

# The Switch Tower



**Seacoast Division, Northeastern Region,  
National Model Railroad Association**  
 Richard Breton, *President* -- Bill Truehart, *Vice President*  
 Terrence P. King, *Secretary* -- Tom Coulombe, *Treasurer*

Volume Twelve

Fourth Quarter, 2005

Number Four

*President's Message*

## Seacoast Division Steps Up NMRA Publicity Annual Meeting Nov. 6 to elect officers, announce new programs

*by Rich Breton, President, Seacoast Division,  
Northeastern Region, NMRA*

The Seacoast Division is getting the word out on what the NMRA is about, what services are offered, and how you can join. Bruce Robinson spearheaded an idea for a new portable three panel display board which we are bringing to local model railroad shows. So far we have attended the Concord show September 11, and the Pepperell Siding show on September 25. Our light blue display panels, along with a display table, showcase items covering the spectrum of scales including NMRA track gauges, and sample items from the Kalmbach Library. We even remembered to include items showing the NMRA product compliance seal. In addition we have assembled display books on standards, achievement program literature and sample magazines.

**Look for our display at the Bedford Boomers Model Railroad Exhibition on Sunday Nov. 6. While attending this fine show, I hope you can also attend the Seacoast Division annual meeting at 2:00 pm.**

### **NMRA RAILPASS**

Most important is to provide membership registration materials to interested people attending the shows. The NMRA is running a special trial membership program



*Bruce Robinson shows his new portable information display that will publicize the Seacoast Division, NER and NMRA at shows and other venues. - Rich Breton photo*

called "Rail Pass." This program allows non-members, or members whose membership has lapsed more than two years, a six month trial membership for only \$9.95 that includes six issues of *Scale Rails*, the NMRA national publication. We have been handing out copies showing benefits of this program and an application to mail in. This program is a one-time offer and is for a limited time only (September 1, 2006). (See ad on inside page. - Ed)

### **EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE COMMITTEE**

We are setting up an "Educational Resource Committee" to help promote the

hobby by helping people learn more about this hobby. See more details in the separate article in this issue by Larry Cannon MMR. If you are involved with any kind of hobby promotion; like clinics, slide presentations, school programs, operating sessions or public displays, please let us know. We will be setting up resource pools in both Maine and New Hampshire.

### **MODEL SHOWCASE/ SHOW & TELL**

The Model Showcase and Show & Tell programs run at the Nashua NER spring convention are recent examples of reaching out to promote the hobby at all levels and to people who have varied interest. Keep these in mind when attending future regional conventions, like the NER fall convention hosted by Metro North on October 7-9, 2005 in Stamford, CT. If attending

bring something along to share with others; it is easy and lots of fun.

**~~Share the fun of model railroading.~~**

***Inside: Show & Tell  
and the modeler  
who made it  
happen.***



# November is National Model Railroad Month

# The Switch Tower

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## Seacoast Division, Northeastern Region, NMRA

- Chartered Nov. 17, 1968 -

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9 Riverside Dr., Rochester, N.H. 03867

**Bill Truehart, Vice President**

**Terrence P. King, Secretary**

**Tom Coulombe, Treasurer**

**Directors: Rich Breton, Larry Cannon, MMR,**

**Tom Coulombe, Terry King,**

**Paul Lessard,**

**Ron Palmquist, Sandy Roberts**

*Achievement Program Chairman - Education Committee Co-Chairman*

**Larry Cannon, MMR**

*Model Contests - Dwight Smith, MMR*

**Seacoast Division Home Page**

<http://www.trainweb.org/seacoastdiv/>

**Rob Carignan, Webmaster**

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**Deadline for articles and other submissions for the next issue of The Switch Tower is Dec. 1, 2005.**

