

*Happy New Year*



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**JANUARY 9, 2015      Hingham Massachusetts**

The *South Shore Model Railway Club's* annual *Fall Model Railroad Show & Open House and Scout Night*  
South Shore Model Railway Club  
<http://www.ssmrc.org/Springflyer.pdf>

**JANUARY 10, 2015      Branford Connecticut**

Shoreline Train Show  
United Methodist Church  
811 E Main Street  
Snow Date January 17 2015  
Pat 203-600-4783

**January 10 – 11 2015      Hamden Connecticut, Mr. Gilberts Railroad**

The Eli Whitney Museum's annual hands on exhibition of American Flyer Trains present Classic toy trains produced by New Haven's A.C. Gilbert Company that still run beautifully after 50 years.

Click on the following link for more information

[http://www.whofish.org/events/Hamden/CT/Holiday\\_Exhibition\\_Mr\\_Gilberts\\_Railroad/3585592.aspx](http://www.whofish.org/events/Hamden/CT/Holiday_Exhibition_Mr_Gilberts_Railroad/3585592.aspx)

## Now through January 19, 2015

If you are planning on going to New York City before January 19, 2015 you may definitely plan some time for The New York Botanical Garden to see the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Holiday Train Show. To learn more please click on the following link <http://www.nybg.org/exhibitions/2014/holiday-train-show/index.php?qclid=CPX75-id6clCFcpAMgodRwIAjA>

### January 10, 2015

### Danbury Connecticut

The following information is from Mark Tobias of NETTE Auctions.

We are having a **HUGE** live HO gauge train auction (550 lots) on January 10th, 2015 at our auction hall at 45 West Street, Danbury, CT 06810.

Click on the following link for a description of the Auction <http://www.auctionzip.com/cgi-bin/auctionview.cgi?lid=2284036&kwd=train&zip=06119&category=0> . We would love to see you at this great event. Tell your fellow club members! Call with any questions, 203 730-1404.

Lick on the following link to view the pictures and to join in on the on-line auction. [http://www.liveauctioneers.com/catalog/65714\\_550-lot-brass-and-american-ho-auction/page1](http://www.liveauctioneers.com/catalog/65714_550-lot-brass-and-american-ho-auction/page1)

NETTE Auctions  
45 West Street (rear entrance)  
Danbury, CT 06810  
Phone 203 730-1404  
Fax 203 794 9211

### JANUARY 17 – 19, 2015      Wenham Massachusetts

HUB Modular Railroad Display  
Wenham Museum  
<http://www.hubdiv.org>

### JANUARY 22 – 23, 2015      Amherst Railway Society Railroad Hobby Modeling Clinics

<http://www.railroadhobbyshow.com/clinics.php>

### JANUARY 24 – 25, 2015      West Springfield Massachusetts

Amherst Railway Society Railroad Hobby Show  
Eastern States Exposition  
<http://www.railroadhobbyshow.com>

# **FEBRUARY 8, 2015      Wallingford Connecticut**

Classic Shows Model Railroad Shows  
Zandri's Stillwood Inn  
<http://www.classicshowsllc.com>

## **NEWSLETTERS**

### **HUB Division**

The latest edition (January / February 2015) of the newsletter Headlight is available at:  
[http://www.hubdiv.org/docs/Headlight2015\\_0102\\_v31.3.pdf](http://www.hubdiv.org/docs/Headlight2015_0102_v31.3.pdf)

### **Hudson-Berkshire Division**

The latest edition (January 2015) of the newsletter **FORM 19** is available at:  
[http://www.hudson-berkshire.org/?Form\\_19%26nbsp%3BE\\_Version&normal](http://www.hudson-berkshire.org/?Form_19%26nbsp%3BE_Version&normal)

### **Central New York Division**

The latest edition (January 2015) of the newsletter **RED MARKERS** is available at:  
[http://www.cnymra.org/News\\_Letter\\_files/RMVol33No01.pdf](http://www.cnymra.org/News_Letter_files/RMVol33No01.pdf)

