wife, children or people who are dealing with disposal of your model railroad will really thank you for doing this.

You need to give consideration to "disposal" of your model railroad. Some the guys at the Great Falls Model Railroad Club who have dealt with disposal of model railroads over the past few years can attest to the fact that this is both a daunting ... and sobering ...task. Most model railroads (like mine) were built like a brick outhouse... ten guys could stand on top of my benchwork and work on the layout without issue. This is great until it comes to dismantling it or moving it for some reason. Give it some thought as you build. The sobering part comes when you start to dismantle a layout or dispose of modeled items is that some individual spent countless hours building this stuff. It was their life hobby

In the end, it is the enjoyment you get from the hobby that matters most. Whether it be the friends you make, the sense of accomplishment from building a model or layout, operations or any of the other aspects of the hobby, these are things that matter most. And in my case, these are the things that are and will help me deal with my illness.

Candidates for Board of Directors by Bruce Robinson

The January Quarterly Meeting will be the time where Seacoast Division members will have the chance to vote for candidates that have stepped up to run for three open Director positions. Presented below are the biographies of each candidate and their positions on why they want to assume the position of Director.

Michael A. "Mike" Pedersen

I am one of those who can truly say I have been a model railroader all my life. I attribute much of this to



having an uncle who was a model railroader as well as an avid rail fan.

I started out, as did many, with Lionel equipment as a youngster in the 1950's. Truthfully, about all I can remember of my Lionel days was my huge yellow and black Virginian Fairbanks-Morse Trainmaster. I wish I still had it; ones in good condition now are worth a bundle!

In high school I got into HO scale; the typical layout on a sheet of plywood. I still have the engine from those days, a Lilliput 4-6-0, although it is not in running condition.

After high school there was a hiatus in my model railroading. College, the Army, getting married and raising a family put hobbies aside. In the late 70's I moved into the house we still have in North Berwick, Maine, and I occasionally found the time to rekindle my model railroading interests. I didn't know any other modelers at that time, so I worked on my layout on my own as time and money permitted. It continues to grow and is still very much under construction.

In the early 90's I saw an ad in a local paper looking for people wanting to start a model railroad club. I attended the first organizational meeting and that pretty much brought me into the active model railroading field. While the club was active, I was an officer for several years; first secretary, then president. In the late 90's the club fell apart but a small group of us continued to meet and model together, and still do. I had joined the NMRA in the 90's, but let my membership lapse. I rejoined in 2016, after a good friend introduced me to several fellow modelers who were all NMRA Sea Coast Division members. I then helped plan and was a host of the second Maine Model Rail Road Tour and am currently the Coordinator for the 2018 tour.

My philosophy of model railroading emphasizes the hobby aspect. To me, every time I start a new project is a new opportunity to learn. Because of this, my layout encompasses several types of bench work, scenery and weathering. I enjoy kit bashing; both structures and rolling stock. While I appreciate the efforts that others put into electronics and super detailing, I have to say that is not my thing. My goal is to give a visitor the impression that they have been someplace unique.

I hope that as a member of the Board of Directors I can impart some of my enthusiasm to others and encourage each modeler to pursue the hobby in the manner in which they are most comfortable.

Candidates for Board of Directors by Bruce Robinson

Dave B Kotsonis

For those of you who do not know me I am a 69 year old retired Postmaster working for the USPS for thirty seven years. I have been married for 48 wonderful years to my wife Nancy. We have two sons and five grandkids. Not like my two sons, the grandkids love to run the trains.

My interest in trains started when I was in High School, buying a used train set that was advertised in the local paper. That layout was on a four by eight piece of plywood, mounted on two sawhorses. I am now on by forth layout which is twenty two feet by thirty that and was featured in the May 2004 Model Railroader. The layout has been on the Tour de Chooch for the past twenty five years and has also been open to many different rail road events

Over the years I have helped many fellow model railroads to build their layouts, of which I have truly enjoy.



Nothing like seeing that big smile when the have completed a project. Other than model trains, I enjoy restoring rail road equipment. I have a restored a Fairmont MT14 motorcar which I run on the rails in Wolfeboro and Ossipee. I have also done a ground up restoration of a Fairbanks Morse Model 54 motorcar and a MEC velocipede, all of which are operational.

I have been a member of the Cotton Valley Rail and Trail Club since 1998 and have been the treasurer for the past ten years. I am also a fairly new member to the NMRA Seacoast Division going on my third year and my first year as treasure.

