



# NEMO Newsletter

Quarterly Journal of the North East Map Organization

NUMBER 63

May 2008

## NEMO – 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting *Landlocked but Far from At Sea*

Newsbank is hosting our two-day gathering at their Chester, Vermont facilities. Walks-in are possible but likely not practical given the location. Events will be held at the Newsbank Conference Center (352 Main Street) unless otherwise noted.

Registration fee: \$140 individual; \$180 couple; \$60 student (limited space) – this includes: Thursday breakfast, **Thursday Dinner Event**, lunch both days as well as coffee, tea, and other items at breaks.

Advance “dinner event only” registration is available for \$60, this includes a buffet with vegetarian choices as well as beer &/or wine.

Questions/Comments? Please contact:  
Dorothy (Dore) Nash 781.422.8933  
email: [dnash@oem.nyc.gov](mailto:dnash@oem.nyc.gov)

Thursday kicks off at 9:30 a.m. with an hour-long tour of Newsbank digital production facilities as the prelude to welcoming remarks & presentations. The rest of the day includes:

❖ Boston Public Library map cataloger **Stephanie Lewis** will provide an overview of pre-revolutionary maps of Boston & the way in which a formerly unidentified state of the Bonner Price first published in 1722 fits into previously identified editions.

❖ **Ronald Grim**, Curator of Maps at the Boston Public Library, will present an overview of the Leventhal Center’s new “Boston & Beyond” exhibit and introduce the virtual tour of these New England bird’s eye views.

❖ **Joel W. Grossman**, author of two articles in the recently issued *Encyclopedia of Archeology*, will speak on geospatial strategies for discovering mid-17<sup>th</sup> century Dutch New Amsterdam.

❖ **TerraGo Technologies & PenBay Media** reps will be on hand to present recent developments in information visualization. – Fletcher House (472 Main Street)

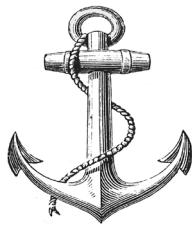
❖ Our **featured after-dinner speaker** is **David Cobb**, Curator of Maps & Head of the Harvard Map collection. David edited a well-respected “cartobibliography” that serves as the checklist for maps at the Vermont Historical Society. The NEMO crew looks to David for things future as well as past: we trust he will touch on digital imaging efforts integral to Harvard’s Geospatial Library as well as maps prior to 1900.

Friday dawns with additional presentations, the traditional **map swap & a poster session**. NEMO’s **annual business meeting** will be held over brunch.

Friday afternoon’s activities will be determined by critical mass for **Vintage Train Tour & Clambake** (\$75 per person) - interest is currently being polled at Newsbank as well as the local Chamber of Commerce to assure the minimum of 50 participants necessary for Green Mountain Railroad to run a pre-season premiere that coincides with NEMO shore leave at Chester Depot. <<NB: optional event **not included** in NEMO registration>>

**Friday’s fallback excursion** is a late lunch/early supper at the Curtis All American BBQ nearby on Rte 103 South. “Curtis’ famous ribs, chicken, and beef brisket are slow-cooked over hardwood, served with Curtis’ signature barbeque sauce, and homemade sides. Beer and wine available.” <http://jschumacher.typepad.com/joe/2007/12/curtis-all-amer.html>

“*Chester combined vintage Victorian architecture with just the right critical mass of lodging and dining. Near to Chester is the smaller Grafton which features Federal period architecture.*” for more info: [http://www.berkshirefinearts.com/show\\_article.php?article\\_id=366&category=travel](http://www.berkshirefinearts.com/show_article.php?article_id=366&category=travel)



# NEMO Meeting

22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the North East Map Organization

NewsBank, Chester, Vermont

June 5-6, 2008

## REGISTRATION FORM

Feel free to copy this form.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, ST Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**If you have any questions about the meeting, contact**

Dorothy (Dore) Nash – 781-422-8933 / email: [dnash@oem.nyc.gov](mailto:dnash@oem.nyc.gov)

**Registration fee: \$140 single / \$180 couple / \$60 student**

*(includes \$15 NEMO membership, Thursday/Friday Breakfast & Lunch, Thursday Dinner Event)*

*You must register by May 24, 2008: walk-ins for full meeting if room permits*

***Instead of the Full Meeting you may choose the Thursday Dinner Event only.***

- ☐ **Single Registration \$140**   ☐ **Couple Registration \$180**  
☐ **Thursday Dinner only: \$60 (Advance only)**

