



# The Switch Tower

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October 2022

Seacoast Division NMRA [www.seacoastnmra.org](http://www.seacoastnmra.org)



**Seacoast Division Fall Event October 8 2022**  
**Stratham Fire Dept . 2 Winnicutt Road**  
**Stratham NH 10A.M. to 2 P.M.**

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Part of the Heritage Park Railroad Museum Layout Union NH ,  
photo by Rich Bretton

## The President's Lantern by Glenn Mitchell

It's hard to believe that summer is over and the leaves are starting to change colors. I hope you all had a great summer. I'm still behind on all of those outdoor tasks around the house and in a couple of weeks I'll have add leaf blowing to the list.

This summer we had several great activities to participate in. The Summer 2022 Event was held at the Great Falls Model railroad Club on July 16<sup>th</sup>. Tage Erickson ran the event and his report is in this issue of the Switch Tower. Thanks Tage!

The Concord Model Railroad Club hosted their annual model train show on August 14 in The Everett Arena in Concord, NH. Four Seacoast members manned the table and several more stopped by. The attendance was good and this year it seemed that things were "back to normal". This show is by far the best show in New Hampshire and is held every year on the second Sunday in August. If you have not been there, it is worth the trip.

The summer was topped off with the Connecticut Yankee NER Convention held in Windsor, CT from Aug 15 – 18. Details and photos of the convention are in the Convention Report in this issue.

A result of the eight Seacoast members attending the convention was the renewed interest in the Seacoast Division hosting the 2024 NER convention. The last time we hosted an NER convention was 2013 in Laconia NH. At the Seacoast Board of Directors Meeting held on September 29, the decision was made to form an Exploratory Committee to look into hosting again. Seven Seacoast members volunteered to be on the committee and we kick things off on Monday October 3. We have a lot of work to do and I will keep everyone apprised of the progress.

The Seacoast Fall 2022 Event is next Saturday October 8 at the Stratham Fire House. The Event notice with all of the details is included in this issue of the Switch Tower. I hope to see many of you there in person or on Zoom.

The entire Board of Directors apologizes for the sound quality of the Zoom connection at the Summer Event. We didn't realize how bad it was until we later listened to a recording of the event. The main problem was the close proximity of the room air conditioner and our limited microphone options. Bob Kotsonis, our audio/video expert has acquired additional microphones that will greatly improve the Summer Event's Zoom connection. So, if you were frustrated trying to listen to the Summer Event on zoom, please give us another try.

Dave Delorey, the Seacoast Webmaster, has done an outstanding job upgrading the website. Dave recently had to replace a failed computer and everything is up to date. Take a look at <https://seacoastnmra.org>. We all thank Dave for all his efforts.



## The President's Lantern by Glenn Mitchell

Jim Seroskie created a trifold handout and application form to support the Faulter Fund Chaired by Tage Erickson. Jim's colorful work helps describe the Seacoast Division's Support to Youth in Model Railroading and provides a form for applying for the funds. Tage and the rest of the Faulter Fund Committee are currently working to complete a donation to a young group of modelers in Maine. More to come after everything is finalized. If you know any young modelers in need of some financial support for their modeling efforts, contact Tage Erickson for an application.

Treasurer Dave Kotsonis reported an ending balance of \$6703.21 in the Seacoast general fund. We'd like to thank everyone who donated at the Summer Event and also thank Paul Lessard for his donations from the sale of items at the Concord Train Show. Dave also reported that Faulter Fund has a balance of \$10,663.75. The division is in good shape financially.

Thank you to all of the Seacoast members for their support to the division.

