



**Northeastern Region, NMRA
BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING
01/08/23**

Meeting conducted over Internet via Zoom.

Present:

Officers

President: Ed O'Rourke
Vice President: David Insley
Secretary: Jeff Paston
Treasurer: Gerry Covino

Directors

Northern: Tom Oxnard
Eastern: Erich Whitney
Western: Ed Olszewski
Southern: Ciro Compagno
Central NY: Drew James
Eastern Canada: Greg Williams
Bob Henry
Garden State: Mark Morwitz
Green Mt.: Erich Golschneider
HUB: Manny Escobar
Hudson Valley: [Redacted]
Hudson-Berkshire: Ben Maggi
Lakeshores: David Durr
Little Rhody: Sue Osberg
Metro-North: [Redacted]
Nutmeg: Jeff Hanke
Ron Pelletier
Seacoast: Glenn Mitchell
Southern Tier: [Redacted]
Sunrise Trail: Dennis DeAngelis

NER Staff & Guests

Coupler editor: Chris Carfaro
Webmaster: Jim Seroskie
Communications: Chuck Diljak
Operations: Ed O'Connell
AP: Bill Brown

Asst. to President: [Redacted]

Past President: John Doehring

Not present: Assistant to President Bob Dennis; Robert Robbins, Hudson Valley; Scott Russell, Metro North

1. Meeting called to order at 7:05 EST by President Ed O'Rourke

A. Agenda accepted.

B. Approval of Previous Minutes:

- i. 10/02/22 minutes
- ii. Sue Osberg moved for approval; Dave Durr seconded. Carried.

2. STANDARD REPORTS

A. President's Report

- i. Full report in ATTACHMENT #1
- ii. President O'Rourke congratulated Nutmeg Supt. Jeff Hanke on attaining MMR.
- iii. President O'Rourke said he received email regarding NMRA Interchange program for conference calls. He said he'll be the NER's initial coordinator, but he expects someone more into social media to take over the responsibility.

B. Vice President's Report

- i. Full report in ATTACHMENT #2
- ii. Dave Insley reported that no nominations for the Spate Award have been received to date.
- iii. Dave Insley asked for volunteers to sign up to man NMRA booth at Springfield show at BLC #29.
- iv. He said the Friday night dinner is drawing a crowd. Dave reported restaurant changed its policy and requires a \$1,000 minimum and no separate checks.

C. Treasurer's Report – Gerry Covino

- i. Full report in ATTACHMENT #3
- ii. Treasurer GerryCovino said NER finances pretty much "on track" for expenses and income; and Coupler costs "on track"
- iii. Mark Morwitz moved to accept Treasurer's Report; Sue Osberg seconded. Carried

D. NER Convention Committee Report – Dave Insley

- i. Full report in ATTACHMENT #4
- ii. 2022 Convention Financial Results included in report.
- iii. Upcoming conventions
 - a. 2023 Convention – Dave Insley reported Cannonball Express 2023 contract is signed. Sunrise Trail President Dennis DeAngelis said layout tours and ops are well planned and being coordinmated by an existing committee. He said the Grand Central-Madison station prototype tour is questionable as problems ("after \$11Bn") at facility are delaying opening.
 - b. 2023 Convention – Eastern Canada/MFMR on US Memorial Day weekend
 - c. 2023 NERx – March 20-23
 - d. 2024 – Proposal for RIT Conference Center hosted by Lakeshores Div. Sept. 19-22
 1. Dave Insley moved that NER accept proposal from Lakeshores Division to host 2024 convention; Dave Durr seconded. Carried.
 2. Dave Durr said hotel at RIT campus has been selected because it assures safe parking; Other locations charging for parking were unacceptable; He said he and Ed O'Connell are spearheading the convention committee.
 - e. 2025 – Possible location in Concord, NH, hosted by Seacoast Div.

E. Coupler Editor's Report

- i. Coupler is at printer.
- ii. Editor Chris Carfaro reported this is his two-year anniversary and he is open to suggestions and feedback about the publication.
- iii. Chris said he plans on visiting Long Island, Syracuse, and St. John during the upcoming year, but will have to send a "reporter" to cover Long Island convention because his daughter is getting married at that time.

F. Communications - Chuck Diljak

- i. Full report in ATTACHMENT #5
- ii. Chuck Diljak reported the NER and Coupler logos are available on the NER Website.
- iii. Chuck said he preparing posters and postcards for use at Springfield show.

G. AP Program -- Bill Brown

- i. AP Chair Bill Brown reported the good news that many AP awards have been presented in the Eastern Canada Division. However, Bill noted that costs of mailing the framed certificates as much as three times as the cost of postage in the US. Eastern Canada Division President Greg Williams said he has a mailbox in Maine that could cut costs. Bill said he will discuss with ECD AP Chair James Whatley as to best way to mail

3. OLD BUSINESS

None reported.

4. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Dennis DeAngelis asked how many brochures he should bring to Springfield to promote this year's NER convention on Long Island. Dave Insley reported that 500 postcards are being printed for promoting Women in Model Railroading; and 900 for NER NMRA recruitment.
- B. Seacoast Division President Glenn Mitchell inquired about getting NMRA retention funds. President O'Rourke said both CNY and Lakeshores received funds without problem.
- C. Nutmeg Division Membership Coordinator Ron Pelletier reported that Nutmeg Division is also having its own booth at Springfield across from NER/NMRA booth.
- D. Bill Brown noted that CNY Division's "Ops til You Drop" weekend will be April 22-23. He said he wants to avoid conflict with other division activities on that weekend. He noted CNY Division has been running these ops sessions for 10 years.

