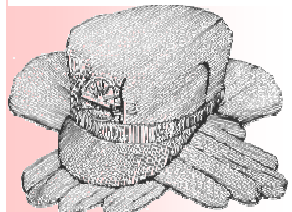




THE SEACOAST DIVISION OF THE N.M.R.A.

THE SWITCH TOWER

Chartered on November 17, 1968



Division Events by Peter McKenney

Division Fall Meeting

The Seacoast Division's fall meeting will be Saturday, October 22, 2011 at Marion Gerrish Community Center, 39 West Broadway, Derry, NH 03038 (10 am to 2 pm). For more details, see the attached notice.

Division Non Stop Ops Weekend

Have a blast operating on home layouts on Saturday, October 29, 2011 starting at 9 am. For \$15, you will gain lasting memories interacting with model railroad colleagues in making two different layouts function in realistic fashion. Fun for the most experienced "operators" and the first-timers alike. Forms for applying and more details are on the Seacoast Division website. [http://](http://www.seacoastnmra.org/ops_weekend/seacoastops/Seacoast_Division_Non-Stop_Ops.html)



Membership at the last meeting, at The Great Falls Model Railroad Club in Auburn, Me.

www.seacoastnmra.org/ops_weekend/seacoastops/Seacoast_Division_Non-Stop_Ops.html.

Roger Williams Express, October 13-16, 2011, Crowne Plaza Hotel

at the Crossings in Warwick, RI

The Northeastern Region's convention is less than one month away and lots of exciting details about the program are on the convention's website. [http://](http://www.northernregion.org)

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N.M.R.A. News

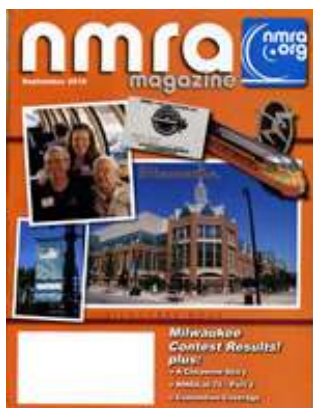
It's the pre-convention June edition. Not much news this month because everyone is getting ready for Sacramento next month. **IMPORTANT!** Region Presidents and Division Superintendents, please note: In the next few days you will be receiving a copy of the new **Member Information Policy** adopted by the Board of Directors. Be sure to read the policy carefully and adopt the changes at the re-

gional and divisional level of the NMRA. Recent changes in personal privacy laws make these changes necessary in order that your local group – and you personally – can avoid the ever-stronger consequences and penalties for sharing members' personal information without their permission. Please direct any questions concerning this new policy to Mike Brestel, NMRA President, at

nmrapres@zoomtown.com, or Robert Amsler, NMRA General Counsel, at nmrageal@charter.net.

- Remind your members that the NMRA has a [Facebook page](#) and is on [Twitter](#). For up-to-the-minute news members should follow us at either (or both) of those two social media sites!

(Continued on page 2)



"The convention program will feature a full program of clinics beginning at 1 PM on Thursday and continuing until 5 PM on Saturday with over fifty sessions scheduled. The schedule and descriptions of the clinics are now posted for your review."

Division Events CONTINUED

nerconvention.org/2011/Welcome.html

The convention program will feature a full program of clinics beginning at 1 PM on Thursday and continuing until 5 PM on Saturday with over fifty sessions scheduled. The schedule and descriptions of the clinics are now posted for your review.

There are lots of "non-rail/alternative activities" to pick from, all described on the web-site.

Make your room reservation at the hotel ASAP, regardless of convention registration. Reservations can be made through the following exclusive

web site, Hotel website www.crowneplaza.com/warwickri, email: reservations@providenceri.crowneplaza.com, or by calling 401-732-6000

Henry Pierce is looking for volunteers. Contact him at jhp341@cox.net.

There will be an interesting raffle this year. Several of the raffle items have already arrived. You are sure to

find a few items that you would like to win and take home.

