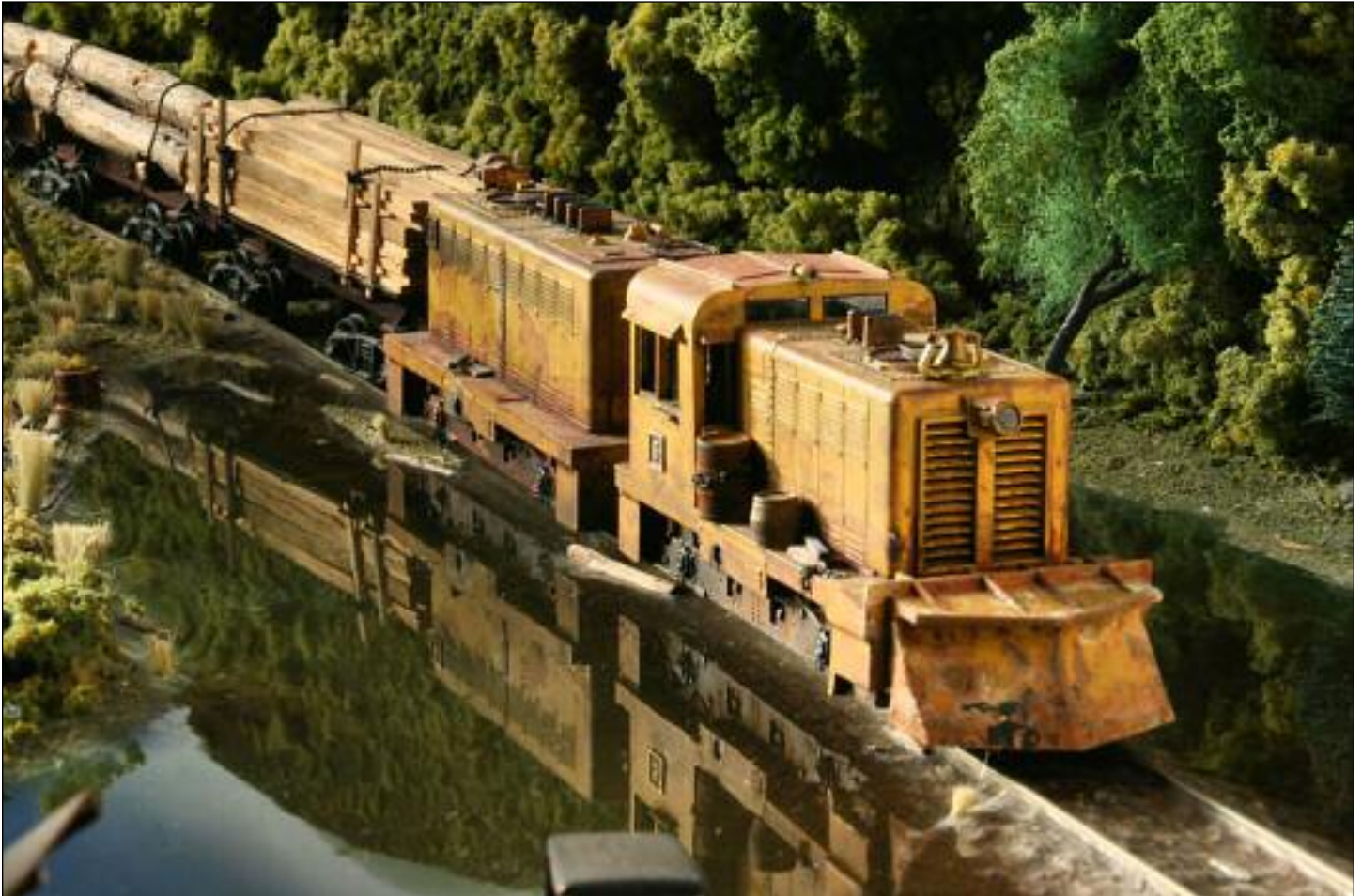

THE COUPLER

A PUBLICATION OF THE NORTHEASTERN REGION • NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

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Two Athearn Hustlers make their way through the swamped track on Bob Boudreau's well-known HO scale Lomax Lumber modules. The lead engine is slightly modified, with an original Athearn plow, and the second unit is a kitbashed freelance "B unit" made from two Hustlers. This and many other exceptional model railroads await the attendees of "Trains and Tides 2010" in St. John, New Brunswick (see page 6). PHOTO BY BOB BOUDREAU

WAYBILLS AND MANIFEST

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www.nernmra.org

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EDITOR

PHIL MONAT

3125 Independence Ave.
Bronx, NY 10463
(718) 884-0261
phil@philmonat.com

**WORDSMITH
FRANKLIN LANG**
Stamford, CT

**CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
TOM BARTLEY**
Pleasantville, NY

**COPY EDITOR
BARRY ABISCH**
Somers, NY

**ART DIRECTOR
OTTO M. VONDRAK**
Harrison, NY
ovondrak@yahoo.com

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NORTHEASTERN REGION NMRA

NER OFFICERS AND STAFF

PRESIDENT

KENNETH MAY
71 Buff Cap Road
Tolland, CT 06084
(860) 872-3441
kenneth.may@comcast.net

VICE PRESIDENT

PAUL ALLARD, MMR
53 Rollin Irish Road
Milton, VT 05468
(802) 893-2228
pallard@wildblue.net

TREASURER

LARRY CANNON, MMR
516 Pond Road
Lewiston, ME 04240
(207) 786-3929
larrycannon@roadrunner.com

SECRETARY

KEITH F. SHONEMAN
21 Freedom Farme Road
Acton, MA 01720
(978) 376-0080
kshoneman@verizon.net

OFFICE MANAGER

MARK HARLOW
280 S. Main Street
Hopedale, MA 01747
(508) 528-8587
nerofficemanager@verizon.net

ADVANCEMENT PRGM. CHAIR

PAUL ALLARD, MMR
53 Rollin Irish Road
Milton, VT 05468
(802) 893-2228
pallard@wildblue.net

MODEL CONTEST CHAIR

BOB HAMM, MMR
460 Grand Avenue
Saratoga Spgs, NY 12866
(518) 587-0743
rhamm1@nycap.rr.com

PHOTO CONTEST CHAIR

ROGER OLIVER
61 Franklin Road
Denville, NJ 07834-1558
ner.photocontest@gmail.com

CONVENTIONS CHAIR VACANT

**NER HISTORIAN
JOSEPH LECAROZ**
PO Box 7150
Newburgh, NY 12550
(914) 564-4626
jlchoochoo@aol.com

NER OPSIG COORDINATOR

AL ONETO
327 Springer Road
Fairfield, CT 06430
(203) 255-1331
alonetto@juno.com

NER WEBMASTER

MIKE ROQUE
60 High Manor Drive, Apt 1
Henrietta, NY 14467
(585) 615-4862
mike@tsny.com

NER REGIONAL DIRECTORS

CONNECTICUT

**& RHODE ISLAND
VINCENT GALLOGLY**
105 Woodhaven Drive
Trumbull, CT 06611
(203) 268-0437
railvin@charter.net

LONG ISLAND

**& NEW YORK CITY
ANDREW WASOWICZ**
P. O. Box 863320
Ridgewood, NY 11386-3320
(718) 366-3830
rwasowicz@aol.com

NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND

TERRY KING
P. O. Box 188
East Livermore, ME 04228
(207) 933-2477
tpking@roadrunner.com