### **Little Rhody Division**

The latest edition (January 2015) of the newsletter **RHODE RAIL** is available at:  
<http://www.littlerhodydiv.org/Images/Rhode%20Rail%20January%202015.pdf>

### **Amherst Railway Society**

The January newsletter and meeting notice for the Amherst Railway Society Jan 13, 2015 meeting can be downloaded at [http://www.amherstrail.org/ARS\\_Jan\\_2015.pdf](http://www.amherstrail.org/ARS_Jan_2015.pdf)

Lifetime, Student and Regular members of the Society will receive a printed copy in the mail, along with a pass to the 2015 Railroad Hobby Show. The person using the pass does not have to be a member, so you can give your pass to someone else, but do not lose it.

This month's newsletter includes information about the release of the new book "The Railroads and Trolleys of Amherst Massachusetts", information about the clinics and other events that will be happening at the show this year, as well as snapshots of the final Amherst runs of the Vermonter.

The book will go on sale at the Jan 13, meeting. We have posted the meeting notice around Amherst, as well as distributing flyers, so there may be some new faces at the January meeting.

I look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Bruce MacCullagh, President  
Amherst Railway Society, Inc.  
P.O.Box 2351  
Amherst, MA 01004-2351

## The January / February 2015 edition of the NMRA eBulletin is listed below



January/February 2015

### Portland Daylight Express

### A few words from the President



Reminder, the Portland Daylight Express Convention will be August 23 - 29, 2015 and is the 80th NMRA National Convention.



### Happy New Year

As we start this new year, my very best wishes to you all for a wonderful year filled with joy and wonder.

Whither Portland? There was some confusion after our first *NMRA eBulletin* contribution as to which Portland is hosting this event. There are 16 Portlands in the United States (and one in Ontario, Canada), two of them the largest city in their state [Maine and Oregon], both with International Airports. The convention is being hosted, for the third time, at the 29th largest city in the United States, PORTLAND, OREGON!

And one thing I wonder about is why the NMRA is considered by some non-members as an "HO organization." We are not, you know, although most of our members happen to model in that scale. But so does the hobby at large, which we reflect.

Let me use one scale as an example: N scale. Our lead Director on the Board, Jack Hamilton, is an avid and excellent N-scale modeler. Yours truly switched to N in 1967 at college in order to build a layout to fit under a dorm bed. I happily created the "Muy Poco lines" and enjoyed it until the narrow gauge bug bit in 1969. Had Tom Knapp been around, Nn3 might have been the answer. Now I model in HOn3 and dabble in On3.

### Non-Rail & General Interest Tours

Let's start off the New Year with a quick listing of the many General Tours being

The NMRA is scale-neutral. Most of our standards work for any scale and we have N-scale standards as we have specific standards for HO, S, TT, Z and O. Yes, we have Large Scale standards, too. Our conventions feature N on display, in contest entries, modular layouts

planned. Each will be described in full in the next few months on the website. We'll let you know when tickets are available:

Bob's Red Mill Factory tour, store & lunch (self-pay) then a stop in Aurora at the Antique stores. Oregon Wine Tasting. Powell's Books. Distilleries Tour. Oregon Zoo for a train ride. The World Forestry Museum. Spirit Dinner Boat Cruise. Oregon Coast, including stops at Tillamook Cheese Factory, Garibaldi, Cannon Beach and Seaside. Fabric Depot & Pendleton's Shopping Excursion. Gorge Cruise on a Sternwheeler (includes continental breakfast and lunch). Pittock Mansion, Rose Test Garden & Japanese Garden. Art Museum, Courthouse Tour, Walking tour of downtown. McMinnville-Double trouble trip- Part of group will be left at the Evergreen Aviation Museum, other part will be left downtown McMinnville for shopping, wine tasting, Quilt shop. Walking tour of the Bridges of Portland. Last Thursday Street Fair (Galleries, shops open). Evening-Symphony in the park. Saturday Farmers Market & Swan Island Dahlia's Farm.