5. AREA DIRECTOR REPORTS

A. Western

- i. [Full report in ATTACHMENT #6](#)

B. Northern

No report.

C. Eastern

No report.

D. Southern

No report.

6. DIVISION DIRECTOR REPORTS

A. Central NY

- i. [Full report in ATTACHMENT #7](#)

B. Eastern Canada

- i. For the upcoming Fundy Rail Fest 2023, President Greg Williams noted big changes at St. John port include CP Rail operations; several prototype tours including New Brunswick Southern; a clinic by noted clinician Rich Mahaney. Greg asked that publicity be placed on the NER Website. The convention is May 26-28 (F-Su) and registration is expected to be open by mid-January. Secretary Jeff Paston inquired about entering the Fundy Rail Fest contest and whether NMRA credit would be available. Greg said entries can get NMRA AP citations.

C. Garden State

- i. [Full report in ATTACHMENT #8](#)

D. Green Mountain

No report.

E. HUB

- i. [Full report in ATTACHMENT #9](#)
- ii. President Manny Escobar said a report on donations to Ukraine is forthcoming from Stan Ames.

F. Hudson Valley

- i. President O'Rourke reported that he and Western Area Director Ed Olszewski visited the Hudson Valley Division and attended an O&W club layout, and met some division leadership. He noted the division has a very small membership spread over a wide area.

G. Hudson-Berkshire

- i. Full report in [ATTACHMENT #10](#)

H. Lakeshores

- i. Full report in [ATTACHMENT #11](#)
- ii. Supt. Dave Durr reported his division virtual convention will include speaker Brad White from MCR Region on Feb. 11 from 10-12.

I. Little Rhody

- i. Full report in [ATTACHMENT #12](#)
- ii. Supt. Sue Osberg reported the division held its January meeting on Jan. 7.

J. Nutmeg

- i. Membership coordinator Ron Pelletier commented video access at the division's regular meeting on Dec. 10. He said he is reevaluating video access, noting that only one attended online, but it turned out that 56 people viewed the meeting on YouTube.

K. Seacoast

- i. Full report in [ATTACHMENT #13](#)
- ii. President Glenn Mitchell noted a divisional meeting conflict with neighboring HUB Division. To make neighboring events more accessible to more members, Glenn asked HUB President Manny Escobar to reschedule its April 15 event as it conflicts with a Seacoast spring meeting.

L. Southern Tier

- i. See [President's and Western Director's reports](#).

M. Sunrise Trail

- i. Full report in [ATTACHMENT #14](#)

N. National BOD -John Doehring

- i. NMRA Eastern Director John Doehring commented on the functionality of the Interchange online program that NMRA will adopt.
- ii. John said it is a "big deal" to get the NMRA BOD and national department heads to Springfield this month. Normally, the national winter board meeting has been in Atlanta, and John noted being in Springfield will raise visibility for the membership.

7. Next meeting scheduled for **Sunday April 2 at 7 pm EDT/8 pm ADT.**

8. Meeting adjourned at 8:09 pm EST.

ATTACHMENT #1

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Northeastern Region President's Report to RAC Director

January 2023

Positives:

- The 2022 Region Convention "Connecticut Yankee" took place in September in Windsor, CT. By all accounts quite successful. 2023 will be on Long Island, October 12-15. Planning is well under way.
- 2023 NERX Virtual convention will be March 20 – 23. This is an annual event.
- Most of our Divisions have been meeting regularly. A couple continue to struggle.
- The NMRA BOD will meet as part of the Amherst Railway Society Train Show in West Springfield, January 28-29, 2023. NER is working with National to have a strong presence at the show.
- We are supporting a Convention by the Maritime Federation of Model Railroaders in St. John, New Brunswick, working with our Eastern Canada Division.
- We continue to hold our quarterly Board of Directors meetings via ZOOM, with excellent participation.
- We continue to see interest in the AP program, including adding several MMRs.

Challenges:

- Through our At-large Western Director Ed Olszewski, we have been working with the Southern Tier Division to identify successors to the past Superintendent, who resigned for personal reasons. Efforts are on-going to try to rekindle interest in the NMRA in the area around Binghamton, NY. In addition, we have attended shows in the Hudson Valley Division to increase membership in that area. Progress has been slow.
- Oswego and Jefferson counties in upstate NY remain a concern to us. We made some contacts in the area as a result of our participation in the Syracuse area Train Show in November and will continue outreach in the Spring. There is an active Model Railroad group in the Oswego-Fulton area and also in the Watertown-Alexandria Bay area, but most are not NMRA members. It would seem that the logical course would be to bring these two counties into the Central New York Division, but this makes that division very large geographically. Our West At-Large Director Ed Olszewski has this on his "to-do" list, but how to proceed is unclear at present.
- Several areas of our by-laws need some revision, particularly with the need to hold elections and meetings virtually during the pandemic.
- Officers and Directors insurance for the Board and Division officers continues to be a concern. We are looking into purchasing coverage ourselves, but the cost is considerable. We still believe this is an area where the National could step up and provide assistance.

ATTACHMENT #2

VICE PRESIDENT REPORT -Dave Insley

8-January 2023

Spate Award

I have received no nominations to date for the 2023 Spate Award. Please forward them to me as soon as possible.