Lots of fun activities for Seacoast Division members to enjoy in October!!



Above, Larry Cannon giving a presentation at the last meeting.



Left, Neil Farby giving a presentation at the last meeting in July.

N.M.R.A.

(Continued from page 1)

- The [National Train Show also has a Facebook page](#). When they follow us, your members can get all kinds of information about which vendors will be at the show, show specials, and other good-to-know previews about the NTS!
- As has been the case for several years, [NMRA Membership numbers are remaining stable](#). The membership count, as of May 31, was 19,495. This represents an increase of 0.34% (that's 1/3 of 1%) over May of 2010, and a decrease of 0.32%

(1/3 of 1%) over May of 2006. When you hear rumors of the "constant decrease in NMRA membership," please quote these figures -- it's **STABLE** and has been for at least five years!

- Repeating last month's news, [the 2011 NMRA election results](#) are in!
 - The new NMRA Canada Director will be **Don Hillman**, replacing Clark Kooning, MMR.
 - The new Central District Director will be **Peter Magoun, MMR**, replacing Bob Beatty, MMR.
- The new Regional Advisory Council Director will be **Stephen**

Continued

Priest, MMR, replacing Bob Ferguson.

All new Directors will take office at the Sacramento Board Meeting.

- The [Summer Board meeting](#) will be held prior to the Sacramento x2011 Convention and will begin on Friday, July 1, 2011. Current plans put the meeting in the Beavis Room in the Sheraton Grand Sacramento Hotel. Tentative starting time is 9 am. All locations and times are subject

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President's Corner by Bruce Robinson

Conventions, Elections, Etc.

The Division's bid for the 2013 Northeastern Region convention has been accepted by the Northeastern Region, NMRA. The convention hotel in Laconia, NH also has accepted the convention contract and some of the convention activities are starting to be put together. Rich Breton has agreed to be the Outside Activities Chairman for the convention but the other three convention chairman positions need to be filled. If you can fill one of these key positions, General Chairman, Inside Activities Chairman and Publicity Chairman, please let me know. It takes a lot of manpower to put on a successful convention so please step up and volunteer to help put this convention together.

The NER convention in Warwick, Rhode Island is October 13-16 and I know some of the Division's members are planning on attending. There will be a Seacoast Division Meet & Greet at the convention hotel Friday at

11:00am. Ask at the registration desk for the location and join other Seacoast Division members in attendance to Share the Fun of Model Railroading.

The annual process for election of directors to three-year terms will begin at the October 22 Quarterly meeting in Derry, NH, with the nominating committee accepting candidates' names for inclusion on the ballot for voting at the January meeting. Three Director positions are open and I hope at least two candidates for each position will be on the ballot. The Division has nine Directors who are elected by the membership. The Directors elect the President, and the President appoints the other officers, subject to the approval of the Directors: Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The President also makes other appointments as may be necessary for the conduct of the Division's activities. Currently, there are four such appointments: Membership Chairman, Achievement Program Chairman, Activities Chairman, and Newsletter Editor. The Division needs a Board that is willing to work hard to

make the Division a viable organization that provides a reason to belong to the NMRA and the Seacoast Division. The Board will be meeting nine times a year and will be working on some new ideas to bring the fun of model railroading to the membership. Please contact Rich Breton to have your name added to the candidate list.

October 29th is the Division's Non-stop Ops weekend. Five layouts will be available to operate on divided into a north crew and a south crew. Two layouts (north crew) are in Meredith, NH and three layouts are in the Portsmouth, NH area (south crew). Announcements were e-mailed to all members and the information is posted to the Division's web site. Sign-up deadline is October 8th. If you haven't sent in your application, do it soon.