NMRA EASTERN DIRECTOR

KEVIN FEENEY
831 New Norwalk Road
New Caanan, CT 06084
(203) 966-5175

EASTERN CANADA

Vacant

NEW JERSEY

ROGER OLIVER
61 Franklin Road
Denville, NJ 07834-1558
(973) 625-3414
oliverr2@verizon.net

MASSACHUSETTS

WILLIAM BARRY
35 Blaiswood Avenue
Marlborough, MA 01752-3910
(508) 251-1252
wbarry@dmberg.com

NEW YORK STATE

MIKE EVANS
838 Mason Street
Morrisonville, NY 12962
(518) 563-3989
EvansM@co.clinnton.ny.us

NER DIVISION SUPERINTENDENTS

NUTMEG DIVISION

**SUPERINTENDENT
SEELEY C. KELLOGG**
PO Box 619
Durham, CT 06422-0619
(860) 349-8774
seeleyk@comcast.net

HUB DIVISION

**PRESIDENT
RICHARD JOHANNES**
40 Pelham Street
Newton, MA 02459
(617) 244-0068
president@hubdiv.org

HUDSON VALLEY DIVISION

**SUPERINTENDENT
CARL SARDARO**
1295 Turkey Hill Road
Milan, NY 12571-4307
(518) 398-1960
csardaro@fairpoint.net

HUDSON-BERKSHIRE DIVISION

**PRESIDENT
PAUL HOFFMAN**
128 Woodfield Blvd
Mechanicville, NY 12118
(518) 899-5707

SUNRISE TRAIL DIVISION

**PRESIDENT
FERNAND "BUZZY" WASHINGTON**
179-65 Selover Road
Jamaica, NY 11434-3411
(718) 528-2308
buzzyfernand@aol.com

METRO NORTH DIVISION

**SUPERINTENDENT
CARL LIBA**
14 Adams Farm Road
Westport, CT 06880
(203) 226-0562
cjbhliba@optonline.net

CENTRAL NEW YORK DIVISION

**SUPERINTENDENT
BRIAN CURRY**
3594 Chamberlain Road
Weedsport, NY 13166
(315) 689-1303
banddcurry@peoplepc.com

GARDEN STATE DIVISION

**PRESIDENT
TOM WORTMANN**
68 Carmel Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10314
(718) 494-0388
miskyrails@msn.com

LITTLE RHODY DIVISION

**SUPERINTENDENT
HENRY PIERCE**
75 Shady Hill Drive
West Warwick, RI 02893-2336
(401) 821-4256
jhp341@cox.net

SEACOAST DIVISION

**PRESIDENT
BRUCE ROBINSON**
19 Hunt Pond Road
Sandown, NH 03873
(603) 887-5922
brobinson85@comcast.net

GREEN MOUNTAIN DIVISION

**PRESIDENT
DANA BROWN**
17 Skyline Drive
Essex Jct., VT 05452
Dana24mn@gmail.com

INACTIVE DIVISIONS

- ★ PIONEER DIVISION
- ★ MARITIMES DIVISION
- ★ DIVISION ALOUETTE

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR COUPLER #237 IS NOV. 13

We want to hear from you—Contact Editor Phil Monat at phil@philmonat.com



BY KEN MAY NER President



As I write this, the Hartford National 2009 convention has been concluded for just about a month. By all accounts I have seen the convention was a great success. Total registration count exceeded 1000, which we felt was very good given the present economic conditions. Paid attendance to the National Train Show exceeded 17,000. For a train show in July we felt that was very, very good. I wish to thank all those who partici-

pated, volunteered and helped to make our convention one of the best in recent times — all did a great job!

At this time the status of the Northeastern Region is pretty good. Financially we are in very good shape. The membership numbers have remained stable. We have two conventions scheduled for 2010 — a joint activity in St. John, New Brunswick with the Maritime Federation of Model Railroaders, and our Fall NER Convention in Burlington, VT. You will find publicity on both of these great conventions elsewhere in this issue. I encourage those who can afford

to travel to St. John to do so and support our Canadian members.

Next spring is election time in the NER. This fall it is important that a slate of candidates be selected to run for NER office. You will need to elect a new President, as I will not be standing for re-election. I also encourage anyone with the interest in serving as a NER Director to consider making yourself available as a candidate. It will be a good thing to have new people involved in the management of the NER.

—Ken May, NER President

FROM THE EDITORS

Kudos to the NER! A job well done!

The NER has been initiated into the Convention Hall of Fame for its superb performance at the Hartford National. It may not have reached the heights of attendance seen in years past, but the real measure of its success was in the sheer volume of exceptionally high quality clinics, the offering to see and operate on some of the finest layouts in the country and a modeling showcase that had over 150 entries surpassing all past records. Another measure not heard much about these days is “profit.” HN2009 did come out in the black.

We might ask ourselves why this convention was so successful. To me the answer is leadership. Vin Gallogly led with a disciplined baton through a symphony of many faces and many organizational pushes and pulls from above and below. Bob Hamm’s expanded modeling showcase, which he has worked on revising over the past few years, really paid off with some of the best entries ever. His new non-judging display category was loaded with models that in many ways equaled the quality of those entered in the judging/award segment. John McGloin should be awarded a gold medal for giving the convention a list of clinic subjects and clinicians that was beyond what past conventions have offered. John screened every presentation prior to the convention traveling to the west coast and in between to

make sure the presenters were up to his and the NER standards. It’s amazing that he encountered clinicians who were no shows and never notified him. He is to be commended for his hard work and the excellence of the clinics.

There were many other NER members that spent days, weeks and months giving of their time to make this convention a success. They are too numerous to name here, but we all should extend our thanks for a job well done. We belong to a good and active Region. Do attend your local divi-

sional meetings for you will meet with many other model railroaders that will expand your own horizons. We should all look forward to the next NER Regional convention in St. John, New Brunswick in May 2010 and the Fall 2010 convention in Vermont. Our friends across the border and in Vermont have some great layouts and sharp minds that should result in excellent, and for a change, more reasonably priced conventions.

—Franklin Lang, Wordsmith

ONWARD TO MILWAUKEE 2010



Save the dates July 11-18, 2010 for the NMRA's 75th Anniversary Convention in Milwaukee!
PHOTO BY OTTO M. VONDRAK



GREEN MOUNTAIN DIVISION

September 9-12, 2010: 2010 NER Fall "Champlain Flyer" Convention in Burlington, Vermont. This will be the first NER convention in Vermont in over ten years! Don't miss it! See info in this issue, or contact Glenn Glasstetter at cenorwy@gmavt.net.

GARDEN STATE DIVISION

October 4, 2009: Northwest Jersey Train-O-Rama at Dover High School, 100 Grace Street, Dover, NJ. 9am-3pm, \$5 if preregistered and \$6 at the door. Children 10 and under, \$2. For more information please visit www.dovertrainshow.com.

