



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 Fourteen

Fourth Quarter, 2007

Number Four

President's Message

Model Railroad Hobby "Stewardship"

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

The busy fall schedule of model railroad activities and events is upon us, with several train shows, sometimes on the same day or weekend planned. The Seacoast Division has also arranged activities and events to promote the hobby. It is important to support these activities and keep our hobby alive now and for the future.

SHARING OUR TALENTS

At the Pepperell Siding Model Railroad Club Train Show held on September 23, in addition to our NMRA information display we conducted three clinic sessions, one on operations and two on weathering techniques. This made for a very busy day, for Bruce and me, but was very rewarding. It is fun when we can share our talents and knowledge of the hobby.

We have similar plans for the Bedford Boomer Railroad exhibition on November 4. This is the Boomer club's 25th anniversary and we want to help make this a special event. I am working on an exciting new

clinic on detailing scenes to bring your model railroad to life. This is my favorite part of the hobby, and I'm having fun putting this program together. I plan on also presenting this clinic at our annual meeting in Portland on January 12th. This is a very busy show and we can use some help.

IT IS "FUN"

\\ My "Open House and Workshop Session" conducted on Saturday June 30 at my home had limited attendance but was a fun day nonetheless. One of our members visited, after looking over my B&O Potomac Valley HO layout, we got into some specific hands-on projects based on questions. By the end of the afternoon, we had put down a couple lengths of track on a short length of plywood / homasote roadbed, soldered connecting track, soldered power feeder, painted



track, did scenery, and ballast. See the attached photo of the sample workpiece. Then we worked on an Athearn passenger car he brought along, installed new couplers, found and fixed a broken wheel, etc. It was a good learning experience and was good motivation to start work on my other layout projects.

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

I have arranged two sessions at the Rochester Public Library on November 10th and 17th from 1-3PM. This our introductory type programs to first help get new people introduced to this exciting hobby and then to provide directions on how they can get started on planning and building their first layout. This type of activity is an investment into our hobbies future.

Please consider what you can personally do to help support and promote our hobby. If more people do their part, even with smaller activities, together they will multiply and yield a bigger overall impact. Interestingly, I find when you help explain or show things which may be quite familiar, even routine to you, you find inspiration to start new things as well. Share the fun of model railroading.

Calendar Planner

October 18-21, 2007. Northeastern Region Convention in Albany, N. Y., sponsored by the Hudson-Berkshire Div.

November 3, 2007. Great Falls Model Railroad Club, 34th Annual Model Railroad Show, 10 AM to 3 PM, Auburn, Maine

November 4, 2007. Bedford Boomer Model Railroad Exhibition, Seacoast Division meeting, 2:00 PM, show hours are 10 AM to 4 PM, McKelvie School, Bedford, N.H.

November 10 & 17, 2007. Rochester Public Library, Introduction to Model Railroading programs, 1-3 PM, Rochester, N.H.

November 24 & 25, 2007. Tour-the Chooch annual layout tour program in N.H. and Mass.

December 1 & 2, 2007. Hub Division New England Model Train Expo, Marlborough, Mass.

January 12, 2008. Seacoast Division Annual Meeting, 1 PM, Portland, Maine (Location TBA)

January 26 & 27, 2008. Amherst Railway Society Railroad Hobby Show, West Springfield, Mass.



November is Model Railroading Month: Take a Train to Work

The Switch Tower

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The Switch Tower

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**Deadline for articles and
other submissions for the
next issue of The Switch
Tower is December 1, 2007.**

From the Editor's Desk

Along the R-O-W

by Ron Palmquist, Editor

EDITORIAL KUDOS

Congratulations to Dwight Smith MMR, who is retiring as editor of *Notch Eight*, the newsletter of the North Conway Model Railroad Club. President Jack Ellis says: "(Dwight) is a founding member and has worn many hats in service to the club and has always done a great job with a smile." For many years, Dwight was editor of the newsletter of the 470 Railroad Club of Portland and is a published author. Best wishes, Dwight, in your "retirement." (It was Mr. Smith who corrected my error in last issue's trivia regarding Amtrak and the states it doesn't serve. I said North Dakota - he said South Dakota. Thanks much.)

Congrats also to the Maine folks who were responsible for the National Narrow Gauge Convention held in Portland this past summer. Matt and Martha Sharpe of Train & Trooper in Rangeley and George Barrett of Cumberland put on a great show. Our president, Rich Breton, was among the NMRAers who attended. Read his remarks elsewhere in this issue.

NEW E-MAIL

Terry King, our secretary and regional director, has a new E-mail address: It's

tking@roadrunner.com

ATTENTION BANGOR MODELERS!

Here's an announcement from a previous issue that bears repeating. Model Railroaders in the Bangor area interested in forming a "round-robin/work group" for HO, O or other scales please contact me - Bill Benysh - either by phone - 207-942-0099 - or by email mainebp@msn.com.

