



The Switch Tower

Vol. 27 No 4

October 2020

Seacoast Division NMRA

www.seacoastnmra.org



**Fall event for the Seacoast Division
Is cancelled . For trains shows contact the
presenting group .**

Help Needed for Switch Tower

Hi All, I need your help to put out a quality newsletter for the division. I need articles and photographs. I have never turned down an article to be in the Switch Tower . Please contribute and help to continue to make this a newsletter that we can be proud of. Prototype or modeling articles are great but I will consider anything that is relevant to the hobby. I know that a lot of people are stressed at this time , but writing can be a stress reliever. Your articles do not have to be long and involved . They can be just an idea that you want put down and see what kind of reaction you get from the division. An example would be a track plan you are considering and want some feedback. Or are considering an industry to model and want some direction . This is your news letter. I want it to be of value to the membership. Please help and thank you in advance . Geoff Anthony

Inside Content

- ◆ [President's Siding](#) 2
- ◆ [Seacoast Zoom Mtg](#) 4
- ◆ [New Brunswick Southern](#) 5
- ◆ [Membership Siding](#) 10
- ◆ [Timetable](#) 11

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

The President's Lantern by Tage Erickson

Greetings Model Railroaders!

I wanted to get this out sooner, but there has been lots of other activity in my life, lately. Please accept my apologies for this. I hope you all have been busy with your modeling projects and/or layout construction during the pandemic. It would be really nice if some of you would be interested in sharing your efforts with the members. [We are in desperate need for some articles in the next edition of the Switch Tower!](#) Please contact Geoff Anthony and/or Steve Russo if you have something that would be of interest to all the members.

To that end, it has become very clear that if we are to continue as a functioning organization, we will have to find better ways to do it, since we can't meet in person. Our Fall Event scheduled for Saturday, October 24, 2020, will be held virtually as a Zoom meeting. Glenn Mitchell will be sending out the information regarding that. I will be following that up with more communication just prior to the meeting. I am assuming that some of you are familiar with Zoom meetings. I know that there are those that are not familiar with Zoom. We will have some time during the week prior to the Meeting for you to practice with the Zoom software. So stay tuned for that!

Our next election, normally scheduled for our annual meeting held in January, will be done via email this year. There will be more information about that coming soon. Please be patient with me on this. I will get the information to you!

We also have a requirement to provide one clinician and one layout tour, done virtually, to the NER for inclusion in the program for the 2020 NER Convention which will take place virtually from December 1 through December 4, 2020. In order to accomplish this, I am hoping that there is one of our members that owns or has access to a video camera that you would be willing to let us use for this purpose. We have a member that has volunteered the use of his layout for this purpose. All we need is a video camera and someone that can operate it. If anyone can help us with this, please contact me immediately. Thank you!

That's it for now. I will be sending out separate messages for the Faulter Fund, the Zoom meeting procedures, and again for Election procedures in the coming weeks.

My best regards to you all,

Tage Erickson

Seacoast Division President

Seacoast Division NMRA Zoom On-line Event

Saturday, October 24, 2020, 10:00am-12:00pm

A New Kind of Event – On-Line with Zoom

Since Covid-19 continues to be a major health risk, especially to older people, the Seacoast Division Board of Directors has made the decision to cancel “in person” events for the foreseeable future. The BOD has also decided to help fill the void by holding on-line Zoom meetings. Many of you are already familiar with Zoom since other organizations are already starting to use it.

Zoom is one of several video conferencing applications available for use on your computer that is connected to the internet. For several years, lap top computers have been equipped with a camera that faces the user, a microphone, and speakers. The computer with the camera/microphone / speaker combination lets the user take advantage of the full capability of Zoom. If you don't have a computer with the camera/microphone /speaker you can still use your computer to view the event and you can communicate with everyone using a phone. Finally, a smart-phone can also be used to participate in a Zoom video conference.

New users will have to go to zoom.us and then download “Zoom Client for Meetings” if you use a computer, or download the Zoom Mobile apps for iPhone or Android from the APP store. You will not have to register for an account. The host of the Zoom Meeting, in our case Seacoast President Tage Erickson, will send out an email with a meeting invitation which includes a link to the meeting. The non-host attendees will click on the link a few minutes prior to the meeting to get connected to the Zoom meeting. The host will then accept you into the meeting and you will be able to see all the attendees that have cameras and you will be able to hear all the attendees that have microphones or have called in on the telephone.