A new feature will be added to the Seacoast Division's membership "benefit package" starting in January. On the second Friday night of each month, a "Fun Night" will be offered in Derry, NH at the Marion Gerrish Community Center which is located just off Route 93 at exit 4. Each night will have a presentation where members can participate in a hands-on activity or sit in on a clinic or two. Guest speakers are also in the line-up. If you have a presentation that you would like to share, contact our Activities Chairman Paul Lessard or Director Erich Whitney. I hope to see you at the first Fun Night, January 13 at 7:30pm.

Be sure to check out the Seacoast Division website. New tabs for announcements, calendar, and Modular Group have been added to the site. Many thanks to Director Erich Whitney, Mem-

bership Chairman Peter McKenney and Web Master Rob Carignan for working on this very important tool for the Division's membership to be current on Division activities. Go to www.seacoastnmra.org and see what is happening in the Division.

The title of this column is Conventions, Elections, Etc., and I hope the above paragraphs show some of the activities that the Division needs to be doing which can be done if the right people come forward to lend their time and expertise to make things happen. Thanks to all the members, directors, and officers who put in the effort to "make it happen" and don't just sit back and either hinder progress or let the next guy do it. It takes a dedicated and hard working force to make the Division strong and reward its members with a reason to belong to a great group of model railroaders.

The January Quarterly meeting will be in South Portland, Maine. I hope to see you there and I hope to see you at the NER convention Meet & Greet in Warwick.

Until we meet.....**Share the Fun of Model Railroading!**

N.M.R.A. Continued

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to change -- be sure to keep an eye out for updates to this information. Remember, it's the responsibility of Region and Division officials to pass along this information to members. For the last time this year, a [notice of 2012 elections](#). The following NMRA Officers and Board of Directors positions are open for election in 2012: President, Vice President-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 --



Minutes

Seacoast Division Spring Meeting

Saturday, April 9, 2011
Rochester Community Center
Rochester, New Hampshire

Meeting Minutes

The Seacoast Division Spring Meeting convened at 10 am at the Rochester Community Center. The morning clinic schedule got underway at 10:15 with an introduction to the NMRA AP program and Golden Spike award by Seacoast President Bruce Robinson. Bruce encouraged members to participate, and explained how easily the award could be attained.

Erich Whitney then presented a 2' by 4' module that is going to be the basis for his Golden Spike layout application. The module comes in kit form from the HUB Division (also part of the NMRA Northeast Region). The HUB sells kits are to persons interested in joining their extensive modular group. Erich talked of his plans for the module and showed a loose-leaf notebook in which he has collected all the Golden Spike requirements and AP certificate information. One of his excellent organization tips was that he attached "sticky notes" to flag pages where he would document his modeling work in a future AP certificate application.

Rich Breton made the next presentation, on "Lighting Model Buildings". The Power Point clinic showed how we could make friends with, "our old electrical buddy, Ohm's Law". Going back to grade-school math, Rich described use of an assortment of different bulbs and LED's in the same circuit, and getting them to be the desired bright-

ness by changing resistors and using parallel or series circuits. Although some members seemed to lose the drift of Rich's technical talk, the fact that Rich was called on to answer many questions showed the breadth of interest in this facet of the hobby. Rich concluded his clinic by demonstrating in several scale model buildings how he had achieved the desired lighting effects.

Paul Lessard was the next presenter. His "Show and Tell" was about "Critters" - not those little animals that scurry about under the floorboards, but "critter locomotives", industrial switchers. An industrial switcher, typically weighing 44 tons or less, is employed by an industry that must move a lot of material in freight cars around plant property. Paul made the interesting point that the "44-ton" locos were developed because union rules required the addition of a fireman on all powered equipment over 90,000lbs (45tons). Thus, the loco builders saw a market for smaller units that would appeal economically to large industries, and 40- to 44-ton locomotives came into being. Paul finished his discussion by showing a couple publications on the subject of industrial locomotives, and seven examples of "critters" that have been produced in HO scale over the years

