



# The Switch Tower

Vol. 31 number 4

October 2024

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



**Seacoast Division Fall Event**  
**Saturday, October 5, 2024 10A.M**  
**To 2P.M. Center Harbor Congrega-**  
**tional Church, 52 Main ST , Center**  
**Harbor NH entrance to right in the**  
**rear , Handicap accessible**

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Photo by Paul Rogers editors collection location unknown

## The President's Lantern by Glenn Mitchell

Greetings Seacoast Members,

Summer seems to have zoomed by again. Most of my summer projects got finished. Before I know it I will raking and blowing leaves. I am not looking forward to that.

My layout is progressing steadily. The bench work in the "helix room" is just about completed. I am building the EJ&E Waukegan yard and industries on top of the helix, covering about half of it. The helix can be accessed for track cleaning from underneath - not something I am looking forward to. Waukegan was the northern terminus of the EJ&E railroad and included a small yard, an interchange with the C&NW line north to Wisconsin, and several industries including Comm Ed Power Plant #16. There was also a small port facility where cement and crushed limestone are off-loaded. I am modeling all of these features and it should make for interesting operations.

The Seacoast Division Summer Event was held on July 13, 2024 at the Great Fall Model Railroad Club in Auburn Maine. Thanks go out to all of the GFMRRRC members for their hospitality and for letting us use their facility. Thanks also go out to Jay Ehlen for coordinating the event and Will Everitt for taking on the A/V operator role which resulted in much improved sound for those viewing on Zoom.

Bob Bennett gave the first presentation on how he designs and builds structures and rolling stock for his On30 layout. The second presentation was given by Jim Gore, MMR on his layout construction status and how he is using Mianne Benchwork to build his layout. The third presentation was given by Tom Oxnard, MMR on how he built the B&M canning plant. Tom walked through the steps used to build a prototype-based model, starting with photos and Sanborn Insurance maps and ending in interior lighting and details. Tage Erickson gave an update on the construction of his layout. His presentation included how he installed a backdrop of an oil refinery. We thank Bob, Jim, Tom and Tage for giving great presentations.

Tage Erickson presented the status of the **Concord Flyer** 2025 Convention planning effort. The **Concord Flyer** 2025 NER Convention Committee, led by co-chairmen Tage Erickson, Peter McKenney and Will Everitt, continues to make progress planning the **Concord Flyer** 2025 NER Convention to be hosted by the Seacoast Division in Concord, NH on September 11 - 15, 2025. Please note the change in dates from what was stated earlier. Our original date conflicted with the recently announced NASCAR race up the road in Loudon.

A recent addition to the **Concord Flyer** 2025 NER Convention activities is the tour of the Blue Seal Feed Mill in Bow NH. If you have traveled up I-93 toward Concord, you've seen the large, box shaped building and silos near the intersection of I-93 and I-89. We've managed to arrange for a 45 minute tour of the plant, while it's operating, for Concord Flyer Convention attendees. Watch for more details in the future.

"Good Job" and thanks to all the Convention Committee members who are working to make the **Concord Flyer** a great convention. Please remember that we will need a lot of help from Seacoast Members to run the convention. If you are interested in helping and have not already signed up to support the convention please contact Tage Erickson or me.

The Lakeshores '24 NER Convention will be held, starting this Thursday through Sunday in Rochester New York. I have managed to get signed up for two op sessions and I am looking forward to all the convention activities. I believe there are at least 8 Seacoast members attending. I hope to

## The President's Lantern by Glenn Mitchell

see you there.

Dave Delorey continues to do a great job with our website at [www.seacoastnmra.org](http://www.seacoastnmra.org). The website has an incredible number of resource documents and clinics linked to it. Please take a look when you can.

Geoff Anthony, the Switch Tower Editor, is always in need of articles for the Switch Tower. Even a few photos of your latest project will be a welcome addition to the Switch Tower. The July 2024 edition of the Switch Tower was recently added to the website.

The Seacoast Division Fall 2024 Event is scheduled for October 5, 2024 at the Center Harbor Congregational Church, in Center Harbor, NH. The first event notice has already been sent out. The seacoast Fall Event Notice is attached.

We have not been to the Center Harbor Congregational Church location for a Seacoast Event in at least 15 years and we are holding the Fall Event there because a Seacoast Member asked about doing it. If you have an idea for the Seacoast Division to do, please step forward and suggest it. We are always looking for ideas for new activities.

