



The Switch Tower

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Seacoast Division NMRA

www.seacoastnmra.org



Seacoast Summer Event July 15, 2023 10:00—2:00
Great Falls Model Railroad Club
144 Mill St , Auburn Me 04210

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Winning the best in show trophy at a convention in St. John for the second time in seven years, Tom Oxnard represented the Seacoast Division NMRA very well

The President's Lantern by Glenn Mitchell

We're well into spring and I hope you have all of your yard clean-up tasks done. This year it was time to re-apply the bark mulch and after 102 bags from Home Depot, I'm done. It's time for me to start the layout work that requires the table saw in the drive way. I still have a lot of carpentry work to do. I hope you are making progress on your railroads as well.

Seacoast Division Board of Director Activity

The Seacoast Division BOD has had two Zoom meetings since my last letter which were held on April 13, 2023 and May 18, 2023. The BOD meetings are held regularly (8 times this year). All members are welcome to attend. Please contact me and I will get your name on the Zoom invitation.

We'd like to thank Director Jim Seroskie for setting up a Seacoast division Youtube page: <https://www.youtube.com/@nmra-seacoast-division/videos>. Thus far we have the videos of the last three Seacoast Events (Fall 2022, Winter & Spring 2023) and a video tour of Victor Hand's layout. Please take a moment to view the videos. If you have a video of your layout that you would like to share on Youtube, contact Jim.

We'd also like to thank Director Guy Mason for volunteering to be the Chairman of the new Seacoast Division Publicity Committee. Guy's first task is to take over as the administrator of the Seacoast Division Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/seacoastnmra/>. Having someone who is skilled on the social media platforms crucial as we try to attract new members to the Seacoast Division and the NMRA.

An action that came out of the recent BOD meetings is for me to contact the membership whenever a new Switch Tower is posted to the website. I will do my best to stay on top of this.

Spring 2023 Event

The Seacoast Division of the NMRA held its Spring 2023 Live Event with Zoom on April 15, 2023 at the James Foley Memorial Community Center in Rochester, NH. We'd like to offer a special thank you to Rich Breton for arranging the venue and Jay Ehlen for planning the event. A special thanks goes to Tage Erickson for handling the Zoom portion of the meeting. The event was attended by 17 NMRA members in person and 8 members via Zoom. Member Dave Robertson brought 3 guests who are members of the First Baptist Church of Shapleigh Train Club to the event. They presented Tage Erickson and the Seacoast Division with a Thank You card for the Faulter Fund donation that was made to their club. The club members are building a modular layout and the Seacoast Division is happy to support them.

I kicked off the meeting and welcomed everyone and gave a brief status of the progress that the 2025 Convention Exploratory Committee has made. Once again I addressed the need for members to step up and fill the Co-Chairman positions for each of the four committees (Overall Convention, Inside Activities, Outside Activities, and Publicity). The Division also needs help with the Audio/Video operation required to broadcast the event to Zoom Attendees.

The President's Lantern by Glenn Mitchell

Next, AP Chairman Tom Oxnard, MMR announced the award of a Golden Spike to Will Everett. Congratulations Will!

The first clinic, "Scratch Building a Through-Plate Girder Bridge," was given by John McHugh. John showed how he built an HO scale 79 foot through-plate girder bridge to earn a Merit Award. He presented how he measured and documented a representative prototype and modified the design to fit his layout requirements. He highlighted the many key details that were added in order to increase the complexity to meet the requirements for a Merit Award. John gave a very informative presentation. Thanks John!

The second clinic, "Does Your Layout Tell A Story?" was given by Jim Gore, MMR. Jim walked through the ten key areas that need to be addressed so that the structure/scene looks realistic to the typical viewer who may or not be a model railroader. Adding many minor details to a structure goes a long way toward the goal of creating a realistic looking model. Jim showed photos of many of his own models to help illustrate the ten topics that he describes. Outstanding! We never tire of seeing Jim's great work.

As part of the "Show, Tell, Ask" portion of the event, Dave Emery showed how he used servos and custom built linkages to create an Operating Ball Signal, like those used by the B&M Railroad years ago in New Hampshire. Dave, very nice work!