As it was time for lunch, those present partook, buffet style, of sandwiches, chips and sodas, for a nominal charge of \$3. During the lunch hour the newly-formed Seacoast Modular Group got together and ratified a set of standard following the "Free-Mo" standards recently adopted by some NMRA groups. There is a growing interest in this type of

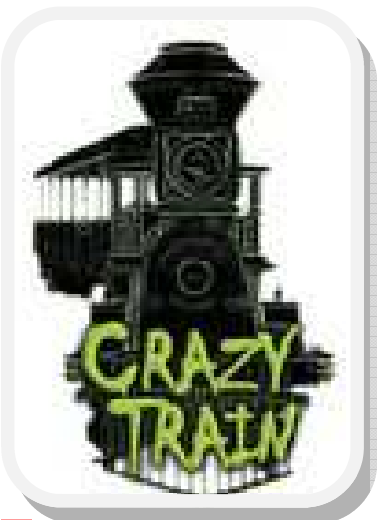
modularization, directed toward having more modular layouts at regional conventions as well other outings. This is a good way for more member participation and a way to "show the flag" for the Seacoast division in particular. To that end Tom Coulombe has had made colorful yellow vests with red piping and is selling them at cost; Rich Breton is working on a "Free-Mo" group patch that is similar to our current Seacoast patch. By the way, the Seacoast patch is now in stock and can be purchased for \$4 at any of the meetings and at many of the train shows in which the Division participates. Even if no modules are ready, the modular group hopes to have a presence at the Regional Convention this fall in Rhode Island.

After Lunch Neal Falby had a show-and-tell about how he was building and kit-bashing a Walther's coaling tower. He has been working with Rich Breton on lighting and is excited to be adding several lights and lighting effects to his model.

The business meeting came to order at 1:20PM. President Robinson encouraged everyone to have a look at Neal's model as well as Paul's critters. Andy St. Pierre's display of several HO F-units was also much appreciated. The usual reports were dispensed with in favor of an informal discussion on the business items on the agenda. Membership Chairman Peter McKenney told us we were still just under the division goal of 200 members. Still the division is doing extremely well, and is focused on growing. As noted previously, Tom Coulombe had the new Seacoast patches for sale. In a call for a new chairman to coordinate

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"During the lunch hour the newly-formed Seacoast Modular Group got together and ratified a set of standard following the "Free-Mo" standards recently adopted by some NMRA groups."



N.M.R.A. News

The NMRA's been rather quiet lately, but we still have some September news:

- The Howell Day Museum is issuing a new release of its highly successful Gorre and Daphetid bobber cabooses. Two new bobbers, numbered 3 and 5, are available from Headquarters immediately. A single car is US\$19.95 + \$4 shipping and handling, and the set of two is US\$34.95 + \$4 shipping and handling. The new cars are available in HO scale only, and are ready to run. They fea-

ture operating magnetic knuckle couplers and free-rolling metal wheels. Watch for the ad running in *NMRA Magazine*. To order, call HQ at 423-892-2846.

Registrations for Grand Rails 2012, next year's national convention in Grand Rapids, Mich., are taking off. Half of the available Furniture City Flyers Club memberships are already sold. Details about this club can be found on the convention's website at www.gr2012.org. In addition almost 90 clinic slots have been filled, with topics ranging from geared locomotives to timetable/train order

operation. If one of your members is interested in presenting a clinic, have them fill out an application form on the website. They're especially looking forward to clinics covering prototype modeling and operations.

- One more convention note: there has been a change in the visitation procedure for Bruce and Janet Chubb's Sunset Valley Oregon System. The SVOS will now be open a portion of every day from Sunday, July 29, through Saturday August 4, for self-guided tours. Special commemorative tickets will be available each day exclusively for the SVOS, so

attendees can choose to visit any time during any open day. And a repeat announcement: if your Region or Division gives adult or family classes on model railroading, Fred Bock, the NMRA's Education Department Assistant Manager, is looking for ideas. Whether your program runs as a one-day seminar or multi-week course, Fred would like to know what your program is about and is looking for lesson plans or other course material. Please email Fred at fbockLSRDiv6@aol.com. Use "Adult Education" as the subject of the email.