Springfield

The Amherst Railway Society Railroad Hobby Show is January 28&29, 2023. The following have volunteered and are tentatively slotted in, but I will be looking to re-distribute them:

SPRINGFIELD SCHEDULE

Weekend of: January 28

	1/28 SATURDAY	1/29 SUNDAY
8:00 AM		CLOSED
8:30 AM		CLOSED
9:00 AM	1: Dave Insley 2: Erich Golschneider 3: Bob Dennis 4: Ciro Compagno 5:	1: Dave Insley 2: Erich Golschneider 3: Ed Olszewski 4: 5:
9:30 AM		
10:00 AM		
10:30 AM		
11:00 AM	1: Drew James 2: Dennis DeAngelis 3: Brenna Whitney 4: Holly Whitney 5: Erich Whitney	1: Brenna Whitney 2: Holly Whitney 3: Erich Whitney 4: 5:
11:30 AM		
12:00 PM		
12:30 PM		
1:00 PM	1: Ed Olszewski 2: Ben Maggi 3: 4: 5:	1: 2: 3: 4: 5:
1:30 PM		
2:00 PM		
2:30 PM		
3:00 PM	1: Irwin Nathenson 2: 3: 4: 5:	1: Dave Insley 2: 3: 4: 5:
3:30 PM		
4:00 PM		
4:30 PM		

We have a 20x20 booth space this year in the Better Living Center at post #29. Come see us!

What will be going on at the booth?

- Tables for Conventions, both Cannonball Express (NER Regional) and Texas Express (National)
- Women in Model Railroading
- Pizza Box Diorama Contest
- Raffle for a Motrak Models Bisgier Tool Company
- Central New York Switching Layout

ATTACHMENT #3

TREASURER'S REPORT - Gerry Covino



**Northeastern Region - NMRA
BUDGET vs ACTUAL (Cash Basis)
Fiscal Year 2022-23**

**Balances as of
1/7/2023**

REVENUES	Budget	Actual	%
Subscriptions - Coupler	\$ 6,800.00	\$ 3,705.89	54.5%
Investment Fund Transfer	2,000.00		
Sponsorship - Coupler	325.00	0.00	
NMRA Dues Rebate	2,000.00	936.59	46.8%
NMRA Dues Rebate AP 27%	540.00	346.41	64.2%
Convention	1,500.00		
Donations	1,000.00	0.00	
Interest Income	0.00		
Other - Spate Award	75.00	59.77	79.7%
Total Revenue	\$ 14,240.00	\$ 5,048.66	35.5%
EXPENSES			
Coupler	\$ 8,000.00	\$3,460.12	43.3%
NMRA Dues Rebates Distribution	2,000.00	936.59	46.8%
Achievement Program	500.00	202.77	40.6%
Membership Development Program	2,000.00		
Spate Award	75.00	59.77	79.7%
President's Awards	50.00		
Legal - NJ Business Registration	35.00	0.00	
Contingency Fund	100.00		
Regional Banner	0.00		
Office Expenses	150.00	88.86	59.2%
Other - Election Expenses	0.00		
Other - Credit Card/PayPal Fees	0.00	35.46	0.0%
Communication Expenses			
Constant Contact	400.00	378.00	94.5%
Site Ground Hosting Expense	0.00	0.00	
Region Annual Domain Fees	190.00	0.00	
Website Tools	368.00	246.98	67.1%
SG Site Scanner	40.00	0.00	
Division Domain Registry Fees	54.00	61.97	114.8%
Total Expenses	\$ 13,962.00	\$5,470.52	39.2%
Net Operating Revenue/Expense	\$ 278.00	\$ (421.86)	-151.7%

Saturday, January 7, 2023

NER Investment Reserve Account (Edward Jones)	\$ 58,223.81
Operations Reserve	\$ 56,916.43
Life Equity Fund	\$ 74.00
Spate Award	\$ 1,233.38
NER Convention Account Balance	\$ 6,412.76
PayPal Account Balance	\$ 1,586.07
Regional Checking Account Balance	\$ 2,821.48
Dues Rebate (Southern Tier)	\$ 81.03
Coupler Ledger	\$ 3,195.03
General Funds	\$ (454.58)
Total NER FUNDS All Accounts	\$ 69,044.12

Budget Approved and Authorized
By NER Board
April 10, 2022

ATTACHMENT #4

CONVENTION COMMITTEE - Dave Insley

08-Jan 2023

Current Highlights

- 2022 Convention – Financial Results
- 2023 Convention – Cannonball Express 2023 contract is signed!!!!
- 2023 Convention – Eastern Canada/MFMR Memorial Day event
- 2023 NERx – March 21-24
- 2024 – Proposal for RIT Conference Center
- 2025 – Possible location in Concord, NH

Meetings

Last meeting was in August.

Next Meeting is January 9.

Convention Handbook Updates

Final version of the Convention Handbook has been sent to the President and Webmaster.

2022 – Connecticut Yankee

Financial results are in for the 2022 Connecticut Yankee.

Final Balance - \$4912.76

Why was our profit higher than expected? Several factors included

- lower than expected expenses (Registrars hotel room was comp'd, no promotion expenses, lower program book, etc)
- We intentionally set the ala cart prices higher by \$10 to encourage all-inclusive prices. The ratio of registration only was higher than expected, meaning higher revenue than expected.

Survey says...! To summarize, folks generally rated all aspects of the convention as Very Good or Exceptional. Kudos to the Nutmeg team for a great convention.

There were several comments on Op Sessions, with many indicating they would like to see single sessions and evening sessions, but many others liked the idea of pairing layouts.

