



The Switch Tower

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October 2019

Seacoast Division NMRA www.seacoastnmra.org



. Seacoast Division NMRA Fall Event
Saturday, October 12, 2019, 10:00am-2:00pm
Stratham Firehouse
2 Winnicutt Rd., Stratham NH

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Heritage Park Railroad Museum photo of Mathews station, North Wakefield, 1909.

Photo by Rich Breton. Submission by Bill Graver

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

The President's Lantern by Tage Erickson

The summer has passed and I hope you all found some time to work on your layout or your favorite modeling project, in between all of your other warm weather activities. Unfortunately, I did not get as much done on my layout as I had planned, but there was ample model railroading activities nonetheless. As I mentioned at the Summer Event, the NMRA 2019 Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah was a tremendously enjoyable experience that I will not ever forget. The annual NMRA Convention is an event that is very much worth the time and expense to attend. In the future, I hope that those of you that have never attended one of these conventions, will be able to do so. You will certainly enjoy it! So I want to take this opportunity to bring you up to date on Division activities and to remind you of some of the near-time upcoming events that will soon be upon us.

The Concord Model Railroad Club Train Show

On Sunday, August 18, 2019, the Division supported the Concord Model Railroad Club train show, which took place at the Everett Arena in Concord, New Hampshire. I was pleased to see many of you from the local area come out and support the show. There were lots of layouts on display and of course, the usual gathering of vendors. I thought the show was well attended. Dave Kotsonis and I had the opportunity to speak with many people regarding the benefits of becoming NMRA members. This train show is one of the largest in our area and is well worth supporting each year

Seacoast Division 2019 Fall Event

The quarterly Seacoast Division Fall Event will take place on Saturday, October 12, 2019 at the Stratham Firehouse, 2 Winnicutt Road, in Stratham, New Hampshire. The Event will begin at 10:00 AM and adjourn by 2:30 PM. We will have a great group of clinics which are listed below. Additionally, we will have our "For Sale" table, and our "Show, Tell, and Ask" table. Bruce Robinson will present the entrants and winner of this years one square foot "module" contest. There will be plenty of time for socializing and fellowship. This is a good opportunity to touch base with all your friends in the Division.

James VanBokkelen will present his signaling system on his layout that he designed himself.
Rich Breton will present and demonstrate how to make castings.
Scott Lindquist will present how he makes coal, gravel etc. loads for open topped cars.
Mike Grahame will describe how he uses water based urethane for gluing track and ballast.

Given the subject of the clinics, there will be lots of great modeling information that you can take home and use to help construct your layout or improve your modeling. We are also planning to have layout tours after the Event, but as of this writing, the layout tours have not been finalized. So we have a great Event planned for you and I hope that many of you will decide to attend.

Great Falls Model Railroad Club Fall Train Show

The 2019 GFMRC Fall Train Show will be held on Saturday, November 2, 2019 at the Mt. Ararat High School Gym, 73 Eagles Way, Topsham, Maine 04086, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The Seacoast Division will be manning a table at this show. If you would like to help support this effort,

The President's Lantern by Tage Erickson

please contact our membership chairman, Lou Champagne at lucien.champagne@roadrunner.com. If you can help us man the table for an hour or so during the show, that would be greatly appreciated.

Eastern Maine Model Railroad Club Train Show

The Eastern Maine Model Railroad Club will hold its annual train show at Jeff's Catering, 15 Littlefield Way, Brewer, Maine 04412 on Saturday, November 23, 2019, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Once again, the Seacoast Division will be manning a table and we could use some help from our members. If you will be in the area and would like to donate an hour or two of your time, please contact me at etagee11@earthlink.net.

As you can see, there are a lot of activities this Fall, in our area. I strongly encourage all of you to take advantage of the opportunities presented and be a part of them. There is a lot to see and the possibilities to learn more about our great hobby are abundant. So good luck with your modeling efforts this Fall and I hope to see many of you at one of these events.