The third clinic, "Ten Year Anniversary of the HO Scale 1909 Boston & Maine Layout at the Heritage Park Railroad Museum" was presented by Rich Breton. Rich presented about a hundred photos, out of the thousands in his collection, that walked the audience through the ten years of hard work donated by many volunteers who designed and built the layout. The layout accurately depicts the eastern New Hampshire locations traversed by the Boston and Maine Railroad in 1909. Rich included history of local people's ancestors who lived in the area or worked on the railroad. Overall, an outstanding presentation. Thanks again Rich.

Remember, If you missed the Spring event and are interested in any of the clinics listed above, You can view them on the Division Youtube Channel.

Lastly, I reviewed upcoming events and conventions and introduced the two layout tours, The Heritage Park Railroad Museum – 1909 B&B Layout and Chris Oliver's Donner Pass HO Layout that were open to members following the event.

Again I would like to thank everyone who helped make the Spring Event possible!

Seacoast Summer 2023 Event

The Seacoast Division Summer 2023 Event will be held on July 15, 2023 at the Great Falls Model Railroad Club in Auburn ME. Watch for the Event notice. Tage Erickson is organizing the event.

Other Upcoming 2023 Shows and Events

37th Annual Concord Model Railroad Show, Everett Arena, 15 Loudon Rd, Concord, NH 03301. Exit

The President's Lantern by Glenn Mitchell

14 on Route 93. August 20, 2023 - Hours 10a-3:30p. For more information please visit <http://www.trainweb.org/cmrc/> or contact Rich Fifield via email @rhfsaf@aol.com or 603- 736-8061.

NER Convention – Cannonball Express 2023, Uniondale, NY, October 5-8, 2023. Enrollment is open at <https://ner-conventions.org/cannonball-express/>.

Seacoast Division 2025 NER Convention Exploratory Committee Status

The Seacoast Division 2025 NER Convention Exploratory Committee continues to investigate the possibility of the Seacoast Division hosting the 2025 NER Convention. At this time we have located one feasible venue in Concord NH – The Grapponne Center. Several committee members were able to tour the venue on May 24th. Each of the four major committees (Overall Convention, Inside Activities, Outside Activities, and Publicity) will be co-chaired in order to share the workload. At this time two Seacoast members have volunteered to be a co-chairman for the Inside Activities Committee and the Publicity Committee. We are still in need of at least one volunteer for each of the co-chair positions in the Overall Convention Committee and Outside Activities Committee before we can commit to hosting the 2025 NER Convention. Please think about stepping up and becoming a Committee Co-chairman.

Once again, consider volunteering. This is your organization and we need help in several areas.

Enjoy the spring and summer, and I hope to see you at the Summer Event.

Glenn Mitchell

Seacoast Division NMRA President & Director

Second Place in the Freight car category at the Fundy Railfest contest. Model by Geoff Anthony

Photo courtesy of the Maritime Federation of Model Railroaders website



**Seacoast Summer Event July 15, 2023 10 –2
Great Falls Model RR Club 144 Mill St Auburn Me**

Clinic Topics:**Progress on the Fort Fairfield Branch of the BAR - Lessons Learned** by Peter McKenney.

Tom Oxnard, MMR, wanted to earn the Master Builder- Prototype Models Achievement Certificate but lacked space in his layout room, and needed some historical data to base his work on. Peter McKenney had space and a lot of historical data on his favorite railroad. Several years ago, they decided to partner to create a highly accurate model of the end of the Fort Fairfield Branch of the BAR. Peter will give us a status report. “More benchwork and tracks have been added in the two years since my last update. More structure models have been added, too. I will show the progress and the tricks and tips I have employed to make this practical as well as what I am doing now to make this a layout suitable for realistic train operations.”

Up On The Roof by Tom Oxnard MMR. Tom will discuss all the items and details that can be used or added to the roof of a building, in order to make your structures look more realistic.

These include types of roofing, shingles, downspouts, signage, and other items. It's the small details that make your model structures look great!