DO IT YOURSELF DEPARTMENT

The Bangor & Aroostook Railroad stopped serving the town of Katahdin Iron Works, Maine, in September 1922. So one of the small town's leading citizens leased the BAR rails and rigged a Model T Ford to haul people and freight to and from Brownville Junction. This "one-man railroad" attracted a certain fame and no small number of labor-management jokes. (Source: Katahdin Iron Works and Gulf Hugas: Before and Beyond, by William R. Sawtell. Milo: Milo Printing Co., 1993: Courtesy aroundmaine.com.)

DEJAVU ALL OVER AGAIN

Our old friend, Bob Clark, a member of

the Portland Terminal Model Railroad Group who relocated to Chattanooga, Tenn., this summer, sent me an e-mail that I would like to share with you-all: "I'm re-reading 'Nothing Like It In The World' about the building of The Transcontinental Railroad. One week after the route was completed in the summer of 1869, the trip from New York to Sacramento was 7 days, including stops. The fare was \$150 first class, \$70 for emigrant class (in 1869 dollars). In June 1870, a year after the completion of the railroad, second class fare from New York to Sacramento was \$110 (in 1870 dollars). Today, the same trip on Amtrak is \$154 coach, which, by accommodation, was the same as 1869 first class or 1870 second class. It takes about three days. Name anything else that costs about the same as it did 137 years ago, and is twice as fast."

LETTERS

Just a quick note to let everyone know that I am progressing and doing better each day. As the doctor said it was going to a slow process, and it is.

I now walk about 6 or 7 houses down the street, which is progress as last week I was only able to 2-3 houses. However, the more difficult part is learning to change my life style to accommodate physical changes brought about by surgery.

I wish to thank everyone for stepping up to the plate and making sure the 25th Boomer show will happen. I would especially like to thank Norm for stepping up and becoming the "Chief Boomer."

Betty and I thank each of you for your prayers, cards, E-mail, and phone calls the past 5 weeks.

Thank You, Bill Truehart

SOLDER, ANYONE?

Don't know if you railroad tycoons do any soldering with lead-free rosin core solder. I use it to solder feeder wires to the rails, etc. Got mine at Radio Shack, so went to get some more—forget it! They discontinued the lead-free solder in favor of the deadly lead-bearing stuff! I spent about three hours one day trying to find someone who had lead-free rosin core solder. Finally found some at Lowe's at the Pine Tree Shopping Center in Portland. So, if ya gotta have some, better go to Lowe's while they still have it.

- Stan Jordan

Minutes of the July 14, 2007 meeting

Rich Breton, president, opened the meeting at 10:07 a.m. He thanked Bruce Robinson and Bill Truehart for reserving the Bethany Covenant Church (Bedford, N.H.) and refreshments for our meeting. Larry Cannon suggesting to accept the minutes of the last meeting and Ron Palmquist seconded. Having no discussion the motion was passed. Ron Palmquist submitted a report on the Switch Tower. There were 125 copies printed w/100 inserts mailed out. The cost was \$90.75. The deadline for the next *Switch Tower* submission is September 1st for publication on October 1st, 2007. The Treasurer's report was read next and accepted. The beginning cash balance 1/1/2007 was 2,198.43 and ending cash balance of \$2,593.72. We had revenues of \$554.20 and expenditures of \$138.91. Larry questioned about a check that we should have received from the Northeastern Region and Tom was going to check it out. The Achievement Program had nothing to report at this time. The single dues program is working, as the retirement community seems to be moving to either Florida or Maine as the most likely spots to retire to. Rich has received promotional material from the NMRA for display & shows so that he doesn't have to use his own.

Bedford Boomers will be celebrating their 25th anniversary on the 4th of November 2007. Maybe we can have more formal clinics and a power point presentation or have a hands-on demonstration to attract more people as to what we do as a Division.

The fall NER Convention will be held in Albany, NY the weekend of October 18-21, 2007.

About three years ago at the Wolfeboro Library, Bill Gaver, Rich Breton, Bruce Robinson, etc had an eight-week clinic to introduce model railroading to the public that was very successful. Rich Breton would like to set up the same type of clinic in the Rochester area for this coming fall season. He would like some 4 to 8 volunteers with different skills to help set up the curriculum and do presentations.

Larry Cannon made a motion to have the Adult Ed program similar to the Timberlane School clinic that Bruce and Rich did that \$25.00 be made available to purchase Athearn cars for a Boy Scout merit badge program. The NMRA will reimburse the Division upon submission of a purchase receipt will comparable inventory that has been donated by manufacturers.

The nominating committee appointed by Rich Breton consisting of Terry King, Larry Cannon and Tom Coulombe will have a slate of names to fill the 3 expiring terms.

The dates for the next three meetings have been set as 9/15 in Auburn, 11/4 in Bedford, and 1/12/2008 maybe in So. Portland.