2023 – Cannonball Express - Long Island

We have a contract with the Marriott Hotel in Uniondale, New York. Highlights include

- Room Rate is \$199 per night
- Rental Fees for the Convention Space is \$6000
- Food Minimum is \$10,000
- Convention Space is discounted 100% when we hit the food minimum
- Costs should be consistent with Connecticut Yankee

Spring 2023 – Eastern Canada is planning to host a convention with the Maritime Federation of Model Railroaders the weekend of May 26th 2023. Registration opens January 16.

2024 – Lakeshores Bid Proposal

Lakeshores Division is pleased to submit a bid to host the 2024 NER Regional Convention at the RIT Inn & Conference Center in Rochester, NY. In lieu of a formal bid proposal we offer the following summary for consideration by the BOD:

- Room Rate is \$129.00 per night
- Convention Space Rental is \$5400

- Food Minimum is \$6150
- Banquet Cost is estimated to be \$30-\$40 plus 22%

Lakeshores is doing preliminary planning and events will include layout tours to neighboring CNY and Western NY

- Currently over a dozen potential layouts for tours and operations
- Several Prototype tours and other model railroad including NCE, Gargraves and several short lines.
- General Interest activities include George Eastman House, Strong National Museum of Play, food walks, Genesee Brewery and more.

2025 – Seacoast

The Seacoast Division is researching potential host hotels in their area and are proposing an event at the Grappone Center/Courtyard by Marriott in Concord, New Hampshire. They cannot do formal bids more than 2 years out, but generally a summary is

- \$159 - \$169 room rate
- Convention Space \$6200

We would need to discuss possible concessions based on room rentals and food purchases.

ATTACHMENT #5

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT - Chuck Diljak

Logos and Coupler Image files

All of the NER division logos are available on the NER website on the documents page, under the heading "NER Divisions Logo Guides." Included is a guide that explains the various file formats and versions of the logos.

Also, the *NER Coupler* uses a coupler image in the masthead and many column headings in the magazine. This image has been bundled and is also available on the documents page under the "Coupler Doc" heading. Included is a guide that explains the various file formats and versions of the images.

You can find the division logos and coupler images on the documents page here: <https://nernmra.org/documents/>

Preparation for the NMRA/NER booth at the Springfield Train Show

I created the following artwork for the Springfield show:

- Railpass membership poster,
- Pizzabox layout poster,
- Poster for a fundraising drawing with the prize being a Motrak Models kit called "Bisgeier Tool" with proceeds to benefit the NMRA,
- NERx postcard handout, and
- Buttons and stickers with the NMRA logo and "Join the FUN!" at the request of Christina Zambri for NMRA National.

Happy Birthday Emails

An automated birthday email was created in Constant Contact in December 2021. If a member's birthday is on file with the NMRA and comes through on the membership roster, an automated birthday greeting is sent to that member. In the last year, over 1000 birthday emails were sent and over 600 were opened.

Email history since last NER Board of Director's meet.

8 emails: 2 - NER News, 3 - Renewal Reminders, 3 - Welcome to the NMRA

The biggest surprise is the December *NER News* achieved an open rate comparable to the October *NER News*, even though a new issue of the *NER Coupler* was not promoted in it. Normally, *NER News* emails with a link to a new issue of the *NER Coupler* have a higher open rate than those that do not.

Time Sent ↓	Campaign Name	Sends	Opens	Clicks	Bounces	Unsubscribes
Tue, Dec 20, 2022, 9:43 PM	Renewal Reminder 2022-12	60	41 72%	7 12%	3 5%	0 0%
Tue, Dec 20, 2022, 9:41 PM	Welcome 2022-12	7	6 86%	2 29%	0 0%	0 0%
Thu, Dec 1, 2022, 5:00 AM	NER News - Dec 2022	2,295	1,417 63%	91 4%	42 2%	5 1%
Tue, Nov 15, 2022, 5:10 PM	Welcome 2022-11	7	5 83%	3 50%	1 14%	0 0%
Sun, Nov 6, 2022, 12:50 PM	Renewal Reminder 2022-11	40	28 72%	4 10%	1 3%	0 0%
Wed, Oct 26, 2022, 7:58 AM	NER News - Oct 2022	2,286	1,411 63%	287 13%	39 2%	1 1%
Tue, Oct 11, 2022, 9:05 PM	Renewal Reminder 2022-10	49	24 52%	4 9%	3 6%	1 2%
Tue, Oct 11, 2022, 9:03 PM	Welcome 2022-10	1	1 100%	1 100%	0 0%	0 0%

Number of contacts in Constant Contact

Description	Prior Board Report		Current Board Report		Difference	
Total NER Members		1484		1452		-32
Less Members without email addresses	151		147		-4	
Less Members sharing email addresses	12	163	13	160	1	-3
NER Members in Constant Contact		1321		1292		-29
Subscribed members	1270		1236		-34	
Unsubscribed members	51		56		5	
NER Members in Constant Contact		1321		1292		-29
NonMembers in Constant Contact		312		317		5
Life members not in NER		17		17		0
Ex-NER Members in Constant Contact		683		724		41
Total Contacts		2333		2350		17

Subscribers

The prior four years showed a steady decline in the number of Constant Contact subscribers that enrolled through the website or emails. 2022 reversed that trend with the highest number of subscribers in all five years that records began.