Earlier this year Matt Kaiser volunteered to organize op sessions for the Seacoast Division. Recently Matt told me he is close to finalizing the date for the first op session in October. Watch for an email from Matt with the details.

Again, we are always looking for members to give presentations and clinics at the Quarterly Events. If you are interested contact Jay Ehlen or myself.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the NER Convention in Rochester NY this weekend and/or at Seacoast Fall 2024 Event.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Glenn Mitchell  
Seacoast Division NMRA President and Director

Maine Central crane 198 Ellsworth ME photo by Paul Rogers editors collection



**Seacoast Division Fall Event Saturday Oct, 5, 2024  
Center Harbor Congregational Church 52 Main ST.  
Center Harbor NH**

**All NMRA members and people interested in becoming NMRA members are invited to the Fall Event of the Seacoast Division NMRA in Center Harbor, New Hampshire.**

**The Seacoast Division Fall 2024 Event will be held in person and also on-line with ZOOM . There is ample on-site parking**

**AGENDA - Something for Everybody**

**TWO CLINICS –**

Dave Emery – helpful modelling tips “101”

Paul Lessard – kitbashing and detailing vehicles

**CONVENTION REVIEWS –**

August 2024 NMRA National Convention

September 2025 NER Convention

**2025 “CONCORD FLYER ” Seacoast Division hosting NER Convention**

Planning progress update - Division member participation

The Raffle - looking for donations

**MEMBER LAYOUT – Jay Ehlen’s AKRON UNION TERMINAL RR**

**SHOW AND TELL – we always have time for members to display and describe recent projects, etc. If you something that you would like to share with attendees, please contact Jay Ehlen “jayeahlen@gmail.com, to be placed on the agenda**

**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!**

**Seacoast Division Fall Event Saturday Oct, 5, 2024  
Center Harbor Congregational Church 52 Main ST.  
Center Harbor NH**

**REMEMBER-** There are limited food opportunities in the immediate area around the Church, so please remember to bring your lunch.

**LAST - BUT NOT LEAST - Three local area layouts open for tours!!**

**Dave Sias's – Boston & Maine White Mountain Route**

**Butch Taggart's – Red Oak Railroad**

**Lisa Yesse's – Pantavesin & Portal**

Derby Shops 1982? Inside one of the last F units photo Geoff Anthony



## **VICTOR HAND, MMR**

### **By Peter McKenney**

Seacoast Division NMRA has another Master Model Railroader. NER AP Chair Bill Brown, MMR, notified Victor Hand of Bar Harbor, Maine, of his meeting the AP requirements for MMR on August 26. Victor joins two other living Seacoast Division MMRs, Tom Oxnard and Jim Gore.

Victor has been a railroad fan since his youth. At age 15, he traveled from New York to Roanoke to take photos of N&W steam engines. As Don Phillips wrote in Victor's book, *A Steam Odyssey*, Victor "has spent his life photographing railroads, working for railroads, helping save railroads from bankruptcy and ruin, and seeing much of the world from trackside." In 2000, Victor moved his family to Bar Harbor and started building in his home's basement a model railroad of the New York Central Hudson and Electric Divisions around Harmon, New York, as the railroad appeared in 1948-1951. His layout design is based on extensive research and many photos and maps.

Larry Cannon, MMR, had encouraged Victor to pursue the MMR certificate and subsequently Victor met Peter McKenney at the train show in W. Springfield in January 2023 and expressed his interest in completing the process. Over the following months, the two had conversations and a timeline developed for completing the requirements. As he completed an AP category, Victor would send documentation of it to Peter who would then go over it with Tom Oxnard, MMR. Peter would then provide Victor with feedback and suggestions whenever appropriate. Since Victor had already many railroad publications to his credit, he first earned the Model Railroad Author certificate in July 2023. The other certificates he planned to earn would require a site visit by evaluators. Eventually, the dates of August 12 and 13 were set for Tom and Peter to evaluate Victor's modeling accomplishments. After their visit, only a couple of items were needed and Victor completed those, signed off on his documentation, and mailed a package containing six AP certificate submissions to Bill Brown for his review.

