



# NUTMEG FLYER



NEWSLETTER OF THE NUTMEG DIVISION, NORTHEASTERN REGION, NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION, SERVING MODEL RAILROADERS IN HARTFORD, LITCHFIELD, MIDDLESEX, NEW HAVEN, NEW LONDON, TOLLAND AND WINDHAM COUNTIES OF CONNECTICUT & HAMDEN AND HAMPSHIRE COUNTIES OF MASSACHUSETTS

Volume 9

February 2005

No.1



**TIME: 5:00 PM**

**TIME: 7:00 PM**

**MENU:** Baked Scrod, Chicken Masala,  
N.Y. Sirloin Steak, Chocolate Mousse.  
Cheese Tray and Bread, Butter, Coffee  
Tea, Soup or salad.

**COST:** \$27.00 Includes Tax & Gratuite

**SPEAKERS:** Charlie Bettinger & Ken  
May will show slides on Their trip through  
the Rockies: (America & Canadian Sides)

Contact Ken May at 872-3441  
before March 1, 2005

E-Mail: [kenneth.may@comcast.com](mailto:kenneth.may@comcast.com)

This meeting will be a "hands-on" clinic presented by Mike Tylick. The subject of the clinic will be weathering and finishing telephone poles and fences.

Attendees are requested to bring an Exacto knife with a sharp #11 blade, and a razor saw preferably with fine teeth. The Nutmeg Division will provide the telephone poles and fence material along with paint, brushes and paper towels.

A two dollar (\$2.00) donation is requested to cover the cost of materials





## Nutmeg Division

### President

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Email: joseph\_sokol@msn.com

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Email: kreegerjr@aol.com

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**Ken May** 71 Bluff Cap Road  
860-872-3441 Tolland, CT 06084  
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### Secretary

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### Achievement Program Chairman

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Email: ravancleef@msn.com

### Train Show Chairman

**Joe Sokol**  
Info above

### Member Aid Chairman

**Bob Van Cleef**  
Info above

### Membership Promotion Chairman

**Al Daley** 193 Coppermill Road  
860-721-9371 Wethersfield, CT 06109  
Email: alrmdaley@att.net+



Welcome the final "printed" version of the Nutmeg Flyer. Lack of sources and resources as well as funds have forced us to cut back on many projects and one of them is the snail mailed version of the flyer. The flyer will still be available online and notification of upcoming issues can be arranged to be emailed at your request. Just drop an email to myself or other members of the Brass Hats and you will be added to our email list.

A few issues back I mentioned that I had been sent a previously published story, from a member, to be published in the flyer for our benefit but I misplaced the original document. Well guess what I found while straightening out my "personal space" at home. So included in this issue of the flyer is that story from Wilfred Alexander Paul MacDonald. He takes us through a period in his life when railroads were the major mode of transport in this country.

As always I am more than willing to receive and publish any item of interest that our membership might enjoy. A story (fiction or actual), modeling tips, upcoming event(s), link(s) etc.. These are the type of things this flyer is here for. You can use it as a sounding board. Anyone interested in starting a Q&A? How about pictures or drawings. We could do a classified section. Maybe you've seen something in another newsletter that you think might work for us. . . .

John Kennedy



## Northeastern Region

### NER Vice President

**Al Daley**  
Info Above

### NER CT/RI Director

**Vin Gallogly** 105 Woodhaven Drive  
203-226-4947 Trumbull, CT 06611  
Email: railvin@optonline.net

### NMRA Trustee from the NER

**Paul Allard** 53 Rollin Irish Road  
802-893-2228 Milton, VT 05468  
Email: nert@hq.nmra.org

### LOST MEMBER

**Dave Mchugh**  
17 Lake Bonair Rd.  
Ellington, CT 06029-3417  
This was last known address, If anyone knows his present address, contact Joseph Sokol at 1-860-872-2240 or

# Looking Ahead!

by Al Daley

## Directions to:

**March 6, 2005 Annual Meeting  
at Elaine's Restaurant, 1841 Berlin Turnpike  
(Route 5/15)**

**Wethersfield Connecticut**

Telephone number 257-4191

This is located on the southbound side of the highway, a few hundred yards south of a Hooter's Restaurant. It is easily accessible from Routes I-84 and I-91(Exit 28).The restaurant is located approximately one mile from exit 28.