Name ↓	Contacts
Signup Form - 2022	46
Signup Form - 2021	21
Signup Form - 2020	32
Signup Form - 2019	38
Signup Form - 2018	40

ATTACHMENT #6

Western Area Director Report - Ed Olszewski

5 January 2023

- Met with the president and treasurer of the Central NY Model RR Club to discuss becoming a 100% NMRA club. We discussed the benefits to their members and insurance coverage from the NMRA. Contacted NMRA Headquarters for details on a onetime annual payment for all club members made by the club treasurer and how they would apply. 100% Club and Insurance applications were provided to the club president. Club leadership to meet 1/8/2023 to discuss further.
- Attended the Kingston Model RR show in October to assist the Hudson Valley Division man their booth at the show to meet and greet division members and the public.
- Working with members of the Southern Tier Division as they revitalize the division. Spent time with a member of the division in a face-to-face meeting to discuss a path forward. With the resignation of Bob Peterson from the leadership of the division, Art Mosher has agreed to be acting Superintendent on a temporary basis. The top three issues facing the division at this time are member engagement, a lack of a division bank account allowing them to receive funds from the NER, and no division incorporation papers needed to establish a bank account and begin the process to obtain 501c3 status. I have reached out to NMRA council for guidance on how to locate the incorporation papers with no response.

ATTACHMENT #7

CENTRAL NEW YORK: Submitted January 2nd, 2022 by Drew James, CNY Superintendent

The division was hosted by the Cayuga Valley Model Railroad Club in October. We had over 20 members view the layout and listen to a clinic on earning the Cars AP by Ed O'Rourke, MMR.

In November we had a division table at the Great New York State Model Train Fair in Syracuse and made contact with several potential members. Bill Brown, MMR, hosted the division at his spectacular Leadville and Red Cliff (LARC) layout and Jeff Pasten gave a presentation on "Railroads In the Streets of Syracuse" which was very well received. We had an excellent turn out for this meeting including a couple of new members and guests.

Over the course of 2022, our membership stayed steady at 73 members. We have several members making progress in the AP program although only one AP certificate was awarded last year.

In 2022, the division put more resources into our tool loan program. We used some of our funds to purchase more tools of interest to our membership – e.g. a static grass applicator, a video car, and various track laying tools. In addition to the tools owned by the division, some members have made items, such as rock molds, available to the membership on a loan basis.

ATTACHMENT #8

GARDEN STATE DIVISION Submitted by Superintendent Mark Morwitz

Report to NER Board of Directors January 2, 2023

1. GSD Board meetings

- a. a meeting was held on September 11, preparing for the Fall Meet
- b. The next scheduled board meeting is to be January 14

2. Achievement Program

- a. No new certificates were completed during this period
- b. List of individuals known to be working on certificates:
 - i. Tom Wortman - cars
 - ii. Jim Homoki - civil
 - iii. Bob Dennis - scenery
 - iv. Mark Moritz - Chief Dispatcher
 - v. Scott Gothe - Author
 - vi. Jim Walsh - Author

3. Membership Events

- a. Fall meet
 - i. Was held on October 8 at the Hope, NJ Community Center.
 - ii. Included two clinics and a four layout tours.
 - iii. One clinic was on the Salt Mining Industry, and another on installing a CTC system on a home layout.
- b. Winter Meet
 - i. Will be held at the Oakland Public Library, Oakland, NJ
 - ii. Date will be Saturday, February 28
- c. Spring Meet
 - This will be a joint meet with the NJD, early in May.

4. Whistlepost

- a. Fall issue came out in October.
- b. Winter issue is due out in February.

5. Membership

Nothing new to report

HUB DIVISION

NER Region Quarterly Report

Overview of Fourth Quarter 2022

The year 2022 ending in good strength, with multiple modular displays, our New England Model Train Expo (NEMTE) was well attended, the annual Museum of Science winter train display, a success and still on display until the middle of January. Our annual holiday dinner event for our membership was well received, since we did not have one from the past two years.

We have plans for multiple modular display for winter and spring season, especially with our new addition to the modular group, "Thomas the Train" layout, that was donated to the HUB, by the John and Joanne Sweeney. It has been a great asset display for the kids and family.

We are bringing back the annual Spring *TRAINing* event on April 22, 2023 (Manchester-by-the Sea, MA), this event will be dedicated to our longtime member Dick Towle who passed away last year. He was instrumental on planning and organizing this event. Part of the event, the main clinician will be Matt Herman from ESU/Lok-Sound (decoder installation), with other members doing clinics and various modular displays. Also, with Dick Towle's plans we will be organizing an event in New Hampshire "Conway Train Excursion" June 2023.

Our *Railfun* activities nights are going strong, thanks to our Coordinator planning various clinics every month. We have more plans for the upcoming 2023 year ...

Membership

Our membership Chair is working ideas for retainage, special membership incentives. We've had fourteen new members since September 2022.

Division Financials

HUB Division is pleased to report that our division finances is in good shape and stable for coming year.

Annual Meeting

HUB Division Annual Meeting will be held on Apr 22, 2023 (Sat), with the elections for three (3) Board of Directors (BoD), this will be held following our Spring *TRAINing* event with a dinner banquet.

Finally, The HUB Division in partnership with the Wolsztyn Experience Mutual Trust Society, together with Wolsztyn Locomotive Depot Cultural Institute in Poland, to support Ukrainian refugees was a great success. Stan Ames, HUB coordinator has done a marvelous job for helping out the effort on the Ukrainian relief. Stan will be having a final summary report submitted to the HUB Board of Directors and the membership.

Respectfully submitted,
Manny Escobar
HUB Division, Inc. el Presidente

6 January 2023

ATTACHMENT #10

HUDSON-BERKSHIRE DIVISION

Report to NER

January 04, 2022

Our Fall meetings were in person, following CDC and NYS DOH protocols. We have a couple of different themes for our meetings and they were well attending.