We hope that there are some tours that appeal to everyone. Our tour planners are working with a disabled member so that we can provide meaningful accessibility information about outside sites - layouts and industrial facilities.

Check our website <http://www.nmra2015portland.org/> for updates as they are confirmed. And remember, registrations are open!

## **SLC Convention is nailed down!**

The Convention Department has now completed negotiations for Salt Lake City July 7, 2019 through July 14, 2019. The Convention will be at the Little America Hotel. 2019 will be the 150th anniversary of the driving of the Golden Spike at Promontory, Utah.

The Convention Department is seeking bids for 2020. Information required to submit a bid is available in the Executive

and the NTS, home layouts on tour and in clinics. The same can be said to a degree about any scale.

Model Railroading is model railroading. There is no "right" scale or gauge. Frankly, I am most impressed by Z as it seems to capture and allow the wide open spaces associated with railroading. Who is not impressed by the heft and detail of O or the charm of G, especially in an appropriate outdoor setting? I could go on but the one constant is that we celebrate and support all scales. So if you hear someone say we are an "HO organization," I think not!

Our BOD meets in late February and elections are also coming up. Please vote if you qualify to do so as we have some great candidates. It is your organization regardless of scale.

Happy New Year,

[Charlie](#)

## **Notice of the BOD Winter Meeting, 2015**

The Winter Board of Directors meeting will be held in Scottsdale, AZ. on February 20, 21, and 22 at the Chaparral Suites. The Budget and Operations meeting will begin at 2:00 PM on Friday, February 20, and the Board will be in caucus that evening. Both meetings are only open to invited guests. The regular, open session of the BOD meeting begins at 9:00 AM on Saturday, February 21. Because the agenda is not yet set, there is no way to tell if the meeting will continue on Sunday. All members are invited to attend the open sessions. Watch [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org) for details.

## **Charlie Getz inducted into NG Hall of Fame**



During the recent Narrow Gauge Convention held in Kansas City, our own President Charlie Getz was inducted into the Narrow Gauge Hall of Fame for his column in the Narrow Gauge and Shortline Gazette. Charlie's column is the longest running column in any U.S. model railroad magazine. Congratulations, Charlie. Well earned, and well deserved!

## **Wouldn't insurance for everyone be great?**

[Mike Brestel](#)

*At-Large World-Wide Director and NMRA Insurance Coordinator*

Wouldn't it be great if the National NMRA would purchase a liability insurance policy to cover the meetings, conventions, and special events for every Region and Division in the U.S. and Canada? Wouldn't it be great if this insurance were available with a minimum of paperwork and red tape?

Wouldn't it be great if this insurance were also available, at bare-minimum cost, to all the 100% NMRA model railroad clubs in the U.S. and Canada? And to NMRA-affiliated SIGs such as the LDSIG and the

Handbook or you may contact Robert Amsler at [conv@nmra.org](mailto:conv@nmra.org) for further information.



## From Standards and Conformance

**New TN-12 Turnout Design submitted for consideration and action**

**by NMRA BOD**

This Technical Note, TN, has been posted for consideration and action at the next NMRA BOD meeting, February 2015.

This TN is a significant review of the current Recommended Practices, RPs, and forms the basis to make major changes to the RP-12.x series listing the dimensions of turnouts. Please submit your questions and suggestions to [Didrik Voss](mailto:Didrik.Voss@nmra.org), MMR, Manager, S&C Dept. before the BOD meeting. Your suggestions will be considered and may be adopted in future versions of the RPs.

## Register for the new NMRA website

[Ben Sevier, NMRA IT Manager](#)

Have you registered on the new NMRA Web Site yet? The completely rewritten NMRA web site ([www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org)) has "members only" items that are only available if you have logged into the site with your new member account. While there is much to see on the site for non-members, NMRA members who are logged in have access to NMRA Data Sheets, past editions of the *NMRA eBulletin* and the *NMRA Bulletin*, the President's Car column and many other types of items that may be of interest to you. There is also a page that shows you information that is currently held in your NMRA Membership record, with a button to send an email to the staff with any corrections you wish to make. However, you cannot make any changes on the web site; the information is "view only."

