



The Switch Tower

Vol. 30 No 1

January 2023

Seacoast Division NMRA

www.seacoastnmra.org



**Seacoast Division winter event & annual Meeting
January 7, 2023 10:00 A.M. –2:00 P.M.**

**Westbrook Community Center
426 Bridge ST Westbrook ME**

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Help! The editor of the Switch Tower needs your help.

I have no articles for the next issue! I would like to continue to provide the best newsletter I can but I need members contributions to make that happen. Please consider writing an article or just send me some pictures of what you are working on. Pictures can be a current project or layout pictures. There are some very talented members in this division so please consider showing your ideas or work to the membership at large. Thanks in advance Geoff Anthony editor

The President's Lantern by Glenn Mitchell

Greetings Seacoast Members,

It's hard to believe it's already late November and Thanksgiving is just two days away. I just finished raking and blowing leaves and mowing the grass for the last time. I am glad that is over. The mover has been put away and the snow blower is fueled and ready to go. Now it's time to get down to fun things like Thanksgiving Dinner and working on the railroad.

The Seacoast Division Fall Event was a huge success. Vice President Jay Ehlen organized the event which was held at the Stratham Fire House on October 8, 2022. Thanks again to Mike Grahame for providing the venue. James Van Bokkelen, Vice President of the Seacoast Trolley Museum, gave a presentation on the relocation of a layout that was donated to the museum. But, before they could install the layout, they had to build a building to house the layout. Tom Oxnard, MMR gave an illustrative presentation of how the Achievement program works. Rich Breton gave the third presentation on general photography and adding a video camera to a locomotive or rolling stock. After the event, Dave Kotsonis and Dick Fralich opened their layouts for visitors. I would like to thank everyone involved in putting on the Fall Event. Great job!

After all of you have finished your Thanksgiving festivities, you can spend the weekend visiting layouts that are part of the Tour de Chooch tour. 36 layouts in Massachusetts and New Hampshire will be open on Saturday and Sunday, November 26-27, 2022. See the www.tourdechooch.org website for details. Several of the layouts belong to Seacoast members. The Heritage Park Railroad Museum in Union, NH will have their Boston and Maine -1909 layout, built by a group of Seacoast members, open on Sunday as part of the tour. This is a great opportunity to see a lot of outstanding model railroading.

The Seacoast Division Winter Event and Annual Meeting will be held on January 7, 2023 at the Westbrook Community Center in Westbrook, ME. Watch for event notices in your email.

The Northeastern Region (NER) will be holding another NERx event on March 20-23, 2023. NERx is an "on-line convention" held in the evenings of the previously mentioned dates. Anyone can join in and watch on-line

The President's Lantern by Glenn Mitchell

clinics, video layout tours, roundtable discussions and model showcases. Look for it on the www.nernmra.org website. Last March, we got to see several Seacoast members' layouts which were video-taped by Bob Kotsonis. The organizers are currently looking for clinicians and layouts to videotape for 2023. If you are interested in giving a clinic or having your layout videotaped or even just showing off your work in a short Model Showcase, contact me and I will connect you with the NERx coordinators.

The Seacoast Treasury remains stable with a balance of \$6599.34. The Chip Faulter Fund has a balance of \$9663.85 after making a \$1000.00 donation to a church youth group that is building a modular layout in Maine. We continue to look for worthy recipients of funding from the Faulter Fund. If you know any young people that could use funding to support their model railroad activities, contact Tage Erickson or me and I will make sure that information will be sent to you.

Our 2024 NER Convention Exploratory Committee continues to look for an appropriate venue for the convention. Portsmouth and Laconia are the primary areas of interest at this time. I recently sent out a request for volunteers to help with the convention. I thank all of you that have volunteered. The email contained a "strawman" list of positions that needed filling. The convention chairmen roles are well defined in the NER Convention handbook, but the rest of positions were made up by me based on what I know and have observed at other conventions. Given that, I hope that you will not get too concerned about the specific positions listed on the chart. I am sure the specific needs might change and everything will be dependent of the final choice for a venue. At this time I ask all of you this question: "Are you willing to help with the convention?" I hope many more of you can answer YES and volunteer. We will sort out the roles and positions so that every volunteer feels comfortable with the job that they take on.