Besides Model Railroad Author, Victor has earned certificates for Model Railroad Engineer-Electrical, Master Builder Structures, Master Builder- Scenery, Master Builder- Prototype Models, Master Builder- Cars, and Model Railroad Engineer- Civil.

Victor's path to MMR will be further explored in future articles in the Switch Tower. Congratulations, Victor!!

**VICTOR HAND, MMR**  
**By Peter McKenney**



Victor Hand speaks to Tom Oxnard about this scene on his home layout. Victor earned two certificates for this part of his layout, Scenery and Prototype Model. In addition, this area also contributed elements for his Electrical and Civil Engineering certificates.

Editors note ,Victor's layout can be found on the NERX you tube video and is a great layout to see

## Surfliner Adventures 2024

**By Peter McKenney**

My Surfliner 2024 experience in August was somewhat of an unwanted adventure due to personal transportation issues which caused me to adjust my activities during my stay in Long Beach. The transportation woe continued on my return flight, as well. Notwithstanding my disappointments, though, I had an overall positive experience and I am grateful that I attended.

The first disappointment arose in December 2023 with advanced news that the customary national train show would be greatly curtailed. The NMRA decided to relocate the train show to the Westin Hotel rather than host it at a much larger convention site. The reason: Costs at the larger convention center would include significant unanticipated expenses for the vendors and most vendors, once aware of these costs, declared that they would not participate. News of this change greatly dampened interest in attending Surfliner 2024.

Another factor dampening enthusiasm for this convention was the cost of lodging at the Westin, \$209 per night for a room, plus 16% tax. Luckily for me, I would be sharing this cost with a roommate, Tom Oxnard. Also, for those of us living on the east coast, the cost and trouble of transportation to and from the convention was high. As the convention dates drew near, I realized that attendance was going to be far below average. In fact, only about 550 registered for this convention. I could have cancelled my registration and received a partial refund but I was anxious to attend the convention to work in the Celebration Room as a member of one of the five model evaluation teams. At prior conventions, I found this experience a great learning opportunity.

Once at the convention site, I found that the clinic rooms were much smaller than usual size for national conventions with capacity for only about 40 people. On Tuesday afternoon, I was disappointed that I could not fit into a clinic of great interest due to standing room only. After that disappointment, I arrived at clinics early enough to be sure I could have a seat.

Here is a general overview of my activities during the convention week, August 4-11:

Sunday: American Airlines cancelled my flights to Los Angeles Airport.

Monday: I rescheduled flights, the earliest practical flights being on Tuesday.

Tuesday: Landed at LAX at noon, local time. Instead of a leisurely, planned ride at low expense via Metro lines to Long Beach, I hired a Lyft driver at four times the expense to reach my hotel much sooner. After checking in, I went to the Celebration Room where evaluation of models was already underway. I served as a fill-in evaluator when needed. Later, I attended two worthwhile clinics in the evening.

Wednesday: LDSIG self-drive layout tour.

Thursday: Saw seven more clinics and also attended the Membership Meeting to hear NMRA President Gordie Robinson announce several interesting developments.

Friday: Evaluated modules at the train show, shopped at the train show (nothing purchased) and visited Southern California Railroad Museum. Saturday: Flew from LAX to PHL on time but suffered a four-hour delay in PHL, arriving home about 3:30 AM the next day.



## Surfliner Adventures 2024

By Peter McKenney

So far, a reader likely has formed an impression that my adventure to Surfliner 2024 was more trouble than it was worth. Not so. While there were less than 40 entries in the model contest, the overwhelming majority of them were fantastic models. I studied them for hours and benefited from the experience. The LDSIG tour on Wednesday was one of the best I have experienced in recent years. Four of us car-pooled and saw eight of the twelve layouts open for the tour. Most of the clinics I took were also very informative and useful for my future modeling activities. At the train show, a new product caught my eye, "Sea-Bots." Google *Sea-Bots by Cube 6* and watch the video demonstration of this fun product. I probably will not find space for a Sea-Bot on my layout but I would not be surprised to see other modelers incorporate one someday on their layout. On Friday afternoon, Bill Brown suggested we visit the Southern California Railroad Museum. I had not planned to do this, but it turned out to be very interesting. We had an interesting docent who gave us special access to many historic engines and rolling stock. Pictures were taken of several prototypes with intention by a few in our group to scratch-build a few unique items someday.