If you have not yet registered for your NEW account, some things to keep in mind: 1) no other NMRA logins or

OPSIG? And for events that NMRA Regions and Divisions co-sponsor in cooperation with non-NMRA groups such as the National Narrow Gauge Convention and the many RPM meets held across North America?

Well, this insurance IS available, for all the uses I've mentioned and more!

Each year, the NMRA purchases a General Liability Insurance Policy that provides up to \$1 million per event in protection for all NMRA business activities in the U.S. and Canada. All Region-, Division-, 100% NMRA Club- and NMRA SIG-sponsored events are covered up to the limit of liability provided for in the policy. Our provider this year, and for several years past, is the Peerless Insurance Company, a part of the Liberty Mutual Group. (Unfortunately we have not been able to arrange for similar insurance in other parts of the world, and dues for the Australasian and British Regions, is lower in reflection of that fact.)

This policy is in place, first, to protect the National NMRA corporation, and also to protect the interests of Regions, Divisions, 100% Clubs, NMRA-related SIGs, and NMRA members where conventions, meetings, and special events warrant coverage. The special events can include meets that a Region or Division co-sponsors along with non-NMRA groups. The policy even provides protection in addition to their homeowner's liability policy for NMRA members who open their private home layouts for NMRA-sponsored tours and operating sessions. It does not replace or duplicate standard homeowner's insurance, rather it offers the NMRA, its officers, tour organizers, and members supplemental lawsuit protection in the event of an injury or accident.

"Hmm, I don't see the general public or non-members listed as among those who are protected," you say. "Does this mean we can't let the general public or non-members attend our shows and other events?" No, injuries to the general public and non-members ARE covered, so go ahead and invite the general public to attend, if it's that kind of event! If someone is injured at our event, member or not, and he or she turns to us for reimbursement, THAT's when we're protected. That's what the insurance is for.

"Okay," you say, "this IS great. But nothing's ever free, so where's the catch? Who's paying for this?"

Well, we all are. The National NMRA purchases this policy each year with funds that come from our general budget, which includes member dues, income from conventions and other activities, investments, and other income. Then each Region and Division has access to the benefits of the policy, usually without any additional expense to them.

As you can imagine, the insurance company reasonably wants to know just who and what they're covering. So they ask that each year, each Region and Division provide NMRA HQ with a list of their activities, including locations, for the year. If an event or location changes during the year, it's not a problem - each group is asked to provide the best and most complete information they have available.

passwords will work on the new site - meaning, your Company Store account information, the account you may have created several years ago on the old NMRA web site, or any other NMRA login you may have will not be recognized on the new site. You must create a new account. 2) In order to create your new account, the email address you wish to use for the account must match the one in your membership record in the NRMA database. If this is not so, please contact the NMRA office and update your email address. 3) The registration process will send an email to the address we have in your membership record that provides a one time login. You need to make sure that your email system does not send the password email to your junk folder or trash! Once you have logged into the site with your new account, please change your password to one you can remember - you can always change it later.

One other note: if your membership has expired (you just hadn't gotten around to renewing yet...), you will not be able to create your account. If this is the case, please renew your membership, give the system a couple of days to update the website, then create the account.

There are instructions on how to create your account in the Frequently Asked Questions page on the website. You can find it by going to the bottom of the page (blue area) to the far right, under "About." If you have problems or questions creating your account, please send an email to [web@nmra.org](mailto:web@nmra.org) and one of the web team will assist you.

We are looking for suggestions from members on services or information they would like to see available on the NMRA website, either public or "member's only". What would be interesting to you? What would make the web site more useful to you?

