



RHODE RAIL

The Newsletter of the Little Rhody Division
National Model Railroad Association
Labor Day 2016 Special

BIG PLANS FOR THE COMING YEAR

The Division has a lot planned for this year -- don't miss out. We will be having our regular monthly meetings, moving between locations for the convenience of members and focusing on a variety of topics. In addition, we have the train show in October, the Christmas pot luck in December, the annual meeting in June, and lots of work toward hosting Rails to the Gilded Age, the 2017 Convention of the Northeastern Region of the NMRA. The monthly schedule is elsewhere in this issue, so mark your calendars.

We have some continuing and new projects that everyone can work on. For example, we are continuing to expand the N-scale T-TRAK empire that is the Rhode Island and Old Colony. We are working on a modular subway layout with David Kiley that will bring the magic of Harry Potter to the October train show.

Our October meeting is not to be missed. In addition to making plans for the train show, we will be hosting an open house for the Rhode Island and Old Colony at the Somerset Public Library. It is a tremendous opportunity for community outreach and membership recruitment.

See the article below for information on the upcoming regional convention in Newport in November 2017. It should be great, but we need your help!

We are saddened to report that the Fall River and Old Colony Railroad Museum in Fall River has ceased operations. They will be missed. Please contact them if you have anything on loan there.

Editor's Note:

We have had production problems for the last couple of months, but with this issue we are getting back to a regular schedule of producing the newsletter, with a new format that you can see for yourself!

As always, we need submissions, including product reviews, construction articles, information, and anything else you can think of. Send them along to me at sperrickson@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you.

--- Steve Erickson

Superintendent's Message September 2016

I hope everyone has had a wonderful summer so far. Many of us enjoyed David Kiley's whimsical G-gauge garden layout in July when we met at his home for our summer picnic. We had good food, good friends, great conversation and a wonderful layout to see and chat about. As we wrap up our summer plans and prepare for the fall, I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone of the wonderful train related events that are coming up for Little Rhody.

First, there's the LRD general meeting on Saturday, 3 September at the East Greenwich Methodist Church, South County Trail in East Greenwich, RI. We'll be doing a Show and Tell, so bring something you've been working on – a structure, a piece of rolling stock, some photos, a video clip, a small module, whatever – and plan to spend a few minutes sharing what you've been doing this summer about model railroading. One thing I'd like to incorporate into our meetings is a brief "Ask a question, get an answer" portion at the beginning of the meeting. If you have a question you would like answered or addressed, please email it to me (sosberg1@verizon.net) at least a week before the meeting so I can be sure someone will be available to address your question.

On 7-10 September the 36th National Narrow Gauge Convention will be held in Augusta, Maine. For more information, check out www.nngc2016.org

The 15th -18th September will see many of us in Albany, NY at The Pacemaker, the 2016 Northeastern Regional Convention. See <http://www.hbdpacemaker.org/>

The Old Colony Train Show will be held in Taunton, MA on Sept. 25, 2016

And don't forget the Little Rhody Train Show on Sunday, October 16, 2016 at the Pawtucket Armory! Again, we'll need volunteers to help set up before and break down after the show. We'll be showcasing several layouts including our very own N-scale RI and Old Colony Railroad modular layout.

On October 29-30 the South Shore Model Railway Club will hold its Fall Show and Open House in Hingham, MA.

There are lots of things for model railroaders in the area to see and do this fall. I hope to see you at many of these events.

Happy Railroading!

Sue Osberg
Superintendent, LRD

REMEMBER: NOVEMBER IS MODEL RAILROADING MONTH! SPREAD THE WORD AND RECRUIT A MEMBER

LITTLE RHODY CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

The Little Rhody Division celebrated 50 years on Wednesday evening, June 8, 2016, with their annual dinner and election of officers at Twelve Acres in Smithfield, RI. In attendance were many members of the division along with eight past superintendents who were honored by the Division for their work throughout the past 50 years. All attendees found homemade chocolates formed as a “50” and a pin with the LRD logo at their places. The past superintendents were each awarded a “Superintendents Car”



hand painted and decaled by past superintendent Henry Pierce in the LRD colors with the name of the superintendent on it along with the beginning year of their term in office (see photo at right for Brian Osberg’s car). Past superintendents who were at the dinner included Bill Robertson, Greg Pion, Richard Fisher, Steve Boothroyd, John Keating, Rolf Johnson, Justin Maguire and Brian Osberg.

Officers for the 2016-2017 year were elected as well: Superintendent Sue Osberg, Asst. Superintendent Brian Osberg, Chief Clerk Dick Nagle, Paymaster Shannon Dekonski and Director David Kiley. Other positions on the Executive Board are appointed by the superintendent.

Immediate past superintendent Steve Erickson was also presented with a Superintendent’s Car by new Superintendent, Sue Osberg.

Dinner was followed by a cake decorated with the LRD logo marking 50 years.