In October, member John Valachovic gave a well-attended presentation titled "Designing Operations on a small layout and how operations can guide your layout design." John's N scale layout is based on the Raquette Lake Railway in upstate New York, and it absolutely fills his small wood shed. He provided a lot of great insight on thinking from the start about the operational goals you want to achieve on your layout and then including operational and scenic parts of your layout that are necessary for those goals.

Our November meeting was held at member Don Klose's house. His three rail, 1:48 proportion *scale* layout models Schenectady, NY as if it were served by his own fictitious Bellevue and Schenectady Railroad. The number of members which turned up to see his layout was astounding, and we had to take turns going into and out of his packed basement to enjoy the layout before participating in the business meeting after.

Elections were held at the November meeting, with two positions (President, Member of the Board) open for vote. Our Leadership Team for 2022-2023 is as follows:

- President: myself (*newly elected*)
- Vice President: Doug Dederick
- Member of the Board: John Valachovic
- Member of the Board: Michael Hachey (*newly elected*)

Our previous 2021 Great Train Extravaganza (GTE) show was a success, especially considering it was held during the pandemic. We hoped our 2022 show to be even better, and it was! We had 2,468 tickets sold (including adults and children) which was roughly a 15% increase over our 2021 numbers. Further, the demand for vendor tables was high and we not only sold out all of our table space but also managed to accommodate some last minute requests from vendors for even more tables that we shoehorned in.

To put on the GTE we relied heavily on our member volunteers, who didn't let us down! They turned out in full force and assisted with the set-up, operation, and break down of the show. We even had some non-member friends help out here and there.

During GTE, we collected over \$900 in donations which will be used towards the purchase of train sets as part of our *Paul Weschler Memorial Toys for Tots Fund* drive.

Through careful management of our resources and the generous donations of our members, we are ending 2022 on a strong financial footing.

I look forward to working with the Leadership Team and helping to strengthen and grow the Hudson Berkshire Division in the upcoming years. It is an exciting time to be a member of the NMRA!

Benjamin L. Maggi,
President

ATTACHMENT #11

LAKESHORES DIVISION

Annual Report.

Elected Division Officers

Superintendent David P. Durr
Asst. Superintendent Ed O'Connell
Chief Clerk Rob Bartels
Treasurer John E. Becker

In November 2022 the current slate of Officers were each elected to two year terms in their respective positions. The next elections will be held at the 2024 Annual Business Meeting in October or November.

Appointed Positions

Membership Chair James H. Fairbanks
Member Aid Chair Edward Spiller MMR
AP Chair Edward Spiller MMR
Webmaster Ed O'Connell
Editor Raymond A. Howard
Company Photographer James C. DeMarco MMR
Recording Secretary Jeanne Spalty*
T-TRAK Chair Jeff Faust
RPM Committee Chair Mike Pyszczek
Operations Chair Ed O'Connell
At-large Officer Gordon Spalty
*Non-voting Member

Membership

As of November 21, 2022 the Division had 90 members with dues up-to-date and 1 member past due. All those who are past-due are contacted by the Member-Aid Chair. There are also two members who are registered at National and live within our division boundaries but are not listed on the Lakeshores roster.

Executive Committee

The current Executive Committee consists of all elected officers, the immediate past superintendent and all those in appointed positions. Three members are required to conduct business. The EC met monthly, except for December, via Zoom. Minutes are available upon request.

Finance

As of December 31, 2022 the Division's checking account balance was \$2,904.34. There was \$25.23 in petty cash. Total Division funds were \$2,929.57. Income for 2022 was \$1,145.94; expenses were \$1,124.36; net was \$21.58.

AP Report

In 2022 the following AP awards were given: Golden Spikes: None; Merit Awards: Jim Fairbanks (Motive Power x 1) AP Certificates: Jim Fairbanks (Electrical Engineer, Civil Engineer, Scenery); Dave Durr (Association Official); MMR Certificates: None

To assist members in documenting activities that may be applied for Volunteer and Author credits, the Division keeps a log of member activities for each calendar year. The 2022 log will be distributed to members in January 2023.

Communication

The Lake Shores Limited (LSL) is the Division's newsletter. Six regular issues were published in the odd months of 2022 along with one Holiday EXTRA edition in December. There was significant content input from the Lakeshores general membership for these issues. The LSL is emailed to all Division members, prospective members, NER officers and superintendents, Christina Zambri (NMRA Marketing Consultant), and Jim Zinzer, MMR (Editor of Division Business Car, NMRA Magazine); less than 10 Lakeshores members receive a print edition.

Late in 2020 we also started a monthly MemberMarketplace for members to post railroading items to sell or acquire. It continued in 2022 and is distributed in the same manner as our LSL newsletter, either as a stand-alone publication or as part of our newsletter.

Our Webmaster continues to develop our website (<lakeshoresnmra.org>) and Facebook presence. The website currently archives our LSL newsletters back to 2011. There is also an up-to-date Officers' Directory, Timetable with a calendar of upcoming NMRA and non-NMRA model railroading events, Division Constitution and By-Laws, MMR information and links to other model railroading organizations. Still to be developed is a password-required members only section listing contact information (for consenting members), layout information, members' marketplace, etc. The appointment of Rob Bartels as Assistant Webmaster should help with implementation.

Member Publications—National and Regional

Ed O'Connell published "The Ultimate, All-Inclusive Test Track" in the March *NMRA Magazine*. Dave Durr's article, "PRR F7B No. 9832—An Atlas Kitbash," was in the April *NMRA Magazine*. "Resolving Problems: Building a Vintage Freight Car" by Jim Fairbanks was in the Summer Edition of the *NER Coupler*.