Scratch-Build a DCC Command Station for \$70 by Will Everitt. Have you ever baked a cake? If you can follow a recipe for baking a cake, you can build your own DCC command station and run your trains from your phone! Model railroaders take pride in scratch-building. Attend this workshop and find out how to build a DCC system from scratch using an Arduino [an easily programmable circuit board]. Thanks to the longtime advocacy work of the NMRA, nearly any model railroader can set up a DCC system and run their trains from their smartphone for as little as \$70 in parts. This is a great project to do with your kids or grandchildren!**Swing Bridge Construction** by Victor Hand. We are again, very fortunate to have fellow Seacoast Division member and a very fine model builder, Mr. Victor Hand, with us. Victor is in the finishing stages of constructing a swing bridge for his New York Central Railroad based layout. He has agreed to bring the bridge to our Event for viewing and will describe the methods and materials that he used for construction. This will be a very interesting presentation that you won't want to miss.**Report from the Maritime Federation of Model Railroaders Convention** by Peter McKenney and Tom Oxnard MMR. Peter and Tom will give us a slide picture presentation of this recent convention which took place in St. John, New Brunswick, Canada. The convention was well attended and enjoyed by those that participated.

Show, Tell and Ask: Participants are encouraged to bring 1) examples of their modeling to show to other attendees for educational purposes (two-way!) AND 2) questions on model railroading topics to pose to the others. Take advantage of the cumulative experience of all of the attendees to make your modeling experience more enjoyable. We will have a table set up for you to display your modeling efforts. Contact the Summer Event organizer, Tage Erickson, with any questions or information about your showing.

**Seacoast Summer Event July 15, 2023 10 –2
Great Falls Model RR Club 144 Mill St Auburn Me**

FOR SALE!

There will be a table set up for any members that wish to display any surplus modeling items they may have available for sale. 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!

Social Time:

Similar to our other recent Events, there will be a 30 minute break for lunch and socializing. Also, please take some time to visit the many different scale layouts that are available for viewing at the Great Falls Model Railroad Club. If you haven't been here before, you will find this is a very special place. Operations may or may not be underway by Club members on the large HO layout, but the layout will be available for viewing.

Layout Tours: As of today, I do not have any layout tours lined up at this time. That may change in the next few weeks.

Lunch will not be available on-site. Please bring your own lunch or snacks.

This Summer Event will be broadcast and recorded on Zoom.

I will be sending out the Zoom log-in information about 24 hours prior to the Event.

Come to the Summer Event and **Share the Fun of Model Railroading.**

Next Event: October 28, 2023 in Stratham, NH (Stratham Fire House, 4 Winnicutt Road) *Mark your calendar and save the date!!*



Second place in the structure category at Fundy Railfest contest by Geoff Anthony, photo courtesy of Maritime Federation of Model Railroaders website

FUN AT FUNDY RAIL FEST 2013 by Peter McKenney

Tom Oxnard, MMR, and I had a pleasant ride in late May to a wonderful model railroad convention held in St. John, NB. **Fundy Rail Fest 2013** ran from May 25 through May 28 with three major sponsors: Maritime Federation of Model Railroaders, Saint John Society of Model Railroaders, and the Eastern Canada Division of the NMRA. This combination of sponsors yields a plethora of model railroaders and model railroad clubs with their broad range of talents, presentations, and displays.

Tom and I had also attended **Port City Rails 2016** in Saint John and knew we were going to have a fun time with friendly and informed model railroaders. We arrived at the convention hotel mid-afternoon, obtained our registration materials, chatted with old friends, and then had a delicious and inexpensive meal at a nearby restaurant. Then we headed to an evening operating session on Lou McIntyre's *Hampton & St. Martins Railway*. Lou's layout is based on 1940s railroading on a branch line with mostly lumbering, ore extraction, and agricultural activities with a seaport at the end of the line. This is a very well-built layout with great scenery and many scratch-built structures. Lou's layout has a good car-forwarding system which is easy to follow. The five-member crew needed for this layout worked smoothly together and we all had a great time.

On Friday, we attended five informative clinic presentations held in function rooms at our hotel, operated on another great layout, and ended the evening at a Meet and Greet function. The must-see clinic for me was Steve McMullin's. Steve grew up about 50 miles from me, although his hometown was in a large potato growing area in western New Brunswick and my hometown was also a potato producing town but on the US side of the international border. We first met at his home May 20, 2010, when I operated on his layout during the **Tracks and Tides 2010** convention. We have met a number of times since then at NMRA events and the Springfield Train Show, sharing ideas about modeling accurately mid-20th century potato operations. During the first clinic on Friday morning, Steve gave a great clinic about incorporating potato farming and shipping activities into model railroad operations. He and I have different opinions, though, whether Carleton County, NB, or Aroostook County, ME, were the largest potato producing areas in the world in the 1950s and 1960s.