Best regards,

Tage Erickson

Seacoast Division President



NER CONVENTION
October 9-12, 2020
Westford, MA

*Banquet
Clinics
Contest
Layout Tours*

*Prototype Tours
Raffle and
Non-Rail
Activities*

MillCity2020.org

The poster features a central map of Maine with a red location pin in the northern part of the state. To the right of the map is a small illustration of a steam locomotive in front of a large industrial building, with the text 'MILL CITY 2020' above it. The background is dark with green and white text.

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.

Presentations:

2019 NMRA NER Convention Report: 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 North East Regional Convention – The Empire Junction – in Syracuse, New York

B&M Signaling System by James van Bokkelen

James built a working signal system for his HO scale, DC/DCC '50s and '60s layout. He followed B&M prototype three ways: Signals and the aspects displayed are based on B&M documents including a 1961 Rule Book, signal control logic is located next to block boundaries and interlockings to minimize wiring, and he avoided unnecessary signals and made maximum use of off-the-shelf electrical parts to keep costs down. 50 minutes

Casting Small Parts: Mold Making / Resin Castings by Rich Breton

Mold making / casting is a way to get small detail parts not otherwise available. This presentation will cover materials, tips and techniques to make masters, various open and closed two-part molds, and alternatives. Live demonstrations are planned including some simple temporary molds. 50 min

Making Open Car Loads by Scott Lindquist

Scott needed a good number of loads for open top cars on his freelanced Oxbow RR. Buying commercial loads for hoppers, gondolas and flat cars that Scott had in mind was possible, but would have been cost prohibitive. With some trial and error Scott was able to make sand, crushed gravel and rip-rap loads that will look great on the layout. The ingredients he used for the loads came from what he had on hand. Hopefully Scott's presentation will help you think about creating your own loads for your open top cars. 30 minutes

Polyurethane - An Alternate Bonding Agent for Scenery by Mike Grahame

Polyurethane is a bonding agent with far more penetration and holding power than other methods. Cost is less than most others and application is just as easy if not more so. Mike will be demonstrating ballast techniques, securing building and even applying scenery to near vertical surfaces. "I vacuum my layout regularly with little or no loss of scenery." 30 minutes.

Seacoast Division Fall 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:

Dave Kotsonis' Greenland Valley RR (HO) – Dave's Greenland Valley RR was featured in the May 2004 Model Railroader. The layout is about 22" x 30" modeling the Boston & Maine in the late 1940's to early 1950's. All track work is done and 95% of the scenery is finished. The layout features a large granite quarry, logging camp, paper mill and a waterfront area. Many of the buildings are scratch built with other kits by Southerner Model Works, Sheepscot Model Products and Fine Scale Miniatures are on the layout.

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.

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

Next Event: The Winter Event will take place on Saturday, January 4, 2020 at the Westbrook Community Center, 426 Bridge Street, Westbrook, Maine. *Mark your calendar and save the date!!*

www.seacoastnmra.org

Membership Siding

By Lou Champagne Membership Chair

Recruiting Reminder:

Help your Seacoast Division grow by keeping it in mind when you're talking with friends & acquaintances who currently don't belong to the NMRA ... tell them about the benefits of membership and encourage them to join or at least attend one of our meetings ... they'll be glad you did !!

Key Benefit Review: NMRA Achievement Program

Would you like to have fun, be challenged, and dramatically improve your modeling skills? Whether it's structure building, scenery, wiring, track design, realistic operations, etc. ... arguably the best way to learn and hone modeling skills is through participation in the NMRA's "Achievement Program". There are eleven certificates that can be earned across four categories: "Model Railroad Equipment" (Master Builder: Motive Power & Cars), "Settings" (Master Builder: Structures, Scenery, Prototype Models), "Engineering & Operations" (Engineer: Civil & Electrical / Chief Dispatcher) and "Service to the Hobby" (Association Official, Association Volunteer, Author). Per the NMRA website ... "Briefly, the AP is a system of requirements for demonstrating a superior level of skill in various aspects of our hobby. It covers not only building various types of models, but also building other things which are important to the hobby, such as scenery, structures, track work, and wiring. It also recognizes service to the hobby and the NMRA, which are important as well. The Achievement Program is also a personal commitment to share one's knowledge with others and to encourage them as they also make the AP journey."