Many of the Division’s N-scale T-TRAK modules were on display along with entries in the Square Foot Contest. Winners of the contest were Experienced builder Justin Maguire and Beginner builder DK Paul. Each was awarded with a gift certificate to AA Hobbies.



MARK THE DATE: THE THIRD ANNUAL LITTLE RHODY TRAIN SHOW IS OCTOBER 16 AT THE PAWTUCKET ARMORY. WE NEED YOUR HELP TO MAKE THE SHOW A SUCCESS!

**RAILROAD
PHOTOGRAPHY
EXHIBIT AT UCONN
SATURDAY
OCTOBER 29**

The national Center for Railroad Photography and Art will be sponsoring a one time only conference at the University Connecticut on October 29 focusing on railroad photography in the Northeast. These conferences move around the country. From their web site:

“New for 2016 and in conjunction with the University of Connecticut’s Archives and Special Collections, we are proud to announce a special, northeastern-themed edition of our popular Conversations conference, Conversations Northeast. The one-day conference is set for Saturday, October 29, at the Dodd Center in Storrs, Connecticut. It will feature a full day of presentations about railroad photography and art in the Northeast, exhibitions by photographer Jim Shaughnessy and from university’s extensive archives, and several opportunities for socializing including lunch and an evening reception.”

There will be a special presentation on photography of railroad stations, as well as a gallery talk by the Curator of Special Collections at UConn. This is strongly recommended for those with an interest in

railroad photography or research on railroad photographs.

The location is the Thomas J. Dodd Center at the University of Connecticut, 405 Babbidge Road, Storrs, Connecticut 06269-1205.

Further information, including registration fee and registration, can be found at <http://www.railphoto-art.org/conferences/northeast-2016/>

**COMING SOON:
HARRY POTTER
TROLLEY LAYOUT**

David Kiley is leading the charge to put together a Harry Potter themed trolley layout for the October show. It will be a children friendly underground trolley with stops at both Diagon Alley and Knockturn Alley. It is going to be a whimsical look at London as it is portrayed in the Harry Potter books.

One building is finished so far: Mike Tylick has put together a wonderful shop for the alley:



**LITTLE RHODY
DIVISION
MEETING SCHEDULE
2016-2017**

All meetings Saturday mornings at 10:00 a.m. Each meeting will have a time set aside for answering questions and solving your problems. Send the questions to Sue Osberg at least a few days before the meeting.

October 1

Somerset Public Library: Public display of the N Scale *Rhode Island and Old Colony*, preparation for the October show. We will be running the N-TRAK layout for the benefit of the public. This is a great time to recruit new members. Details soon

November 5

Cardi's in Attleboro: New Member day, discussion of internet resources, basic principals of track laying, other model railroading resources. Find those internet resources you never knew existed.

December 3

United Methodist Church, East Greenwich:

Christmas Pot Luck, "Rails and Sails": fusing shipping and model railroading.

NOTE: We have started an annual food

drive for the December meeting, please bring canned goods to donate. This is a great time to bring the spouse/significant other for socializing with trains.

January 7, 2017

Location TBD. Model and Prototype Photography. Bob Peters and Mike Tylick will demonstrate techniques and show off examples of superb photography.

February 4, 2017

Location TBD. Workshop on simple upgrades for rolling stock. Learn how to make those simple kits stand out on your layout with a few quick fixes. Learn about couplers, trucks, and other things that will make your trains run on time.

March 4

Location TBD. Fixing your electrical block: how to get your railroad moving.

April 1

Location TBD. Rhode Island railroading in different eras. What are some great local short lines you can model? Find out!

May 6

Location TBD. Great places and ways to spend your summer vacation.

June

Annual dinner

NOVEMBER 8-11, 2017: RAILS TO THE GILDED AGE NORTHEASTERN REGIONAL CONVENTION NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

The Division has agreed to host the 2017 regional convention for the Northeastern Region of the NMRA over the Veteran's Day weekend of 2017. This is a tremendous opportunity for us to expand our membership, increase our visibility, promote the hobby, and make some money!

The steering committee right now is made up of Justin Maguire, Steve Erickson, David Kiley and Mike Tylick. We are working with the executive committee of the Division as well.

The website will soon be up with a placeholder, and we are finalizing rates and hotel rooms for the convention. We expect to be offering a wide range of on-site and off-site railroad and non-railroad activities. It should be a terrific draw for railroaders who want to bring their spouses.

We need a lot of volunteers to make this convention a success. We have a great location: the new Cambria Hotel in Middletown, just over the line from Newport, with a stunning view of the ocean and Cliff Walk. Some of the amenities of the hotel include:

- Fitness Room on site
- Brand new rooms and conference facilities
- Free parking
- Shuttle bus to Newport
- Indoor Swimming Pool



Left: Rendition of banquet space overlooking Cliff Walk.



Right: Rendition of typical guest room.

We need committee chairs, we need volunteers for publicity, we need a lot of people. But we are one of the leading divisions in the region in many respects, so let's show the rest of the Region what we have.