Seacoast Division NMRA was well-represented in the Celebration Room during this convention. Tom Oxnard, MMR, not only worked hard as one of National Contest Chair Bill Brown's special assistants from Sunday through Thursday, he had three entries that won awards. His kit built B&M mogul won second place in that category. He also won two third places in the photo contest, one for prototype print and one for prototype color print. These photos were of scenes at Crawford Notch and one in Conway Scenic engine facility. Congratulations, Tom!

This convention was different than most I have attended in that I took more time to socialize with others. There were fine restaurants a couple blocks from the hotel on the Long Beach waterfront with tasty food and delicious beer. The conversation at these dinners centered on modeling practices and planning for more conventions and programs to offer to NMRA members. Attending conventions like SurfLiner 2024 helps modelers expand their network of human resources that they can call upon when they have issues to resolve.

Model of a Thornberger ore unloader was a crowd pleaser as it not only was well-modeled, the loaders moved from side to side, simulating loading ore cars from barges.



## Surfliner Adventures 2024

### By Peter McKenney

In summary, I had problems with transportation that reduced the activities I could participate in at Surfliner 2024 but the time I had there was thoroughly productive and fun. In particular, I enjoyed getting to know fellow modelers better and to learn from them. I now look forward to attending the next national convention to be held near Detroit as well as our own hosted regional convention, Concord Flyer 2025. I hope to see you there.

Tom Oxnard and another evaluator in the Celebration Room are examining the model of a side-wheel car ferry. Its prototype served between Detroit and Canada for many years. The model was judged best in show.



One of the layouts on the LDSIG tour was a large layout owned by Ron Varnell based on the Union Pacific.



# Surfliner Adventures 2024

## By Peter McKenney



On Friday morning before the train show opened, Ken May chaired a crew to judge modules. This module was judged best in show. Tom Oxnard and I were part of the evaluation crew.

The night scene near the hotel was gorgeous. Bill Brown, Ken May, and Tom Oxnard pose for a picture after they finished dinner.



## **More *Concord Flyer* Convention Thoughts**

### **By Mike Pedersen**

To me one of the hardest things to do is writing about something that hasn't happened yet and knowing you won't read this until after it has happened. I have no idea how the *Lakeshores 2024* convention will, or did, turn out. I do know that those that attended will have returned and shared the stories of their experiences. If the *Lakeshores'* NER magazine articles and website are any indication, those who attended had many excellent layouts to tour and operate, a variety of clinics to attend and several local railroad and non-railroad attractions to visit. One thing I do know – with *Lakeshores 2024* behind us, that means WE'RE NEXT!

We are now less than a year away from our convention, *Concord Flyer 2025*. I already feel that the time is slipping by! Is it a factor of getting older that everything starts to speed up? As I said, I have committed to attending *Concord Flyer 2025*, my first model railroad convention. That doesn't mean I'm all relaxed and calm about it. With time seeming to speed by, I'm already thinking: "Where are the negatives of the photos I want to share? What do I have to touch up on the models I want to bring?" Part of me says to put it off until the winter when nothing else is happening, but I know winter will come and go and spring will come and go and I will be up against a hard deadline before I know it!



I mentioned some of the events that you should consider not only visiting, but participating in and, just now, some of the ones I plan on entering. I'm sure not one of us has a layout populated with nothing but straight out of the box rolling stock. I don't consider myself an expert on anything model railroad related, but I have a couple cars I have weathered and a couple I have kit-bashed or scratch built that I can't wait to bring and display. I'm sure you do, too. One of the good things is, you don't have to bring anything to be judged. If you just want to show others what you did, that's up to you. And don't forget photos. Is there a particular scene or structure on your layout that causes you to say, "Wow," every time you walk by it? Get a photo of it and bring it to share with the rest of us. Have you taken a photo of a prototype railroad scene that strikes you? Bring it; we'd all like to see it!