Those who earn 7 of the 11 Achievement Certificates are awarded the Master Model Railroader Certificate (MMR). Earning the MMR designation is a worthy goal, but the journey is the key. Explore AP areas where you'd most like to improve and take small steps ... remember, whenever you are working on your model RR, you're probably doing something that will help you towards qualifying for an AP certificate. Take the first step by qualifying for the Golden Spike Award ... "The Golden Spike is the easiest, and for many people, the first AP award that they earn. It is designed to demonstrate familiarity with different areas of the hobby, rather than expertise in a particular area. So take a look at the requirements - you may find that you have met most, or all of them already."

Our AP coordinators, Larry Cannon (ME) and Tom Oxnard (NH), are available to help you on your journey of personal growth. Reach out to them with any questions or concerns and also discuss the AP program with other Division members who are currently participating. We're looking forward to seeing you awarded an AP certificate at a Division Event soon !

Looking for Train Show Help:

In an effort to attract new members, the Seacoast Division will have a display table at each of the train shows noted below. The lead organizer for each show is noted as well as the show's location & hours. If you are going to be attending a show (or live nearby), we could certainly use your help manning our display table, even if it's just for an hour or two. It's a great way to spend quality time with fellow members and also meet new people involved in our wonderful hobby. If you can help, please contact the coordinating Seacoast member. Thank you in advance !!

Membership Siding

By Lou Champagne Membership Chair

Great Falls Model RR Club Show on Sat., 11/2 from 10-3 at Mt. Ararat High School in Topsham, Me.
— Lou Champagne, 207-229-5475 or at lucien.champagne@roadrunner.com.

Eastern Maine Model RR Club Show on Sat., 11/23 from 10-3 at Jeff's Catering, 15 Littlefield Way, Brewer, Me.
— Tage Erickson, 207-635-2157 or at etagee11@earthlink.net

New Seacoast NMRA Members:

Maine: Charles Mulch, Anson

Heritage Park Railroad Museum photo of Mathews station, North Wakefield, 1909 Photo by Rich Breton , submission Bill Graver



What's on my Workbench by Lou Champagne

Something different this time in this column. Lou Champagne gives a photo and diagram of his latest industry on his layout. From my viewpoint this would be a great addition to any layout providing a crewmember with lots of switching in a compact area.

