



THE SEACOAST DIVISION OF THE N.M.R.A.

THE SWITCH TOWER

Chartered on November 17, 1968



“Youth in Model Railroading” Came to Visit by Bruce Robinson

March 5th was the day that the kids belonging to the Youth in Model Railroading chapter based in Lowell, MA, came to visit the Valley Junction Railroad in Sandown, NH.



Kim and Steve Lamb, their chapter leader, had organized the group into two shifts. The first group was to be here 10-12 and the second group 1-3. That would put ten youngsters and their parents in the basement on each shift. A program for the kids was put together where Steve handled the organizing and announcements, I would do an explanation of what the VJRR was all about, the kids were given a short game called “Can you Find” and Erich Whitney (Seacoast Director and YMR member) was to do a training event that would have the kids working on their skills and earning their YMR Engineer’s License.

The program started with a lot of excited kids and moved along until they had some free time just to run trains. Everything was working until we looked at the clock. It seems that the first shift stayed a little longer and the second shift came a little early. So much for the 12-1 lunch period! The fun just continued without any regard to the clock.

Photo by Bruce Robinson

The youngsters on each shift completed their programs, and kids and parents had a great time. And, yes, the VJRR survived the day without a single issue, except that the ONLY loco whose wheels the trainmaster did NOT clean was the one Erich decided to use for his demo!

(Continued on page 6)



RPM REVS UP AT NMRA 75



It's the Railroad Prototype Modeler's 75th Anniversary. It's the NMRA's 75th Anniversary. Let's party... together! Get revved up at... www.nmra75.org

N.M.R.A. News



- **Notice to Central District and Canadian members:** Due to the ballot address problems reported earlier, the deadline for returning Central District and Canada District Director ballots has been extended by two weeks. The new postmark deadline for these ballots is April 15. Remember that the pre-printed address on the provided envelope is incomplete. Here is the correct address: **NMRA**

Ballot Committee c/o Skingco Services, LLC 33530 1st Way S. Suite 102 Federal Way, WA 98003 -7332 We regret any inconvenience caused by this error.

- We're still looking for stories of what your Division or Region does for **National Model Railroad Month**. Write a 200-word summary and send it to me at this email address. Thanks.

- For some ideas of what others do for National Model Railroad Month, take a look at the Division Business Car column in back-issues of *Scale Rails*.

Notice of 2012 elections. The following NMRA Officers and Board of Directors positions are open for election in 2012: President, Vice Presi-

(Continued on page 2)



“The NMRA is looking to identify and recognize any model railroad clubs that were formed in 1935 or earlier that are still in existence. We would like the name of the club and when it was founded.”



Youth in Model Railroading
by Bruce Robinson

Large Scale Fun

Enjoy a weekend of Large Scale fun in New England. The Rusty Rails & Rotten Ties Railroad Society, the New Hampshire Garden Railroad Society and The HUB Division of the NMRA cordially invite you to a fun filled weekend of Large Scale operation.

Schedule

Friday afternoon/evening June, 3 2011

Participate in an evening operating session on the SJR&P Railway where cars and trains are moved according to a schedule (Limited to the first 30 that sign up.) Layout opens at 3PM, Operating session 5PM till 8PM.

[Railroad at a glance.](#)

Saturday June 4, 2011 10AM-5PM – Picnic lunch and Large Scale running.

Bring your trains and run on Deb and Stan's

large [SJR&P garden railroad](#). The SJR&P is a track powered DCC layout and can accommodate DCC, RC or Live Steam (with insulated wheels.) (A section can also be set up for DC if there is interest)

In the afternoon time will be set aside for a steam-up to allow live steam locomotives (with or without insulated wheels) the opportunity to climb the 1000 ft 2% grade

During the day there will also be a variety of manufacturer demonstrations including:

Remote

Control Systems of New England

Train-LI-USA

Perhaps a

few surprises

A Large Scale only silent auction,/white elephant table will be set up for the day with a close of 4PM.

Sunday June 5, 2011 Morning and Afternoon

On Sunday a selection of layouts in Massachusetts and New Hampshire will be open for operating your equipment or visiting. Morning sessions are from (10AM-1PM) and afternoon sessions are from (2PM-5PM).

