



Your portal to *more* fun in model railroading
To promote Model Railroading and help educate modelers in the skills of Model Railroading

September 28, 2020

Mini Newsletter

Sad News to Report

The following information was provided by Mr. John Sacerdote
Show Director of the Railroad Hobby Show for the Amherst Railway Society

John Randall, a long time Amherst Railway Society member, passed away on September 7th or 8th, from what we think was a heart attack. Funeral services have already been conducted as was typical of John's wishes of privacy. I will miss his incredible attention to detail on any project we have ever worked together. So long, my friend.

John Randall was also a member of the Nutmeg Division from May of 2016 to October of 2016

Other News from the Amherst Society

I am remiss in not thinking of this sooner.....Instead of our monthly meetings, we have been listening to "Show and Tell" meetings with anywhere from 1 to 4 guests, all on different railroad related topics using GoToMeeting (similar to Zoom)

Let your members know that they are always invited to any of these events, the next coming up mid-October (details on the attached) on the next page.

Also, a special fund raiser that is almost gone,....we have produced an East Longmeadow Station - a laser cut kit - that looks great and is fun to put together.....there are only 18 of them left (we produced 50 of them).....here is the link to get out to the folks:

<https://amherst-railway-society-store.myshopify.com/collections/frontpage/products/east-longmeadow-station>

[Our 2021 Show is January 30th and 31st, 2021!](#)

BTW our Covid-19 plan is currently in the hands of the West Springfield Health Department and we should be getting great news from them soon!

Amherst Railway Society's

"Show and Tell # 6"

When: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 7:30 pm (approximately 60 minutes)

Where: From your home computer or smart phone. A virtual "Show and Tell."

What: A Discussion and Illustration of Railroad Related Projects, or, *"Tell Me More About What We Have Been Doing While Cooped Up All These Weeks!"*

Presenters: *Ted Curtin*
Kurt Jellinek
Phil Johnson

The Agenda:

1. Welcome; announcements and rules of the meeting and explanations of GoToMeeting.
2. **Ted Curtin** – Ted will show us a "Train in a Box" currently under construction. What a great way to get young folks – as in a grandson or granddaughter – interested in model railroading. Let's see what Ted has to say about his work to date!
3. **Kurt Jellinek** – "The Great Flood of 2018," is a topic that Kurt wants to share with us. A precise, well done model railroad, under construction, a basement flood, then a year's worth of work, and finally a new beginning. Kurt has documented the entire process.
4. **Phil Johnson** – "Railroads in and around Amherst." Is a topic you will not want to miss. Railroads came to Amherst in the mid-1800s from the East and North. Find out the whole story of each railroad and trolley line that ran in and around Amherst. Many historic pictures and postcards will enhance the presentation. Philip will also include connections to the Northampton railroads and other trolley lines.
5. Wrap Up Q and A (time permitting)

HOW TO JOIN:

1. First, open a browser such as Chrome or equivalent.
2. Type in this address: joingotomeeting.com
3. The page will ask for a meeting ID of 9 digits. Type in: **190 645 400** (without any spaces; they are here just so you can read the number easily).
4. If you are asked to "go to the opener," please click on that. In other words, run the program.
5. A panel will open on the upper right hand portion of your screen. That panel allows you to use your speakers and mic on the computer OR use a dial in number.....use 773-945-1031 or the number it tells you to use. Remember, the only reason why you need to use a dial in phone number is if you do NOT have a mic and speakers on your computer.
6. That's it. You should be able to see anyone who is presenting

News from the Northeastern Region



December 1 - 4
6:30 - 10:30 PM Eastern

NERx is Coming Soon

Give yourself a break from the holiday frenzy and join us for four evenings of fun with model trains and friends!