I feel I can be an asset to the BOD with my varied background in model railroading as well as my life experiences dealing with people and being on many boards and study groups over the years.

If elected, I not only look forward to working with my fellow BOD members, but my fellow members of the Seacoast Division as well, continuing to keep the Seacoast Division of the NMRA as great as it is.

ERNEST TAGE ERICKSON

I grew up in Staten Island, New York, then spent 8 years on active duty in the U.S. Marine Corps and 27 more years in the Army National Guard, retiring in 2005 at the rank of Colonel. I am a veteran of the Iraq war. I was the Scoutmaster of my son's Boy Scout Troop for a few years and I am also an Eagle Scout. In 2012, I re-



tired from my full time job as an Experimental Test Pilot for Sikorsky Aircraft Co. I have a Bachelor of Science

Candidates for Board of Directors by

Bruce Robinson

Degree in Mechanical Engineering Technology from the University of Dayton, Dayton, Ohio.

My interest in model railroading comes from my childhood when I received my first Tyco train set as a Christmas gift when I was 8 years old. I was an avid modeler while I was growing up and continued to collect model trains as the years went by. I have a small semi-portable Christmas Tree layout in On30 scale. I am presently constructing a much larger permanent layout above my garage, based on [Conrail](#) in New England during the late 70's, in HO scale. I was a member of the Nutmeg Division for a few years prior to moving to Maine and transferring to the Seacoast Division. I enjoy skiing in the winter and golf in the warmer weather.

In the Spring of 2016, the Seacoast Division Board of Directors elected me to fill the vacant Board of Director seat, left by the untimely and unfortunate death of Director Tom Coulombe. Since then, I have been the Quarterly Meeting Coordinator, and I am now the current Seacoast Division Vice President and the Maine Activities Coordinator. Being a part of the Seacoast Division, meeting and working with all of you for the past several years, has been very rewarding. It has been a pleasure to get to know as many of you as I now do. I am very interested in continuing my service to the Seacoast Division as a Director. Thank you!

Derry Fun Night Winner by Bruce Robinson

Walter Jablonski was the winner of the second annual DFN Square Foot contest. Walter's entry depicts a "GREAT ESCAPE!" of cattle that had been brought in by rail and destined to travel the next rail segment as dressed beef. The cows tried to scatter in all directions to avoid the inevitable outcome.

The rules for the Square Foot contest are simple. The size cannot be larger than one square foot and must tell a story. Walter's entry sure met the intent of the rules. Congratulations for a job well done



Maine Layout Tour Review by Geoff Anthony



The Maine layout tour was held this year on September 8 2018. The format was changed a little to include layouts from all over the state. From the accounts I have received the tour was a success for most layout owners. Attendance for some layouts was down and some was up. Having a tour that spanned such a large geographic area was a challenge but the organization was up to the challenge. When you see Mike Pederson next time give him a big thank you for taking on the organization of the Maine Layout Tour. Mike has a few tee shirts left to sell that help with costs associated with the tour and he would be glad to sell you one! They are great Tee's in MEC harvest Yellow with the tour logo on them . Brandon Kuliks Northern Terminal in the top photo. Middle photo is Ed Hamilton's layout. Great to see kids on the tour! Bottom photo is Bob Bennett's layout with Mike Stowe , Jim and Mike Pederson left to right .



Maine Layout Tour Review by Geoff Anthony



Clockwise from Top left - Zachary Lord running light engines on Rob Selberg's N scale St James Sub . Greg McFarland's Boston and Maine layout . Zach Lord and Jim Selberg switching. Sebastian Litrocapes and Jim Selberg work out a head scratcher at the Philip Francis Paper Mill on Rob Selberg's N scale St James Sub

How Old is Your Railroad By Mike Pederson

How old is your railroad? By that I don't mean when did you start building your layout; I mean how old is the railroad you are modeling? Whether you are modeling a prototype or freelancing, the railroad you are depicting has a history. For instance, if you should be modeling a portion of the Baltimore and Ohio, you probably realize that it started about 1829. You may have just the barest outline or an extensive narrative of that history, but almost everyone has some kind of 'back story' for their pike. They have some picture in their



mind of the history of the scenes they are modeling.

Prototype photo along the Boston & Maine showing new signals with the base of the former signals abandoned in place.

