



RHODE RAILS

The Newsletter of the Little Rhody Division

National Model Railroad Association

May/June 2017

ANNUAL DINNER JUNE 14: SAVE THE DATE!

The Little Rhody Division's annual banquet will be held June 14 at Chello's in Warwick: 2225 Post Road.

The dinner will be served buffet style, and will cost \$60/couple, \$32 for singles. There is a banquet room in the back of the restaurant that will be location of the event.

In addition to an friendly evening out with fellow model railroaders, the Division will be electing officers for the coming year, a year end review, and a showcase for our work for the year. Bring what you have been working on and tell us about it.

The reservation form is being sent by email. Look for it and send it back right away.

Hope to see you there.

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

In addition to the annual meeting, we are planning a summer picnic to gather members together at a local layout for food, refreshments and railroads. Date is TBA.

Regular meetings will resume in September, and we will be attending train shows to promote the Regional Convention we are hosting (see details below). Convention committee and committee meetings will be held periodically, and the Board (and interested members) will have a strategic planning retreat in August.

Superintendent's Message May 2017

It has been a very busy year for the Little Rhody Division. Since our last newsletter, we have held our annual Train Show at the Pawtucket Armory, met with new members at our New Member Day in November, "manned" the LRD table at the Marlborough Train Show to advertise the NER Convention, worked with the Newport Preservation society setting up and running their Lionel trains for Christmas at the Breakers, helped with the NER table at the Springfield Show, learned how best to photograph our layouts, had clinics on upgrading our rolling stock and how to handle basic electrical "stuff", and had a wonderful slide presentation by former superintendent Steve Boothroyd on the short Wood River Railroad line.

Also, we've been working with the Northeastern Region group on the 2017 Convention, Rails to the Gilded Age to finalize details and see to it that things are chugging along smoothly (see separate article on the convention inside).

Coming events are the May meeting at Providence Northern Model Railroad Club, our annual dinner and elections in June, our summer picnic for which Dean Johnson has volunteered his home in North Kingstown, and, of course, the NER Convention in Newport in November of this year.

I look forward to seeing all of you at one or more of these coming events – let's keep the trains rolling!
Happy Trains!

Sue Osberg
Superintendent, LRD

Be sure to check out April's Model Railroad Hobbyist at <http://model-railroad-hobbyist.com>. The cover story is Mike Tylick's explanation of how to build the Cranberry Belt cars he has displayed at our meeting.



The Little Rhody Regional Convention table at the HUB Marlborough Show — we will need volunteers for the fall to bring this display to the train shows. It is a great way to get into a show free! Email Steve Erickson at sperrickson@gmail.com for more information.

Membership Matters

by Linda Bergemann,
Membership Chair

Overall, Little Rhody Division is doing well with membership retention and recruitment. This calendar year, we have added four new members to our roster: the Amoruso Family of Mansfield, MA; Maryann Schwartz of North Providence, RI; Richard Arigo of Pawtucket, RI; and Philip Gallerani, of Warwick, RI. Welcome to these new members. Our roster now stands at 81 NMRA members.

Paymaster Report

by Shannon Dekonski,

It has been a good year for the LRD financially. We have kept expenditures to a minimum, so we are in good financial health.

In June 2016 we had a balance of \$6869.53, currently we have a balance \$6252.37. LRD has a reoccurring debit to EGUMC for the use of their hall for our monthly meetings. Any expenditures are reported monthly at the meeting to all attendees.

Providence Northern: A Great Meeting

Last weekend we had a great meeting at Providence Northern club layout — lots of planning, ideas, and information, as well as a visit to the best club layout around. The PN is 1,900 square feet of layout, roughly based on the P&W.

If you missed it, be sure to keep abreast of our meeting schedule for next year, which is sure to feature great clinics, information sharing, presentations, and social fun — not to mention Allie's donuts once in a while.

QUARRY TOURS FOR THE FOLKS INTO STONE

If you are interested in mills, working railroad industries and the like, you should look at the the Society for Industrial Archeology. Their New England branch sponsors tours of local industries throughout the year, and publishes a newsletter. Membership is ridiculously cheap – \$10.00/year. That entitles you to two newsletters and an invitation to their annual conference. Their newsletters are archived on line for research purposes.

The current event information is as follows:

SNEC-SIA Spring 2017 Tour
Quincy Quarries & Lyons
Turning Mill
Quincy, Massachusetts
Saturday, May 20, 2017

Hosted by the Quincy Quarry &
Granite Workers Museum

Tour starts at 10:00 A.M. at the Granite Rail Quarry, Ricciuti Drive We will tour the quarry and nearby Granite Railway Incline. After lunch, we will visit the Lyons Turning Mill site, located on Quarry Lane, near the west end of Ricciuti Drive.

The museum will provide an interpretive display and discussion with photos, tools and other artifacts related to the history of the quarries and railway.

Sturdy shoes are recommended for the rough terrain.

Visit chapter website for flyer with additional info.