October 11, 2009: METCA Division of the Train Collectors Association Halloween Show, boys and Girls Club of Garfield, 490 Midland Avenue, Garfield, NJ. 8am-2pm for TCA member, 9am-2pm non-members. TCA members \$2, adults, 16 and older \$4. For more information: www.netca.org

November 22, 2009: Northwest Jersey Train-O-Rama at Dover High School, 100 Grace Street, Dover, NJ. 9am-3pm, \$5 if preregistered and \$6 at the door. Children 10 and under, \$2. For more information please visit www.dovertrainshow.com.

October 24, 2009: New York Society of Model Engineers Annual Scale Swap Meet at St. Josephs' School Auditorium, 120 Hoboken Road, Carlstadt, NJ, 9:00 am to 2:00pm. Admission: \$5.00, wives and children: FREE. Trains in N, HO and O, books, tools, clinics, historical society displays and more. Less than one mile from Giants Stadium. See www.ModelEngineers.org for additional information.

Nov. 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29 and Dec. 4, 5, 6, 2009: New York Society of Model Engineers Annual Holiday Model Train Exhibition, 341 Hoboken Road, Carlstadt, NJ (Less than one mile from Giants Stadium). Hours: Fri 7:00 to 10:00 pm, Sat. and Sun. 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Admission: Adults \$5.00, Children \$1.00 Featuring 5,000 square feet of operating HO and O scale layouts, railroad memorabilia and railroad related exhibits. Please visit www.ModelEngineers.org for additional information.

MEMBERSHIP OPEN: New York Society of Model Engineers, 341 Hoboken Road, Carlstadt, NJ (less than one mile from Giants Stadium). Meets Wednesday nights 7:00 to 10:00pm. Featuring O Scale and HO scale layouts (HO is employs NCE-DCC), full machine shop and large research library. Dues: \$12.50 a month. Please visit www.ModelEngineers.org for additional info.

Nov. 27-29 and Dec. 4-6 and 11-13, 2009: The Model Railroad Club, Inc., presents it's annual Light & Sound Show, 295 Jefferson Avenue, Union, NJ. Friday 11/27 noon-10pm, Friday 12/4 and 12/11 7:00pm-10pm, Saturdays 10am-8pm, Sundays 11am-6pm. Adults \$7, children \$5, under 13 FREE.

METRO NORTH DIVISION

September 12, 2009: First Fall Meeting at the Danbury Rail Museum, Danbury, CT, 10:00am. Clinics, Show & Tell, local layout tours. For more information please email Carl Libra at cjbhliba@optonline.net.

December 12, 2009: Stamford Library on Vine Street, Stamford, CT. Clinics, Show & Tell, local layout tours and more. For more information, please mail Carl Libra at cjbhliba@optonline.net.

SEACOAST DIVISION

Our Division secretary, Joel DiTrilio passed away July 22. Joel enjoyed hosting an operating crew on his Rutland Railroad once a month and will be missed by all the people who joined him on those operating nights. Look for photos of Joel's layout in the December issue of *Model Railroader*.

August 23, 2009: The Seacoast Division traveling display will be at the Concord Model Railroad Club Show at the Everett Arena, Loudon Road, Concord, NH. The show hours are 10am-4pm.

October 3, 2009: The Division's fall quarterly meeting will be hosted by the Concord Model Railroad Club from 10am-2pm at the

club meeting room at the Washington Street School, Penacook, NH. For more info (207)-933-2477, tpking@roadrunner.com.

November 7, 2009: Train Show, Auburn, ME. 10am-3pm. For more info please telephone (207)-933-2477 or email tpking@roadrunner.com.

January 16, 2010: The January quarterly meeting will be in Portland, Maine, from 10am-2pm and will include a tour of the Bar Mills facilities. Details TBA.

NUTMEG DIVISION

October 10, 2009: Meeting, with nominations for director, and November 14th Meeting (election of director) @ the Wethersfield Police Station with selective model railroad touring to follow. Meetings start at 10am, for more information contact Seeley Kellogg at seeleyk@comcast.net.

November 15, 2009: The Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum will sponsor a Model Train and Die Cast show at the Windham High School, 355 High Street, Willimantic, Ct. Hours are 10:00AM to 3:00PM. Adults-\$6.00; Children (8-12)-\$1.00; Children (under 8)-Free; Door Prizes, Handicapped Accessible, Wide Aisles, Operating Layouts, Food On Site, Free Parking, Vendors. For more info contact Joseph Sokol at joseph_sokol@msn.com.

HUDSON BERKSHIRE DIVISION

November 8, 2009: Railroad Exposition at The Mid-Hudson Civic Center, 14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie, New York, from 10AM to 3pm. 20,000 square feet of operating layouts, railroadiana, model exhibits, modular layouts, clinics, dealer tables, modeling demonstrations, railroad movies, white elephant table. Adult \$5, Student/Senior \$4, convenient to Amtrak and Metro-North trains. Please contact for more information (845)297-0901 or visit www.hydeparkstation.com.

December 6, 2009: Upstate Train Associates and the Hudson-Berkshire Division Albany, New York bring you the annual Great Train Extravaganza, Empire State Convention Center, 10am-4pm.

FOR THE LATEST NEWS VISIT
www.nernmra.org

Admission: \$5 adults, pre-teens 12 and under free when accompanied by an adult. Operating layouts, over 200 tables of trains, education displays, free seminars. Many other family activities being held nearby the same weekend, bring the entire family for a fun day out. For more information: www.gtealbany.org and (518) 371-9164

HUB DIVISION EVENTS

September 20, 2009: Open House at the Worcester Model Railroaders, 137 Schofield Ave. in Dudley, MA, from 10 AM to 3 PM. New construction, Digitrax DCC 43' by 51' club layout. Admission/donation \$2, under 12 free. For more info please contact Peter J. Smith, www.wmrr.org, or pjsmithross@aol.com.

September 18, 2009: HUB Railfun Meeting 8:00 PM at Cambridge School of Weston, MA. First Railfun of the new model railroad season! Topic: Mini Clinics, Demonstrations and tips, presented by various HUB members. Please see www.hubdiv.org for additional details.

October 16, 2009: HUB Railfun Meeting 8:00 PM, Cambridge School of Weston, MA. Topic: "Module Masters Part 1: Clark Falls and Schenectady," presented by Jeff Gerow and Rudy Slovacek. An "up close and personal" look at these award-winning modules, with discussion and question-and-answer with the module creators. Please see www.hubdiv.org for additional details.

November 12-14, 2009: Craftsman Structure Show 2009, Holiday Inn at 31 Hampshire Street, Mansfield, MA. For more information please visit www.css09.com.

November 20, 2009: HUB Railfun Meeting 8:00 PM, Cambridge School of Weston, MA. Topic: "The Hoosac Tunnel Then and Now", a historical perspective on the construction and history of the 4.75 mile Hoosac Tunnel, presented by Jerry Kelley. Please see www.hubdiv.org for additional details.

December 5-6, 2009: HUB-sponsored New England Model Train EXPO at the Best Western Royal Plaza Trade Center, Marlborough, MA. See www.hubdiv.org for additional details.

January 2, 2010: HUB Holiday Party. See www.hubdiv.org for additional details.

January 15, 2010: HUB Railfun Meeting 8:00 PM, Cambridge School of Weston, MA. Topic: TBD Please see www.hubdiv.org.