Here's an interesting observation about our members who attended *Lakeshores 2024*. Before the event, I didn't hear any of them mention particular clinics they wanted to attend or any particular sights they wanted to see. The comments I heard were all about the layouts they wanted to visit or operate. Another observation, and one I make in hopes that it may encourage many of you to decide to attend our convention, is that those who have attended several Northeastern Region conventions know the people and the layouts they will be visiting. At times, the NMRA may seem like a huge organization; worldwide in scope, but the more you get involved the more you come to realize it is an organization made up of much smaller regional and divisional units. Our Seacoast

## More *Concord Flyer* Convention Thoughts

### By Mike Pedersen

Division currently has fewer than 200 members, and about ten to twenty percent of you regularly participate in our quarterly events. Those that attend quickly learn who the other attendees are. The conversations start easily: “What have you done on your layout lately?” If the moderator didn’t call us to order and start the programs, we could easily spend our whole time catching up with each other. This is one more reason why I encourage you to attend our events and attend the convention!

Another thing I noticed about our upcoming convention. Having made my commitment to attend, I felt invigorated to work more on my layout. It’s not going to be one of those open for tour, but I just felt the need to update it some. I think I mentioned last time that I have been “working” on it for some forty years. It is basically a 16’ x 16’ walk-in U-shape in the upstairs of my barn. It has two parallel main lines, but they are not really a double track main. Trains can run in either direction on either line. Also, when I started building it I had never heard of operating sessions. So, every train is an ‘extra’ and all my train orders are verbal (or in my head). In June I started to expand it. I had a roundhouse but no yard associated with it. I worked to correct that. Now I have a yard, and the layout has grown to 16’ x 26’, with one more piece of bench work to install to make it complete. I still have a lot of detail work, scenery and so forth to install, but it works electrically and I can get my engines from the roundhouse to the rest of the layout without relying on a “shoo fly.”

As I said, I will not be on the tour list for the convention, but if you are coming down Interstate 95 on your way to the convention, stop by and I’ll show you what I have. Let me know and I’ll wait for you, and then we can convoy to Concord together!

Mikes layout and photo



## Seacoast Div. NMRA Board Of Directors Election Slate for 2025

### Geoff Anthony

My journey with model trains started quite young. My parents bought an HO layout at an auction when I was 5 or 6 with some furniture. Unfortunately, it was put in the basement, and we got some rain and it ruined the layout, but unknown to me some buildings and rolling stock as well as a loco were saved. I had seen the layout but never got to use it. . At age ten my father and a friend built an HO layout for me out of the Atlas blue layout book a simple oval with a couple of switches, but they were remote controlled, and I was having a blast. 2 years later we moved to Maine and I had to leave it behind because we had no room for it, I saved the original Mantua mike that came with auction layout and I still have it.

I want to give back to the hobby that has brought me friends, enjoyment, and a desire to develop more skills and knowledge. I see an uptick in the hobby and want to encourage that and grow the hobby. As an organization we need to reach out to youth, and I see the Faulter Fund as a tool to achieve that. I also have taken my portable 4 x 8 to the Blue Hill Fair the last couple of years to achieve that goal of giving the hobby wider exposure to the public. Together we can do this.

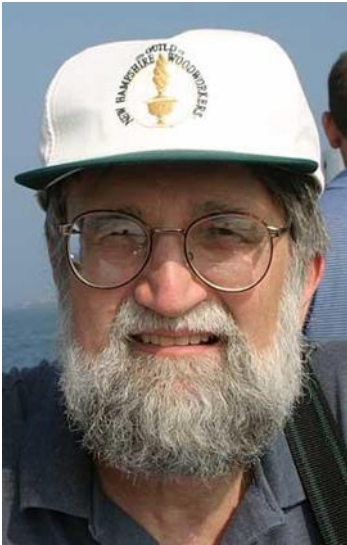
Thank you for your consideration.



**Jim Gore MMR** is a retired Dean and Professor of Biology. He has been modeling in N, HO, and, now, On30 for over 40 years. He has served as AP Chair in the Sunshine Region and as At-Large North America Director for the BOD of the NMRA. Currently, he is the manager of the Modeling with The Masters (MWTM) program for the NMRA.

## Seacoast Div. NMRA Board Of Directors Election Slate for 2025

### Bruce Campbell



### Jim Seroskie

I have been a model railroader off and on for 60 years. Currently modeling in On30.

I am currently on the Seacoast Division board of directors where I have served as the Treasurer since July, 2023.

I serve on the Concord Flyer 2025 Publicity committee including creating a website in support of member activities and news in the lead up to the convention.

I serve on the NER board as the NER Webmaster in support of a dozen divisions.