New Hampshire

[John Foley – Hudson, NH:](#)
Morning and Afternoon sessions



[David & Jenny Miller – Juniper & Draft Mum Railroad](#) - Brookline, NH:

N.M.R.A. Continued

(Continued from page 1)

dent-Administration, Vice President-Special Projects, Eastern District Director, Pacific District Director, and At-Large North America Director. Please check the NMRA Executive Handbook located at http://www.nmra.org/national/organization/nmra_organization.html for the extent of the districts affected and qualifications. All candidate names for consideration by the Nominations Committee shall be submitted to Didrik Voss, dvoss@pvmtengr.com, no later than June 15, 2011.

[voss@pvmtengr.com](mailto:dvoss@pvmtengr.com), no later than June 15, 2011.

The **Summer Board meeting** will be held prior to the Sacramento x2011 Convention on Thursday, June 30, 2011. The meeting is usually held at the Convention hotel, but the exact start time and room number will be announced when available. Remember, it's the responsibility of Region and Division officials to pass along this information to members.

The NMRA is looking to identify and recognize any **model railroad clubs that were formed in 1935 or earlier** that are still in existence. We would like the name of the club and when it was founded. A picture from the early years would be appreciated. Send the information to Dave Thornton - NMRA Vice President of Administration, Email DThorn5552@aol.com or mail to 2027 Jeffrey Drive, Troy, MI 48085-3816.

The Board unanimously agreed that in the future **all merchant**

(Continued on page 3)

President's Corner by Bruce Robinson

Seacoast Division AP Program

The Portland Quarterly meeting went great with around thirty members present for the presentations, clinics and socializing with fellow members. AP Chairman, Larry Cannon, was asked for his annual report. The report listed only one award for the Golden Spike issued for the year. This was disappointing for the Division.

So I needed to rise to the occasion! The membership has to be challenged or perhaps at least encouraged to pursue the Achievement Program. With much fanfare (read "make spectacle of oneself") I got up and walked over to Larry and in front of everyone turned in my application for the Model Railroad Engineer-Electrical. When I looked around the room I noted some of the members present and challenged them to "do the homework" in getting their applications submitted.

Well, it is now March and I have received my Golden Spike

Award from Norm Frowley, Northeast Region AP chairman, and have had my Mode Railroad Engineer-Electrical submittal approved by Larry and forwarded to Norm as well. The submittal for Chief Dispatcher is now 99% complete and will be sent on to Larry before you read this column. We have some momentum going now.

The flip side of this story is that the Valley Junction RR that resides in the basement was started in January 1989. The railroad was built, trains, crew, schedule and operating sessions were all put together and for the last sixteen years monthly operating sessions get the crews busy and enjoying this hobby. What was missing was the documentation necessary to demonstrate that the work done was worthy of NMRA AP requirements.

I started with the Golden Spike requirements. That brought the town of Concord into a more complete world with trees, station lights and completed buildings. When Larry, Rich Breton and Paul Lessard came to pass judgment on my efforts I was

eager to have their input about what I had done. They offered some real helpful comments and suggestions and these were taken to heart and will be added into the scene.

Larry asked me to put my Model Railroad Engineer-Electrical application into a presentation for the April 9th meeting in Rochester. I am working on that request and together with other members will present a program on the Achievement Program and what you need to do to "get off dead center" like me and get that documentation completed and submitted to Larry. Come to the April meeting to get some tips and then let's get chugging on those AP Awards!

The Division had a strong presence at the Amherst Railway Society show in Springfield, Mass. January 29 & 30, 2010. Eight Seacoast Division members helped out at the NER booth in the Better Living Center building and gave out many NMRA membership applications. The face of the NMRA is the Division and these eight

members certainly put their "best face forward".

The need for four convention chairman positions to be filled is getting critical. I have been invited to attend a NER BoD meeting in April and one of the agenda items is the conventions for 2011, 2012 and 2013. Here is an opportunity to make a difference and help put on a convention that the Region will deem a great success and put Seacoast Division on the map! If you can fill one of these key positions please let me know.

Other news that the Seacoast Division BoD has been working on includes revamping the Division's web site and adding a company store where shirts, caps or other offerings may be purchased. As the work progresses on these improvements we will keep the membership informed through Peter McKinney's e-mail announcements.