Since we are not able to meet in person this year at MillCity2020, the Northeastern Region is working with the NMRA Social Media Team to produce a virtual convention during the evenings of December 1-4. From 6:30 to 10:30 PM Eastern Time, the NER is planning to have many of the activities you normally see at in-person regional conventions, including clinics, layout tours, photo and model contests, and awards. Each evening will feature a little bit of everything. And, like all prior NMRAx events, the NERx virtual convention will be free for anyone to participate in. For more information, visit MillCity2020.org.

Clinics



The clinic schedule for the NERx virtual convention is quickly filling up.

This is an opportunity to learn about a variety of model railroad topics and ask presenters questions while the convention is live.

We are striving to have all new clinics not seen in prior NMRAx events.

Keep checking the NERx [website](#) for descriptions and the schedule for clinics.

Layout Tours



You can't have a model train convention without seeing some model trains running!

The team is working on identifying layouts throughout the Northeastern Region that are willing to open their virtual doors to the convention. Each evening will feature multiple layout tours to inspire the viewer.

Keep checking the NERx [website](#) for descriptions and the schedule for layout tours.

Virtual Photo and Model Contests

We are still working on the requirements and logistics for submitting entries into the photo and model contests.

What we do know is both contests will be done virtually. For the model contests, photos of models will be provided by the modeler. While the entries cannot earn merit awards without being evaluated in person, they can earn bragging rights!

We know modelers and photographers have been keeping very busy during the pandemic. Now is an opportunity to share and earn recognition for your work. Look for future emails or the website for updates on the contest requirements and logistics.



Virtual Convention Car



After all, it is a virtual convention. So why not a virtual convention car?

We have created the artwork you need for printing decals. The sheet contains a variety of options for eras and railroads.



Just purchase a car kit, print the decals, and finish the car using the decals.

More information and the decal artwork can be found when clicking [here](#).

Spread the Word!



For more information, visit
MillCity2020.org

Nutmeg Division News and Information

Help is Desperately Needed!

Virtual Media Lead Position

Exciting opportunities to bring the Nutmeg Division into a new era!

We are looking for an individual who is independent, a self-starter and self-reliant, and would like to shape the division for the future. The Virtual Media Lead is a brand-new role aiming to increase connectivity and engagement with all members at all reaches of the division. This role will report to the Division superintendent, and is mainly responsible for:

- **Managing and updating various social media platforms (Facebook and YouTube)**
- **Attend bi-monthly leadership planning meetings for the upcoming division meetings**
- **Initiate, host, and record virtual sessions of bi-monthly division meetings**
- **Solicit feedback from the membership on improvements to the virtual media content and provide recommendations to the Division Leadership team**
- **Execute singly or lead a team if so desired, to execute on Leadership approved virtual content improvement projects**

(You do not have to be a director for this position)

For more information or interested in applying, please contact Kaylee @ nutmegdivnmra@gmail.com or anyone in the Leadership Team.

Clinic Chairperson Position

The nutmeg Division is also in need of a Clinic Chairperson to follow in the footsteps of Jim Kline. Jim would like to thank everyone who contributed by giving a clinic(s) at our meetings and making them a success!

Here are the basic requirements for the position of Clinic Chairperson: (You do not need to be a director for this position)

Arrange for 2 clinics per meeting, aiming for 45 minutes to 1-hour duration. Topics can include (but are not limited to) railfanning, prototype structures, prototype rolling stock, scenery, modeling techniques, photography, tools, operations.

Clinicians do not have to be NMRA Members.

Communicate with the Board of Directors and the Communication Manager regarding the name of the clinician(s) and topic. The Superintendent will print and sign a Certificate of Appreciation for presentation to the clinician(s).

If you are interested becoming the next Clinic Chairperson for the Nutmeg Division please contact Ron Pelletier @ nmranutmegmembership@comcast.net

New Director

Due to an employment change, Kaylee Zheng who is a Director of the Nutmeg Division, and the Current Superintendent, will no longer be able to provide the Nutmeg Division with her great and enthusiastic leadership of the Division.