From the Editor's Desk

## Along the R-O-W

by Ron Palmquist, Editor

### COLORFUL SUMMER

After a dreary spring, the summer of 2005 has been most colorful – lots of flowers to enjoy - and productive – check out the Farmer's Markets through the two-state area. Colorful railroading, too. The Maine Eastern's attractive green and yellow locomotive and car design has been enjoyed on the old Maine Central Rockland branch – even when a blue GP15-1 had to substitute on one occasion for a lead FL9 with mechanical problems. Rigby railroad yard in South Portland has been visited by lots of yellow, blue, black, red and white foreign motive power from CSX, NS and CP mixed in with the traditional Guilford gray. Amtrak had at least one Private Varnish open platform observation car added to its consist – the Morristown and Erie business car Ohio River, painted L&N purple. M&E business car Alexander Hamilton paid Portland a visit, too, with a maroon window band interrupting its shiny stainless steel sides. And, last but not least, the red, white, blue and black Thomas the Tank engine was enjoyed by hundreds of riders in late August



trundling down the 2-foot narrow gauge track of the Maine Narrow Gauge Railroad in Portland. A colorful summer? You bet!

### DOWN BY THE DEPOT

Here is an e-mail sent recently by New Hampshire member Roger Robar: "The B&M Railroad Station in Lisbon, N.H. will be restored. The town of Lisbon recently purchased the landmark station from its owner who had plans to move it to Vermont. The station was built by the Boston, Concord & Montreal Railroad in 1853. The structure is known for its unusual architectural design with its steep curved roof and six dormers.

Plans are not finalized as yet but hope to include a visitor's center, a meeting area and a small railroad museum. The town has received \$170,000 in grants with others pending." Roger, who is immediate past president of the North Conway Model Railroad Club, has been officially named Consultant for the project.

### GOODBYE, MR. MILLER

Newspapers throughout Maine and New England carried the obituary of Mr. E. Spencer Miller, former president of the Maine Central Railroad, who died at his home in Scarborough Maine on Aug. 12. The Portland Press Herald reported that Mr. Miller was president, then board chairman of the MEC for over 30 years - longer than any other Class I railroad chief executive officer. He was buried in Springfield, Vt., on Aug. 29.

### RAIL PASS PROGRAM

The Member Services & Membership Promotion Department is pushing a new six-month trial membership in NMRA for only \$9.95. It's open to non-members, and those who have not been NMRA members for over two years. You'll notice a quarter-page ad on the next page of *The Switch Tower*. If you have friends who would enjoy membership, or former members who would like to re-join, contact us for detailed information, or, as the ad suggests, visit [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org) for complete information.

## Thank You!

. . . . to those who contributed to this issue of *The Switch Tower*: **Rich Breton, Stan Jordan, Larry Cannon MMR, J.E.**



# HAD YOUR MILK TODAY?

by Stan Jordan

With Walthers and Intermountain finally producing good models of milk cars, here are some references for you New England railroad barons:

“New England States Limited” magazine, Vol.1, No.1(summer 1977) and Vol.1, No.2 (fall 1977). Unfortunately, this good magazine is no longer produced; however, these two issues offer excellent photos of New England milk cars and descriptions of milk service plus rosters of milk cars of several roads.

“Railroad Model Craftsman” magazine, Feb. 1986 and March 1986. Good descriptions of milk traffic photos of various railroad’s milk cars, HO scale drawings of D&H and B&M milk cars, drawings of a wood milk car and a steel H.P.Hood & Sons milk car plus a listing of the number of milk cars owned by railroads and by private owners in 1931 and 1962. (Our thanks to J.E.. Lancaster for his prototype photo. - Ed.)



“Railroad Model Craftsman” magazine, Nov. 1991, has an article featuring some milk cars of the Cloverdale Dairy which served the New Orleans milkshed.

“Model Railroader” magazine, Jan. 1997 contains an article on “easy kitbashing techniques to create a variety of milk cars”.

Walthers has recently offered a kit, #933-3799, of the “Sterling Consolidated Dairy” which could serve as a focal point of your railroad’s milk traffic.



Intermountain has released this ready-to-run car with the following lettering: H.P. Hood & Sons, Sheffield Farms, Borden’s, Whiting Milk Co., (four car numbers each), Mars, Inc., Baker’s Chocolate and Consumer’s Dairy (single cars). SMRP \$32.95 (Dealers report this car is very popular, and could be a sell-out. - Ed.) Below is the Walthers wooden milk car. Check the model railroad magazine ads and your local hobby shop for details, price and availability.



