



The Switch Tower

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Seacoast Division NMRA www.seacoastnmra.org



**. Seacoast Division NMRA Summer Event
Saturday, July 20, 2019, 10:00am-2:00pm**

**Great falls Model Railroad Club
144 Mill St., Auburn Maine 04210**

Editor's Ramblings'

Geoff Anthony

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Happy Summer to all the members! I want to take this opportunity to apologize to the membership for the late issue of the Switch Tower. I have experienced a number of issues with work and my health and family . So it's been a perfect storm for me and my hobby. I promise to have the next issue out on time . **You can help by writing some articles for the Switch Tower.** I don't expect perfection just something that I can use in the issue. It can be anything model or prototype related . What's on your work bench is a column I would be happy to do every issue . So take a couple of pictures and a few notes and send them to me. I hope everyone has a great rest of the Summer and it continues into the Fall. So you have gotten your train orders and now have full green. Enjoy

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

The President's Lantern by Tage Erickson

Hello Model Railroaders,

Spring is definitely here, although it is June, and we have not had very many warm days here in Central Maine, yet. It has been some time since I sent out a message. So on this rainy and dreary Sunday, I thought it would be good to do just that. On a personal note, I have been working hard on my own layout and I am pleased to report that the first trains are running on the Sand Pond & Northern Railroad. There will be a presentation about this at a Division Event in the future.

As most of you know, our 2018 President, Chip Faulter, had to resign his position this year due to medical issues. Chip went through an extensive chemo-therapy program for treatment of his pancreatic cancer condition, and then that was followed by a successful operation to remove the vestiges of the tumor. I am happy to report that the treatments and the operation were successful and he is now cancer free. Chip is now going through a "final" program of chemo-therapy to close out his program of treatment. Our best wishes go out to Chip as he goes through this last stretch towards finishing these treatments.

Here is a summary of some of the issues and events that have been happening in our area, this Spring:

Seacoast Division 2019 Summer Event

With less than 7 weeks to go, we still need presenters for our upcoming 2019 Summer Event. Our Seacoast Division 2019 Summer Event will be held on Saturday, July 20, 2019 at the Great Falls Model Railroad Club, 144 Mill Street in Auburn, Maine. If you have a presentation that relates to modeling, that you feel would be of benefit to our members, please get in touch with me or Glenn Mitchell, as soon as possible. At this time, we have unfortunately had a few cancellations and we only have one confirmed presenter. We need your help! We would be interested in topics that relate to track work, painting/weathering, electrical work, layout design, structures, rolling stock, layout infrastructure(roads, signals, scenery). Those of you that are contemplating a short presentation during the Show & Tell & Ask, please let us know about that, as well. Thank you!

Seacoast Division 2019 Spring Event (summary courtesy of Glenn Mitchell)

The Seacoast Division Spring Event was held on April 6, 2019 at the Newington Old Town Hall, 334 Nimble Hill Rd., Newington New Hampshire. Thirty-seven(37) members and two(2) guests attended the Event. The Seacoast Division would like to thank John Newick for providing the venue. This was the first time the Seacoast Division held a meeting at the Newington Old Town Hall. The second floor meeting room was the ideal size for the event and was well equipped for our needs. Overall, a great location for the Spring Event.

Tom Oxnard MMR, Tom Nelson, and Mike Pedersen gave terrific presentations at the Event. Tom Oxnard's presentation about "How to Scratch Build a Locomotive" was very special. Tom went

The President's Lantern by Tage Erickson

through all the details on how he scratch built a very rare Boston & Maine GE-IR 1100 Center Cab switcher. Tom was able to show us the final product that he ran on the test track. This was a superb effort by Tom as he is seeking to complete the requirements for the "Master Builder - Motive Power" AP award.

Tom Nelson was the second presenter and his topic was "An Introduction to LCC". Tom is on the committee that has developed the NMRA standards for LCC. He talked about what LCC is, and what it isn't and compared and contrasted LCC to DCC. The presentation was very informative on a very current topic. At the end of his presentation, Tom demonstrated a typical LCC function on his portable layout. This was a really excellent presentation by Tom.