Zoom training meetings will be held for new users. Tage will send out an invitation to the practice sessions which will be held prior to the Event on October 24. The sole purpose of these training sessions is to get new users familiar and comfortable using the Zoom application.

President's Welcome by Tage Erickson

Tage will address the members of the Seacoast Division.

Presentations

Two presentations will be given at the inaugural Seacoast Division Zoom Event

Modeling the Depot at Rockingham Junction by Tom Oxnard

Tom will begin by explaining how he researched the depot at Rockingham Junction. He will show many photos of the action at Rockingham Junction over the years. Tom will present his drawings and will show

Seacoast Division NMRA Zoom On-line Event Saturday, October 24, 2020, 10:00am-12:00pm

how he compresses the design to fit his layout. Finally, he will show how the depot was constructed, painted and weathered.

Programming & Installing Circuitron's Smail Switch Machines by Bob Kotsonis

Circuitron has been making the Tortoise switch machine for years. These machines are easy to install and work great. The presentation will first cover some helpful tips on installing the machines that have been learned over time. A few years ago Circuitron came out with the Smail switch machine that has a built in stationary decoder. The presentation will cover the differences between the Tortoise and the Smail and how to program your address into the Smail for remote and computer control of a switch.

What's On Your Workbench?

We invite members to show a few photos, PowerPoint slides, or even a short video of what you are working on or a layout tour etc. Send me an email to sign up and describe what you will be presenting. Please limit your presentation to about 5 minutes in length. If you have a longer presentation, let me know and I can schedule it in a future Zoom meeting.

Open Forum

Let's discuss what members would like to see in future Zoom Events.

Next Event: TBD

Mark your calendar and save the date!!



Downeast Scenic loco #53 a Plymouth critter . Washington Junction June of 2016 . Photo by the editor

New Brunswick Southern Tour



NBSR 908 Kingman ME photo's by Harry Gordon, If you chase trains in Northern Maine chances are you seen Harry and his BL-2 Subaru .



New Brunswick Southern Tour



Harry Gordon Photograph

Our perseverance was rewarded with a rolling meet between the NBSR east/west trains at Bancroft. The auto racks on 908, illuminated by the oncoming 907 were splendid.



Harry Gordon Photograph

New Brunswick Southern Tour



Harry Gordon Photograph

6319, 6304 and 3055 stopped at Hardy Pond to add auto racks which we enjoyed seeing at Seboeis crossing.



Harry Gordon Photograph

New Brunswick Southern Tour



Harry Gordon Photograph

And the second section passes Lakeview Plantation. 6319, 6304 and 3055 enroute Hardy Pond to add auto racks.



Harry Gordon Photograph

New Brunswick Southern Tour



After deciding to drop some cars to make NBSR 908 manageable, the crew took the first cut to Hardy Pond.

NBSR 908 found itself with too many cars on the way out of Brownville Jct. and stopped at the route 11 crossing for some sander maintenance



Membership Siding by Lou Champagne

Good News & A Virtual Recruiting Opportunity:

Our Quarterly Event scheduled for Sat., 10/24/20, *will* take place !! Since Covid is still with us, it will take place virtually using Zoom ... this technology is easy to use & our leadership team has actually run a couple of tests to insure that it will provide us with a good experience. The content for the event looks great details soon.

This also provides us with a *unique recruiting opportunity*. We need everyone's help to keep the NMRA and your Seacoast Division growing ... by keeping it in mind when talking with friends & acquaintances who currently don't belong to the NMRA. This virtual event gives us an opportunity to tell folks about the benefits of membership and then invite them to come view it with us ... for the guest, it's a chance to experience the Seacoast Division without having to travel ... & for us, it's a chance to share the event with a friend(s).

New Seacoast NMRA Members: *Welcome Aboard !!!*

Maine:

Richard Holman, Windham

New Hampshire:

R Roderick Brown, Bedford; John Richards, Barrington

Returning Seacoast NMRA Members:

Maine:

Gregg McFarland, Sanford; Ed Harris, Harpswell

New Hampshire:

[Need a place to get some inspiration during the pandemic ? Consider these NMRA benefits ...](#)

NMRA Magazine: news, modeling articles, new product announcements

North Eastern Region newsletter: "The Coupler" Seacoast Division newsletter: "The Switch Tower"

"NMRA Turntable": monthly round up of interesting model railroad websites, videos & blogs

"NMRA eBulletin": latest association news

Online Video Library:

Hours of "how-to" videos produced by professional video companies, as well as over 100 videos of clinics presented at national conventions.