Respectfully Submitted,

Glenn Mitchell

Seacoast Division NMRA President and Director

Photo below by Rich Bretton Heritage Park RR Museum



## Board of Directors Nominations

### Bruce Campbell Nominating Chair

#### Jay Ehlen



I have served on the Division Board for the last several years and am currently its Vice President and will be officiating at our Fall Event in Stratham. I was likely born with railroading genes. My maternal grandfather retired after 47 years as an engineer with the Pennsylvania Railroad. My model RR experience started at Christmas in 1948 when I was given a Varney Dockside. I still have it and it still runs. That led to a couple of layouts during grammar and high school years. During college, grad school and early in my career, RR activities were mainly limited to reading Model Railroader. Once the kids arrived, I started a layout and began to build craftsman car kits hoping to generate interest. Unfortunately, their other interests prevailed and the project was never completed. Further, my Wall Street career left little time for hobbies other than competitive club tennis. Fortunately, I was able to retire early to our farm in Vermont where the first of three layouts was started. My exposure to craftsman structure kits and brass locos began. Next came Winters in Florida and our house there saw the start of layout number two. Several years later, we decided the farm was too difficult to deal with in absentia over the Winter. Thus, the farm was sold and we moved to Durham. All Florida rolling stock and most structures were boxed ready for redeployment in Durham. In Durham, I am lucky to have a 25" x 35' room above the garage which is now home to layout number 3. The current layout is about half completed and is able to utilize the best from layouts 1 and 2. The track configuration is essentially a double inverted dog bone design incorporating a 48" radius double mainline and three yards. It earned a Golden Spike Award in 2018. After a bit more work, I am hoping to open it for tours and operating sessions.

#### Guy Mason



Since meeting my wife a decade ago I've been able to get back into the model railroading hobby. I play with n-scale with n-trak and t-trak modules and g gauge railroads in the garden. I was recently the president of the Denver Garden Railway Society and the web administrator and a former director of Dentrak. This year my family moved to Rockport, Maine, including my two young children who love to accompany me on railroading adventures when possible. I look forward this opportunity to support the hobby here in the Northeast.



## Board of Directors Nominations Bruce Campbell Nominating Chair

Tom Oxnard (MD, MMR)



I am running for election to the Seacoast Division Board of Directors. I am a retired Pediatrician, who joined the NMRA in 1998. I have been in the hobby most of my life and seen some tremendous changes take place, from the entry level layouts to modules and shelf layouts, from personal home enjoyment to operations with others, from trying to learn it all on my own to realizing that how much more I can learn from wonderful Division meetings and Regional clinics, and the rise of the virtual hobby. I have tried to advance my own knowledge through the Achievement Program and hopefully can pass that along to the members through articles, clinics, and AP promotion. I feel the Division meetings and NER conventions are places where we can share ideas and inspire each other to keep our hobby meaningful. I have been on the Board of Directors, and as Secretary and am currently AP Chairman of the Seacoast Division.



## Heritage Park Railroad Museum Open house Nov 27, 2022 Union NH 9AM - 4PM By Bill Graver

Conclude your Thanksgiving weekend by visiting the Tour De Chooch open house on Sunday, November 27, 9 AM to 4 PM at the Heritage Park Railroad Museum in Union NH. Admission is free.

This Special event to be enjoyed by children of all ages features viewing the fascinating details of an operating HO scale model railroad depicting the five villages of Wakefield in the 1909 era with its computer controlled operating system and viewing a Lionel O-gauge train layout all located in the 1875 restored Boston and Maine freight house.

Not to be missed is the newest addition to the 1909 era display — the model of the 1895 Wakefield Town Hall. Replicated and built by Jay Ehlen of Durham NH, the tower of the town hall model features an operating bell and operating clocks. The clocks were built by the skilled North Conway jeweler, Tim Psaledakis.

Also featured in this unique Open House are tours of the restored 1911 B&M Union railroad station, a 1902 Russell snowplow, a 1950 era B&M caboose and viewing the restored 1885 era B&M water tower.

Rich Breton, spokesman for the volunteer model railroad hobbyists representing eight New Hampshire communities, said the group has been working on the miniaturized railroad for nine years. It is historically accurate including structures, steam locomotives, passenger and freight cars and landscaping which includes photo backdrops of the area including Moose Mountain.

For the modeler, railfan, novice or curious, the holiday open house is being held concurrently with the 27th annual Tour de Chooch, a self guided tour of 33 model railroads in South eastern New Hampshire and eastern Massachusetts. Information about the Tour de Chooch can be found at [WWW.tourdechooch.org](http://WWW.tourdechooch.org)

The Heritage Park Railroad Museum is administered by the Wakefield Heritage Commission. Visit [Www.historicwakefieldnh.com](http://Www.historicwakefieldnh.com) See page 13 for two of the latest photo's from the museum.



## NER Connecticut Yankee Convention

### By Glenn Mitchell

The 2022 Connecticut Yankee NER Convention was held in Windsor, CT at the Hartford Windsor Marriott from Thursday September 15, 2022 through Sunday September 18, 2022. Approximately 306 members attended including nine from the Seacoast Division NMRA

Twenty-two members opened their layouts for tours from Thursday morning through late Sunday afternoon. The early Thursday tours and late Sunday tours allowed attendees to visit additional layouts as they traveled to and from the convention. I was able to visit two great layouts on my way to the convention Thursday morning.