NMRAX/NERx Convention

Ed O'Connell presented a clinic, "Making Rolling Stock Layout Ready," for the April NMRAX. For NERx Mike Pyszczek presented a tour of his B&O Buffalo Division. John Becker, Gordon Spalty, Jeanne Spalty and Dave Durr had models in the Showcase.

NER Convention

Ron Stacy presented "Top 10 Reasons to Model the Seventies" and "How I Made My Layout Video." The Lakeshores' sponsored Harold Russell Award for the highest scoring Structures--Model Contest entry was awarded to Tom Oxnard, MMR of the Seacoast Division.

The Lakeshores Division will be hosting the 2024 NER Convention. Hotel venues are currently being vetted, and the Lakeshores24 logo has been drafted. VisitRochester, the area's convention bureau, is assisting.

General Membership Meets

LakeshoresX22 was held on Saturday, February 12 at 10:00AM via Zoom; Dave Ackmann of the MCR presented "2 ½ CAD using Power Point" and Lakeshores' Bob Arcus presented "Walt Disney and Trains."

The Lakeshores Layout Tour was held on Saturday, April 2. This event was a rescheduling of an April 2020 meet which was postponed because of the pandemic. It began at the Rochester Model Railroad Club and included 6 other member layouts from our Division. Over 55 individuals attended.

A combined meet with WNY-NFR Division was held in Buffalo on Saturday, May 28. This meet was O-scale focused; three layouts were open for viewing. The Lakeshores Summer Picnic was held on Sunday, August 20, 2022 at Dave and Midge Durr's home. It also included a members only swap meet. The Genesee-N-Ontario (GnO) Model N-Gineers set up a large operations-oriented layout in the Durrs' garage for the weekend; Lakeshores Division modules were included in the layout. Jeff Faust, a member of both groups, coordinated the layout set-up and operations. There were 30 attendees.

On Sunday afternoon, September 18, 2022, a Train Watching Picnic was held at Lion Park in Batavia, NY. The venue is located at the ruling grade of the former NYC, now CSX, New York to Chicago mainline. There were 10 attendees.

Season 2 of the "Lakeshores Build-it Series", our version of "Modeling with the Masters" began on Wednesday, September 21, 2022. Jim DeMarco MMR leads the weekly clinics at his home in Kendall, NY. The current project is scratch-building a wooden reefer.

The last in-person meet of the year and the Lakeshores Annual Business Meeting was held on Saturday, November 12, 2022 at the Lehigh Valley Railroad Museum in Shortsville, NY. Jim Fairbanks gave a presentation, "Modeling with Paper." There was also a tour of the Manchester roundhouse site following the meet. Elections were held; results were listed previously in this report. A change to the Lakeshores Bylaws to add the Immediate Past Superintendent as an automatic member of the Executive Committee was approved. Jim DeMarco MMR received the Lakeshores Superintendent's Award.

For 2023, the following are scheduled thus far: LakeshoresX22 Virtual Meet via Zoom on Saturday, February 4 from 10AM to 12N and a joint meet/layout tour with Central New York and Hudson-Berkshire Divisions on Saturday, September 16.

RPM Meet

The Lakeshores Division co-sponsored the first BataviaRPM Meet along with the Genesee Society of Model Engineers on Sunday, April 3, 2022. The meet was held in conjunction with the Great Batavia Train Show. There were twenty plus registrants and fifteen modelers displaying in-progress and finished projects. Veteran RPM participants Jim Otto and Ken Freeman gave presentations on Jordan Spreaders and PC/CR RS3m diesels. The second BataviaRPM Meet will be held on Sunday, March 26, 2023.

Operation Weekend

The first "Op Around the Clock" (OATC) operation weekend, organized by Ed O'Connell, was Saturday and Sunday, October 29 and 30. Ned Spiller MMR, Jim DeMarco MMR, Gordon and Jeanne Spalty, Ron Stacy and the Rochester Model Railroad Club were the participating layout owners. Feedback was positive. The next OATC will be Friday evening, March 24 and all day Saturday, March 25, 2023 leading into BataviaRPM and GSME Great Batavia Train Show on March 26, 2023.

Other Activities

Our Division actively promoted the NMRA along with WNY(NFR) and Div12(MCR) at the following local shows: Hemlock, NY in September; the Great Batavia Train Show in March and October; and the RIT Tiger Tracks Train Show and Sale in December. Typically NMRA promotional material are brought to shows along with Jeff Faust's small, very kid-friendly Inglenook Layout or the Division's HO scale T-TRAK switching layout. All of the shows have posted 2023 dates.

Our T-TRAK modules were used with the Genesee-N-Ontario Model N-Engineers club display at the Hemlock Train Show in September, Great Batavia Train Show in March and October, the Rush Fall Festival in October and the Brighton Library in December.

Lakeshores Division apparel continues to be offered through Daylight Sales, an NMRA-sponsored vendor. Several member orders were placed in 2022.

Respectfully submitted,
David P. Durr
Superintendent

ATTACHMENT #12

LITTLE RHODY DIVISION

Interim Report

4 January 2023

The fall of 2022 was, again, a busy one for the folks of Little Rhody. We held our Little Rhody Train Expo on November 6 with eight layouts and three vendors on a beautiful fall day. The weather seemed to be against us as there were fewer attendees than we had hoped – the warm, sunny day kept people working in their yards (or home watching the Patriots game) instead of browsing among the trains. Nevertheless, we did well enough to record a profit of just under \$1000, so we were all happy with the results. With the help of our local Boy Scout troop, set-up on Saturday and break-down and clean up on Sunday afternoon were a breeze. Now that January is here, the Train Expo committee will meet and determine a new location for our train expo for 2023 as the local community center will no longer be able to host us.