Division Business

## Minutes of the June 18, 2005 meeting

The meeting opened with six members and three guests present at 1:10 p.m. at the Great Falls Model Railroad Club in Lewiston, Maine.

The minutes and the finance reports were accepted as read.

The raffle earned \$720.00 at the Spring NER Convention in Nashua, N.H..

There was a discussion by those attending on the state the N.M.R.A. at the convention.

It was moved to spend up to \$100.00 on software for our web page.

The nomination committee was appointed for the up-coming elections. They are: Larry Cannon, Tom Coulombe and Terry King. They will present a report at the next meeting on September 17, 2005 in Rochester, N.H. The terms of Rich Breton, Ron Palmquist and Sandy Roberts are expiring.

It was voted to give the following grants; \$50.00 to the Bedford Boomers, and \$25.00 to the Tour de Chouch,

The business portion of the meeting closed at 2:35.

### CLINIC

Rich Breton presented a clinic on a “G scale” version of a flag stop station that was featured on Model Railroad Craftsman in January 1962.

## Sept. 17, 2005 Rochester N.H. meeting

The meeting was opened at 1:10 p.m. with eight members and two guests attending.

(Continued on page 5)

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**So much bang for few bucks.**

# The Boston & Maine Claremont Branch: A Modeler's Favorite

by Paul G. Lessard



There are many popular choices for prototype rail lines for the modeler of American railroads. In Colorado, for instance, the Silverton branch or perhaps Rio Grande Southern might be chosen. In Vermont, the St. Johnsbury and Lamoille County, or maybe one of the Rutland branches, could be selected.

In New Hampshire, the fabled Claremont Branch of the Boston & Maine Railroad is close to the hearts of modelers and railfans alike. It's difficult to think of a N.H. branch line that has garnered more attention and publicity. The late author Edgar Mead did much to make us familiar with this line in his book, *"Through Covered Bridges to Concord."*

On the model railroading side, there are four articles that Scott Whitney wrote for *Railroad Model Craftsman* in 1993 and 1994. More recently, Trevor Marshall wrote a like number of articles on the C&C, complete with his HO gauge version of the branch.

At the Fishkill NER convention, I had a conversation with Terry Thompson, editor of *Model Railroader* magazine. He told me that a new G-scale layout article is being developed with the Claremont & Concord Railroad as the theme.

I can remember my first encounter with this fascinating B&M line. It was on a Sunday outing with my parents back around 1956. My father stopped in Melvin Mills to do a watercolor painting of the rustic depot. At the time, I did not even know what track this was or where it went. In later years, I remember seeing yellow-painted coaches around the Branford, N.H. area. I later learned that this was the headquarters of Nelson Blount's steam train operation. About 1971, the Mass Bay Railroad Enthusiasts chapter ran a fan trip on the remaining portion of the branch between Newport and Claremont Jct., and on the "electric route" to West Claremont.

This really piqued my interest. I resolved to model some of the equipment in the Pinsley era. I completed a GE 44-tonner, as well as a woodchip car and some tank cars.

For those who wish to model in the B&M era, there may be some brass models of the B-15 moguls, or the A-41 eight-wheelers, available. The Walthers EMC gas-electric car will work out quite

nicely on this line. It may also be possible to acquire some Northeastern kits of the B&M open platform passenger coaches that were common on this route. Lineside Structures will most likely have to be scratch built or kit bashed from available products. It should be noted that a small piece of the Claremont is still in operation at Claremont. Now called the Claremont Concord Railroad, it serves a building materials dealer, a recycling firm and a salt distributor. The company has acquired several Alco switchers, but still uses the old 44-tonners. One may use the excellent Atlas S-2 or S-4 for power. There are even decals available to model the Alco S-4 in its present paint scheme. The branch would be a good subject for a shelf-type layout. But, whatever you choose, there are wonderful modeling opportunities and tremendous satisfaction to be achieved in your version of the Claremont Branch.