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## Directions to:

**May 20, 2005 Membership Meeting  
at the Wethersfield Police Department.**

## From either North or South:

Take Route I-91 to Exit 28, Routes 5/15 South, Wethersfield/Newington.

On Route 5/15, take Exit 85, Route 99 South, Wethersfield/Rocky Hill.

On Route 99, (Silas Deane Highway), continue to 2nd traffic signal and turn left into driveway between shopping center and police station. Dunkin Doughnuts on near corner at traffic signal.

If all parking spaces are occupied in front of police station, park in shopping center. DO NOT drive into fenced in area. Meeting Room is through double doors to left in entrance lobby of police station.

## From East:

Take Route 6 to Route 384 to Route 84.

On Route 84 take Exit 57(a left exit), Routes 91 South & 5/15 South, STAY IN LEFT LANE on Route 5/15 until Exit 85, Route 99 South (a right exit) comes into view. On Route 99, (Silas Deane Highway), continue to 2nd traffic signal and turn left into driveway between shopping center and police station. Dunkin Doughnuts on near corner at traffic signal.

The station is in a new brick two story building that sets back from the road with parking for maybe 10 cars in front. The address is 200 Silas Deane Highway. The meeting room is beyond the pair of doors to the left in the lobby. There is plenty of parking in the adjacent shopping center. The shopping center extends from the first to the second traffic signal noted below. The telephone number of the police station is 860-571-2900 (for routine calls).

**CONNECTICUT-Willimantic,Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum Train Show,**  
March 20, 2005, Windham High School  
355 High Street, 10AM-3PM  
Adults-\$5.00; Sr.Citizens (62yrs+)\$4.00  
Children (Under 12)  
Free;Make and Take Box Car kit for kids under 12.  
Information-Joseph Sokol 1-860-872-2240  
e-mail-joseph\_sokol@msn.com.

**CONNECTICUT-Cheshire, Cheshire High School  
RAM Band Train Show,**  
March 6, 2005, Cheshire High School  
525 Main Street (Rt. 10), 10AM-3PM  
Adults-\$5.00; Children (Under 10) FREE

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## Here is an update on the Hartford Convention negotiations.

It is apparent to us that no single Division of the NMRA within 50 miles of Hartford can perform or carry out the required activities of a national convention on its own. They have limited membership and to reach the required 150 volunteers more than one division's resources are required.

With the Northeastern Region's Board meeting set for November 21 in Wethersfield, CT, just south of Hartford, it was felt a 2009 planning session, where interested NER Board members and our "volunteers" could gather, would facilitate an ad hoc convention planning organizing session.

And thus, 30 members from different divisions within 80-100 miles of Hartford met following the NER Board meeting.

The result: enthusiasm. Several committees are now forming along the lines of the national convention handbook outline. Folks stepped forward to undertake tasks and lead others. A chair was anointed, John Sacerdote, a long-time modeler, well known here in Connecticut and Massachusetts. He is currently floor manager for the Railroad Hobby Show at the Eastern States Exposition Grounds (known locally as the Big E) in West Springfield.

The next meet took place at the Big E around on Saturday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, in the Johnson Building amphitheatre to develop a "roll out" with a much larger group.

Following this open session, an organizing group met with Henry Jordan, HMRA Convention Coordinator through the early organizing.

As stated earlier, they are an ad hoc group. One member who is a lawyer, has suggested that a Not for Profit Corporation be formed for the 2009 convention activities and that this entity enter into a the contract with National.