An often overlooked consideration is how that history is presented on the layout. Unless someone is modeling the very earliest railroads, any railroad will have a history that can often be glimpsed or hinted at by remaining vestiges of earlier times. Whether you are modeling steam or diesel, a railroad didn't just appear on the scene all at once in one piece. Even the largest modern railroads started

small, and the smallest modern short lines were often once parts of larger lines.

As railroads grow and evolve, their infrastructures grow and change. Outmoded facilities may be torn down, or they may just as well be adapted to a new use or abandoned. Likewise, even as track work becomes more extensive, changing patterns of commerce may cause former main lines to be downgraded, a



branch line to be abandoned or upgraded, or yards to be increased or decreased in size or moved. New easements and alignments may have left former rights of way disconnected and isolated. New signaling systems may also have left traces of the older ones abandoned in place. The question then becomes how can you show the history of your railroad on your layout?

The track to a no longer needed stall in the small engine house has been pulled up

There are a number of things that can easily be modeled to show the passage of time. One rather simple way is to show dates on some of the structures. In particular, brick or stone buildings, bridges or tunnel portals would often have the year of construction

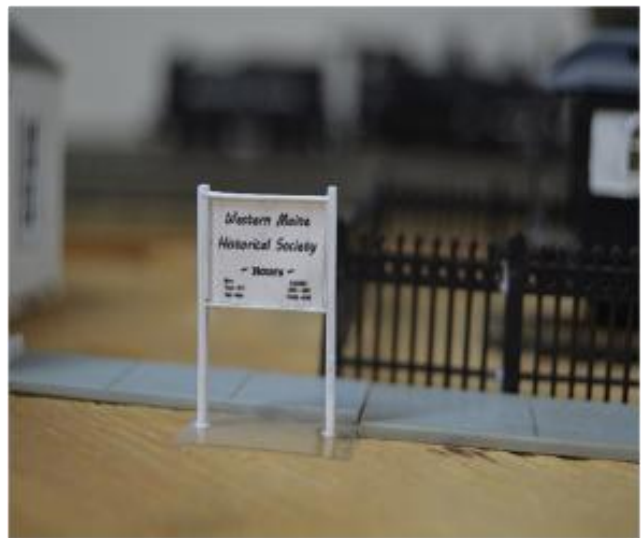
How Old is Your Railroad

By Mike Pederson

carved into a cornerstone or keystone. Architectural styles themselves can lend a sense of passing time. Modern homes, factories and offices do not look like old ones. Interspersing a few older style buildings can lend some depth to the history of a scene. Likewise, the history of the railroad may be shown by adding no longer used or partially torn down engine facilities at the edge of a yard. The site of a former turntable can be modeled by a concrete or stone circle flush with the ground filled with gravel or rubble. At a diamond or yard throat, a boarded up interlocking tower can tell stories of what used to be. If the railroad is now using target signals on masts, the hint of former signal bridges can be shown by putting in weathered concrete tower bases holding torched-off stubs of the support columns

Have business and commerce patterns changed over the years? An abandoned loading dock can be next to an active line or further off, either on an overgrown siding or even next to a faint grade in the weeds showing where a siding used to be. A former branch line, either

Finally, another way to show that your railroad has a history is to depict it through a commemorative park with a piece of early equipment preserved and on display, or by including something that many railroads have – a historical society. A simple building with a sign tells visitors not only that your railroad has a history, but also that there is a group of people who care about it and want to preserve its memory.



President's Lantern by Tage Erickson

By now, you should have all heard that our Division President, Chip Faulter has resigned from his post due to health reasons. We all wish Chip a successful journey as he battles with cancer. Sometimes, life gets in the way of your goals and ambitions, and you just have to modify them or create new ones. Regardless of the path that your life takes, you still have to attack it with as much energy as possible, with lots of determination and mental resolve. Chip will certainly do that, and in the process, he will no doubt set a fine example for the rest of us.

When I first joined the Seacoast Division, not that long ago, I can remember how excited I was to attend the first several meetings. I was very impressed with the level of modeling experience that many of the members have. I knew this was the best place for me to gain the knowledge that I need to construct my own layout. Since then, I have had the great pleasure of meeting many of our members and making several new life long friends. I have been involved with many of the activities and events, and I have vastly increased my knowledge and skill level as a modeler.