SPECIAL: Hub Division is offering special HO scale 50th Anniversary cars. Visit www.hubdiv.org for details. PHOTO BY OTTO M. VONDRAK

HUDSON VALLEY DIVISION

No Activity

SUNRISE TRAIL DIVISION

November 7, 2009: 10:00AM-5:00PM. Sunrise Trail Division Fall Convention at the United Methodist Church, 881 Merrick Rd, Baldwin NY. Awards Dinner at above location 6:00PM-9:00PM

January 10, 2010: Freeport, New York. The Great South Bay Model Railroad Club, Inc. presents their 20th Annual Winter Train Show and Exhibition at Freeport Recreation Center, 130 East Merrick Road, Freeport, NY. 10am-4pm. Admission: \$5 adults, children under 12 freewith an adult. For more information, Kevin McKay, (516) 223-9357

CENTRAL NEW YORK

October 25, 2009: Division Meeting and Mini Layout Tour, Tom Kehoskie's house. Visit layouts form map book section 'B' and see Tom's free-lanced layout with lots of operating potential. 10am-5pm, for more info contact Scooter at gyoust@me.com.

December 5, 2009: Division Meeting, location and topics TBD.

CNY Division newsletters are available at http://www.cnymra.org/News_Letter.html

LITTLE RHODY DIVISION

Little Rhody Division held it's annual meeting June 10 2009. at the Gentleman Farmer Restaurant in Scituate RI. Members Grace and Carmine "Gus" Roca were honored guests for the evening. They were presented with a beautiful bouquet for Grace, and

a certificate recognizing them for their many years of outstanding service to the Little Rhody Division.

The Achievement program is off to a good start with nine members (including two husband and wife teams) received the Golden Spike Award. The proud recipients were Alan Blied, Rolf Johnson, Justin Maguire, Roland Marcotte, Sue and Brian Osberg, Joanne and Henry Pierce, and Andy Small.

The Board of Directors elected for the 2009/2010 year are Supt. Henry Pierce, Assistant Supt. Roland Marcotte, Paymaster Leo Hamel, Chief Clerk Paul Mowrey, Directors Rolf Johnson, John Loesch, Justin Maguire, and Brian Osberg.

NEW MEETING LOCATION - The Division meets on the 2nd Wed of the month at the German American Cultural Society located at 78 Carter Avenue, Pawtucket, RI. Doors open at 7:00pm and meeting begins at 7:30pm. For more information contact Henry Pierce 401-821-4256, or email jhp341@cox.net.

OTHER EVENTS

October 10-11, 2009: Great Scale Model Train Show, Maryland State Fairgrounds, 2200 York road, Timonium, MD. Sat- 9am-4pm, Sunday-10am-4pm. \$9, children under 15 free, family \$18. for more information: www.gsmts.com.

March 26-28, 2010. Railroad Prototype Modelers Meet, Valley Forge, PA. Sponsored by Philadelphia Division, MER. Desmond Great Valley Hotel & Conference Center, Malvern, PA. Clinics, Model Displays, Vendor Room, Sunday home layout tours. For more information and updates please visit www.phillynmra.org.

* * *



The repair shop is a busy area on Bob Boudreau's magnificent HO scale logging modules. Bob is a member of the St. John Society of Model Railroaders, the host organization for the joint "Trains and Tides 2010" convention this spring in St. John, New Brunswick. PHOTO BY BOB BOUDREAU

Spring brings "Trains and Tides"

The St. John Society hosts our joint MFMR/NER Spring Convention

By Steve McMullin
Maritime Division

Members of the Saint John Society of Model Railroaders continue to prepare for the "Tracks and Tides 2010" Convention that will be held in Saint John, New Brunswick from Thursday, May 20 to Sunday, May 23, 2010. Members of the NER are invited to join members of the Maritime Federation of Model Railroaders for a weekend of layout tours, operating sessions, clinics, special events, and a large public show at the Lord Beaverbrook Arena, right next to the convention hotel.

Saint John, Canada's first incorporated city, is a great location for a model railroad convention. For those who are interested in prototype industries served by rail, Saint John is an industrial city with two large modern paper mills, a tissue mill, Canada's largest oil refinery, a brewery, and many other businesses that are serviced by either the Canadian National Railway or the NB Southern Railway. The Port of Saint John handles an average of 27 million metric

tonnes of cargo annually and is one of Canada's key ports.

For people interested in operating sessions, Doug Devine's "Island Central Railway," Steve McMullin's "Carleton Railway," and Lou McIntyre's "Hampton and St. Martin's Railway" will host guest operators. Each of the layouts uses DCC, and scenery is essentially complete on all three. Self-guided layout tours will take you to several layouts in Saint John, as well as a group of layouts in New Brunswick's capital city of Fredericton—about one hour's drive from Saint John. We are also working with the New Brunswick Museum—located less than a mile from the convention hotel—to provide some special program elements in keeping with the railway history in New Brunswick.

The convention will have input from both Canadian and American modelers. We have begun lining up clinicians from both sides of the border, and modular layouts from the Maritimes and from the NER's HUB division will be on display at

the public show. Our Saint John club will display our modular HO layout, as well as an innovative N-scale "mini-module" layout that has proven quite popular with the public.

We remind our American friends who plan to join us that it is important to have a passport if you want to return to the United States. Recent changes in U.S. policy have made it necessary to have a passport when entering the U.S. Saint John is about a one hour drive from the U.S. border at Calais, Maine. Those of us in the Maritimes who are NER members especially look forward to welcoming you to Saint John! I have enjoyed travelling to NER conventions in New England and in New York, and I am excited that our club will be able to provide a quality convention experience to those of you who join us in May.

Please visit the convention website at www.tracksandtides2010.org. Full program details for the convention, as well as registration information, will be added to the convention website in October. ■

“Champlain Flyer” Fall 2010

Green Mountain Division is gearing up for a great autumnal event

By Glenn Glasstetter
Green Mountain Division

Greetings from Burlington, Vermont on the west coast of New England located on the shores of beautiful Lake Champlain. Burlington will be the site of the Northeastern Region's 2010 Convention, The Champlain Flyer. Our convention hotel will be the Sheraton Burlington Hotel and Conference Center, from September 9-12, 2010 www.sheraton.com/burlington.