Minutes Continued

(Continued from page 4)

dinate our clinic and meeting agendas, Paul Lessard volunteered, with thanks from the members. Everyone can help Paul by volunteering to do a clinic or brief show-and-tell. Volunteers should notify Paul as soon as possible, so that programs for quarterly meetings can be established in a timely manner. With advanced information, members will have another to come to the quarterly meetings and enjoy the day's events. The next meeting is in July at the Great Falls Model Railroad Club. Come prepared to share your modeling efforts!

A reminder of the division's commitment to hosting a regional convention was discussed. Many volunteers will be needed for the effort. President Robinson and Rich Breton who chaired our last Seacoast-sponsored convention in 2005 were to meet with an interested hotel management in Laconia New Hampshire. They should

have some information to report to the Region in a few weeks.

The last item on the agenda was the proposal to get all the Divisions to become tenants on the Region's web site. Erich Whitney, who is working with our Web master Rob Carrigan, presented this idea at the recent Northeast Region meeting in Connecticut and received positive feedback there. You will be hearing more on this as Erich and Rob work together to get everything up and running in the next couple of months. The meeting adjourned at 2pm.



Terry King receiving certificate of thanks from President, Bruce Robinson.

Next Meeting

Seacoast Division Fall Meeting
Saturday, October 22, 2010
10:00-2:00

Marion Gerrish Community Center
39 West Broadway
Derry, NH 03038

All Seacoast Division members and guests are invited to the fall meeting in Derry, New Hampshire. If you know of a person in model railroading who might be interested in joining the NMRA, please invite him or her to accompany you to the meeting.

Clinics on model railroad building will be in the program as always and there will be a "bring it and show it" time. Members are encouraged to bring something they are working on or have built and share it with the rest of us. This event is a great opportunity to ask questions of other modelers, too.

Activities Chair Paul Lessard has already organized the following presentations:

1. Weathering freight cars by Tom Oxnard
2. Rigging an overhead (gantry) crane by Mike Graham
3. Model railroading on a budget by Paul Lessard

Lunch will be provided on-site for a donation to offset costs.

*Come to the fall meeting and **Share the Fun of Model Railroading.***

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

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The Switch Tower on Line

Seacoast Division Home Page
<http://www.seacoastnmra.org>

NMRA Home Page/Web Site
<http://www.nmra.org>

**Dead Line For Jan. Issue:
December 1, 2011**



Right: Japan's newest Train.

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

Oct. 8, Phillips, ME. SR & RL Railroad Weekend Annual Rail Fair. Free dealer tables, call 207-650-6685.

Oct. 13—15, Peabody, MA., Fine Scale Model RR Expo. Holiday Inn., www.modelrailroadexpo.com.

Oct. 15 & 16, Wakefield MA., North Shore Model Rail Road Club Show / Open House, www.nsmrc.org, Call 781-245-4742.

Oct. 29, Bethlehem, NH., Model Railroad Show, Profile School Call 603-747-3492

Nov. 5, Auburn, Me., Model Railroad Show, Auburn Middle School, 610 Court St., Auburn ME., 04210 !0:00—3:00. Call 207-933-2477., www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org.

Nov. 6, Bedford NH, Exhibition, McKelvie School. Layouts & Clinics, no dealers., www.boomers-rr.com

Nov. 19, Brewer ME., Model Railroad Show, Jeff's Catering 10:00—3:30 Call 207-374-2786.

Dec. 3, Winooski Vt., Model Railroad Show, Win. Education Center., Cal 802-862-7634.

Dec. 3 & 4., Marlborough MA., HUB Show, Royal Plaza Trade Center, www.hubdiv.org.

Jan. 28 & 29, 2012, West Springfield, MA., Model Railroad Show, Eastern States Fairgrounds. www.amherstrail.org.