Lou McIntyre's Hampton and St. Martins Railway was open for touring as well as operations. Lou is a skilled modeler and has built a great operating layout with gorgeous scenery and many structures, many of them scratch-built.

Other clinics we attended on Friday explored electric circuits and devices, Arduinos, details making

FUN AT FUNDY RAIL FEST 2013 by Peter McKenney

a difference, hazard signs on rolling stock, tank cars, and signal systems. Greg Williams gave two clinics on Arduinos in Model Railroading, and Introduction to Electronic Circuits where, for a \$10 fee, participants built a circuit with a breadboard, a 555 Timer, resistors, a potentiometer, a battery, and two LEDs that flashed. All very gratifying! Kevin Rudko of Signalogic Systems from Edmonton, Alberta gave two clinics on his signaling systems and his gate crossing controller with bell. Just what Tom needs. From Rich Mahaney's clinic, I learned that I need to add some different type tank cars if I want to accurately reflect rail traffic at Great Northern Paper Company's Mill #1 on my layout.

Our second operating session was Friday evening on Steve McMullin's greatly enlarged *Carleton Railway*. This was my third time operating on this layout. Instead of repeating any of my prior assignments, I volunteered to be the yardmaster for South Newbridge Yard. I was happy I did. Steve's yard instructions, good waybill system, and schedule of trains, made it possible for me to keep trains moving through my yard without unnecessary delay on my part all evening. I was extremely busy throughout the whole session as I dealt with train arrivals and departures as well as pulled and spotted cars on several locations in or near my yard. My only regret is at the very end of our session I could not locate three car cards for the last three cars I needed to place. Ugh. I reported this to Steve and wonder if he has found those critical items yet. At the conclusion of the session, twelve of us had big grins on our faces, and we then enjoyed some homemade cookies and headed to the Meet and Greet function where we had more munchies, cold beverages, and chances to share our stories and questions with many other fellow modelers.



Peter McKenney, South Newbridge yardmaster, is switching cars on spots to the left end of the yard.

Immediately after breakfast on Saturday, we took Tom's contest model to the site of the Public Show, a short distance from the hotel.

Tom paid for membership in the Maritime Federation of Model Railroaders to become an eligible contestant. We then spent some time looking at the exhibits of modular layouts in the spacious Building One at Exhibition Park as well as shopping with the vendors. The quality of the modular layouts was outstanding and we conversed with several owners.

By mid-morning, we headed back to the hotel and attended four more clinic presentations. Afterwards, it was time to return to the public show and recover Tom's contest entry. Then we headed off to the site of the social hour and awards banquet, the gorgeous Riverside Country Club, overlooking the wide and picturesque Kennebecasis River. The drinks were very affordable, thanks to the favorable currency exchange, and the evening meal was delicious. We had a fun group to dine with at our table, too. Geoff Anthony, John Doehring, Dave Insley with his wife and mother, and Ed Ol-

FUN AT FUNDY RAIL FEST 2013 by Peter McKenney

szewski chatted with Tom and me during dinner. The keynote speaker was a well-spoken and enthusiastic business leader, Craig Bell Estabrooks, CEO, Port Saint John. Craig in a brief presentation told us the recent history and future plans for enlargement of the port of St. John. The aim of this area is to have the port eventually closely rival the port of Halifax which at the moment has seven-times the maritime shipments as St. John. If this unfolds as he plans, more rail traffic will likely be flowing over rails in Maine.

The last item on the evening's agenda was announcing winners of the model and photo contests. These contests are decided by "popular" votes of the members of the Maritime Federation of Model Railroaders. There was a total of 57 entries. Earlier in the day, I had watched voters carefully study each contest entry and make choices on paper ballots. The MFMR has eight categories and two classes of entrant, "Craftsman" (have previously won a first place in the category) and "Regular." Two entrants from Seacoast Division NMRA were award winners.

Geoff Anthony won second place in freight cars and structures in the Regular Class. He entered a model of BAR woodchip car 3567 and a mill stream machine structure.