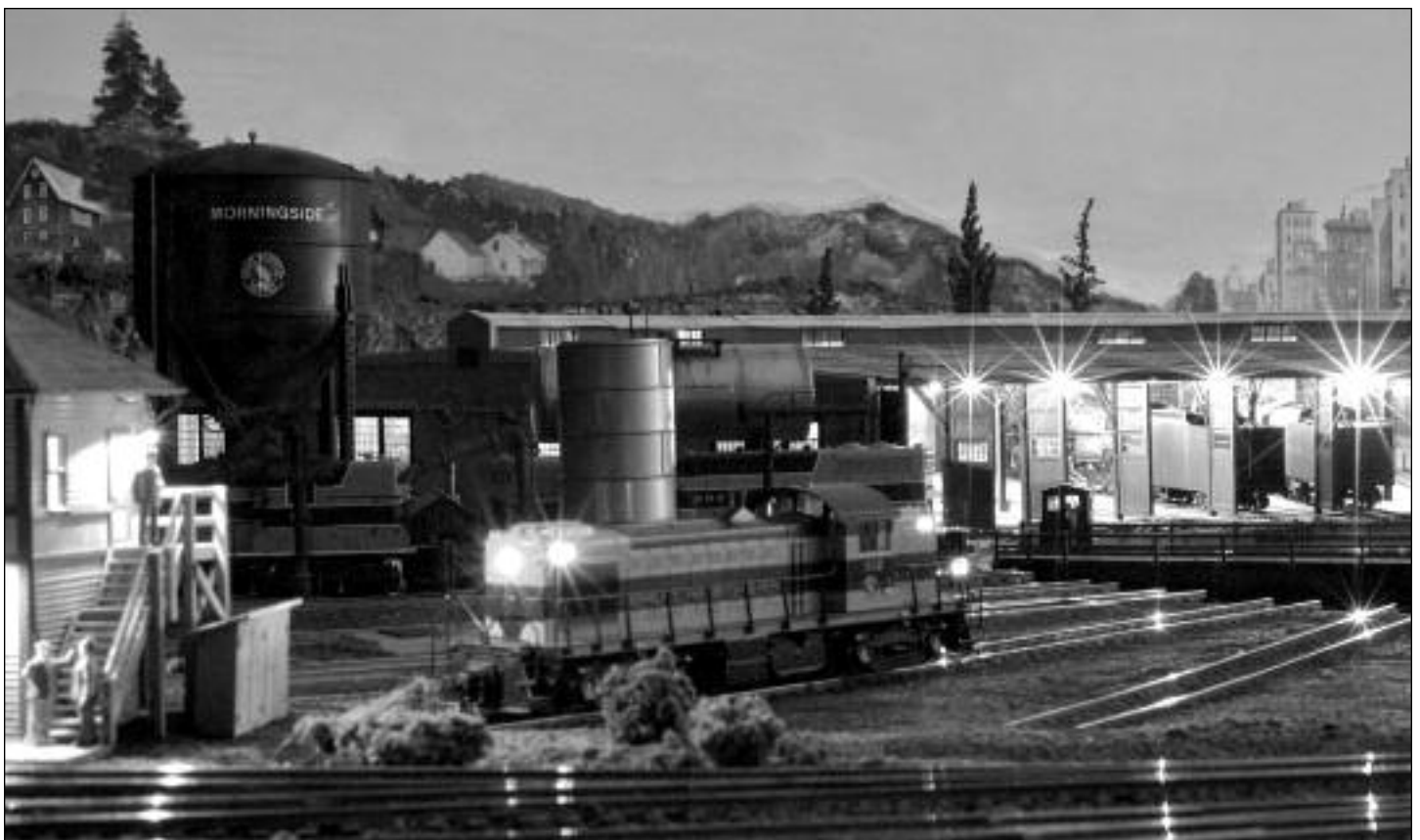
The Green Mountain Division's Convention Committee is planning a program that will educate and entertain you throughout all four days of the convention. We borrow our convention name, the Champlain Flyer, from the Green Mountain Railroads train of the same name. This train runs from Burlington south to Charlotte on former Rutland rails. This train ride, as well as a tour of the former Rutland yard and shops in Burlington,

will be the focus trip for the convention. We are also negotiating for a tour of the McNeil Wood-Powered Electric Generating Facility in Burlington. This wood chip powered generating plant came on line in 1984 and receives wood chips by train several days a week.

Our Clinic Chairman, Paul Allard, is putting together a full slate of clinics that will run from Thursday through Saturday to

include a mix of both prototype and modeling clinics. Prototype clinics will be presented by a number of local experts and the modeling clinics will be provided by local and regional NMRA members. Since we can no longer call our Make and Take clinics presented by Master Model Railroaders “Modeling with the Masters,” our clinic is called “Gluing with the Good Guys.”

We currently have fifteen layouts committed with five of them hosting sessions. More will be added as we contact the owners. The GMD is also constructing Free-mo modules of the Bellows Falls yard that will be set up at the hotel for hands on switching operation. The Model and Photo Contests, Modeler's Showcase, the Banquet and Entertainment Program, the Non-Rail Program and the NER Annual Meeting will round out the convention program. With all there is to do at the convention and in the Burlington area, we are sure that you will have an enjoyable weekend. ■



Jim Ferguson's free-lanced version of the Great Northern Railway along and beyond the SP&S route is just one of the attractions at the upcoming NER “Champlain Flyer” convention to be held September 9-12, 2010. Please visit www.greenmountainmra.com/ChamplainFlyer for more information. PHOTO BY GUSTAV W. VERDERBER/RAILSCENICS.COM



The well-appointed Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford was host to many of the week's activities, including clinics and the National Train Show. More than 1,000 registered attendees for the convention and 17,000 at the train show made for a successful event. PHOTO BY OTTO M. VONDRAK

My Fastest Week: HN 2009

Or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Convention

By Vin Gallogly

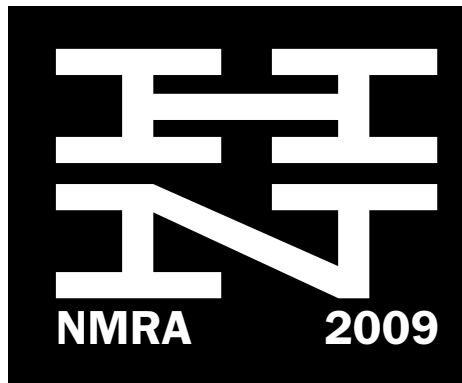
Metro North Division

2009 National Convention Chair

Yes, HN2009 opened on July 5 and closed on July 11, it was a fast clock week for the operators of the Hartford National. Over 1000 registered participants, supported by a cast of more than 300 volunteer clinicians, bus captains, layout owners, prototype operators and Gandy dancers keeping the rails aligned, permitted the HN2009 to deliver a fabulous convention experience for all.

The excitement generated during the convention was captured by four of Connecticut's TV stations, channels 61, 3, 8 and 30. Channel 61's Jim Altman visited

on Monday interviewing the operators of the Wabash Road Show, a TTO modular railroad, the Modeling with the Masters clinic on scratch building with styrene and Tim Warris's HO scale model of the Central of New Jersey's Bronx Terminal



warehouse (See more details of his progress at www.bronx-terminal.com).

This channel 61 two minute segment aired twice on Monday night and again on Tuesday morning, it stimulated all media and it was a media fest from there. Proof of the pudding - more than 250 persons joined the NMRA during the week and more than 17,000 persons attended the three day National Train Show!

Layout owners in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York and Rhode Island hosted bus and self drive tours, Ops sessions and Layout Design SIG scrutiny. All hosts and participants came away elated with their experiences.