Until April 9th.....**Share the fun of model railroading!**

N.M.R.A. Continued

(Continued from page 2)

disse sold by the NMRA, including by Regions and Divisions, must conform to any applicable NMRA standards. Questions about certifying whether products conform to standards should be directed to Standards and Conformance Department Manager Didrik Voss at dvoss@pvmtengr.com. In addition, Bob Amsler, the NMRA's legal counsel, says that the following language must be includ-

ed in your merchandise contracts with your vendors:

All merchandise shall conform to all applicable NMRA Standards and this term is a substantial and material term of the contract requiring strict conformance. The manufacturer may either submit the product to the NMRA for conformance testing or the manufacturer may certify conformance by utilizing the procedures for self-certification pursuant to the process guidelines promulgated by the Con-

formance and Inspection Department of the National Model Railroad Association, Inc. Any merchandise not conforming to the applicable standards will be non-conforming and rejected.

The model can be sent to the Standards & Conformance Dept. for certification testing. The final paint scheme of the model is not necessary. NMRA has also established a Self-Certification program in which

the manufacturer may complete the appropriate paperwork, signed by a legal representative of the company, and send to the Standards & Conformance Department for issuance of an NMRA Conformance Warrant number. The paperwork will be provided upon request. The NMRA reserves the right to check the model upon delivery to ensure the model, in fact, does pass all applicable Standards. If you have any questions, direct them to Vice President Bill Kaufman at whk58@pacbell.net.

(Continued on page 6)



Minutes

January 8, 2011

The Seacoast Division of the Northeast Region of the NMRA held its winter meeting in South Portland, Maine, on January 8, 2011. The meeting was well attended (thanks, in part, to the good weather) with a turnout of 37.

The morning program began with talks by Membership Chairman Peter McKenney and guest speaker Jerry Angier. The theme of their talks was "The Bangor and Aroostook Railroad". Peter is an avid fan, and is researching the B&A for his model railroad. Jerry has written several books on the B&A and he brought along a selection of slides to show to the group. Peter did a nice job of outlining the history and development of railroading in northern Maine. The huge Maine forests provided the early incentive for the building of the railroad, but agriculture, which flourished when the soil in the cleared forests was found to be very rich and fertile, soon provided additional welcome business to the B&A.

Mr. Angier followed Peter with a discussion of how he came to write his books on the B&A. Along with the slide presentation, he gave many accounts and stories of individuals and events that occurred during the reign of the B&A.

The two presentations were well received and greatly enjoyed by the group. Following the guest speaker, Michael Grahame and Neil Falby gave short "show and tell" presentations (or "show and ask" in Neil's case). Michael showed a collection of Styrofoam food containers and craft parts jars he uses to keep all his workbench projects under control. He also gave the group

a great tip: "Write down all the paint colors and other project descriptions on a 3x5 card, so that faulty memory won't interfere with returning to a project weeks or months after an interruption". Neil showed a home-built car coupler height-and-length jig with appropriate markings along the length for NMRA-spec. weighting of cars. The special feature of this jig was removable 16-inch legs that allow the modeler to view the couplers and gauge at eye level while seated at his workbench; the jig is easily stored when the legs are removed.

Neil's "show and ask" was about how one might paint and weather a small station kit he brought, and how to seal the inside for inclusion of lighting. He also asked if anyone knew the purpose of a small external detail included in the kit. The mystery remains unsolved.

The business meeting opened at 12:50pm, with the presentation and approval of reports. Rich Breton gave a short update on the latest meeting he attended as the representative to Northeast Region. Bruce Robinson discussed a meeting to be held January 16th at his home in New Hampshire. Eight to ten NER Division Superintendents (Presidents) are expected to attend. This meeting is part of the effort to keep the Divisions better linked and informed about activities within the Region. Bruce also pointed out that the Seacoast Division had only 1 Golden Spike award in 2010, and encouraged members to start documenting their modeling efforts and getting involved in the AP program. To that end Bruce submitted his own paperwork to Larry Cannon for the start of his certification in the

Master Model Railroader program.

As a gesture of thanks for his many years of service as a Director of the Seacoast Division, Terry King was presented with a certificate of appreciation. Terry is stepping down as a long-time Director of the Division, but will still be the publisher of the newsletter. Terry was single-handedly instrumental in reorganizing the Seacoast Division in the 1980's after it had been dormant for several years. Thanks Terry!

The meeting was temporarily closed at 1:10pm for the election of 3 Directors. President. Bruce Robinson was re-elected President, Paul Lessard and Bruce were reappointed Directors and Erick Whitney was elected as the newest member of the Board.