# Web Sites

## NMRA

<http://www.nmra.org>

## Northeastern Region NMRA

<http://page.cthome.net/kenmay/NERHOME.HTML>

## Nutmeg Division NER

<http://pages.cthome.net/kenmay/NERDIV05.HTML>

## NER Convention Information

<http://pages.cthome.net/kenmay/nerspr02.html>

## Connecticut Railroad Attractions

<http://www.railterminal.com/ctr.html>

## Don Irace

### Providence & Worcester Model Railroad

<http://www.trainweb.org/pwmrr>

## Ed Juairé

### East Coast Railroad

<http://railfan145.com/>

## Bob Davis

### Mashamou Valley & Western Railroad

<http://www.members.tripod.com/railfan10/>

## Bob Van Cleef

### North River Railway

<http://www.northriverrailway.com/Home.html>

## George Sellios

### Franklin and South Manchester Railroad

<http://www.horailroad.com/frm/fsmlayout.html>

## Connecticut G Scalers

<http://members.tripod.com/~CTGScalers/>

## Adobe Acrobat

To download free Acrobat Reader

<http://www.adobe.com>



# Internet Resource

Bob Van Cleef, of the Nutmeg Division, created an internet web site with a lot of links to various places on the internet. There are various sections for people to visit. The web site address is:

<http://www.northriverrailway.com/nutmeglinks.html>

## **Below is the main page from Bob's web site:**

***PLEASE NOTE:** This web site only works with Microsoft Internet Explorer and will not display correctly with Netscape.*



HELPFUL LINKS  
FOR NUTMEG  
DIVISION  
MEMBERS  
NUTMEG LINKS PAGE

## Welcome

The following links are made available to members of the Nutmeg Division for the viewing pleasure and use of its members. If you have a favorite sight or would like to see any changes, additions or corrections, please contact us at the Nutmeg Division.

## Clubs

## Layouts

## Museums

## Supplies

## Misc.

## Fun Stuff

## BACK

## DISCLAIMER:

These links have been provided courtesy of Bob Van Cleef of the North River Railway and are presented on an "as is" basis. Please note that we can not be responsible for accuracy or content of any sight not under our direct control.



**Nutmeg Division  
Northeastern Region  
National Model Railroad Assn.**

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting  
Dec. 13, 2004

The meeting was held at George Reitze's home. Attending were Jack Kreeger, John Kennedy, Joe Sokol, Ken May, Al Daley, and George Reitze. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

**TREASURERS REPORT**

Ken May

The checkbook balance is \$429.22. A deposit for the fall train show has not yet been made.

**COMMITTEES and ACTIVITIES**

Nutmeg Flyer

The next issue of the flyer will be mailed at the end of December. Input should be to John Kennedy before Christmas. If a new web master can be found future issues will be posted on the web rather than being mailed. A volunteer familiar with web access is being sought.

Joe Sokol will mail postcards reminding members of the Jan. 14 membership meeting and the March (6 or 20) annual dinner.

**Membership Promotion**

Al Daley and Jack Kreeger will set up and man the display for the West Springfield show in Jan. Additional help would be welcome. Additional handouts will be requested from National.

**Membership Services**

No report

**Achievement Awards**

No report

**Regional Business**

The spring 2005 convention will be held  
May 13-15 in Nashua, N.H.  
Fall 2005 Stamford, CT. (4 days)  
Spring 2006 New Jersey  
Fall 2006 Worcester, MA.  
Spring 2007 Open (Hartford, CT. ??)

Fall 2007 Open

**OLD BUSINESS**

Business cards- none requested

Mailing List- Updated by John Kennedy

Update web site- It was reported that Matt Dobush is no longer able to maintain the web site. A replacement is being sought.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Nutmeg events

**Jan. 14:** membership meeting Wethersfield police station, make a billboard.

**March 6:** Annual dinner at Elaines Restaurant, Wethersfield, CT.

**May:** Joe will try to arrange a visit to Sam Posey's layout.

**July:** no activity

**Sept.:** show and tell at the Wethersfield police station.

**Oct. or Nov.:** Nutmeg train show  
Annual picnic date and location TBD.

**2009 National Convention**

An introductory meeting was held. About 30 members attended, most of whom indicated an interest in assisting. The next meeting will be held at the West Springfield train show at 4:45 PM on Saturday.

The next Nutmeg BOD meeting will be held at Jack Kreegers home on Feb. 7, 2005.