The third and last presenter was Mike Pedersen. Mike presented "Uncle Bob's Trains". The presentation was a sample of the great collection of photos taken by his uncle Robert L. Wilkerson. Mike's Uncle Bob, who lived in the Chicago area, traveled extensively to capture photo's, primarily of steam locomotives, in the mid-west and eastern states. Most of the steam locomotives were shot in their final days of service. Most of the locomotives are now gone, as well as most of the railroads that operated them. We thank Mike for giving us this great look back at the glory days of railroading.

The "Show, Tell and Ask" session had the largest number of participants in recent history. Rich Breton led off with his explanation of how he created stained glass windows in model railroad structures. First time attendee and guest, 10 year old Namo Lomax, presented three HO scale freight cars that he built. Namo did a great job modeling and presenting and we hope to see him at future events. Paul Lessard presented two boxcars and a covered hopper and described the many weathering techniques that he used. Tom Oxnard showed his York Industries and Olympia Tool and Die buildings made from ITLA brand modular building kits that are fabricated from laser cut MDF (medium density fiberboard). Dave Emery presented his 3D-printed automobile and several City Classics company houses. Lastly, Jim Wiggins showed the audience his N-scale super detailed locomotives. Also, earlier in the program, Chris Oliver presented several of his structures. We would like to thank all of the presenters for taking the time to show their work to all the members.

Following the Event, John Newick's Central Maine & Aroostook Railroad and Dick Fralick's New Haven & Central Railroad were open for layout tours for our members. We really appreciate the efforts of all the presenters and layout owners that made this Event such a tremendous success. The next event will be our Division Summer Event, to be held on July 20, 2019 at the Great Falls Model Railroad Club, 144 Mill St., Auburn, Maine. We hope to see you there!

The President's Lantern by Tage Erickson

Southern Maine Model Railroad Club Train Show

The first annual Southern Maine Model Railroad Club Train Show was held on April 6, 2019 at the Westbrook Community Center, in Westbrook, Maine. Our Membership Chairman, Lou Champagne and our Treasurer, Dave Kotsonis attended the show. The show was successful and they had a pretty steady flow of people at our Seacoast Division display for most of the day. They seemed very happy with the turnout. Lou Champagne reports:

"We had a very successful day with 2 new Rail Pass members & one new full regular member. Dave was a natural at working the table and did a great job !! Two of our new members were folks I've been staying in touch with for 1-2 years ... so, following up with people who show an interest initially does pay off. The additional good news is that seven folks gave us their contact info so that we could remind them of upcoming meetings, etc (Dave was especially good at getting folks to register). I'll be sending all these folks an email within the next couple of days."

You may have noticed that the SMMRC Train Show was held on the same day as our Division Spring Event. Unfortunately, this conflict could not be avoided. We will work with the leadership of the SMMRC to insure that this does not happen again, in future years.

CNY Division Ops 'til You Drop 2019

On the weekend of April 27-28, 2019, I attended 3 Op Sessions in the Syracuse, NY area during the CNY Division Ops 'til you drop annual weekend. There were 8 layouts that were available for the 3 Op session periods. This is the second year that I have done this. The 3 layouts that I operated on, were all wonderful experiences that I won't soon forget. These sessions are open to all in the Northeast Region and I decided to take advantage of it. You can sign up for this, also. There are many opportunities in our NER to attend sessions like this. There is the Railrun Ops weekend in late March or April in the New Hampshire/Massachusetts area, and also the Hudson-Berkshire Division has something like this in the Albany, NY area. Please contact me at any time and I can get you more information.

Train Shows in the New England Area

Your Seacoast Division Directors are working to put together a list of local area train shows that we will support with our Division Displays. We currently support several train shows in our area each year. We could use your help with manning these displays at those shows. We use these shows as a place to show prospective members all the advantages of being an NMRA member. Once we publish the list of shows for the year, please consider giving an hour or two of your time to help us do some recruiting at these shows.