Fifteen members hosted operating sessions on their layouts from Thursday through Saturday. Fifty one attendees participated in the operating sessions. I was able to operate on three layouts, two HO scale and one N scale. Operations is one of my favorite aspects of model railroading and being able to operate on a diverse group of excellent layouts is the highlight of the convention for me.

While many of us were either out at operating sessions or layout tours, other members volunteered and gave a total of fifty one clinics on many aspects of model and prototypical railroads.

In addition, the Naugatuck Railroad hosted a four hour fan trip for those who wanted to sit back and enjoy the Connecticut scenery.

The NER Annual Banquet was held on Saturday night in the Windsor Ballroom. The speaker for the event was Walter Zullig who presented his talk on the "Formation of the Metro-North Railroad. Walter's career in railroading spanned the time of major changes in north eastern railroading including the formation of the Penn Central, Conrail, and the Metro-North Railroad.

The NER awards breakfast was also held in the Windsor Ballroom.

The first awards that were handed out were the NMRA President's Awards. Past President Tage Erickson was the Northeastern Region winner of the President's award for his outstanding contributions to the hobby while he was a Director and President. Larry Cannon was posthumously awarded an NER President's Award for his contributions to the NER and the Seacoast division NMRA. This was Larry's second NER President's Award. NER President Ed O'Rourke emphasized Larry's many years of loyalty and dedication to the region

Achievement Award winners were recognized as well. The NER's two newest Master Model Railroaders are Malcolm Houck and Thomas Emmett.

The winners of the Photo and Modeling Contests were given their awards at the breakfast. Seacoast Division's Tom Oxnard, MMR, entered his model of the Nikolas Chemical Company in the Scratchbuilt Structures Category and it won First Place. His outstanding work that went into the Nikolas Chemical Company also earned Tom the Harold Russell Award and the Hub Award. Congratulations Tom!

Following the Awards Breakfast, the NER Annual Meeting was held. The region is in strong financial condition and is looking ahead to the 2023 convention to be hosted by the Sunrise Trail Divi-



## NER Connecticut Yankee Convention By Glenn Mitchell

sion on Long Island , NY. The 2024 convention has not yet been assigned , yet but the 2025 NER convention will be hosted by the Lakeshores Division. At the conclusion of the Annual Meeting, the 2022 NER Convention was officially closed.

I had a fun time at the Connecticut Yankee Convention. So did the other Seacoast Division members in attendance. I hope that other division members will join us on Long Island for next year's NER convention so we can tour layouts, operate, attend clinics and learn more about our wonderful hobby, plus enjoy each others companionship

Respectfully submitted by

Glenn Mitchell Seacoast Division NMR President and Director





## NER Connecticut Yankee Convention By Glenn Mitchell



Tom Oxnard with his award for his 1 st prize winning model

Nikoles Chemical Co. First in the scratch building contest and the Harold Russel award and the HUB division award. Well done Tom . Photo of Nikoles Chemical by Tom Oxnard

Photo of Tom and awards by Glenn Mitchell

## NER Connecticut Yankee Convention By Glenn Mitchel



Former Seacoast division presidents Tage Erickson and Peter McKenney accept the NER presidents award for Larry Cannon and his family . Photo by Glenn Mitchell

**Seacoast Division Fall Event October 8, 2022****Stratham Fire house, Stratham NH**

10:A.M. to 2 P.M.

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

**We Will Be In Person As Well As On-Line with Zoom**

The Seacoast Division Fall 2022 Event will be held in person and also on-line with Zoom again at the Stratham Fire House, 2 Winnicutt Rd., Stratham NH., just off Route 33. The entrance to the ground floor meeting room is at the rear of the building. There is ample parking at the rear of the building.

**The Schedule****Presentation by the Seacoast Trolley Museum**

James Van Bokkelen, Vice President of the Seacoast Trolley Museum in Kennebunkport, Maine, will give a presentation offering an overview of the Museum, its campus and mission as well as a discussion of the recently acquired HO gauge model railroad layout and the building now under construction which will house the layout.

**The NMRA Achievement Program (AP)**

Tom Oxnard, MMR, will host a presentation that will provide an overview of the NMRA Achievement Program highlighting the eleven Achievement Award categories and the requirements for each category. The AP Program is designed to both recognize individual accomplishments within the hobby and to help participants improve their modeling skills. Many of the Awards require that the models earn a certain point level in the evaluation process. The point matrix system used by the evaluators will be discussed. Earning seven Certificates of Achievement is the prerequisite for Master Model Railroader (MMR).