Converted the old Joomla main website to Wordpress

Created a new permanent NER convention website

Creating a new eCommerce website to support NER Coupler subscriptions

Supported a number of NER divisions in converting to Wordpress

I was heavily involved with the Guild of NH Woodworkers for 20 years.

At large member of the Board of Directors

Editor of the Journal (magazine)

Membership chair (750 members)

Established and edited a weekly online newsletter (MailChimp & Constant Contact)

Created and maintained a complex website (over 100 pages)

Established a Member Forum (~350 posts)

Established a Guild YouTube account with currently 2.5K subscribers and over 100 videos including post processing a majority of the videos.

Created printed materials over the years including banners, posters and many smaller items

# Lakeshores '24 NER Convention Report

By Glenn Mitchell

The NER Convention, Lakeshores '24, held in Rochester NY from September 19, 2024 to September 22, 2024 is now behind us. The Lakeshores '24 was held at the RIT (Rochester Institute of Technology) Inn which was a great venue for a convention. Ten Seacoast Division members attended and all had a good time. Rochester, NY is seven hours away by car, which is the furthest location that I have traveled to for a convention.

The convention started Thursday morning when several layouts were opened for touring and for operations for attendees traveling to the convention. Several great layouts in the Central New York Division (Syracuse Area) were open for attendees traveling west.

I was able to operate on three layouts on Friday and Saturday. My first op session was at 2:00 on Friday at Ned Spillar's, MMR, **Danby, Ludlow, and Springfield** layout. The DL&S is a free-lanced railroad set in Vermont in 1954. It serves as a bridge route between the B&M, Rutland, D&H and the fictitious Dorsett Valley. Ned's layout is beautifully modeled and was fun to operate. The layout supported about 8 operators on its great track work. Figures 1, 2, & 3 show Ned's outstanding work.



Fig 1 top left , fig 2 top right and fig bottom left



# Lakeshores '24 NER Convention Report

By Glenn Mitchell

The second railroad that I operated on, on Friday night, was the Rochester Model Railroad Club's **Seneca Valley Lines**. This very large layout is in the basement of the large church in downtown Rochester. This layout is fully scened and includes a very large staging area as well as several large yards. A large crew of over 15 operators, drew their assignments off the call board. The

RMRC has only recently started holding operating sessions, but the session went very smoothly.



Fig 4

The third layout that I operated on, on Saturday morning, was Gordon and Jeanne Spalty's **Maine & Western**. The M&W is a free-lanced layout set in the 1950's and depicts several locations in the Crawford Notch, NH area in autumn. Gordon explained how the layout was originally built and operated for 15 years and then was torn out and redesigned as more

space became available. The layout consists of a lo op that is operated point-to-point. The M&W is complete with outstanding prototype scenery. The M&W had two unique features that I had not seen before. First, there were no staging yards – each train was built in at the terminal from cars stored in drawers below the layout. The second feature was the use of only two two-man crews to operate the whole layout. This feature combined with the prototypically slow train speed made for a very quiet, relaxing operating experience. Each crew was able to operate four or five trains during the session. Figures 4, 5, & 6 show scenes from Gordon and Jeanne's M&W railroad.

Fig 5



Fig 6



# Lakeshores '24 NER Convention Report

By Glenn Mitchell

When I wasn't out on the road at Op Sessions, I was attending some of the 31 clinics that were held at the RIT Inn. Once again, I missed Tony Koester's clinic while I was out operating, but I did get a chance to talk to him at the Welcome Reception on Thursday night.

The Lakeshores '24 featured several outside activities including the GVT Excursion train ride from Brockport to Medina and back.

Saturday night the traditional convention banquet was held. After the cocktail hour the RIT Inn provided an outstanding buffet. The keynote speaker was Mark Klingel who is a 28 year old Operations Specialist for the US Coast Guard as well as the author of three railroad related books. Marks presentation "Rochester Area Railroad Stations and More" was a great finish to a very enjoyable banquet. Tage Erickson and Chris Carfaro presented a preview of the Seacoast Division hosted Concord Flyer 2025 NER Convention to be held in September 2025 in Concord, NH

On Sunday morning the awards banquet was held, followed by the NER Region business meeting. Model and photo contest contestants received their awards after breakfast. AP Award recipients received their plaques. The latest MMR recipient, Drew James of the Central New York Division was congratulated by all for his achievement.