Our December meeting provided us with our usual Holiday Party Pot Luck Lunch and Santa Swap. Our presentation for the day was from the “Tool Junkie” - *What I want for Christmas (Trains edition)* during which past Superintendent Steve Erickson shared favorite tools of his as well as those of various members of LRD. Some things went immediately on wish lists and others stayed on the “maybe someday” list. Tools varied from the home-made to the very expensive with something interesting for just about everyone.

Coming events include a series of presentations for the newer model railroader to include basic electrical wiring for the newbie, “Power to the People” by Tom Emmett, MMR in January, a make and take clinic in February on putting together a simple wood structure with Steve Erickson; March will bring LRD “Rock, Paper, and Trees”, a scenery primer presented by Steve Erickson, Tom Emmett, MMR and David Kiley April’s meeting will import a HUB division member, Jim Joubert, to explain roofs and visual elements of building with a presentation titled, “Think Like a Raindrop”. In May, Little Rhody will once again hit the road with our traveling layouts to the Rogers Library in Bristol, RI. The traveling layouts include the Rhode Island & Old Colony N-scale T-Trak, the G-scale Harry Potter layout, and the O-scale Polar Express. This is part of our community outreach endeavor to bring interested potential model railroaders of all ages into the hobby.

Little Rhody continues to need a new webmaster as our current master is fighting serious health issues and is unable to participate in many of the meetings and activities.

Sue Osberg
Superintendent
Little Rhody Division, NER, NMRA

ATTACHMENT #13

SEACOAST DIVISION

January 8, 2023

Fall 2022 Event

The Seacoast Division of the NMRA held its' Fall Event at the firehouse in Stratham, NH on Saturday October 8th. The Event was well attended with about 25 members and several more participating through Zoom. All the presentations were well received with considerable participation from attending members.

Presentation topics were:

Seacoast Trolley Museum - James Van Bokkelen, Vice President of the Seacoast Trolley Museum

The NMRA Achievement Program - Tom Oxnard MMR and Rich Breton

Camera and TV Techniques for Model Railroading - Rich Breton

Post meeting layout tours were hosted at:

Dave Kotsonis' Greenland Valley RR

Dick Fralick's New Haven and Connecticut Central

Seacoast Division Board of Directors Meetings

The next Seacoast Division BOD Meeting will be held via Zoom on January 5, 2023. Eight BOD meetings have been scheduled for 2023.

Upcoming Winter 2023 Event and Annual Meeting

The Seacoast Division 2023 Winter Event will be held on Saturday January 7, 2023 at the Westbrook ME Community Center.

The Seacoast Division Annual Meeting will be held as part of the Winter Event. A major part of the annual meeting is the installation of the three directors. (No election was required this year since there were only three candidates for three positions.) Incumbent Directors Tom Oxnard, MMR and Jay Ehlen will be installed. Bob Kotsonis chose to not run for re-election as a Director. We wish to thank him for all his contributions to the Seacoast Division. Guy Mason, who recently moved to the Seacoast Division will be installed as the third Director. I wish to thank Tom, Jay and Guy for volunteering to support the Seacoast Division for the next three years as Directors.

Seacoast Division 2025 NER Convention Exploratory Committee

The exploratory committee has held several zoom meetings in order to determine if the Seacoast Division will commit to host the 2025 NER Convention. The first main issue to be investigated is the identification of a suitable and affordable venue available in the September 2025. Thus far of the four venues contacted and visited, one is a viable candidate. The second main issue is getting volunteers to step up and take leadership roles. Thus far there has been very limited success in this area. A more detailed status has been submitted as part of the NER Convention Report.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Mitchell

Seacoast Division President and Director

ATTACHMENT #14

SUNRISE TRAIL DIVISION

Board Changes: Long time Board member Joe Bux resigned from the Board. Joe has been on the Board for as long as I have. I have appointed John Gillespie to fill out the rest of his term that ends at the Winter Meet.

Another long time Board member, Dave Metal, MMR, also resigned. Dave also has been on the Board for a very long time. I have appointed Ed Greason to fill his term ending in 2024. Ed is an attorney and lives in Manhattan. I think it is a great idea to have a Board member from the City since, while most of our members are from Nassau and Suffolk, the Division does cover the Bronx, Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queens and will keep this in mind when planning future events.

With regards to the Board, elections will be held at the Winter Meet on Saturday February 11, 2023. All four officer positions are up for reelection as well as three Director positions.

We have suspended our "let's Talk Trains", get togethers once a month on Saturday mornings. They have been on hold during the holiday season but will resume in March. These are very informal where we sit around a table and talk about whatever happens to interest us at the time. Sometimes there is a 'show and tell'.

We continue our weekly Zoom video presentations. Ed Kohler does a fantastic job getting interesting people to share their knowledge. They are on Wednesday nights. Details are sent out in the Cannon Ball by email each week.

Cannonball Express. The 2023 NER Regional Convention will be on Long Island Columbus Day weekend, October. Plans are well underway. The convention hotel will be the Marriot in Uniondale. The Region has signed the contract with the Hotel so that part is completed.

If you have not attended a Regional Convention, this is a great opportunity to do so. A Regional Convention has not been held on Long Island for many years and we do not know the next time it will be. Anyone interested in presetting a clinic should contact Steve Perry.

Dennis DeAngelis
president
Sunrise Trail Division, NMRA