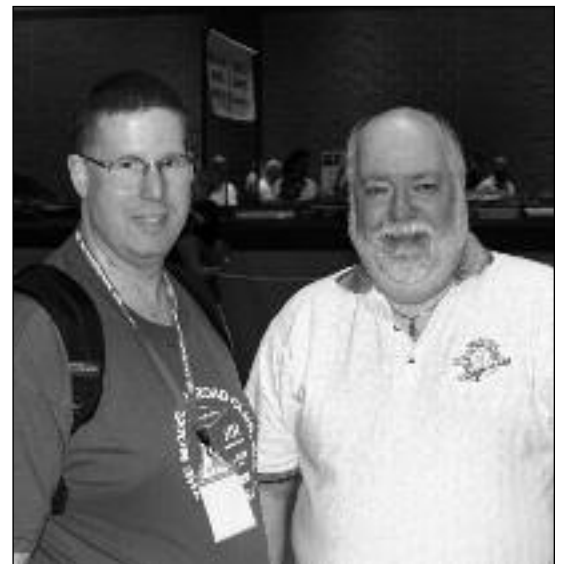
Within the Convention Center literally 24/7 was John McGloin stewarding the rail

clinics. Supporting him for the entire week was Peter Luchini. As many of you already know, John single handedly recruited the over 140 rail clinic presenters, presenters who delivered more than 220 individual clinics and then proceeded during the convention to deliver a number of their clinics a second time. John's three-year effort to develop this cast of presenters included attending many non NER NMRA Regional events and the national conventions of other rail groups. This action, resulted in more than 60 percent of our presenters being first time National NMRA convention presenters. A truly different convention.

Bob Hamm promoted the Celebration of models and the contest room, both in print media ads and online. The result: more than 150 models were on display, a new record! For a view of winning contest models see the HN2009.org web site.

With an event this large one would expect something to go off the rails. Nothing did. Credit for the smooth functioning of HN2009 goes to John McGloin, Rail clinics chair; Jeffery Zeleny, Layout tours chair and LDSIG coordinator; Carl Liba, Prototype tours chair; Al Oneto, OPSIG coordinator; Bill Evans, our local modular layout coordinator; and Ken May, HN2009's Treasurer, General Interest chair and the go to person for all within the City of Hartford's Convention Center that needed on scene coordination.

Additionally, Ron Pelletier and Don Straub made certain the areas requiring support by volunteers from bus captains to bag checkers at the Silent Auction were properly coordinated. John Campbell led the tour desk and handled the myriad attendee questions. In the three years leading up to the Convention more than fifty persons worked on different aspects of convention development. A hearty personal thank you to each of you who made this a terrific convention. ■



**NMRA 75th ANNIVERSARY
NATIONAL CONVENTION**

**Milwaukee, Wisconsin
July 11-18, 2010**

There were many familiar faces at the National Train Show, including the Mohegan & Pequot Model Railroad Club (top), Kevin Katta of Long Island (middle left), Ed Kenney and Roger Oliver from The Model Railroad Club of Union, NJ (middle right), and representatives (above) from Atlas Model Railroad Company of Hillside, NJ ("Made in the NER!"). PHOTOS BY OTTO M. VONDRAK



Familiar faces at the National Train Show included the many members of the Hub Division (TOP) who came out to support their modular layout at the train show. Fellow Bay Staters from the Amherst Belt Lines, the popular modular railroad of the Amherst Rail Society (ABOVE LEFT) of Massachusetts. From central Connecticut, Valley HO Trak member Mark Osmun (ABOVE RIGHT) poses with some of the equipment he purchased from the well-known Virginian & Ohio. The historic fleet of V&O, AM and VM equipment continues to rack up revenue miles for its new owner! PHOTOS BY OTTO M. VONDRAK



Carstens Publications of Newton, NJ ("Made in the NER!"), publishers of *Railroad Model Craftsman*, featured this nifty traction layout inside a replica trolley (TOP LEFT). RMC editor Bill Schaumburg (TOP RIGHT) and many other Carstens staffers were on hand to meet and greet visitors. Our friends from Traintek of Waltham, MA were on hand (MIDDLE LEFT), though the folks from Branchline Trains of East Hartford, CT (MIDDLE RIGHT) may have won the Shortest Commute Contest (both vendors are also NER!). Representatives from Walthers of Milwaukee, WI, unveiled a new Hulett unloader and ore boat in HO (ABOVE LEFT) while Custom Model Railroads of Baltimore, MD had their innovative city buildings on display. PHOTOS BY OTTO M. VONDRAK

BY FRANKLIN LANG Wordsmith

CARLETON RAILWAY

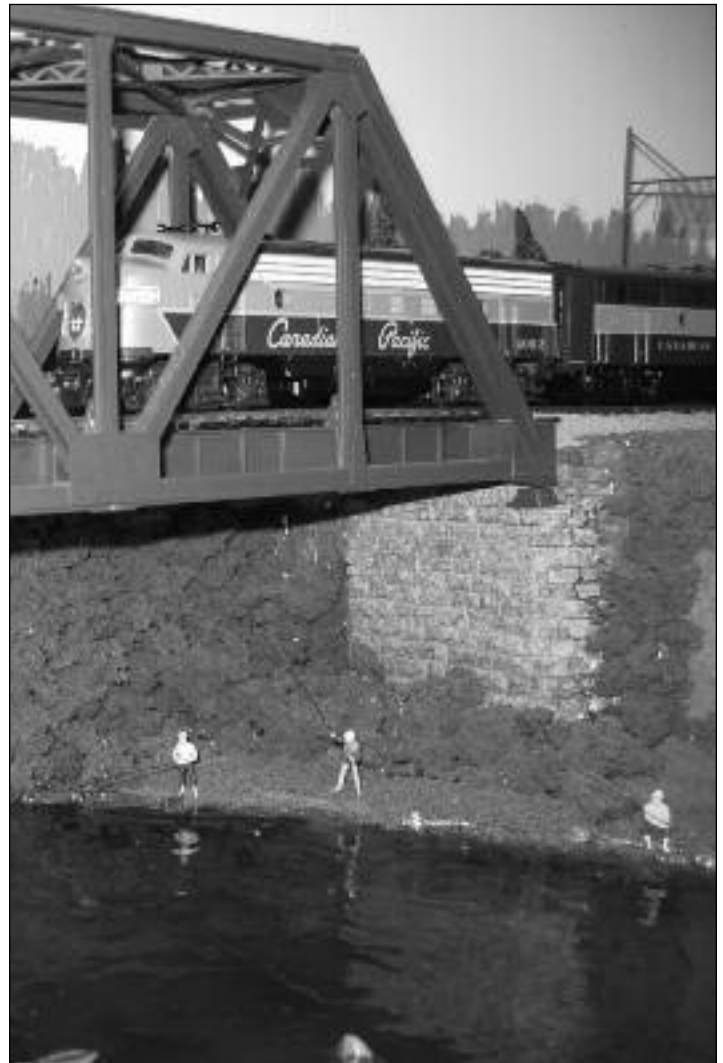
A bit east of Maine, where the tides hit 28 feet and water rushes upstream on an incoming tide, lies the Carleton Railway. The city of Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada, is definitely a key junction for some great operating model railroads. One of those belongs to Steve McMullin, the owner operator of the Carleton Railway, a major mid-1960s regional shipper of potatoes and cattle to the port at Saint John and to points south and west via interchanges with the Bangor & Aroostook, Canadian National, and the Canadian Pacific.

Steve's layout, started in 2002, is in a 28' x 22' basement room with a main line about 260' long. It has over 100 turnouts and scenery is just about completed. The layout is populated with more than 400 HO-scale people and more than 200 animals (horses, cows, pigs, sheep, and a few dogs). The main focus is prototypical operations using car cards and waybills, an NCE DCC control system and a 6:1 fast clock. The timetable includes eight scheduled freights and two passenger trains in each direction. A crew of 8-12 people operates about once a month.