So that's about it for now. The NMRA and NER 2019 Conventions are still coming up and I hope as many of you as possible are considering attending one or both of these conventions. There is so much you can learn about our hobby at these events.

Please consider my request for clinicians/presenters for our upcoming Summer Event. We need your help with this. Thank you!

Best regards, Tage Erickson Seacoast Division President

Seacoast Division Summer Event by Glenn Mitchell

All NMRA members and people interested in becoming NMRA members are invited to the Summer Event of the Seacoast Division NMRA.

Presentations:

NMRA National Convention in Salt Lake City by Tage Erickson

Tage will present his experiences from his trip to the NMRA National Convention.

Developing a Rolling Stock Roster by Larry Cannon, MMR

Larry Cannon's clinic explores planning a freight car roster that supports a layout with 260+ car spotting locations and creating the information to plug into a mathematical matrix to test if the car fleet will satisfy basic operating needs of the layout. It includes planning for cars needed to be in route or in staging and an explanation of train assembly/switch lists utilized for operations.

Alternative Structures for the Railroad by Bob Bennett

Bob Bennett is approaching the final stages of construction on his On30 South China and Sheepscot River Railroad, but that doesn't mean that he has to stop scratch building outstanding structures. Bob will demonstrate how he continues to build a number of Maine-based flagstop stations and water tanks and swaps them out with existing structures on his layout. Many of his structures have been featured in magazines and you may recognize them. Bob will bring in many samples of his work and mock-ups of locations on his layout to demonstrate his technique.

Pulp and Paper Mill Car Fleets by Dr. Jack Lutz

At the Seacoast Division's 2019 Winter Meeting, Chuck Hastings presented "Modeling a Paper Mill", where he discussed pulp and paper mill operations and the types of railroad cars that bring materials in and out of those mills. In this presentation, Jack uses published reports and data to estimate how many cars of each type would arrive at or leave a mill in a week (or a year). His research and analysis indicate he needs to add a few more tank cars and several modern high-capacity covered hoppers to his car fleet.

Prototype Railroad Photographs in Maine and New England by Victor Hand

Palmer Ice kits have arrived

If you ordered a Palmer Ice House kit, bring your \$25 and Dave Kotsonis will give you a kit.

Seacoast Division Summer Event by Glenn Mitchell

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

Layout Tours - Please take time to visit these layouts on your way home from the Summer Event!

Larry Cannon's Otter Valley Lines (HO)

The HO Otter Valley Railroad layout is 95% complete on two levels and features more than 80 industries with 260+ car spotting locations and well over 100 structures. There are four yards that originate trains and two small staging yards. The layout is NCE DCC. In addition to the home road, MEC, CN/CV, D&H and CP trains operate on the layout. The geographic territory extends from Richford, VT South to Wells River, VT and from Rouses Point, NY East to Whitefield, NH. The period modeled is 1980 into the 1990's.

There will be a 30 minute break for lunch and socializing. Bring your lunch or buy 2 hotdogs with chili, chips, and a soda for \$5.00

There will be a drawing for door prizes, too!

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

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

Next Event: The Fall 2019 Event will be held at the Stratham Fire Station, 2 Winnicutt Rd., Stratham NH on Saturday October 12, 2019. *Mark your calendar and save the date!!*

www.seacoastnmra.org

Membership Siding

By Lou Champagne Membership Chair

Unable to get to a Seacoast Quarterly Event or NMRA National Convention ?

The Seacoast Division's Quarterly Events represent a great opportunity for fellowship & education. Our programs are always full of great information to help all of us "up our game" as model railroad hobbyists. Unfortunately, whenever we schedule our programs, there will always be some members who have a conflict and are unable to attend. In addition, for many of our members, the distance between home and the event site presents a challenge. Fortunately, there is at least a partial solution to these issues. Go to the Seacoast Division website at seacoastnmra.org and click on the "Resources" tab. What you will find is that slide decks from some of the clinic presentations are available for you to review. One of our current goals is to have the highlights from every presentation available on the website. Also note that there are currently 146 videos of NMRA National Convention clinics available on the NMRA website. Simply go to nmra.org, click on "member log-in" and select "WATCH Clinic Videos". These are great educational opportunities from the comforts of home !