If you or someone you know would be willing to put their name in for nomination and are willing to provide some guidance and knowledge to the Nutmeg Division please contact Ronald Pelletier at nmranutmegmembership@comcast.net as soon as possible so that we can provide your name to the membership. With only a total of three voting members of the BOD, we really need someone to volunteer.

The Nutmeg Division has a total of three voting members of the Board of Directors. Each director serves for a three-year term. In April of each year, one of the three directors term will expire, so there will be a vote in April of each year to either select a new director for a three-year term or to re-elect the outgoing director if that person has so decided to stay on for another term of three years. After that vote, a second vote will then be taken (by the directors) regarding which Director will become the New Superintendent for the next year.

Job Description, Superintendent

From the Nutmeg Division Constitution:

Article IV: Government

Section 3: There shall be a Superintendent of the Nutmeg Division elected for a one-year term by the Board of Directors from the Board of Directors, at the first Board Meeting following the Annual Meeting. The Superintendent may serve only two consecutive terms before stepping aside for one or more terms.

Section 4: The offices of the Secretary and Treasurer of the Nutmeg Division shall be appointed by the Superintendent of the Nutmeg Division and approved by the Board of Directors.

From the Nutmeg division By-Laws:

Article III. Officers and Directors

Section 1: The Superintendent shall have the authority to establish committees and appoint Chairpersons to serve one-year terms, subject to reappointment

Section 3: The Treasurer shall pay bills approved by the Board of Directors, except that the payment of sums of \$100 or less, may be made with written approval of the Superintendent. The Treasurer shall report all receipts and expenditures to the Board of Directors. If the Board of Directors approves an expenditure over \$100, it automatically becomes an authorization to pay for only the amount already authorized by the Board of Directors.

Section 4: All officers and Directors of the Nutmeg Division shall serve until their successors have been elected and qualified. The Superintendent may not serve more than two consecutive terms.

Section 5: The Board of Directors shall fill all vacancies among the officers or on the Board of Directors of the Nutmeg Division between the Annual Meetings of the Division.

Article IV. Amendments

Section 2: The Superintendent shall appoint a constitutional committee every ten years to review the constitution and by-laws and make recommendations for any necessary changes thereto. The effective date of these By-Laws is the date indicated below.

Standard rules that apply to all board members and appointees:

1) Attend board meeting whenever possible, participating fully in the discussions. The Superintendent schedules and conducts these meetings.

2) Attend membership meetings whenever possible, making an effort to introduce new participants and encourage membership. The Superintendent schedules and M.C's these meetings.

3) Support all activities of the division by participating on project or work teams.

4) Participate in Division and Regional events whenever possible to increase personal awareness and promote Nutmeg Division awareness and activities of interest to others. There is a Superintendents Forum that is conducted quarterly (or thereabouts) online and via conference call. There is a Superintendents Meeting with the Regions board members at the Regional convention. Attendance for both these activities is not mandatory, but it is recommended.

It is worth mentioning that all three of the above positions can be used to fulfill the requirements of the Association Volunteer category of the Achievement Program

Not yet a member, or need to renew?

Here is the link to the Membership application forms for New, Rail Pass (9-month trial membership) and renewals <https://www.nmra.org/membership-application-and-renewal>

Address for the NMRA

National Model Railroad Association, Inc
P.O. Box 1328
Soddy Daisy TN 37384-1328
Phone: (423) 892-2846
Fax: (423) 899-4869
nmrahq@aol.com

EIGHT AND SAND

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald J. Pelletier

Communication Manager / Membership Promotion Manager / Newsletter Editor

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Please call 860-977-5573 any evening between 7:30 PM and 10:00 PM. This is the time-period that I am usually near my computer. If you are unable to call during this time-period, please send me an e-mail so that we can arrange some other form of communication.

Nutmeg Division <http://www.nutmegdivision.com>

Northeastern Region <http://www.nernmra.org>

NMRA <http://www.nmra.org>