The main line rises from 36" to 60" on a gradual long run through heavy farming country, potato fields, agricultural warehouses and a major packing plant. Steve labored hard and long to plant a four-foot long potato field on the layout. Fortunately he has a paid crew harvesting his crop each year.

Steve is a hard task master (not really), for after each session he sends a light-hearted report to all his operators outlining the results of the session, hoping for either improved train movement the next time around or a good laugh. The most famous incident, which became known as "Cattlegate" among regular crewmembers, reported finding three or four loaded stock cars left in a yard instead of reaching their intended destination. When discovered the next day, there was a foul odor that indicated an operator error. When the Humane Society got hold of the news, Steve was, to say the least, quite upset that his rolling stock got lost – something that never happens on other layouts. Bob Boudreau, one of his operators who is very handy with digital photography, sent Steve and his crew a photo of dead carcasses being unloaded from his wayward cars.

The Carleton Railway, with or without doctored photos, makes for super model railroading. Steve welcomes guests, and maintains a blog at <http://carletonrailway.blogspot.com>. ■



Scenes from Steve McMullin's free-lanced Carleton Railway, an agricultural bridge line set in the 1960s that interchanges with BAR, CN, and CP. PHOTOS BY STEVE McMULLIN

Want to be featured in Empire Builder?
E-mail Editor Phil Monat: phil@philmonat.com

NER AP Roundup

Twice a year The Coupler recognizes the accomplishments of our fellow NER Members in the NMRA Achievement Program, from Golden Spike to Master Model Railroader!

BY PAUL ALLARD, MMR Advancement Program Manager

The hits keep on coming...



By Paul Allard, MMR
NER Advancement
Program Chair

Soon we will be entering the cooler months of the year and our attention will be refocused on model railroad. Have you completed a project that can be recognized by the Achievement Program? If so, talk to your division AP manager. If not, start planned to work on that project during the upcoming model railroad season. Both the AP Staff and the NER members would like to hear about your work and see the results. If possible bring your model to a division meeting for show and tell. Have your motive power, cars and structures judged. You could have a Merit Award level model waiting to be recognized.

Since my last AP Round Up, there have been twenty three Merit Awards issued. Here is a list of the latest Merit Award winners. The Structures category earned the lion's share with sixteen Merit Awards. **Thomas Griffiths** earned one for his City Passenger Station. **Bernard Messenger** earned two for his steel bridge and his passenger station. **Russell Grills** earned one for his 1924 NYC Cazenovia Station. **Eddie DeGan** earned two for his log loader and his barge pile driver. **Norman Frowley** earned two for his Kendall's Country Store and Treadwell Mill. **Thomas Piccirillo** earned six awards for his high trestle, bucket coaling station, pontoon float bridge, transfer table, turntable and pile trestle. **Charles D'Avanzo** earned one for his corner drug store. **Chuck Diljak** earned one for his hoist house. Scenery Merit Awards were earned by: **Donald Irace**, **Thomas Piccirillo** and **David Metal**. For Cars,

Paul Allard earned two for his CNR coach and CNR express-baggage cars. Civil Engineering Merit Awards were earned by: **Thomas Piccirillo** and **Ken Belovarac**. Congratulations go out to all for their outstanding modeling efforts and for sharing their work with others. No Merit Awards were issued for Motive Power or Prototype Model. Do you have a project that would qualify for any of these awards? Consider sharing your work with other NER members. We would all enjoy seeing your work and learning how your model was built.

A lucky total of thirteen Golden Spike Awards were earned. The recipients were **Andy Clermont**, **Steve Perry**, **J. Anthony Koester**, **Robert Seckler**, **Rolf Johnson**, **Roland Marcotte**, **Alan Blied**, **Justin Maguire**, **Susan Osberg**, **Brian Osberg**, **Henry Pierce**, **Joanne Pierce** and **Andrew Small**. It is great to see two husband and wife teams in the list. Each member completed the multiple discipline requirements. To earn this award your layout or module does not need to be finished. It just needs to address each of the five key elements: rolling stock, structures, scenery, trackage plus electrical control. If you are building a layout or module check the Golden Spike Award requirements on the NMRA web page. Let's have another lucky set of thirteen recipients for the next AP Round Up!

While no NER members earned the Motive Power or Prototype Model AP Certificates, they did earn twenty four AP certificates across the other nine categories. Three NER members earned the Scenery certificate. They are **Donald Irace**, **Thomas Piccirillo** and **David Metal**. A Car certificate was earned by **Paul Allard**. **Thomas Piccirillo** and **Steven Brown** earned the Electrical certificate. Two NER members earned the

Civil Engineering certificate. They are: **Thomas Piccirillo** and **Ken Belovarac**. **Thomas Piccirillo** earned the Structures Certificate. Three NER members earned the Chief Dispatcher certificate. They are: **J. Anthony Koester**, **Tom Wortmann** and **Thomas Rhodes**. The Official certificate was earned by **J. Anthony Koester**, **Paul Allard** and **Roger Oliver**. Five NER members earned the Volunteer certificate. They are: **Rudy Slovacek**, **J. Anthony Koester**, **Dave Martini**, **James Van Bokkelen** and **Ken Belovarac**. The Author certificate was earned by **Rudy Slovacek**, **J. Anthony Koester** and **Bruce DeYoung**. As announced in an earlier issue of the NER Coupler, **Thomas Piccirillo** earned the Achievement Program's highest award when he became MMR #418.

In many of these reports, you see one or two individual names repeated across multiple awards. They are busy working on the model railroading hobby and getting recognition for the fine work that they have completed. While models are judged for the Merit Awards, the Achievement Program is not a contest. You are not judged against the greatest modelers in the world. Your model is evaluated against a matrix of quality and complexity. If your model earns 70% of the maximum score or 87.5 points out of a possible 125, you receive a Merit Award. If your model does not achieve the 87.5 points, talk to the judge to see where you can improve the model. It can be upgraded and re-judged. Recently, I was working on a Canadian National SW-1200RS switcher. When it was first judged, it received a score in the 60's. I reworked it two more times before it finally made the grade. I learned a lot from that one locomotive project. Learning and enhancing your model railroad skills is what the NMRA Achievement Program is all about.

I look forward to seeing your models and adding your name to the next Achievement Program Round Up! ■



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www.nernmra.org

MADE IN THE NER: Don Mills Models

By Barry Abisch

Metro North Division

If Don Mills is ever looking for a motto for his hobby business, “Keep on truckin’” would not be an inappropriate place to start. Mills, who operates Don Mills Models in East Boston, Mass., specializes in trucks. He manufactures and sells highly detailed, hand-crafted rigs for the O scale market, along with HO scale kits, decals and detail parts. Most of the models are based on prototypes that ran on the nation’s highways in the 1940s and ‘50s. The company also sells kits and detail parts for circus vehicles.

Mills, 65, has been a model railroader since he was 15, and has worked in the hobby business since 1974, as a retailer or a manufacturer. He has been a member of the Bay State model road club for 38 years. The niche business he has developed since starting Don Mills Models in 1984 largely reflects his own modeling interests.

“I’ve always liked vehicles,” he said. “I noticed there was a big void in what was available. So I started with fire apparatus and then went into commercial trucks.”