The meeting was reopened at 1:15pm with New Business. With the Board of Directors supporting the forming of a division modular group, the members present were polled to see what interest there is. About ten members enthusiastically expressed interest in participating. Secretary Tom Jones volunteered to be a point of contact until a formal group can be organized. Setting up module standards and goals (expected to be similar to the "Free-mo" concept), will be the likely immediate focus of the group. Tom Jones' email and telephone number are listed in the newsletter. Call or drop him an email if you want to participate.

The Board authorized donating \$75 to the NMRA in support of the Diamond Club. The Diamond Club is soliciting funds for the
(Continued on page 5)

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Researching Railroads at the Nation Archives by Peter McKenney

On our drive from Maine to Florida in February, I persuaded my wife, Susan, to allow me a little time to do some railroad research at the National Archives II in College Park, MD. I found it very rewarding and plan on returning for some follow-up research.

What attracted me to the National Archives? This facility houses all of the maps, field notes, and final engineering notes produced during the period 1914-1921 for the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) of

all of the American railroads existing at that time. For those who are interested in creating realistic model railroads, either prototypically-based or free-lanced, it helps to know how the various railroads in the country built actual bridges, yards, and structures, many of which survived for many decades after the ICC study was completed (but unfortunately no longer exist today). Even if you don't plan to follow any particular prototype, you can learn how a prototype engineered its railroad in the region of the country in which you intend to locate

your fictional railroad, thus making it more "realistic."

What did I obtain? I focused my research on the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad. I obtained maps of yards and branches of the BAR that were of interest to me. I can now model realistic track work, including "correct" rights of way, sidings, turntables, and orientation of railroad buildings. I read field notes that describe the terrain and location of all signs, culverts, signals, etc. This gives me ideas for landscaping along the rail lines that I lay out. Most fascinating to me were the notes of the structures. I hope to recreate the BAR in the early 1950s. Most of the buildings that existed then are gone. The notes gave me dimensions of passenger stations, freight houses, coal sheds, tool houses, trackmen's shacks, pump houses, and water tanks. In many cases, the notes had floor plans for key buildings. Flash: most stations in northern Maine in the early 1900s had "waterless" toilets, i.e., outhouses, albeit "his" and "hers". With this information, a model

railroader can confidently populate his or her layout with structures that approximate or match what the real railroads once had.

How to use the National Archives? Prepare before you go. Identify what you want to learn. For example, do you care about railroading in a particular part of the country, or a particular prototype railroad? Are you interested in track plans, structures, equipment, or something else? In order to have access to the files, you will need to go through a registration process and pay a \$20 fee. Note, also, that there is a specific "pull" schedule. With help from staff, you will identify what maps or boxes you want the archivists to "pull" from the storage area and transport to the reading rooms for your use. You fill out "reference service slips" and then wait for the materials to arrive at the scheduled intervals. It pays to base your arrival plans on these fixed pull schedules. Photocopying and scanning services are available for a fee.

Minutes Continued

(Continued from page 4)

scanning and archiving of the thousands of pictures and documents in the NMRA library. Seacoast's check will be presented to the NER by representative Rich Breton, to be combined with other Division monies as a show of support by the Region for the Library project. The NER is including a check for \$750 as its contribution. Any individuals who want to support this effort can find how to do so in "NMRA Org" magazine or online at "NMRA.org". These contributions enhance a direct benefit to members; all who wish to use the library for research or general interest will have superb access to its riches.

President Robinson discussed the purchase of 100 "Seacoast Division" patches, which unfortunately didn't arrive in time for this meeting. The patches will be for sale to members and the modeling community at upcoming train shows and Seacoast meetings. Bruce also had th

Seacoast logo computerized for a fee of \$65. This will allow any member interested to have the logo embroidered at any embroidery shop on anything he might like (e.g. hats, shirts, vests etc.). Contact Bruce to obtain a copy of this file.

Finally, there was a short discussion of the 2013 Regional Convention. The Seacoast Division has expressed to the Region an interest in hosting this affair. Four positions need to be filled before Seacoast can make a convention bid. These positions are: Local Convention Chairman (should live near the convention site); Inside and Outside Activities Chairmen; and Publicity Chairman. The responsibilities of these positions are outlined in the Regional handbook, which can be found on the web on the Northeast Region site. Division members who consider themselves qualified for a position are urged to apply for appointment to it.