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**The AP Award Evaluation Process**

By using actual models, the evaluators will explain how the evaluation matrix works, what earns points and common mistakes that do not. Proper documentation is also important. Sample documentation will be discussed. It is important to note that models can be evaluated on a private basis. There is no need to submit models to be judged at a show



**Seacoast Division Fall Event October 8, 2022****Stratham Fire house, Stratham NH****Camera and TV Techniques for Model Railroads**

Rich Breton will offer some thoughts on factors to consider when preparing a model railroad for a photo session. He will also discuss the use of miniature TV cameras mounted on rolling stock. What you need, where to buy it, how to assemble it, how to operate it and how to download the images to your TV or computer will be covered.

**Layout Tours** - Please take time to visit one or both of the two nearby model railroad layouts that will be on display from 2 to 4 pm. The Dick Fralick's New Haven and Connecticut Central and a second (TBD) layout will be available at the Event.

**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 Southriver Model Works, Sheepscot Model Products and Fine Scale Miniatures are on the layout.

**Dick Fralick's New Haven and Connecticut Central (HO)**

Dick's switching layout consists of 50' by 1' wide shelf layout that is fully scenic'd and is connected via a wye to the two level 30' x 6' peninsula with a dual track helix. One end represents the New Haven 50'-60's the other end is operated by the Connecticut Central 1985-2000. The track work on the peninsula is near completion which allows for operations. Come and see the progress made since it was last opened 3 years ago! The layout is accessed by a stairway to basement from the garage. The layout uses Digitrax DCC.

**There will be a 30 minute lunch break. Please plan to bring your own lunch as there is only one convenience store in close proximity to the Event.**

**Please plan to attend and Share the Fun of Model Railroading!**

## Heritage Park Railroad Museum Photo's By Rich Bretton



## A.P. Report Tom Oxnard Ap Chair Peter McKenney Associate Chair

. Glenn Mitchell has received his Association Volunteer .

### Editor's Ramblings

As Summer turns to fall I am busy with more railroad stuff. Selling items on eBay for the club EMMRC. And being the show chairman, it means having a few things going on . Plus putting out the Switch Tower more or less on time , where did I find the time before I retired?

I hope to see some old friends and meet new ones at our show on the 19th of November at Jeff's Catering in Brewer . Always a good time and bring your items for the silent auction.

I am currently working on a few things repowering a old Hallmark HH1,000 , MEC 50' wood chip car and Carolina Craftsman backdrop building .All in states of various completion.

Looks like total chaos in my room but I managed to find stuff when I need it , mostly in a timely manor. Although the other day working on an engine a driveline shaft spun out of the engine as I was checking things out. I heard it hit a cardboard box but do you think I could find it . Made up a new drive shaft, then 3 days later I found it in a cardboard box. Ah well may you all have better luck than I do. Safe travels and good luck

Geoff

The two Prototype photo's in this edition are mine the caboose was taken by Paul Rogers, the RS1 and S unit was taken by me at Rigby

## Timetable

### Maine Events

10-7 -10-9 Alna WW&F fall volunteer Weekend work session [www.wwfry.org](http://www.wwfry.org) ph 207-8824193

11-19-20 Auburn Grea Falls Extrairaganza  
10-4 ea day 5.00 per under 12 free more info [www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org](http://www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org)

11-19 Brewer Eastern Maine Model RR club show Jeffs catering 10-3 for more info contact Geoff Anthony 207-479-2920 or email [geof-f04614@gmail.com](mailto:geof-f04614@gmail.com)

11-25-27 Auburn Extrairaganza part 2 Great Falls Club 144 Mill st Auburn 10-4

12-10 Auburn Surplus equipment sale Great Falls Club sale 10-2 144 Mill St Auburn

### New Hampshire

10-8 Stratham Seacoast Division Fall Event Stratham Fire House. 2 Winnicutt Rd Stratham

10-2 [www.seacoastnmra.org](http://www.seacoastnmra.org)

10-22

470 club excursion train Conway Scenic the whole line. Tickets 603-356-5251. [www.conwayscenic.com](http://www.conwayscenic.com)

10-29 Dover Great Northern New England chapter Train show Dover Elks Lodge 282 Durham Rd Dover 10 -3 Ed Martin [efment-er@aol.com](mailto:efment-er@aol.com) 603-362-4300

Jan28-29 Amherst Show Eastern States Exposition. 9-5 Sat, 10-5 Sun [www.railroadhobbyshow.com](http://www.railroadhobbyshow.com)



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