John McHugh earned the Author AP Award and is shown alongside our Concord Flyer 2025 banner in Figure 7. F Gary Backus earned the Chief Dispatcher AP Award and is shown in Figure 8.



Fig 7  
Fig 8



# Lakeshores '24 NER Convention Report

By Glenn Mitchell

Tom Oxnard, MMR, received several awards. Tom's B&M Baked Bean Factory model won First Place in the Structures Category. His Burlingame Building model won Third Place in the Structures Category. Tom's B&M Baked Bean Factory model amassed the second highest number of points in all categories which earned him the HUB Award. The B&M Baked Bean Factory model also won The Peoples' Choice Award for Structures.

Finally Tom won the Harrold Russell Award. Harold Russell, Jr. MMR is author of hundreds of model railroad articles with architectural drawings. Tom won the Harold Russell Award for having the highest number of points in the structures category. Michael Russell, Harold's son, presented the award to Tom. He also gave Tom a signed copy of a Model Railroader magazine that contained a Harold Russell article. Tom and Michael are shown in Figure 9.

[Figure 9. (DSC\_0057) Tom Oxnard, MMR and Michael Russell after Michael presented Tom the Harold Russell Award.

Tom earned the AP Award for Association Official. This is Tom's 11<sup>th</sup> and final AP Award, since he has earned all of the AP awards. This is a rare and outstanding achievement for a model railroader and NMRA member. Tom is show holding his First Place Award, Structures and his AP Award for Association Official in Figure 10.

[Figure 10. (DSC\_0068) Tom Oxnard, MMR holding two of the many awards that he was presented for his outstanding modeling and contributions to the hobby.]

Following the Awards Ceremony a brief NER BOD meeting was held. Following its conclusion, the Lakeshores '24 Convention was officially adjourned. Fig 9 Fig 10



**A.P. Report Tom Oxnard Ap Chair**

**Peter McKenney Associate Chair**

## Timetable

Victor Hand, MMR, with six AP certificates (he received his Author certificate earlier in the year)

Gary Backus, chief dispatcher

Jack Lutz, volunteer

John McHugh, author

Tom Oxnard, official. Tom now has earned all 11 of the AP certificates.

Seacoast Division members earned 10 of the 38 AP certificates handed out at this convention

## Editor's Ramblings

Hi all, Another summer comes to a close and the days grow shorter . Be more time for the hobby soon. I am hoping some members out there will send some pictures of there work and or builds. I need more modeling articles for the Switch Tower. Just a picture of what you are currently working on would be great. I would like to get to the point of people looking forward to the switch tower for the modeling content .

Looking forward to the shows this fall and winter and hope to see some of you at those activities. I will be selling a lot of stuff that I have accumulated over the years. the need to downsize is important to give space for a small shelf layout. I have a rough idea about what I want to do and the layout space will be about 17'x 30'' I will shoe some pictures when I get started. Hope everyone gets to enjoy the fall. All the best Geoff

Oct 5 Seacoast Division fall event

52 Maine ST Center Harbor NH

Oct 5 &6 Railfair 2024 Boxboro Regency Hotel 242 Adams PL Boxboro MA

Oct 5 Stamford Model RR club 85th Anniversary 628 Main St Stamford CT

Oct 12 Great Falls Model RR show Kora Shrine Center 11 Sabbatus ST Lewiston ME

Oct 13 White River Jct, Connecticut Valley Model RR Club Show CT Valley auto Auction building 1567 VT -14 Whit River Jct VT 10-3

Oct 26 & 27 Fall open house and show Sout Shore Club 52 Bare Creek Park Drive Hingham MA

Nov 2 470 RR Club excursion Crawford Notch

Tickets at Conway Scenic .

Nov 23 Brewer Me Eastern Maine Model RR club show , Jeff's Catering 15 Coffin AVE Brewer ME 10-3

Jan 25-26 2025 Amherst Railway Society Show , Eastern States Exposition 1305 Memorila Ave West Springfield MA

Feb 15 2025 Maine 3 Railers Show , National Guard Armory, 179 western Ave Augusta ME 10-3

# Seacoast Division NMRA Leaders



President, Director	Glenn Mitchell	Glenn.t.mitchell@comcast.net	603-856-8146
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