Kalmbach Memorial Library: One of the world's largest "railroads only" libraries. Contains prototype & modeling books and magazines + out of production kit instructions.

Online Forums: The ability to interact with and discuss various model railroading topics with other NMRA members

A.P. Report

Larry Cannon Maine

Tom Oxnard New Hampshire

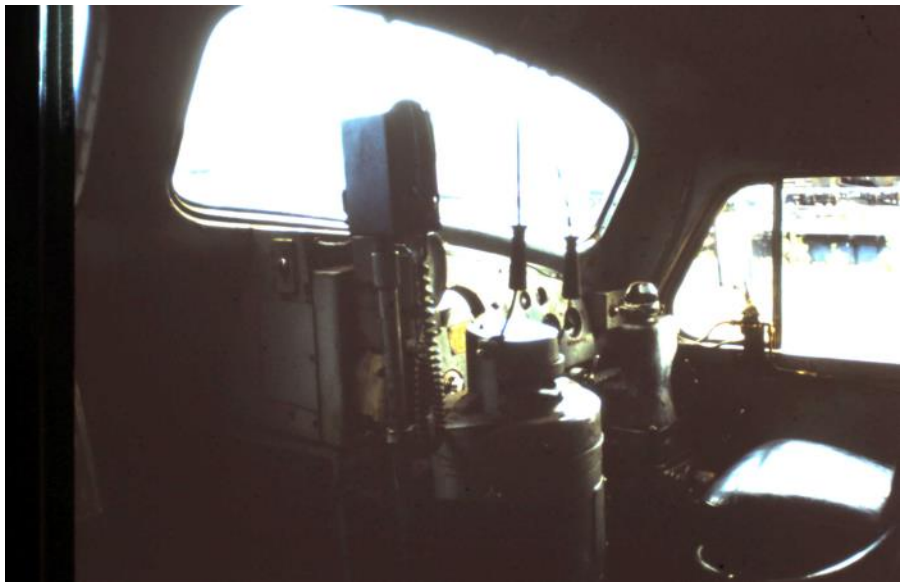
Timetable

You should check with the show presenter before traveling. Most shows have been canceled. Everybody please follow the CDC guidelines and stay safe so we can once again enjoy our hobby with our fellow model railroaders

No report from either Tom or Larry, with the time spent at home this summer someone must have made some progress.

Editor's Ramblings by Geoff Anthony

When I was younger I wanted every new widget that came out in the hobby as I get older I find that I want less and am more selective. I also now have collected stuff that I can not remember where it came from or why I bought it! I do not know if it is a function of age or having to deal with a number of estates in the last 2 years but I know that I do not want to leave my valuable HO collection [junk] for someone else to deal with. So I am going to try to downsize. And rationalize my collection. Time to pick a space in time and stick to it and let go of things that do not fit. Easier said than done. Time to build my shelf layout which will be 14' x 30" it should be enough. I enjoy switching so it will be industry heavy with a car ferry for staging. More to come as I puzzle out my space. Hope to be able to have a second deck that not quite as wide that's HO_{N3} with a car ferry for interchange. Hope everyone has a great fall and clear green. Two photo shot around 1982 at Derby Shops



Seacoast Division NMRA Leaders



President, Director	Tage Erickson	etagee11@earthlink.net	207-635-2157
V. President, Director	Glenn Mitchell	Glenn.t.mitchell@comcast.net	603-856-8146
Treasurer, Director	David Kotsonis	ko2b@comcast.net	603-431-7044
Secretary, Director	Tom Oxnard		
AP Coordinator NH	Tom Oxnard	Tfoxnard@gmail.com	603-770-1329
AP Coordinator- Maine	Larry Cannon	larrycannon@roadrunner.com	207-786-3929
Director	Jack Lutz	altonhouse@yahoo.com	207-605-0037
Director	Ralph Brown	rbrown51@mainerr.com	207-775-3294
Membership Chair	Lou Champagne	Lucien.champagne@roadrunner.com	207-229-5475
Switch Tower Editor	Geoff Anthony	editor@seacoastnmra.org	207-374-2786
Asst. Editor	Stephen Russo	Stever603@gmail.com	603-878-9922
Webmaster	Stephen Russo	Stever603@gmail.com	603-878-9922
Director	Mike Pederson	mpederse@maine.rr.com	207-676-2639
Director	Bob Kotsonis	R.kotsonis@icloud.com	603-431-8018
Director	Jay Ehlen	jayehlen@gmail.com	603-3975611



Seacoast Division NMRA

PO Box 187

Blue Hill, ME 04614

