



Seacoast Division NMRA Spring 2023 Event Report by Glenn Mitchell

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.

Glenn Mitchell, the Seacoast President, kicked off the meeting and welcomed everyone. Glenn gave a brief status of the progress that the 2025 Convention Exploratory Committee has made and once again 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). He also asked for help with the Audio/Video operation required to broadcast the event to Zoom Attendees.

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 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.

Lastly, Glenn Mitchell reviewed upcoming events and conventions. He 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..

Respectfully submitted,
Glenn Mitchell
President and Director