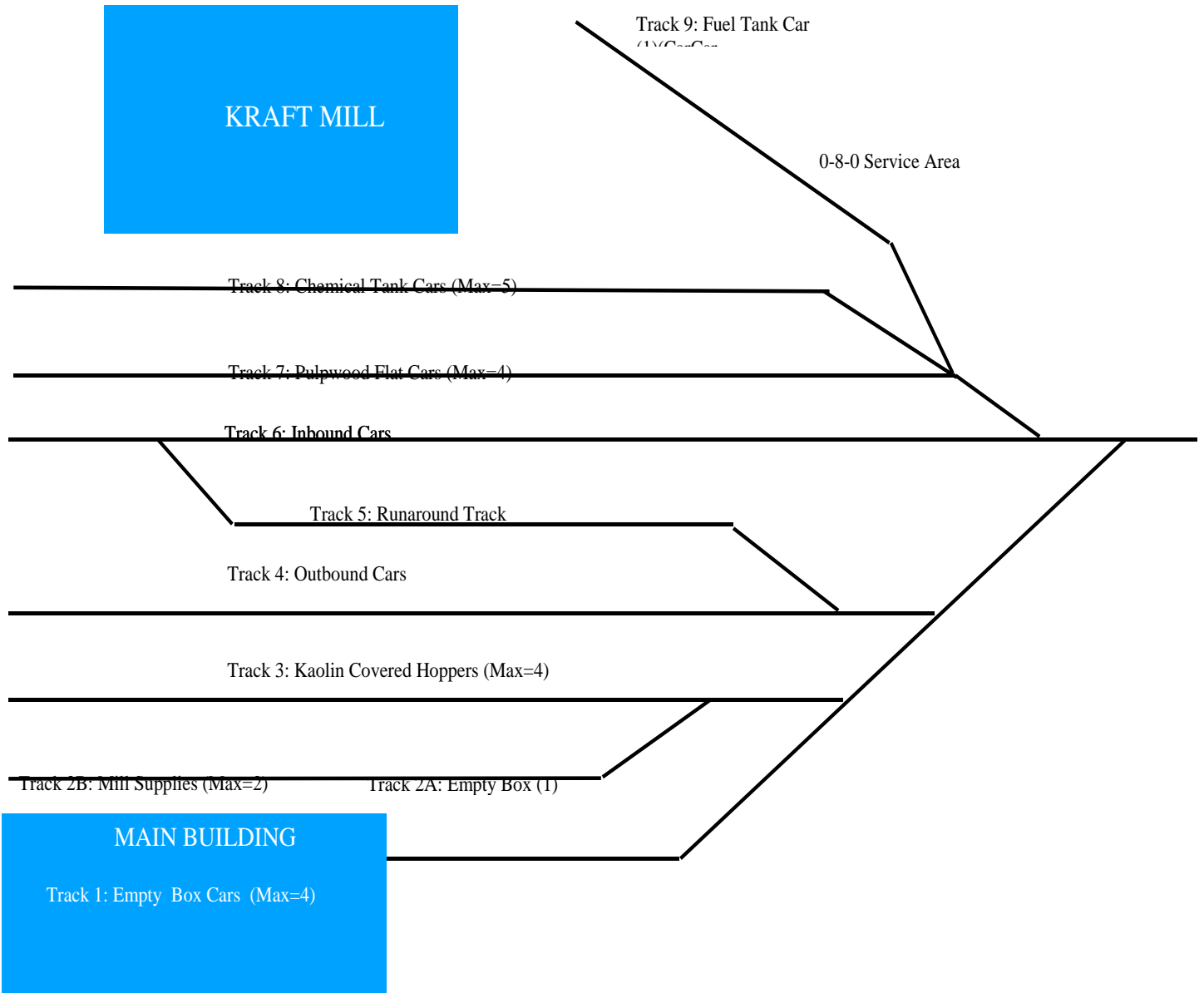
This space is for any member to show off their latest build, model, or section of layout. Please don't hesitate to send along some pictures and a brief description,



What's on my Workbench by Lou Champagne

This mill is serviced by my Cape Porpoise & Western RR and the mill switcher is a Proto 2000 0-8-0. A mirror behind the "piping bridge" effectively deepens the scene. Next up is doing the mill yard's track scenery as well as finding an appropriate backdrop photos.

Brown Paper Company



Seacoast Summer Event by Glenn Mitchell

The Seacoast Division Summer Event was held on July 20, 2019 at the Great Falls Model Railroad Club, 144 Mill Rd., Auburn Me. The Seacoast Division would like to thank all of the members of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club for providing the venue.

The Board of Directors Meeting was held at 8:30. Acting Secretary Chip Faulter will submit a separate report for BOD meeting.

Glenn Mitchell kicked off the Event at 10:00 AM. 25 people attended and 24 were NMRA members. After welcoming everyone and giving opening remarks, he introduced President Tage Erickson.

Tage welcomed the attendees and thanked everyone for coming to the event. Currently the Division Secretary and Maine Activity Coordinator positions are vacant and need to be filled. The North East Region Convention in Syracuse New York was briefly discussed. The convention offers great opportunities to see and operate on outstanding layouts that we have all read about. It was also noted that several Seacoast members will attending the NER convention.

Next, Tage gave a great presentation about his experiences at the National NMRA Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah. He showed photos of each of the layouts that he toured. He noted that everyone models western railroads and they are all very adept at modeling the western scenery. Tage showed photos the re-enactment of the Golden Spike ceremony at Promontory Point. Tage's trip was topped off at a Mormon Tabernacle Choir concert. Thanks Tage for a great presentation.

