NER COUPLER
THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NORTHEASTERN REGION
NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

Photography Guidelines For the *NER Coupler*
Conventions and Events

FROM: **Christopher Carfaro Editor, *NER Coupler***
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Thank you for your interest in taking photographs for submission to the *NER Coupler*.
There is a lot of information and suggestions below. If you are an experienced photographer, most of what's suggested is common sense and standard practices. If the convention or event is a large one, ideally, multiple photographers will be involved, each focusing on certain aspects of the convention. If you are the sole photographer, and it's a large event, you've got your hands full. Try and get some help, and share the load. - Chris

The *NER Coupler* is both a print and online magazine. We require all photos to be high resolution, meaning at/or greater than 300 PPI (pixels per inch or DPI, dots per inch.)
In regards to *conventions and events*, we have some specific needs, in order to provide adequate "coverage." Not all categories below may be relevant to your specific event.

IN GENERAL:
1. Please consider that the photo you are taking, might win the cover. If that is the case, a portrait orientation would be preferable.
2. Please consider shooting all your photos of any given subject, from different angles and using both landscape and portrait orientations.
3. Please provide captions for photos, including the names of people.
4. When shooting portraits of people, please look at the background and mitigate it, if necessary - with your f-stop, changing the background, pulling a curtain, avoiding backlighting, or moving the people.
5. If you think you will need a PRESS - I.D., please provide us with your current photograph, the proper spelling of your name, the event name and date, and we'll have one sent to you.

IN THE CONTEST ROOM:
You can gain private access to the contest room by identifying yourself as a photographer for the *NER Coupler (see press I.D. above*.) Just coordinate with whomever is in charge of the space.
When photographing the models or photos, please consider…
1. using an f-stop that minimizes the background, (unless of course, the background is integral to the scene,)
2. using additional lighting and reflectors,
3. get creative with low angle shots,
4. if the model is huge, consider shooting multiple photos, that we can merge together in Adobe Photoshop,
5. different angles and orientations, on the same model,
6. photos of the judges pouring over an entry,
7. photos of the Modeler's Showcase entries (non-judged,)
8. when photographing entries in the Photo Contest, watch out for glare reflecting off of the image surface.

IN THE CLINIC ROOMS:
1. Lighting can be dim when a PowerPoint presentation is in process. Consider photographing the presenter with all the room lights on, and then again with lights out. We will then try and use both photos to make the projector image work with the fully lighted room image.

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2. Take photos from both the presenter view and the audience view.
3. Take close-ups of the subject matter if possible.

AT THE BANQUET:
1. We'll need photos of the whole room full of people,
2. photos of the guest speaker and his or her presentation,
3. photo of the introduction of the *next* NER convention.

AT THE AWARDS BREAKFAST:
1. We'll need photos of the whole room full of people,
2. photos of the various speakers and his or her presentation of an award,
3. photo of awards being given,
4. consider photos after the breakfast, with the presenter and the awardee,
5. photos of NER officers being sworn in,
6. take special care to get photos of Master Model Railroaders receiving their moment in the sun.

ON PROTOTYPE TOURS:
Please politely secure permission to take photos and if given verbally, make a note as to whom gave it, place and time. If possible, secure permission ahead of time with an email (and submit the email message with the photos.)

ON LAYOUT TOURS & OPERATION SESSIONS:
Please politely secure permission from the layout owner to take photos and if given verbally, make a note as to whom gave it, place and time. If possible, email the layout owner to ask permission ahead of time (and submit the email message with the photos.)

CHILDREN / MINORS
The NER Coupler will only print a photograph with a minor or child in it, if written permission is received from the parents or guardian. If a child or minor is in a photo and they can be photoshopped out - because the subject of the photo is not about them, we can work with that.

A printable pdf of a "model release" is available on the NER website, on the *NER Coupler* pages, at the bottom.