That's all I have for now. I wish everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving. I hope to see you at the Winter Event!

Best regards,

Glenn Mitchell

Seacoast Division NMRA President and Director

Winter Event and Annual Meeting

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

We Will Be In Person As Well As On-Line With Zoom

The Seacoast Division Winter 2023 Event and Annual Meeting will be held in person and also on-line with ZOOM at the Westbrook Community Center in Westbrook Maine beginning at 10:00 am. There is ample parking on-site.

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.

The Agenda

Seacoast Division Annual Meeting - Notice is given of the Annual Meeting of the Seacoast Division of the NMRA at 10:00 am January 7, 2023

Modeling Realistic Brick & Concrete -

Looking to take your structures, retaining walls, and sidewalks to the next level of realism? In this clinic Dan Pugatch will go over using materials from the hardware

Winter Event and Annual Meeting

products to make hydrocal, plastic, or wood look like so real people will second guess is this the prototype or a model.

“Operations”- The simulation of prototypical operating practices on scale model railroads.

Operations “101” by Bruce Robinson - In this PowerPoint presentation we are going to follow along as local POFR runs on the Valley Junction Railroad. We will take a look at the “paperwork” that the railroad uses to move trains using a fast clock, employee timetable, car cards and waybills and train instruction cards. Join the crew as train POFR leaves its originating terminal, works it industries and interchange and returns to its home terminal.

Operating Session - Southern Maine Model RR Club Modular Layout - A live demonstration conducted by Club members.

Panel Discussion On Planning And Conducting Operation Sessions - Participants will cover layout requirements, schedules and train orders, necessary personnel as well as the different approaches that lead to successful operating session

Layout Tour – Please take time to visit this layout on your way home from the Winter Event!

Rob Selberg’s St. James Sub (N)

The Port Asbestos Terminal "St. James Sub" is an 8x12 N scale layout built for operation, small trains but plenty of action! The layout is based "somewhere" in the northeast and was once a connection between the Canadian pacific and Conrail (now CSX). The layout can support 5 operator with none of them bumping into each other. The layout boasts an active port with car float operation, a midsized paper mill, a local town switch job, a yard switcher and a road job (running trains to the port and back and the mill and back).

After the Event Rob Selberg is hosting a tour of his layout.

We will have a 30 minute lunch break.

Please plan to bring your own lunch.

PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND AND SHARE

THE FUN OF MODEL RAILROADING

SEE YOU AT THE EVENT!!!

Next Event: Spring Event April 15, 2023

Location TBD

Mark your calendar and save the date!!

Mt Washington Cog Railway By Tom Oxnard

This fall Sally and I and friends went north to see some foliage and to take the Cog Railway up Mt Washington. It is a three mile climb to the top from 2700ft to 6288ft with an average grade of 25% and a steepest grade of 37% on the Jacob's Ladder trestle. There are three diesels and coaches that take 45 minutes to ascend each hour. Half way up there is an 1800ft passing track where you pass the three diesels and coaches that are descending. All of the diesels were designed and built on-site in their shops starting in 2008. Much of the track and cog are on low trestles, and open so the snow and ice will fall through. The switches are electric and hydraulically powered. Maximum speed is kept at 5 mph.



Mt Washington Cog Railway By Tom Oxnard

You get to spend an hour at the top with incredible views and a nice museum. We were lucky and had a beautiful day for Mt Washington's standards.



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Mt Washington Cog Railway By Tom Oxnard



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

Timetable

No Ap report this quarter

ME Westbrook Jan 7 Winter Event Sea-coast Division NMRA 10-2 Westbrook community center

MA Jan 28-29 West Springfield Railroad Hobby Show the Big E 9-5 Sat 10-5 Sun

ME Feb 4,11,18 Wiscasset, Waterville & Farmington Steam and Sleighs Alana ME 10, 12, 2 pm trains

ME Feb 18 Maine 3 railers Model RR show and dollhouse Augusta Armory 10 -3:30

NH April 1 Dover Spring great Northern NE chapter train show Dover Elks lodge 10-3

ME April 22 Westbrook Southern Me Model RR club show Westbrook Community Center . 10-3

ME April 29 Great Falls Model RR club show Topsham MT Ararat High School 10-3

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