<http://www.nec-sia.org>

The Tip Corner:

STORING PAINT: THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX

Storing paint can be a problem. How do you make it accessible yet out of the way? Visual without taking up too much space?

If you are using Vallejo or other smaller containers of paint, there are a couple of solutions, some are good and one is great.

You can buy special laser cut holders on the internet. For example, Micro Mark has a storage rack that looks like this:



This works well, holds craft paint, but is a workbench space hog. What are the alternatives?

PAINT HOLDERS (CONT.)

Many people like to use lazy Susan type holders, which take up less space but require you to spin it around to see what paint you have. It is also hard to keep similar colors together.

Here is a typical example:



I can't believe they still make these! Totally inefficient, easy to tip over, you get the picture.

THE BEST SOLUTION: Reading Model Railroad Hobbyist's paint guide, a suggestion was made to use **NAIL POLISH HOLDERS.**

The link was out of date, but I started searching, because I wanted something to take up a minimum of wall space. I found this on Amazon, and it perfectly holds all your Vallejo sized paint perfectly. Craft paint will need a slightly larger size.



WORKING WITH THE PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF NEWPORT

And once again, once the convention is finished, we will be providing operators for the Breakers Lionel Railroad display during December. Keep in mind volunteers get invited to the Volunteer Holiday party for the Preservation Society of Newport — last year it was at Rosecliff and was a blast.

This spring we will be refurbishing the Breakers Stable layout, as seen below:



Then in the fall we will be helping to set up the Christmas layout. Finally, we are working with the Society to improve their G scale outdoor layouts, and perhaps incorporate them into the Christmas Display.

REGIONAL CONVENTION UPDATE NOVEMBER IN NEWPORT

“Rails to the Gilded Age” is shaping up to be a unique experience that should not be missed. In addition to all the usual activities associated with our regional convention, having the convention in Newport gives us an opportunity to see things that you probably just cannot see any other time.

First, the weather should be beautiful. Early November in Newport is usually sunny and mild. Fall stays much later here than in other parts of New England thanks to the warming ocean breezes. Most of the tourists are gone, however, and the parking meters are free! The week before the convention is Restaurant Week in Newport, enticing those who come Wednesday or Thursday to experience fine dining at a reasonable cost.

We will take a train ride on the Old Colony Railroad, a tourist road that runs along the coast of Aquidneck Island (where Newport is located). We will also be taking a tour of the Sea View Railroad, serving a major industrial area in nearby North Kingstown.

One of the highlights is sure to be the Naval War College Museum, an attraction that most tourists never get to see. Advance registration will be required for security reasons, but once at the Museum you will have a chance to view wonderful ship models, a history of the Navy, and the connection of the Navy to Newport. The information on Naval operations, supporting and supply operations, and era specific displays will make this a once in a lifetime opportunity to learn about this topic. Be sure to register for this event early, space is limited.

The Breakers is the most famous mansion in Newport – and we will provide a tour of the “cottage” (as it was called) and all of Newport from a bus leaving directly from the hotel. Again, space is limited! This tour will provide an educational opportunity to learn about a city that has been a rail hub, a seaport, and much more.

Speaking of Newport, who knew that the Vanderbilts had massive stables as well? They are as well appointed as the mansion itself, and now contains a fabulous HO scale layout and a museum of New York Central memorabilia, both contained in an extension that resembles back to back Pullman cars. Also at the location is a collection of horse carriages that will knock your socks off. If you see nothing else, this layout, which is really a series of dioramas showing the growth and history of the NYC, should be on your list.

We have added a select group of quality vendors for the convention, some of whom will be giving clinics. We also have a group of local historians and modelers that will provide information on familiar and unfamiliar topics (who knew you could model a full coal mine on the coast?). The large (9,000 sq. ft.) banquet room will house the modular layouts, vendors, and some “surprise” clinics.

Our dinner speaker will be Roland Boucher, formerly a VP at the Providence and Worcester Railroad. He will be bringing memorabilia from the P&W for our raffle, and will discuss the development, acquisitions, and sale of the railroad. He is planning to bring two other P&W employees, making the evening presentation a panel discussion and question and answer session.

The convention hotel is the Atlantic Resort Newport – a brand new hotel overlooking Newport’s Easton’s Beach and the Cliff Walk. Many of the rooms face the ocean, so be sure to book right away. The rooms are fabulous – each room has a king bed, some have two kings, and there are also king suits with two separate sleeping areas. The hotel has a restaurant, indoor pool and fitness area. Everything is brand new. There is plenty of free parking, a shuttle bus to Newport (for a fee) and plenty of information on what to do in Newport. Our hospitality room will also be open during the convention, and our volunteers are compiling a special list of the best things to see and do.

We will also be coordinating a wine tasting and other events, so check in with the web site to learn what is new! This is a great convention to bring the spouse or significant other to, and be sure to tell your friends and Division members who have never been to a convention that this is a great one to start with.