



Seacoast Division
Northeastern Region - NMRA
2021
Annual Report
December 29, 2021

Seacoast Division members,

The year 2021 has certainly been an interesting year within the Seacoast Division. Like the rest of the world, and much like year 2020, we have been dealing with the effects from the Covid19 virus and its various mutations. In spite of all that, we still were able to support our members by conducting our Quarterly Events via Zoom meetings.

Additionally, we were able to conduct our Fall Event in-person and via Zoom. Being able to resume the Quarterly Events in person, was a great thing. We were planning to have the 2022 Winter Event in person, but unfortunately, the virus is becoming more contagious again and the Board of Directors felt that the safe thing to do was to cancel the in-person event and resume the Zoom only meetings.

Quarterly Event Zoom Meetings

In 2021, each Quarterly Event was available to the members via a Zoom meeting. In addition, the Fall Event was held in-person and via a Zoom meeting. I would like to thank the following members for providing clinics, presentations, and layout tours to each of these Events throughout the year; Tom Oxnard, Jim Gore, Herm Botzow, Victor Hand, Rich Breton, Joe Linquata, Dave Emery, Bob Kotsonis, John Newick, Jay Ehlen, Dave Kotsonis, Chris Oliver, and John McHugh. I hope I didn't leave anyone out.

It takes a lot of time and effort to put a clinic together and then present it. Many of the members that do our clinics have been doing them for some time. Thank you all for sharing your knowledge with your fellow members and making the effort to make these clinics. We also owe a very special thanks to our Division Vice President, Glenn Mitchell, for organizing and running each one of these Events. Glenn continues to do a superlative job with these events.

Seacoast Division Clinic Database

As all of you know, the Division Quarterly Events are the primary activities that the Division sponsors each year. We would like to strongly encourage each member to consider putting together a clinic for one of the Events. It is important

that you share your modeling knowledge with the rest of our members. We are in need of clinics that cover topics such as scenery, weathering, benchwork construction, rolling stock scratch building, structure building, decoder installation, track laying, and wiring.

We want you to feel like the time you spend at one of our Quarterly Events is worth it. We want you to be able to take away something that can make you a better modeler and enhance your enjoyment of our great hobby. So if you have the modeling knowledge in any of those areas, please consider putting together a clinic for the Division.

The Division is in the process of putting together a roster of all the clinics that have been done in the past. Please contact Seacoast Board Member Jack Lutz if you have a clinic that you would be interested in sharing with our members at a future Quarterly Event.

Train Show Support

Most of the train shows that are normally scheduled each year in Maine and New Hampshire, were cancelled due to Covid19 issues. However, there were some shows that did actually take place and the Division was able to support with a display and member participation. The supported shows were the Concord Model Railroad Club show in Concord, NH on August 15, 2021 and the Eastern Maine Model Railroad Club show in Brewer, ME on November 20, 2021. Both shows were very successful. We were able to recruit a few new members at each show. Thank you to those members that assisted at these events.

The annual "Springfield Show" sponsored by the Amherst Railway Society was cancelled in 2021 due to Covid19 concerns. The show is currently scheduled to take place on January 29 & 30, 2022 at the Big E exposition center in West Springfield, MA. As of this writing, I have no information if this show will be cancelled due to Covid19 issues.

Division Treasury

I am pleased to report that our Division Treasury is in good shape this year. In order to keep it that way, we have now instituted a policy of having a donations basket at each in-person Event. This will help defray the cost of the venues that we use for the Events. We will also hold a "Silent Auction" each year, for the benefit of the Division Treasury. This will enable us to keep the treasury at its current level as we move into the future.

As of today, the current balance in the Treasury is: \$5,878.83

Chip Faulter Fund

The Faulter Fund was able to provide some funding to a young model railroader this past year. We are still having difficulty identifying worthy candidates for disbursement of the monies in the Faulter Fund. This is primarily due to Covid19 issues. At the present time, the Faulter Fund Committee consists of 3 division members; myself, Bob Bennett, and Ken Moller. Since I am stepping down as Division President this year, I expect to be able to devote more time to the Faulter Fund activities.

As of today, the current balance in the Faulter Fund is: \$10,662.98

Bylaws Revision

The Division is in the process of revising the Bylaws so that future elections will be done via email and/or regular mail. All members have been duly notified at this time. This process will allow all Division members the opportunity to vote in the annual Board of Directors election. The mandatory 45 day comment period will be ending by January 5, 2022. If you have any comments, please get them to me as soon as possible.

The Board of Directors will be voting to accept these changes to the Bylaws at the next BOD meeting which will be held on January 6, 2022.

2022 Elections

The election process began on December 1, 2021 and will end on January 5, 2022. If you have not voted in the election, please do so as soon as possible. **We need your vote!** For the first time in Division history, we have 4 candidates for the 3 open positions on the Board. The voting procedures have been sent out to you in both of my last President's Messages and they are also listed on the Division website. I say again, **please vote!** Thank you.

Seacoast Division Website

We have a new Division Webmaster! His name is Dave Delorey. Dave has graciously volunteered to take over the Division website, [seacoastnmra.org]. He has made several changes, the biggest one being that we now have full control over our website domain. This is a huge change for us and will enable the webmaster to make changes and postings much easier, in a format that is simpler and easier to understand.

Many of these changes will not be readily apparent when you view the website, but they have indeed happened. If you haven't done so lately, please take some time to look into our website and see some of the changes. Dave has been constantly updating the website. Thanks Dave!

Additionally, Seacoast Division member Jim Seroskie has volunteered to assume the duties of Northeastern Region Webmaster [nernmra.org]. The NER website was in the process of being updated, when the webmaster became sick and had to relinquish his duties. Jim agreed to take on this responsibility and I expect there will be many changes to come on the NER website.

NER Convention

A very successful NER Convention was held in Westford, MA from October 8 thru 11, 2021, sponsored by the Hub Division. This was a great convention with lots of activities and clinics. Some of our members were able to attend and all reported having a great time. It was especially nice to be able to see some of our friends from the other Divisions that we had not seen in over a year. I do have to point out that many of the layouts that were open for visits and for operations were in fact, Seacoast Division layouts. A very hearty thanks to all of our Division members that supported this convention.

The 2022 NER Convention is still on track to take place at the Marriott Hartford/Windsor Airport Hotel, Windsor, CT on September 15 - 18, 2022. This convention is sponsored by the Nutmeg Division. Hopefully, the Covid19 virus will be much more under control by then, so that more members can attend.

Seacoast Division Membership

My latest official Division Roster shows us with 178 individual members and 6 Club members. I have no additional information at this time.

In closing, I want to say that it has been a pleasure to serve as your Division President for the last 3 1/2 years. Together, we have accomplished quite a bit in that time. During this time, I hope that your modeling has improved and that your individual layouts have made significant progress. All that we do is about the trains. That's it. Thank you for supporting the Division and our activities!

PLEASE VOTE!

All my best wishes to each of you,

Tage Erickson
Seacoast Division President