Selecting the prototypes started with requests from retail customers. Many of those requests, he said, coincided with his own preferences. That includes his interest in circus modeling, because while circuses moved by train they also relied on trucks.

The first step in making an O-scale model or an HO kit is research. “The biggest thing is getting photographs and drawings,” Mills said. The Mack Truck Museum has proven an invaluable resource, especially given Mills tilt in favor of Mack trucks. “They are very accommodating,” Mills said. For some models, he added, finding prototype information can be more challenging.

With prototype information in hand, Mills then determines the appropriate sub-assemblies (cab, chassis, suspension, body etc.) and scratch builds a first generation model in styrene. The styrene parts are used to make brass masters, which in turn become the basis for pewter castings.



Vehicles are the main interest of Don Mills, and his line of O and HO scale models. Don is an experienced model railroader, having switched to O scale northeastern railroading after previously modeling narrow gauge in HO. PHOTOS BY DON MILLS

For modelers who might be more experienced working with styrene or laser-cut wood, Mills said assembling the HO truck kits is not difficult. “In most cases, it’s relatively easy,” he said, especially if the modeler removes any flash from the casting and takes the time to do a neat assembly job. Instructions, which include an exploded drawing, are included with each kit.

While the HO kits have an obvious interest to model railroaders, Mills’ hand-built O-scale vehicles, which retail for upwards of \$100, have a broad appeal. “It’s across the board,” Mills said. “Model railroaders, truck fans, even construction companies which use them as retirement pieces.”

Of the kits and trucks he has made,

Mills’ personal favorite is the Mack LJ, which dates to the 1940s and ‘50s, because it also serves his passion for circus modeling. “Ringling Brothers has 12 of those trucks, so I am partial to them,” he said.

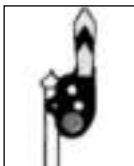
During his five decades as a model railroader, Mills own interests have evolved. When he began, as a teenager, he modeled HO narrow gauge. Now he models in O scale, focusing on northeast railroads (“the Lehigh Valley, the Delaware & Hudson and the New Haven”) along with traction. And he’s also maintained his interest in the circus. “I’ve been building circus trains for more than 20 years,” he said, working in HO, O and even ½-inch scale.

During those same five decades, as Mills own interests have evolved, so, too, has the hobby changed. “The most radical change has been the major interest in ready-to-run vs. kits,” he said. “Everyone wants instant gratification.” ■

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**Don Mills Models
14 Crestway Road
East Boston, MA 02128**

**617.319.9107
donmillsmodels@aol.com
www.donmillsmodels.com**



List of new members joining the Northeastern Region NMRA, compiled by the regional office manager. Lists are updated quarterly, please send all membership corrections and additions to the Office Manager, c/o Mark Harlow.

COMPILED BY MARK HARLOW NER Office Manager

New Members as of 8/15/2009

CONNECTICUT

Richard Adams
Justes Admiss
David Allan
James Ambler
Ronald Babula
Robert Bardoorian
Roy Behlke
Paul Bellacicco
Garry Bennett
Frank Beth
Merrill Blanksteen
Abraham Borst
Andrew Borst
Alfred Bourque
Richard Branch
Alan Bray
Jonathan Brey
Brian Brook
James Callahan
Robert Campbell
Jeff Cap
John Carlton
Robert Cassidy
Vincent Celino
Michael Cizik
Coleman Clark
Edward Clark
Hy Cohen
Terry Cohn
Robert Collett
Donald Corey
Ed Cornell
Kevin Cowan
William Dalrymple
Guy Daubert
Jefferson Dean
Tiffany Dimauro
Ed Dipaola
Steve Doerner
Rob Doorack
John Downey
William Dressler
James Duffy
Philip Ellis
Robert Ellis
Richard Farr
David Fitzsimmons
James Florio
Michael Flynn
Arthur Frankforter
Alexander Freedman
Phil Friedland
Arthur Funk
Melvin Garelick
Frank Garitta
Gerald Gaynor
Charles Gray
Walter Greene
Robert Guardia
Jon Hand
Jeff Hanke
Clinton Hargraves

Ken Hovland
Paul Hrebik
J Ignatowski
Albert Ilg
George Irwin
Stephen Jacobsen
Don Julian
Vincent Kaminski
David Katusha
Walter Kevalo
Will & Matt Keller
David Kelly
David Kennedy
Mitchell Kielbania
Pete Kolasa
Chris Komondy
Thomas Kotch
Walter Kress
Greg Lane
Gunnar Larson
Howard Larson
Frank Lea
Ronald Litwin
John Loynes
Aleksy Magno
Anthony Malfitani
Eduardo Marchena
Spencer Maslin
Al Mayo
James Mayo
Alan Mc Whirter
Jeremich Mead
Arthur Meister
Marcel Morissette
John Muller
Robert Murphy
Cory Nash
Joseph Newman
Joseph Orlando
James Paul
Ronald Pelletier
Dave Peters
Angelo Petrocelli
Thomas Phillips
Bob Piccirillo
Mark Pilletere
Chet Piorowski
Christopher Plumley
Stephen Polezonis
Frank Policastro
Al Regina
George Repko
Michael Reynolds
Jim Richardson
Joseph Rini
Ron Robare
John Robertson
Stephen Rodgers
James Rodriguez
Robert Rohrig
George Roraback
Frank Rossano
John Russo
Mark Sabottle
John Saunders

Bill Schneider
William Schwettmann
Edwin Scott
Paul Shamonis
John Shannon
Robert Shea
Elaine Shole
Wanda Siemiatkoski
Glenn Siter
Brian Smith
James Smith
Robert Smith
Mike Starkiewicz
James Stavole
Timothy Sweeney
Vincent Terenzio
James Thompson
Louis Tracz
Michael Trick
Ken Twombly
Mike Ulloa
Thomas Valigursky
Michael Wells
John Wiarda
John Williams
Chuck Wonneberger
Ed Woodford
Allen Woods
Philip Zocco

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Edward Bunker
Andy Chandler
Derek Cheek
Michael Conroy
David Crouch
Lee Davy
Paul Dexter
James Donahue
Jack Doyle
Jim Duffy
Bob England
John Fell
Richard Gilberti
Tom Gillett
David Haralambou
Roger Hinman
Iver Jacobsen
Ronald Johnson
Ann Kimball
Eric Kingsley
Scott Koczela
Gene Lorden
Bob MacAuley
Charles Maheu
Richard Paczosa
William Phillips
Jean Publicover
Michael Ripley
Isaac Schein
George Selios
George Sellios
David Stewart
Michael Tobiasz

Timothy Towle
Bob Van Gelder
Jim Whitman
Wesley Whittier
Hoyt Willis

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Sam Schmir
Lois Soule

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Edward Clark
Joseph Comeau
Thomas Garbelotti
Charles Kinney
Robert Moore
Sam Novello
Peter Speliotis

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Edmund Bush
Carl De Nonno
Kevin Doll
William (Bill) Elsner
Albert Favate
Tom Flippin
Kevin Hill
Tom Hodupski
Robert Lavezzi
William Lupoli
Charles McLaughlin
Paul Merkle
Robert Moskin
Richard Muttel
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Paul Hanau
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CONTACT OTTO VONDRAK: ovondrak@yahoo.com

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