Larry Cannon has submitted the name of Richard 'Dick' Towle to receive the Spate Award that is sponsored by the Great Fall RR Club. He has been involved in several NER conventions and is a well know photographer. Jack Alexander has been submitted as an alternate recipient. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Larry Cannon conducted clinics as he demonstrated a Beer Can Car that he modeled in O scale. Rich Breton had a demonstration on trees where he demonstrated how to modify 'Christmas' trees into regular softwood trees. He also demonstrated removing lettering on locos and using Champ decals to letter your own rail line.



After the clinics ended, every one went to one of three operating layouts open to members to try their hands on operation.

Respectfully Submitted, Tom Coulombe, Secretary ProTem

September 15, 2007 meeting Minutes

President Richard Breton opened the meeting at The Great Falls Model Railroad Club in Auburn, Maine, at 1:15 p.m., with 12 members present. Six of the 12 were Board of Directors members.

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as amended. The amendments were as follows; Bill Truehart reserved the church for us to meet in at the last meeting. Bruce Robinson arranged the layout tours.

The Treasurer's report was accepted as read.

Ron Palmquist gave the Editor's report. He is looking for photos of the Narrow Gauge Convention, held in Portland, Maine, in September. He said that we are mailing over 100 copies of each issue, and a color copy is on our web site. He is in the early stages of planning for our 40th anniversary of the founding of the Seacoast Division. Extra copies of the newsletter go to Rich Breton and Bruce Robinson for promotional purposes.

Larry Cannon (Division AP Chairman) announced that members, who have something to be judged for an AP award, could bring them to a meeting and he will judge them.

Bill Truehart is back home following surgery.

The nominating committee nominated the following for re-election to the BOD at our annual meeting in January, Paul Lessard, Bruce Robinson and Terry King. Nominations were open from the floor and as there were no further nominations, they were closed until the Annual Meeting. Next year Ron Palmquist, Rich Breton and Sandy Roberts terms will expire.

Rich Breton and Bruce Robinson will be at the Pepperell Siding Show on September 23 and at the Great Falls show on November 3.

The Bedford Boomers show will be on November 4, and this is their 25th anniversary show.

Ron Palmquist and Sandy Roberts donated eight Athearn car kits for use with the Boy Scout merit badge program.

There will be a presentation on model railroading at the Rochester N.H. library on November 10, and November 17, 2007 at 1:00 to 3:00 p. m. The subjects will be Introduction to Model Railroading and How to get started in model railroading.

An Adult Education course on model railroading will be held at Timberline Regional High School in Plaistow N.H. during the spring semester.

There was a long discussion about the N.M.R.A., Northeastern Region display at the Springfield show and the lack of interaction with modelers. It was felt that the main concern was to promote conventions, and not to encourage modelers to join the N.M.R.A.

The next two meetings will be on November 4, in Bedford N.H.,

at 2:00 p.m., and the annual meeting will be on January 12, 2008 in Portland, Maine, at 1:00 p.m.

The meeting closed at 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Terry King, secretary

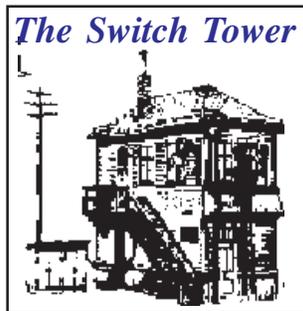
(Correction by Rich Breton)



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Share the Fun of Model Railroading

National Narrow Gauge Convention, Portland, Maine

I attended this convention on Saturday September 1, 2007 at the Holiday Inn on Spring Street and was most impressed. Even though I only attended on a "half day pass," I was greeted at the registration desk with much enthusiasm, given full registration materials, with personal suggestions and directions on how to best use my time at the convention. I quickly visited the popular vote contest room with many fine models on display, narrow gauge modelers display much detail modeling talent, which are fascinating to look at. I did recognize a few models which had been at recent NER-NMRA conventions.

I attended three clinics; one very detailed and informative one called "Modeling a Mine-site Prototypically" by Ed Freeman, where I learned the detail workings of mines and mills, especially for precious metals and minerals. I also attended a portion of Dave Frary's clinic on new techniques for modeling water, ponds, rivers, etc. and a good portion of Dick Kilday's clinic called "Minor Improvements

with Major Results" on G scale models, rolling stock, trees, figures, and vehicles, which provided several ideas which can be used for other scales as well.

Between the clinics, I ran through the two floors of vendor displays and modular layouts at the train show exhibition. It is always nice to see manufacturers directly, be able to compliment them on their fine products, see what is new, and see how far our hobby has progressed. I was able to pick-up some nice detail parts and castings, which are not typically available at the local train shows. The show closed for the week at 12 noon, so I was not able to see as much as I would have liked, but I made the best of my few hours there, and had a very enjoyable and informative morning.

I spent the afternoon at the Maine Narrow Gauge Museum, which was running steam, number 4, for the convention. A civil war militia group was on hand which provided extra entertainment during the pleasant ride along Casco Bay.

- Rich Breton



Thank You! to those who
contributed to this issue of
The Switch Tower :

Rich Breton, Terry King, Stan Jordan,
Bill Truehart, Tom Coulombe