*(left) Claremont Concord Alco 105 performs a switching job on a dark winter's day on the Claremont Branch.*

*- Paul G. Lessard photo*

## Sept. 17 Meeting Minutes (from previous page)

This amendment referred to the fact that the names of the nominating committee and the persons with expiring terms were swapped. The published minutes will reflect this change.

The treasurer's report was accepted as read.

It was noted that the new Editor of *The Coupler* wants to publish information about what is going on in the divisions. It was felt that this is a welcome change.

The division had a table at the Concord show and it went well. There was a three-panel display that was made by Bruce Robinson. They also passed out 30 to 40 Rail Pass applications along with standard applications. We will also have a table at the Pepperell Siding show. The show is going to be held at a different location than advertised. It will be held at Varnum Brook Elementary School, 10 Hollis St in Pepperell MA. This is just off Route 111.

The introductory membership that is being offered by the N.M.R.A. was discussed. The application can be found at [traineditors@yahoogroups.com](mailto:traineditors@yahoogroups.com).

The nominating committee nominated Sandy Roberts, Ron Palmquist and Rich Breton for re-election. As there were no other nominations they were closed until our annual meeting on November 6, 2005 in Bedford NH.

A clarification of an action at the last meeting: A motion was made and passed to donate \$50.00 to the Bedford Boomers and \$25.00 to the Tour de Chouch. The clarification was that this was to help defray their advertising costs.

Continuing the discussion of creating a PDF version of *The Switch Tower* to add to our web page. Our web page is hosted by [trainweb.org](http://trainweb.org). Rob Carrigan was added to the existing committee of Rich Breton, Stan Jordan, Tom Jones, and Ron Palmquist. Rich Breton and Rob Carrigan will be co-chairs. Rob hosts the Maine Narrow Gauge Museum web site and has the software to convert PDF files.

*(next page please)*

*Share the fun of Model Railroading!*

# Show 'n Tell



*Brad Thompson of Cape Elizabeth, Maine has had a busy couple of summers, including camping, kayaking and scratch building this model of the train station at North Conway, N.H. "The North Conway Station is scratch built. I got the plans from a Kalmbach Publishing Co. book, ('HO Trackage Structures You Can Build' from Model Railroader -- Model Railroad Handbook No. 40). The North Conway Station is on the book's cover. I bought the parts from Peter Apuzzo's Maine Modelworks shop in Falmouth, Maine. It took about two years to (special order) all of the parts. For example: The windows and brackets are from Grandt Line. It was fun to do."*

## Sept. 17 Meeting Minutes (from previous page)

Larry Cannon discussed the fact that the Education Chairman of the region is open. He felt that in the future, we would be mandated to also have one. He wants to start by compiling a list of education resources in the division, listed by state. He is now the acting chairman of the Educational Resources Committee. As soon as a person in NH can be found to do the NH part, they will be co-chairmen.

The meeting closed at 2:30 p.m.

### SHOW & TELL

Rob Carignan showed some old (vintage) wooden Ambroid MEC passenger cars that his father had made and given to Rob's children. Rob is planning to refurbish them.

Paul Lessard showed some gravel cars that he made from some coal cars that the New Hampshire Northern railroad is using.

Larry Cannon showed some slides that he took of the Yukon & White Pass Railroad in Alaska.

Rich Breton showed some recycling ideas for making interior details from laser cut kit scraps.

—Respectfully submitted, Terry King, secretary

*Outreach*

## Educational Resources Committee Forming

At the September 17, 2005 BOD (Board of Directors) meeting, the Board voted to establish an Educational Resources Committee to promote educational activities in the Seacoast Division. Larry Cannon MMR, the Division's Achievement Program Manager, was named the interim chairman. Larry and Division President Rich Breton will be soliciting volunteers to serve on the committee.

The committee is to be composed of volunteers in the Division's two states who are interested in volunteering to be resource persons for model railroading educational activities that they have the expertise or interest to serve. This might be previous experience with clinics, educational displays, the NMRA Achievement Program, event organization, child or adult education programs or other educational experience looking for an outlet in the hobby of model railroading.