**Benefit of the Order-** no report

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

George Reitze

Secretary

Secretary





## SHANTY TALK

By: Wilfred "Bill" Alexander Paul Mac Donald

As a young lad just out of high school in 1952, I was employed by the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad as a "Mail and Baggage Handler," working nights in New Haven. I did not have a car then, so I took the Connecticut bus to work.

I worked the second and third tricks every night, or when needed. Being on the Buck, or Spare Board as it was called, I was ready to go in at a minute's notice and to stay overnight until the first bus the following morning, in all kinds of weather. We began the evenings working on the station tracks and finished up the trick in the warehouse. It was laborious work, lifting 80# sacks of mail.

I met some very interesting people along the way, like Zeke, a rather huge gentleman who smoked cigars every night and drove the forklift. His job was to bring out loads of mail to the boxcars. One night when I was having a rough time handling the mail, Zeke said, "Stand back, Kid, and I'll show you how to load this car." He drove his forklift right onto the car and dumped the contents of mail onto the floor. I was surprised that the car could hold the forklift, but not concerned whether it was against the rules. It certainly make my job easier from then on.

Mail was sorted out on pallets. Certain pallets were used for various designated areas in the United States. The Pittsburgh (Pitts) pallet included California bound mail, Texas was for mail bound for that state only, Chicago (CIC) was for mail to the northwest, and Washington D.C. was used for mail to points south.

Each evening we met the arriving trains from New York and Boston and unloaded the mail to be dropped off at New Haven from their baggage cars. The mail contained parcel post, Sears and Roebuck catalogs from Chicago, and Readers' Digest from New York State, and of course all the other magazines. The catalogs and magazines were bound in packages of the same weight. Basically, our job was to sort the first class mail and get the trains loaded with their outbound mail in a given time schedule. We shared space in the office with the Railway Express Company while breaking down the mail for the outbound trains.

Our lunch hour began at 8 o'clock p.m. on the second trick or 4 o'clock on the third trick. When winter arrived we would try to climb aboard one of the steam-heated coaches that were always standing by, 24 hours a day, in case high ranking officials might be in a hurry to make an important meeting somewhere along the

The following story was submitted to us by Wilfred "Bill" Alexander Paul Mac Donald, C.E.O., New Haven Railroad (HO). It was originally published in The Hub Headlight, newsletter. Bill graciously allowed us to publish it in the hopes that it will influence someone to submit a story or idea of their own. ENJOY!

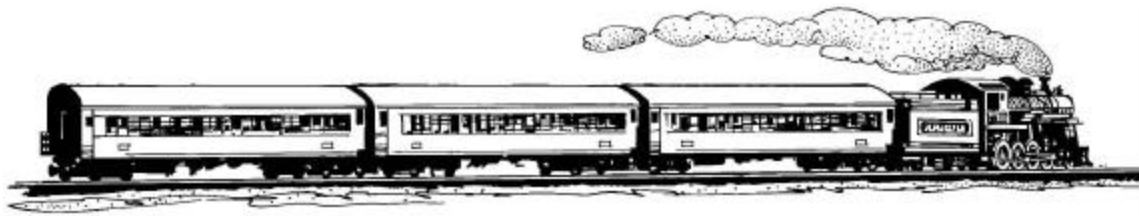
line.

Each night we would get a train that started out in Washington, D.C., arriving in New Haven carrying nothing but "next morning editions" of the Morning Washington Post, New York Times, New York News and the New York Herald. The train would be separated at New Haven. Some of the cars went to Hartford, CT and Springfield, MA, while the rest were sent to Boston. One evening, the station clerk in charge of mails sent a car up to Springfield, MA by mistake. It took about eight hours to get the car back to New Haven and headed toward Boston. I felt sorry for the clerk, but mistakes happen.

I left the railroad to join the U.S. Air Force, and after serving for eight years I went to work for the U.S. Post Office in New Haven, CT. The U.S. Post Office was located next door to the New Haven station. Even as I worked for the Post Office, the railroad still had my name posted on its Spare Board. The railroad had no idea of where I was. I guess I forgot to notify them when I was enlisted. Eventually they located me and terminated me on the spot. I was generous; I didn't claim any credit for the last eight years of duty on the railroad when my name was always posted on the Spare Board.