Two AP awards presented by Larry Cannon, MMR, Maine AP Chairman or Tom Oxnard, MMR, New Hampshire AP Chairman. Paul Lessard received the Chief Dispatcher Achievement Award and Tom Oxnard received the Motive Power Achievement Award.

The first presentation was given by Victor Hand and was titled "Railroads of New England." Victor presented 63 outstanding photos from his huge collection. He started out with an extensive set of Maine railroad pictures starting with the B&M, MEC and BAR and ended with the Guilford Railroad. He worked his way through the rest of New England including steam at Conway, NH, and several shots of the AEM7's, and he even captured a shot of the short-lived Turbo Train. Victor's great technical photographic skill and his knowledge of the New England railroads were used over the years to capture railroad history in New England. The Seacoast members in attendance were rewarded with a fantastic show – Thanks Victor! Victor has agreed to work with us to publish his presentation in *The Switch Tower* in the future.

Larry Cannon, MMR was the second presenter and his topic was "Developing a Freight Car Rolling Stock Inventory." Larry went through his method for determining what type of and how many freight cars are need to operate his Otter Valley Lines layout. With 260 car spotting locations, Larry had determined that the Otter Valley needs over 500 freight cars. Larry has also developed a method of operating his layout that did not require him to create 500 car cards or other burdensome paperwork. Thanks Larry!

Once again our treasurer Dave Kotsonis organized a great lunch. Dave and GFMRRRC member

Seacoast Summer Event by Glenn Mitchell

Terry King served hot dogs, chili, chips, coleslaw, cookies, and drinks to many of the attendees. We are very grateful to Tage's wife Lois for providing the chili, coleslaw and cookies. Proceeds from the lunch support the Seacoast Division. We all thank Dave, Terry, Lois and Tage for their efforts.

After lunch Larry Cannon, ran the Seacoast Division event raffle. Thanks Larry for running the raffle.

The third presenter was Bob Bennett who gave "Alternate Structures for the Railroad." Bob's layout is near completion and real estate for new structures is hard to come by, but that has not stopped him from enjoying his favorite part of model railroading – building structures. Bob showed us how he builds "alternate" structures that match the foot-print of those that are already there. He demonstrated his technique with a small square "module" that he brought with. He also brought multiple unique versions of stations, water tanks and platforms that he scratch built based on many different prototypes. He walked through his construction methods using both strip wood and styrene. Regardless of the construction material, all of his structures look great. Thanks Bob, for sharing your knowledge and techniques with the Seacoast members!

The fourth presenter was Dr. Jack Lutz who talked about "Pulp and Paper Mill Car Fleets." Jack has an extensive background in forestry and gave an overview of the science behind pulp and paper mill production as it applied to past and present mills in Maine. Starting with historical production data, he broke down the quantities of materials and chemicals going into a mill for a given amount of product produced. He then calculated the number of each specific rail car type needed for the daily production at the mill. Jack illustrated that there are a lot more different materials needed in the manufacturing of pulp and paper that might be expected and that dictates a very diverse fleet of freight cars. Once again Jack brings realism to our layouts. Thanks Jack, for a great presentation and for allowing the Seacoast Division to post the presentation to the website!

The "Show, Tell and Ask" session was canceled due to a lack of participants.

The meeting was closed with comments from Tage Erickson and Glenn Mitchell. It is important to reiterate that the Seacoast Division needs members to volunteer for open officer positions and be presenters/clinicians for the future events. Again, we thank the Great Falls Model Railroad Club for hosting the event and all the presenters for their time and effort.

During the event many model railroad sale items were available for purchase by members.

Fall Event was adjourned around 2:00.

Following the Event, Larry Cannon opened his Otter Valley Lines layout to the membership. We thank Larry for his support to the Summer Event.