Key Benefit Review: *NMRA "Partnership Program"*

Do you like saving money on model RR purchases ? ... I'm pretty sure the answer is "Yes", so don't forget to check out and utilize the NMRA's "Partnership Program". There are currently 40 companies participating in the program including: Gatorfoam, LARC Products, Micro-Mark, MRC, Rusty Stumps, N Scale Architect, Badger Airbrush ... with discounts ranging from 10-25 %. To take advantage of this program, simply go to the NMRA website at nmra.org, click on "member log-in", then the "Benefits" tab and select "NMRA Partnership Program". All the partners are listed along with an explanation of their discount and how to get it. It's that simple !

Looking for personal Seacoast stories:

Our goal at the Seacoast Division is to provide value to each of our members. "Value" can differ greatly from member to member. For me, because of my interest in operations, value was meeting Dave Sias in Meredith, NH. Through his generosity in letting me operate on his "B&M Mountain Division", I learned a great deal about operations and developed ideas for my own "CP&W". By attending Seacoast meetings, I met great new friends who eventually became regular members of my operating crew. In the process, I was able to complete my "Chief Dispatcher" AP Certificate plus my railroad's quality & enjoyment grew by leaps & bounds thanks to all the positive ideas from my crew. That is value !

I would love to hear your story ... how have you gotten value from being a member of the NMRA and the Seacoast Division ? You can certainly remain anonymous if you like, but I and the members of the division would love to hear from you. Having a collection of "value" stories will help us explain to prospective new members why joining Seacoast NMRA is a very worthwhile and positive step. Just send me an email at lucien.champagne@roadrunner.com ... Thanks in advance for sharing !!

New Seacoast NMRA Members:

Maine: Henry Blaisdell, Westbrook; Ted Gerber, Waterford; William King Jr., Bath;
John Middleton, Kennebunkport

New Hampshire: Alan Bridgham, Kingston; Bob Hayes, Dover; Griffin Wood, Manchester



For more information check out the Website for tour : WWW.mainemodelrrtour.com

5th Annual
Maine Model Railroad Tour
September 28 & 29, 2019
Many Layouts - Many Scales
and Gauges
Free
Self-Guided

Prototype Inspiration by Geoff Anthony



Here is an old Bangor and Aroostook pulp wood car the has survived in to the CMQ era . Photo was in 2018 at the entrance to Searsport yard . Not hard to modify a available car to give you a more prototype car.



Prototype Inspiration by Geoff Anthony



It was a quiet day in Searsport so I had no trouble getting some close up shots



Prototype Inspiration by Geoff Anthony



Here is a fully load car of the same class . Great to have an example of what it looks like loaded
Photo below was shot in Waterville yard , July 2018 . Good ideas for weathering.



Southern Maine Model RR Club inaugural show

Photos by Geoff Anthony



This layout showed you can have a lot of fun in a limited space. Built by Bar Mills Models on the next page the young girl is enjoying the layout .





AP Report

New Hampshire has had 3 AP Certificates: Paul Lessard has earned his Chief Dispatcher Certificate.

John McHugh has just earned his Chief Dispatcher Certificate (paper work is in the mail)

Tom Oxnard has earned his Motive Power Certificate (available for presentation)

Old caboose out in the woods in Mariahville Maine
Old Maine Central? Photo by Geoff Anthony

Timetable

July 20	Seacoast Summer Event	Auburn Me
Aug 18	Concord Model RR show	Concord NH
Sep 22-28	RR Cumberland Fair	Cumberland ME
Sep 28	Model RR show	Phillips ME
Sep 28 –29	Maine Model RR tour	ME
Oct 12	Seacoast Fall event	Stratham NH
Oct 19	470 club excursion	Conway NH
Oct 26	NETCA fall show	Dover NH



Seacoast Division NMRA Leaders



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