So I need to talk a bit about my personal goals in this great hobby. My layout has begun and I am well on the way to my first Model Railroader Magazine cover story. I can dream, can't I? Do you think my goals are a bit lofty? I guess time will tell. But I am really excited about the journey that will get me there. I hope that each and every one of our members has goals like that. We have Division members with knowledge and experience in our great hobby, that can help get you there to accomplish your own individual goals.

Regarding the Division goals, I am very fortunate to be in a position where I can step up and assume the duties as Division President, although

this is not how I envisioned this happening. It was only just 2 1/2 years ago that I was asked to become a Board member. So now, here I am! We will continue on our current path with our Quarterly Events and our support of local trains shows and events. I will need someone to step up and take over the duties of Maine Activities Coordinator, and I would really like to see the level of participation at our Quarterly Events increase.

We need all of you to step up and participate, just a bit more. There is so much talent in our Division. Your participation means so much to all of us! I can honestly tell you that since I have been a member of this Division, I have gotten out of it, much more than I have put into it. The friendships I have gained and the modeling knowledge that I have learned are priceless and mean the world to me!

In closing, let me say again to Chip and Mona, that I wish you complete success as you go down this path together. Chip, thank you for all the guidance, the knowledge and the support, but mostly for your friendship. Indeed, I have a tough act to follow.

My best regards to all,
Tage

Seacoast Division Fall Event

By Glenn Mitchell

All NMRA members and people interested in becoming NMRA members are invited to the Fall Event of the Seacoast Division NMRA in Stratham, NH.

A New Format at this Event - We're trying something different.

Hands-On Operation on Ken May's Portable Switching Layout:

We are very fortunate to have Mr. Ken May and his HO portable switching layout available to us at this Event. Ken is a past president of the North East Region, NMRA, and has been involved in our great hobby and the NMRA for most of his adult life. Ken and several of his modeling friends from the Nutmeg Division, will set up his switching layout in our Event room. Ken's layout is a 2 ft x 24 ft switching layout. One side of the layout is a mirror image of the other side, so there will be an opportunity for 2 crews to work simultaneously on their respective assignments. Each crew will consist of an engineer and a conductor. The switching assignments should take no more than 20 to 30 minutes to complete. Ken uses NCE DCC equipment to operate this layout and a car card system to keep track of car movements. We will have a sign-up sheet at the meeting where you and a buddy can sign up to be a part of this and enjoy some great operating experience.

Improving Your Modeling Through the NMRA Achievement Program:

While the Ken's layout is in operation, we will be having a panel discussion about Improving Your Modeling Through the NMRA Achievement Program. The panel, made up of two of the Seacoast Division's Master Model Railroaders (MMRs) and two other members who have been trained as AP evaluators/contest judges, will present aspects of the NMRA Achievement Program and will answer questions from the members.

We all want to improve our modeling. We see outstanding layouts, structures, or rolling stock built by fellow modelers and wonder how do we get ours to look as good? That is where the Achievement Program (AP) comes in. Maybe you have thought about the AP in the past but put it off or decided that it was too hard or time consuming. Here's the opportunity hear about AP from modelers who have been through it.

One of our MMRs, Larry Cannon, describes it this way:

"The purpose of the program is to help people sometimes work outside their comfort zone. It is not supposed to be a series of contests, but personal development and expanded involvement in the hobby."

NMRA National Convention and NER Erie Limited Convention Reports:

Tage Erickson will give us a rundown on all of the clinics, presentations, field trips, op sessions and layout tours that he attended while at the NMRA National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri, and the North East Regional Convention – The Erie Limited – in Mahwah New Jersey.

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 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

Seacoast Fall Event by Glenn Mitchell

on each item with your name and the asking price. Maybe one of your fellow members might be interested!

Layout Tours:

Tom Oxnard's Boston & Maine (HO) - Tom Oxnard, MMR, models the New Hampshire Division of the B&M in 1953. It is a freelance layout from Boston into New Hampshire; point to point through city, towns and country. HO; 100% scenery. Latest project is the Charles River Draw Bridge (see article in RMC Sept 2018). Next project is a new North Station for Boston.

Gregg McFarland's B&M White Mountain Division (HO) – Gregg McFarland models the White Mountains Division of the Boston & Maine. The layout is still under construction and trains are running. There is a small amount of scenery including a multi-building Paper Mill. There is large yard depicting White River Jct. in the early to mid 70's. Gregg uses NCE DCC.

Please take time to visit these layouts on your way home from the Fall Event!