Tom entered a 1x4 foot diorama with the "Nikolas Chemical Company" facility on it. Tom's entry won first place in the Craftsman Diorama competition AND was voted "Best in Show- All Models!" This is the second time that Tom has received this honor from the MFMR. Congratulations to both modelers.



The train show had many excellent modular layouts from eastern Canada as well as some good vendors

On Sunday morning, Tom and I checked out of the hotel and visited three more layouts which were open for touring. We had interesting conversations with the owners who were all knowledgeable and helpful modelers. We learned more about use of 3D printing in one case, more about the history of the Port of Saint John and its railroad structures at the second layout, and further learned about the prototype railroads that had served the area on the last stop. All very interesting visits and they left us in good spirits for the drive home. Even though it was Memorial Day weekend in the US, traffic was very reasonable and we arrived on time at our respective homes.

FUN AT FUNDY RAIL FEST 2013 by Peter McKenney



Top photo : Tom Oxnard and Dave Insley are conductor and engineer on a local freight train on Lou McIntyre's layout.



Bottom photo : Steve McMullin checks part of his Carleton Railway layout to be sure it is ready for that evening's operating session.

FUN AT FUNDY RAIL FEST 2013 by Peter McKenney



Photo left: Tom Oxnard, MMR, entered his diorama, Nikolas Chemical Company, in the model contest.

Bottom Photo :

Tom Oxnard, Peter McKenney, and Geoff Anthony enjoy the food and conversation at the awards banquet held in the Riverview Country Club.



NER CONVENTION



October 5-8, 2023

Uniondale, NY



ner-conventions.org



Wreck on the Kearsarge & Cumberland

By Nelson LeMay



Tanker load of crude oil didn't make it around the curve. Busted up pretty bad, dumping' "bunker-crude" all over a swamp. Retention booms are in place down-range to hold the petroleum back from contaminating water sources. Close examination shows that I enlisted the men from a local "chain-gang" to help. One's just standing on the end of the tanker, other one has the bitter end of a stabilizing cable as a piece of I bean from the tanker is being lifted off. Dirt road was just laid in to move more heavy equipment in to clean up.

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

Timetable

No AP report this time around.

Essex Conn 9 Sep New Haven Historical Association show WWW.nhrhta.org
Hingham MA . Aug 6 South Shore open house WWW.ssmrc.org

Taunton MA Sep 17 Old Colony Model RR show email dingalls@comcast.net

Boxboro MA. Sep 23 Railfair 2023 nvr-ra.com email showchair@nvr-ra.com

Kennebunkport ME July 8 Ice Cream night at Seashore Trolley Museum www.trolley-museum.org

Auburn Me July 15 Seacoast Summer Event Great Falls Model RR club 10-2

Kennebunkport Me July 22-23, Aug 12-13, Oct 27-29 Seashore Trolley museum events see website.

Hancock Me Aug 19 Touch a train 2023 New England Steam Corp 9-1 includes train ride departing 1:30 www.touchatrain.org or hbrooks@newenglandsteam.org

Concord NH Aug 20 Concord Model Railroad Show. Everett Arena , 15 Loudon Rd Concord, www.trainweb.org/cmrc/ email Rich Fifield rhfsaf@aol.com

Editor's Ramblings

I had the opportunity to attend the Fundy Railfest this past May. I had not been to Saint John since 1988 when my club took our modules to the convention then. What a difference in the town and the ride up, Highways much improved and St John has gotten bigger . The hotel was great and the staff helpful. I got registered and took a short break then off to Steve McMullen's wonderful Carleton railway to operate. Meet some wonderful fellow operators from all over Canada and the US . Had a great time and Steve and his wife were great hosts and went beyond all expectations. Next day was a tour of the port and the New Brunswick Southern shops both excellent tours and fun transportation provided by a faux trolley. Then some informative clinics . Saturday was the show and I walked around and bought a few thing as I don't need much these days as I am modeling a hobby shop. Entered my 2 models in the contest and did some more clinics. Went to the banquet with Peter McKenny and Tom Oxnard and was shocked when I got 2 second places with my models. Many thanks to the organizers of the convention , it was well done and great fun. I met some great people I encourage everyone to avail themselves to participate in a convention. Time well spent.

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