*Wilfred "Bill" Alexander Paul Mac Donald is a resident of North Haven, Connecticut and a paid up member of the Nutmeg Division. Although it is hard for him to attend railroad shows now, he has a 16 x 21 ft. HO scale pike in his basement that captures the spirit of the old New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad with a 4-track mainline around it's perimeter. Several years ago, Glen Owens published two photographs of Bill's layout in the Hub Headlight.*





# Model Railroading Clubs

Compiled by Al Daley

## **Connecticut G Gauge Module Club** *G Scale*

Dave Snow (co-founder), 68 Hacienda Circle  
Plantsville, CT 06479, (860) 276-9324

## **Connecticut G Scalpers** *G Scale*

George L. Edgerton, 111 Fan Hill Road  
Monroe, CT 06460, (203) 268-3410  
Round Robin (meet in members homes monthly)

## **Connecticut S Gaugers** *S Scale*

Bill Fuhrman, 174 Lukes Road, Bethlehem, CT 06751  
(203) 266-7935,

## **Connecticut Society of Ferroequinologists and Model Railway Engineers** *O Scale*

See the Silk City Model Railroad

## **Hartford Garden Railway Society** *G Scale*

Contact Person: Lee Brandes (860) 291-0611  
P.O. Box 150  
South Windsor, CT 06074

## **Housatonic Model Railroad Club** *HO Scale*

Contact Person: Jeff Dean  
P. O. Box 234, Fairfield, CT 06824

## **Mohegan - Pequot Model RR Club** *G, HO, N, O Scales (Modular)*

P. O. Box 276, Westbrook, CT 06498  
Contact Person: Bill Paradis, (860) 434-7040  
Location: Bill Memorial Library, Rt. 117, Ledyard, CT  
Meets 2nd & 4th Sun. at 7:30 p.m. (Once per month in July and August).

## **New Haven Society of Model Engineers** *HO Scale*

Wallingford, CT  
Contact Person: Blaise Vece, (203) 239-9367  
Location: Wallingford Train Station, 37 Hall Ave.  
Wallingford, CT  
Meets every Friday night.

## **Silk City Model Railroad Club** *HO, N, O scales*

71 Hilliard Street, Manchester, CT 06040  
Contact: Robert Bell or Michael Halvorsen,  
(860) 646-0610  
Meets 1st & 3rd Sun. from 2:30-4:00 p.m.

## **Stamford Model Railroad Club, Inc.** *O scale*

P. O. Box 2123, Darien, CT 06820  
Contact Person: Bob Wagner, (203) 966-2355  
Location of Club: St. John's Episcopal Church, 625 Main Street, Stamford, CT  
Meets every Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. (Operation 1st Tues.).

## **Tobacco Valley Modular Railroad Club** *HO Scale (Modular)*

Contact Person: Ken May, (860) 872-3441  
Location of Club: Site to be determined

## **Torrington Area Model Railroaders** *HO, N, S, G or Large Scale*

50 Andrews St., Torrington, CT 06790  
Contact: Kevin Hales, (860) 482-5241  
Location of Club: Lewis St., Torrington, CT  
Business Meeting 7 p.m. the 1st Tuesday of the month and running or clinic after. Every Wednesday at 7 p.m. is an operating night for those who would like to run.

## **Valley HO Track Club** *HO Scale (Modular)*

Contact People: Bob Collett, (203) 929-4084 or John "Duke" O'Connell, President, (203) 389-8967  
Location of Club: Round robin at members' houses.  
Meets monthly.

## **Valley N Track Club** *N Scale (Modular)*

Contact People: Art Frankforter, (203) 929-4986 or Jim Dahl, (203) 748-0670  
Location of Club: Round robin at members' houses.  
Meets 2nd Wednesday.

To visit the website of some of the clubs, go to the NMRA website (shown in List of Websites), click on *Directory of Word Wide Rail Sites*, click on *Clubs: States A-E*, click on *CT*.