There will be a 30 minute break for lunch and socializing. Bring your lunch or visit food establishments within close proximity to the meeting.

There will be a drawing for door prizes, too!

A Board of Directors meeting will precede the program at 8:30 AM.

Help the Seacoast Division Grow by Lou Champagne

The Seacoast Division currently has 178 individual members and 5 Club members. Our membership is comprised of diverse and talented model railroad enthusiasts. The range of expertise represented by our members covers all areas of our multi-faceted hobby and this is always evident in our Quarterly Events. For all of us, that's a real benefit ... because, individually, we are all very good at some things, OK at other things and downright scared to try some things ... but because of our talent pool, you can always find the

Help The Seacoast Grow

support you need with whatever it is that you're working on or would like to work on. That puts the Seacoast Division in a good position to fulfill its Mission: To promote model railroading throughout Maine & New Hampshire through education, promotion of model railroading activities, serving as local resources for individual model railroaders, and supporting local model railroad groups.

But ... your help is needed to keep the Division strong and vibrant ! We are strong at 178 individual members, but would be much stronger and healthier if we had 200+ members. If you've not noticed, the average age of our group is not low ...

Here's how you can help the Division grow ... when speaking with others in the hobby, whether they be friends, acquaintances or strangers, ask if they belong to the NMRA and ,if not, ...

Talk to them about the benefits of membership in the NMRA and specifically, the Seacoast Division. For great talking points, see pages 38-39 in the current August issue of the *NMRA Magazine*.

Visit our website with them & also the NER & NMRA websites.

Show, give or let them borrow copies of *The Switch Tower*, *The Coupler* and the *NMRA Magazine*.

Show (or forward to) them the *NMRA Turntable* that comes via email.

Invite them to come with you as a guest to the next quarterly event, Derry Fun Night or other Seacoast function.

Invite them as a guest to a local operating session if available.

Have other current members talk to a potential new member.

Let them know that a big discount is available for the first 9 months of NMRA membership through the Rail Pass program (plus the Division will cover part of that cost). The initial 9 months ends up being only ten dollars.

If you need materials to work with, let me know & I will email or send them to you.

(lucien.champagne@roadrunner.com // 207-229-5475)

Together, we can increase our membership ... THANK YOU in advance for your help in recruiting new members to the Seacoast Division !!

Signs for your Railroad By Tom Oxnard

I enjoy building structures. And a big part of that is the signage. When I am looking for a kit to possibly buy I am drawn to the signs as much as the size, shape, and details of the building. When I scratch build a structure the signs are equally important as they convey a purpose, an era, and realism to the scene.

There are many sources of signs, from decals, to dry transfer, magazine advertisements, catalogs, vintage books, and a large collection of on line companies. I have a couple of large folders full of pages of signs that I have collected or printed over the years.

But it is also fun to create your signs using your own camera. There are wonderful signs all around you. I have scratch built some of the buildings in town and used their ready made signs. Romeo's Pizza and Subs is next to our railroad tracks, and Gerry's Variety and Trackside Cafe is in fact in our historic train station. The High Street Market model is in town and not only uses their sign, but a photograph of the whole front window. I had to cover some of the current prices with an S&H Green stamp and Pepsi decal.

Another place I model is Ashland NH, where I have driven through all my life on the way to Squam Lake. I was sure to add the iconic Bob's Shur Fine Market sign from a photo in downtown Ashland.

Another way to personalize your signs is to alter the ones you have or that come in a kit. The "Ashland Lumber Co" sign started as the Barnstead Lumber Co, a Fine Scale Miniatures Kit by George Selios. The Motorcycle Repair shop became Nettleton's in honor of my sister-in-law who used to ride motorcycles.

This past year I wanted to upgrade my seacoast Portsmouth buildings. I bought a Fos Scale Models kit of Rohlen Welding that would look good on my waterfront dock. Although the kit had lovely signs I replaced them

with signs that I found on the internet when doing a Google Image search for "lobster pound" and "fish market". There are seven signs that I downloaded. I printed them as small as I could, but not small enough. I took that page to Staples and had them photocopy it on photo paper at 25%, 30% and 35% size. All for less than a dollar.

The last sign, Andy's Seafood Co, is a sign that I have been looking at for years as I drive north from Boston on Route 1 in Saugus. I stopped and took several pictures at different sizes and chose the one that fit. So



there are hundreds of signs out there for you to use on your layout, and many of you carry a wonderful cam-



era at all times, your i-Phone. It is easier than you think to personalize your railroad.