Board of Directors positions open, Your Help needed for the Seacoast Division

It is that time of year when we have to ask each and every one of you if you have any interest in becoming a member of our Division Board of Directors. Each year at our Winter Event, we elect/re-elect 3 BOD members to serve a 3 year term. This is your chance to become more involved with the NMRA within our Division and be a part of the planning and execution of our events. As you have all heard me say on numerous occasions, we need your help! The duties of a member of the Board of Directors are listed on-line in the Division By-Laws, which can be found on the Division website, www.seacoastnmra.org, and then by selecting "About Us" and then select "Division By-laws." The information regarding the Board of Directors can be found in Articles VI and VII. Please take some time to read these articles and if you have any questions or have interest in becoming a BOD member, please contact Bruce Robinson or any member of the Division Nominating Committee listed below.

I have included a note below, from the Chairman of the Division Nominating Committee. Please take time to read it and if you have any interest or have questions, please respond directly to any member of the nominating committee. This is a great opportunity for you to become more involved with our Seacoast Division. Thank you very much for considering this request.

Tage Erickson

Seacoast Division President

Hello Fellow Model Railroader/Seacoast Division Member.

We are writing to you at this time because there are three vacancies on the Seacoast Division, NMRA Board of Directors. If you have enjoyed attending the quarterly meetings, participating in the model railroad tours that the division helps sponsor or just enjoy the fellowship of fellow model railroaders in the division, this is an opportunity to increase your level of participation and meet more of your fellow modelers by considering volunteering to become a member of the Seacoast Division board. Let's put your talents and vision to use in steering the Division into a more dynamic and growing organization.

Also, if you would like to nominate another member for a director position, please do so.

If you are interested, please contact Bruce Robinson at brobinson85@comcast.net for further details. Please do this in the next week or so as potential new directors will be announced in the October issue of the Switch Tower, which goes to press on October 1, 2019.

Thanks in advance for your help.

Division Nominating Committee: Bruce, Bruce & Carl. (aka BBC!)

Bruce Robinson (Chair) brobinson85@comcast.net

Bruce Campbell brc1805@yahoo.com

Carl Harrison charrison@gwi.net

California Layout Critique photo's and captions by Brandon Kulik



While traveling in central California this past week, I had a chance to visit a locally-popular layout. Without being overly critical, this layout was not very realistic; maybe we can all learn to avoid this layout owner's mistakes. Here are some of the obvious flaws that I noticed:

Incomplete scenery: needs more static grass, ground foam and trees!



Multi-level layout to gain extra running, but with helix's that are poorly disguised



. Track passes through the same scene too many times

California Layout Critique photo's and captions by Brandon Kulik



◆ **Track passes through the same scene too many times**



. **Gimmicky. For an allegedly operations-oriented layout based on a freight-only line, the owner felt it necessary to none-the-less unrealistically run a passengers train. Was given a lame excuse about a temporary re-route due to track work**



A.P. Report

Larry Cannon Maine

Tom Oxnard New Hampshire

The A.P. report from Maine this quarter has no recipients . Lets make sure that there is something happening next quarter .

Tom Oxnard reports that Erich Whitney has received his Model Railroad Author. Congratulations Erich . Let's hope we see more members names in the next issue of the switch tower

Editor's Ramblings by Geoff Anthony

Greeting's to All , As I write this , We have had our first cold morning on the coast and am reminded of what is to come ,but this year having semi retired because of health reasons I hope to have a little more time to do some modeling. I want to give a shout out to Brenna and Erich Whitney. To Brenna for her excellent article in the NMRA magazine Women in model railroading . Congratulations on your golden spike. Congratulations to Erich for his model railroad Author certificate . Who will get their MMR first. Finally some recognition and thanks to Bruce Robinson who does so much to encourage young people in the hobby .Hope to see some you at the various shows this fall and winter . Please do not be afraid to send me pictures and articles for the Switch Tower I always need content . Thanks to all .
Geoff Anthony

Timetable

Oct 12	Seacoast Fall Event	Stratham NH
Oct 19	470 Crawford-Notch special	N. Conway NH
Oct 20	Granitecon modelers show	Manchester NH
Oct 26	NETCA show	Dover NH
Nov 2	Fall Show GFMRRRC	Topsham ME
Nov 23	Eastern ME MRRRC	Brewer ME
Jan 25/26	Amherst Society show	Springfield MA

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