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Editor:

[Gerry Leone](#), MMR, HLM, and [Chuck Diljak](#)

The insurance company also very reasonably wants NMRA HQ to know who our members and all our officers are, and to be sure that we are not providing protection to groups or individuals who are not members (except for when we are co-sponsoring an event). We pass this information on to the insurance company as asked.

Providing our coverage for co-sponsored events is a little more complicated. The insurance company, again very reasonably, wants to be sure that we're not handing out our coverage willy-nilly, so they require that certain conditions be met in order to call an event co-sponsored. These conditions are not at all unreasonable or difficult to meet, and are established to be sure that the NMRA or one of its Regions or Divisions is truly involved in the planning, management, and fortunes of the co-sponsored event.

These don't seem like unreasonable demands, do they? This is a great deal, especially when you consider the cost if each Region and Division needed to purchase this insurance on its own.

I remember that back in the days before the NMRA purchased this insurance for us, my Division had to buy its own liability policy at a cost of around \$1,000 per year. If you multiply that cost by the roughly 170 Divisions and the 15 Regions operating in the U.S. and Canada, plus our many 100% clubs, plus the cost of insurance for SIG activities and for co-sponsored events, the total bills for all these individual policies could be well over \$200,000 per year. Now, that's a lot of money!

Yet that same protection is available to all of us for little or no extra cost, just because we're NMRA members. You really can't beat a deal like that!

If all this sounds like as good a deal to you as it does to me, and if you want to know more, take a look at the Liability Insurance information available on our website, at <http://www.nmra.org/liability-insurance>. The first link on that page is a general introduction to the program, with a number of FAQs that we've collected over the years. Then the other links are to memos and forms that cover specific parts of the program.

After you've taken a look at the program and read all the questions and answers, you may have additional questions about how the program would apply to your particular event or situation. If that's the case, we encourage you to call HQ at 423-892-2846, or to email them at [nmrahq@aol.com](mailto:nmrahq@aol.com). Or you can email me at [mbrestel@zoomtown.com](mailto:mbrestel@zoomtown.com). We'll have the answers you need, or else we'll get them for you.

Insurance that's provided for you and your group, just because you're NMRA members, may seem like a deal that's too good to be true. But the value of this liability coverage has proven its worth many times over the years. There's really no reason for anyone in our U.S. and Canada NMRA family to miss out on this wonderful financial protection tool.

We look forward to hearing from you!

**Region and National Conventions**

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The NMRA eBulletin is an official bi-monthly production of the National Model Railroad Association, Inc. Publishing Department ([Don Phillips](#), Manager). Its purpose is to keep every NMRA member informed about organization news and events. If you know of an NMRA member who is not receiving this mailing, please direct them to [here](#) to update their email address. If you no longer wish to receive these mailings, please don't mark them as SPAM. Instead, click the Safe Unsubscribe link at the bottom of this page. ©2014 National Model Railroad Association, Inc., P.O. Box 1328, Soddy Daisy TN 37384.



(Only those Region conventions occurring within the next three months are listed)

[Aug 23-29: NMRA National Convention, Portland, OR](#)

## Master Model Railroaders



548: Dave Jacobs, MCoR  
549: Vincent Gallogly, NER

## In Future Issues of NMRA Magazine



The 2015 Election Ballot and candidate statements

- RTR Remodeling, Part 2
- The Sky's the Limit

Don't forget to visit the Nutmeg Division Newsletter

[http://www.nutmegdivision.com/main/sites/default/files/newsletters/NEWSLETTER%20VOL%2015%20ISSUE%203\\_0.pdf](http://www.nutmegdivision.com/main/sites/default/files/newsletters/NEWSLETTER%20VOL%2015%20ISSUE%203_0.pdf) to see many of the activities in your area.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald J. Pelletier [nmranutmegmembership@comcast.net](mailto:nmranutmegmembership@comcast.net)

Communication Manager / Membership Promotion Manager / Newsletter Editor

If you need talk with me please call 860-977-5573 any evening between 7:30 PM and 11:00 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>