Adding an Icing Platform for increased Operation

By Lou Champagne

The main focus of my Cape Porpoise & Western RR has always been operations. So, it's not surprising that my mind was running in a lot of different directions as I drove towards Massachusetts last Thanksgiving Weekend to see some layouts on the "Tour de Chooch".

At some point (maybe in NH), the thought of an icing platform appeared. I had a lot of reefers, many of which were older and had to be refrigerated by ice ... so there was certainly a rational for adding an icing platform. But where? Wait, if I were to extend a track in the passenger service area plus slightly relocate a couple of other tracks, a platform would probably fit. That could be really good because it would give my stationmaster additional work to do ... on top of handling main line, local & commuter passenger service plus all the head end RPOs and Express reefers going between the main line passenger trains and the local USPS/REA facility. The extra business would very definitely make that job more interesting & challenging.

After arriving home that night and examining my passenger area, it really looked like my idea could work if I found a platform that would fit the space. I checked the Walthers catalog, but found what I wanted at the Tichy website. The Tichy kit (#1014) was a model of the "standard" PFE icing platform; it was 132 scale feet (18") long and its width fit my space perfectly. Since Tichy offers a 6" (44') extension kit (#7016), I added one so that I would have a 176' long platform, long enough to service up to four 40' reefers at a time. This turned out to be perfect as my operating scheme developed.

The kit had good instructions, was really fun to build and went together very nicely; but there are a couple of things to be aware of. First, there are lots of small pieces with many sprue attachment points. This meant a lot of time preparing the pieces for assembly ... patience was important & did lead to easy construction. Secondly, the instructions recommend assembling the entire kit before doing any painting. I chose not to do that, painted almost everything first and then assembled ... it turned out to be a great decision! Painting after assembly would have been a nightmare. The one exception was the 17 truss post assemblies ... these I did assemble first before painting.

One last tip regards the drop-down loading doors. The instructions recommend varying the degree that doors are open, but to not bend them open too much for fear of breaking them off. I really wanted to have doors fully open in a realistic ice-loading position. I was able to accomplish this by using a scribing tool (#60728 from Micro-Mark). The scribing tool peels off a small layer of plastic with each stroke, so I went slowly, but very deep and was able to get the doors open to an almost horizontal position. At this point, I painted the scribed area, adding additional layers of paint once the first dried. This helped to fill in the scribe channel and make it disappear as well as to strengthen the joint. The kit does not supply chain to hold the doors open, but I did find scale chain in the Walthers Catalog: 40 links/inch pre-blackened brass chain from A Line (Walthers

Adding an Icing Platform for increased Operation

By Lou Champagne

part # 29220). The chains were tricky to install, but the finished result was great.

Since I did not have space for an ice house (& didn't want to pretend that it was just out of sight in the aisle !), the next question was where did the ice come from. The answer was, that since the platform would only service 5 reefers per day, it could be trucked in. That meant the need for a conveyor to get the ice up to the platform and that was accomplished by kit-bashing a Walthers Cornerstone conveyor kit (#933-3149). It was modified to fit and the conveyor belt had slats attached in order to not have the ice pieces slide off. I then found and added a "bulk ice platform" from [CCLaser](#) to provide on site storage for ice. A couple of delivery trucks and some workers put the entire operation to work.