Our goal is to create a volunteer group that is linked locally and across the Division so that the Division can assist conventions, divisional meetings and other activities; as well as outside requests for educational information about model railroading. We also want

to expand contact with NMRA members or others who want to increase interest in the hobby and build communication about the hobby in the Seacoast Division. In that regard, volunteers could also help to get hobby activity information to *The Switch Tower*, our Division newsletter, and to our website.

Please contact Larry or Rich (contact info in the masthead) if you or anyone you know would be interested.

- by Larry Cannon

MMR



*Rob Carignan of Portland proudly shows his dad's MEC passenger car, during the Show 'n Tell portion of the most recent meeting in Rochester, N.H. Rob is the Division's new Webmaster and will work on developing the Seacoast Division's on-line Website. - Rich Breton photo*

### **Upcoming Division Meeting Opportunities**

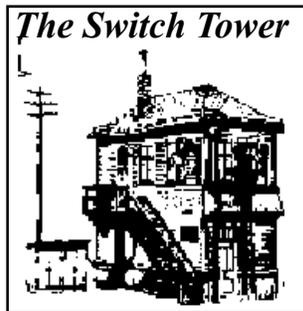
**November 6 - Bedford, N.H. 2:00 p.m.** Seacoast Annual Meeting (Bedford Boomers Exhibition McKelvie Middle School)

**January 14, 2006 - Portland, Maine Transportation Center** (Amtrak Downeaster Station)



## Seacoast Division, NER/NMRA

c/o Ron Palmquist  
16 Glen Avenue  
Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107-1022



Address Service Requested

### THE SWITCH TOWER CALENDAR

#### November 5, 2005, Saturday

Auburn, Maine. 11a.m. to 3 p.m. 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Model Railroad Show, Auburn Middle School, 610 Court St. Sponsored by the Great Falls Model Railroad Club, Lewiston. Operating trains, "white elephant" table, supplies, photos, timetables, continuous movies, food and Model Train Layout Raffle. FMI: 1-207-933-2477, or [www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org](http://www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org).

#### November 6, 2005, Sunday, Bedford, N.H.

Seacoast Division Annual Meeting held at the Bedford Boomers Model Railroad Exhibition McKelvie Middle School.

Info: Terry King: Phone/Fax: 207/933-2477 E-mail: [tking@megalink.net](mailto:tking@megalink.net)

#### Dec. 17, 18, 2005, Saturday-Sunday

Wilmington, Mass. Greenburg Train Show at Shriners Auditorium. FMI: 301-279-4087, or by e-mail: [www.greenbergshows.com](http://www.greenbergshows.com).

#### January 6, 2006, Saturday

1 p.m. - Seacoast Division meeting at the Portland Transportation Center (Amtrak Station), Portland.

#### January 28-29, 2006, Saturday-Sunday

Big 2006 Railroad Hobby Show, sponsored by the Amherst Railway Society. FMI: [www.AmherstRail.org](http://www.AmherstRail.org).

#### July 2 - 8, 2006

Independence Junction, National NMRA Convention, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. FMI: <http://www.nmra.org/2006/>

#### August 21 - 26, 2006

26th Annual Narrow Gauge Convention, Durango, Colo. Celebrate the 125th anniversary of the San Juan Extension formerly the Denver & Rio Grande Railway, now the Durango & Silverton, established in 1881. FMI: [www.narrowgauge2006.com](http://www.narrowgauge2006.com)

#### Aug. 29 - Sept. 2, 2007

27th National Narrow Gauge Convention, Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland, Maine. [www.27thnarrowgaugeconvention.com](http://www.27thnarrowgaugeconvention.com)

### Letters

Dear friends:

Received the newsletter this past week. Another good issue.

As we have semi-retired and moved to "no snow" Florida, please change my address to: 106 Jacaranda Dr., Leesburg, FL 34748.

Living the good life! Thanks.

Roger Wilson

*Roger is a model railroader, and a member of the Seacoast Division NMRA. He also has been active in the operation of the Maine Narrow Gauge Railroad and Museum, serving at one time as the organization's treasurer. He'll be missed in Maine, but I'm sure he'll find new railfan friends in Florida. Ed*