Large Scale Fun Continued

(Continued from page 2)

Morning and Afternoon Sessions

Massachusetts

[Ron and Mary Gadsby - Hilltop Railroad](#), Blackstone, MA: Morning and Afternoon Sessions

[Wes Warner - Branch Bridge Garden Railway](#) - Salem, MA: Morning and Afternoon Ses-

sions



[Bob McCown - Pine Ridge Lumber and Mining Company](#) - Littleton, MA: Morning Open for Visitors Afternoon Operating Session (Limit 4Guests)

[On-Line Registration](#) [FormUS](#) [Mail Registration](#) [Form](#)

THE SEACOAST DIVISION OF THE N.M.R.A.

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The Switch Tower on Line

Seacoast Division Home Page
<http://www.seacoastdiv.net>

NMRA Home Page/Web Site



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olds forget
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**Dead Line For July Issue:
June 1, 2011**

**"Youth in Model Railroading"
Continued**

(Continued from page 1)

After this great experience with kids, parents and sponsors I would encourage any modeler to open a layout (home or club) to YMR members. We had a blast!

N.M.R.A. Continued

(Continued from page 3)

Here are some highlights of the Winter Board meeting, held in Las Vegas last month. For full details, see an upcoming issue of NMRA Magazine, or look in the "What's New" area of the homepage at www.nmra.org right now.

- **Jenny Hendricks was promoted to Chief Administrative Officer.** She's a true gift to the NMRA -- congratulations, Jenny!
- The Board authorized revising NMRA by-laws to make the **election of two vice presidents a permanent change.** Although the **Diamond Club** met its ini-

Seacoast Division Officers:

President: Bruce Robinson, 19 Hunt Pond Rd, Sandown, NH 03873 603-887-5922

Vice President: Paul Lessard, 74 Oakland Ave., Manchester, NH 03109 603-623-4093

Directors: Richard Breton, 9 Riverside Dr., Rochester NH 03867 603-332-8257. **Larry Cannon**, 516 Pond Rd, Lewiston ME 04240, 207-786-3929, **Erick Whitney**, 5 Wilson Ave., Derry, NH, 03038, 603-537-1110. **Michael Grahame**, P.O. Box 163, Stratham, NH 03885-0163, 603-778-3099. **Neil Falby**, P.O. Box 7, Wells ME 04090, 207-646-1820. **Tom Coulombe**, 465 Pond Rd, Lewiston ME 04240, 207-784-5962. **Tom Jones**, 290 Simpson's Point Rd., Brunswick ME 04011, 207-725-0712.

CALENDER OF EVENTS

April 2, Gray, ME, Narrow Gauge Show, Gray/New Gloucester High School, 207-795-6476

April 10 W. Lebanon, N.H., Train Show, Fireside Inn. <http://cvrr.railfan.net/cvmrr/>

April 16, Sanford, Me. Lions All Gauge Model Railroad Show 10:00—3:00 contact Bill Catanesye @ 207-636-3842

April 30, Topsham, ME, Model Railroad Show, Mt Ararat High School 10:00—3:00, 207-933-2477

May 7, Haverhill, NH. AVRA Annual Spring All Scale Spring Model Railroad Show, 10:00—3:00, Contact Bill Driscoll @ 603-747-3492

July 16, Auburn, ME, At the Great Falls Model Railroad Club, 144 Mill St., Auburn, ME 04210



N.M.R.A. Continued

tial goal of \$75,000, we're still looking for additional donations so that more of our collection can be scanned and posted. The Online Archives site is up and running, and accessible via the link on the www.nmra.org homepage.

- The Board is investigating the feasibility of **occasional National conventions that are markedly different** from those currently scheduled.
- In an effort to **maintain contact with all NMRA members**, the Board is investigating various means of sending regular communications to the 4,000 NMRA members who don't subscribe to *NMRA Magazine*.
- The Board adopted one of two versions of **NMRANET standards** which were presented. It also approved two new tables to Standard S-7 to accommodate clearances for model railroads set in the modern era.
- Important announcements of the **scale model railroading exhibit** in the Gallery area of the California State Railroad Museum will be coming shortly. Those attending the Na-

tional Convention in Sacramento will have a chance to see the Gallery exhibit area and proposal drawings.

Lastly, my apologies to **John Lowrance and Fred Bock**, for screwing up their titles in the last InfoNet News. John is actually the Manager of the Education Department, and Fred is Assistant Manager.

If you have any questions or comments about any of the above, please send them directly to a Director or Officer. You'll find those addresses at www.nmra.org or in NMRA Magazine.

And if you're changing email addresses, please let me know at this email address: NMRA-efonet@earthlink.net

-Gerry Leone, MMR NMRA Communications Director