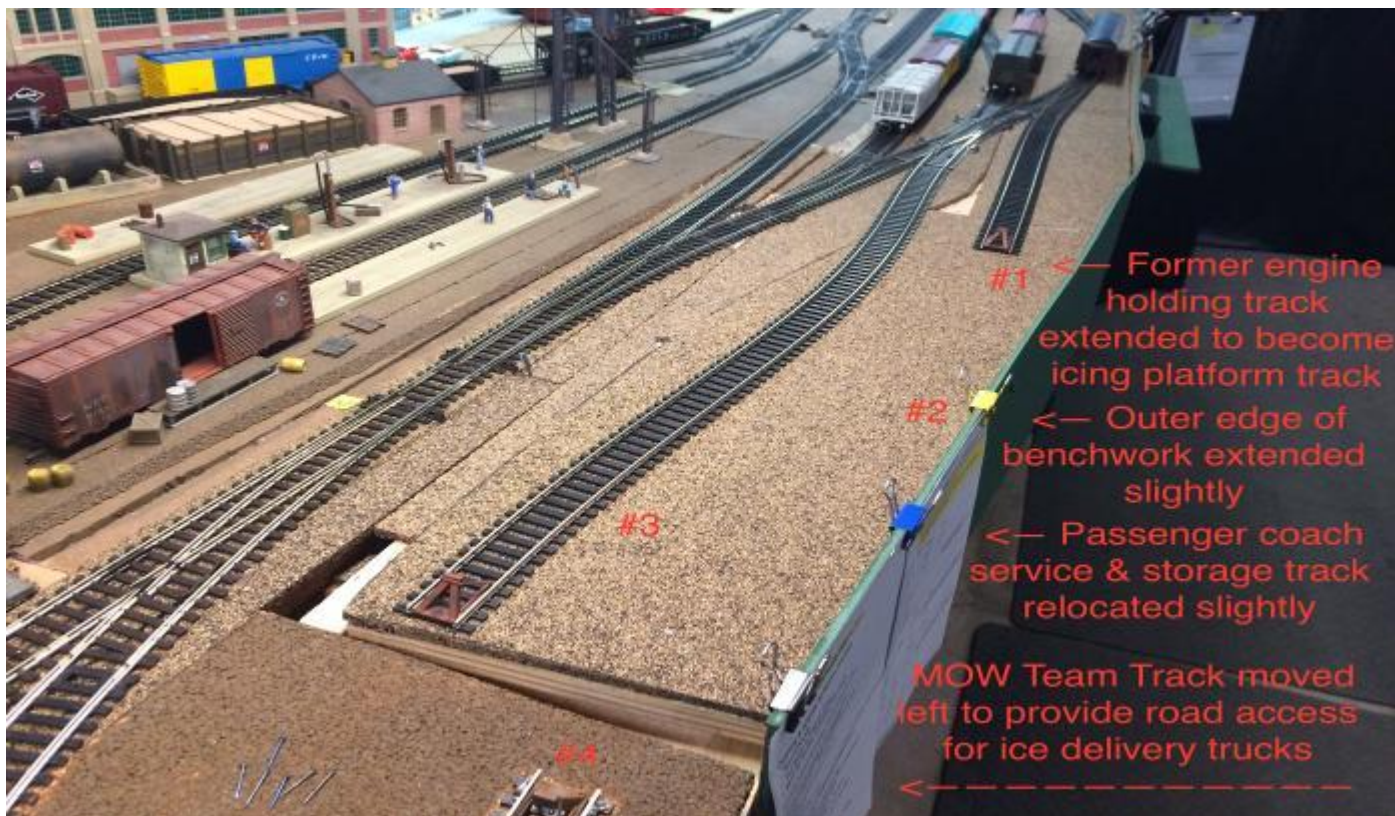
Five reefers are now serviced daily during an OPS session. Typically, these are cars that get pulled out of a passing way freight ... they need to be re-iced before being added to the next train going in the same direction. The intervals between arriving and departing reefers varies, so the stationmaster has to stay on his toes in order to juggle this traffic along with all the other responsibilities.

From that original highway thought, I have been able to develop a very busy and visually pleasing scene on the railroad while adding a significant amount of operating interest.



Top photo shows the track layout before adding the icing platform . The bottom photo shows the icing platform in use





Seacoast Division NMRA Engraved

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

[illegible]

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Blue Hill, ME 04614

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Before and after shots on Lou's Layout

The Switch Tower

AP Report by Tom Oxnard MMR NH

There was no news on the AP front this quarter .
Lets do better next time

New Members Welcomed Lou Champagne Membership Chair

Larry Forkum, Rochester, NH

Larry Rine, West Lebanon, NH

Howard Devaney , Old Town ME

January 2018

Timetable

Oct 13	Seacoast Fall Event	Stratham NH
Oct 13	Crawford Notch excursion 470 club	N Conway NH
Oct 21	Granitecon Model show	Manchester NH
Oct 27	40 th Train show Am-monuuc Valley	Lincoln NH
Oct 26-27	Ghost Train Boothbay Village	Boothbay ME
Nov 3	Fall Show Great Falls RR club	Topsham ME
Nov 3	New England Fall Show	Dover NH
Nov 17	Eastern Maine Model RR Club Show	Brewer ME



Coxton Yard on the Reading and Northern photo by Brand Kulik

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