**Lodging (SEE REVERSE SIDE)**

***Limited room availability, register as soon as possible.***

☐ ***Sign me up for the Newsbank tour (Thurs. a.m.-60-75 minutes)***

Mail form with check (payable to: NEMO or North East  
Map Organization) **by May 24, 2008** to:

Angelique Jenks-Brown  
Science Library  
Binghamton University  
P.O. Box 6012  
Binghamton, NY 13902-6012

Registration questions to Angelique:  
607-777-4596 / [ajbrown@binghamton.edu](mailto:ajbrown@binghamton.edu)

Registration: _____
Lodging: _____
Total: \$ _____

\*If you **do not plan to attend the meeting**, send \$15 for annual NEMO dues. Fill out the name/address portion above and check box to the right.



***Check here if you are renewing  
Membership Only!***

**Meeting details: <http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/asl/maps/nemo/nemo2008.html>**

## Lodging

*Because of limited room availability,  
We encourage you to register as soon as you can.*

Newsbank has extended the use of several houses on their property, with the option of staying over until Sunday June 8. There are a limited number of “no frills” shared rooms available to fully paid registrants on a first come, first serve basis. These have kitchen facilities and shared baths – most suitable for a group of good friends &/or easygoing acquaintances.

**House #1:** accommodates 10 people in 5 bedrooms – 3 with 2 twins; 1 with 3 twins; 1 with one twin (access thru a twin shared room), both up & down stairs with shared baths

**House #2:** accommodates 10 people in 5 bedrooms/each with two twins, both up & downstairs -- 2 of the twin rooms are noted as small but both have private baths while the other three twin rooms share bath facilities

**House #3 Up:** accommodates up to 6 people in 3 bedrooms – 2 with 2 twins, 1 with 1 double, all share baths

**House #3 Down:** accommodates up to 8 people in 4 bedrooms – 3 with 2 twins, 1 with 1 double/noted as small room, all share baths

**One private apartment is also available** – this third floor unit has a large front room with 2 twin beds, a small living room & a private kitchen. Charge will be \$100 per night, with preference given to 3-night (Wed/Thurs/Fri) stay.

**All other accommodations are \$40 per person per night**, please feel free to call & reserve one of the houses for a group. Contact: Dorothy (Dore) Nash at 718/422-8933 / email [dnash@oem.nyc.gov](mailto:dnash@oem.nyc.gov) to express interest & be paired with potential housemates.

**My NEMO mates & I want a house to ourselves!**

We need:

\_\_\_ beds Wed 6/4; \_\_\_ beds Thurs 6/5; \_\_\_ beds Fri 6/6; \_\_\_ beds Sat 6/7

I want to stay with the cool crew, put me in touch with housemates!

\_\_\_ Wed 6/4; \_\_\_ Thurs 6/5; \_\_\_ Fri 6/6; \_\_\_ Sat 6/7

## Chester Area General Information and Lodging Alternatives

The Chester Village Green, in close proximity to Newsbank facilities, is approximately 88 miles from Albany County Airport & 129 miles from the Burlington International Airport and 114 miles from Bradley International/north of Hartford, Connecticut.

Nearby Bellows Falls is the arrival point a daily train to/from NYC: leaves Penn Station at 11:30am & arrives in VT at 5:55pm; returns from VT each day at 11:56am & arrives in NYC at 6:25pm. Fare is \$86 round trip absent any discounts/special offers.

Greyhound also runs bus service into Bellows Falls, three trips each day from NYC:

6am, arrives 12:05pm; 9:15am, arrives 3:35pm; 1:30pm, arrives 7:50pm. Return NYC: 7:40am, arrives 1:45pm OR 1:30pm, arrive 7:50pm. Fares vary with discounts/special offers (e.g., companion fares). Round trip 7-day advance purchase is \$63.

**Meeting organizers will arrange to meet conference participants arriving at Bellows Falls if advance notice is provided for scheduled arrival(s).**

Local Inns/B&Bs run +\$200 per day in season which begins June 1. We are waiting on possible courtesy rates at the Fullerton Inn, which is closed until May 1 (mud season!). There are nearby alternatives within a 20 minute drive, here are two examples:

Best Western Ludlow Colonial Motel  
<http://www.bestwesternludlow.com/>

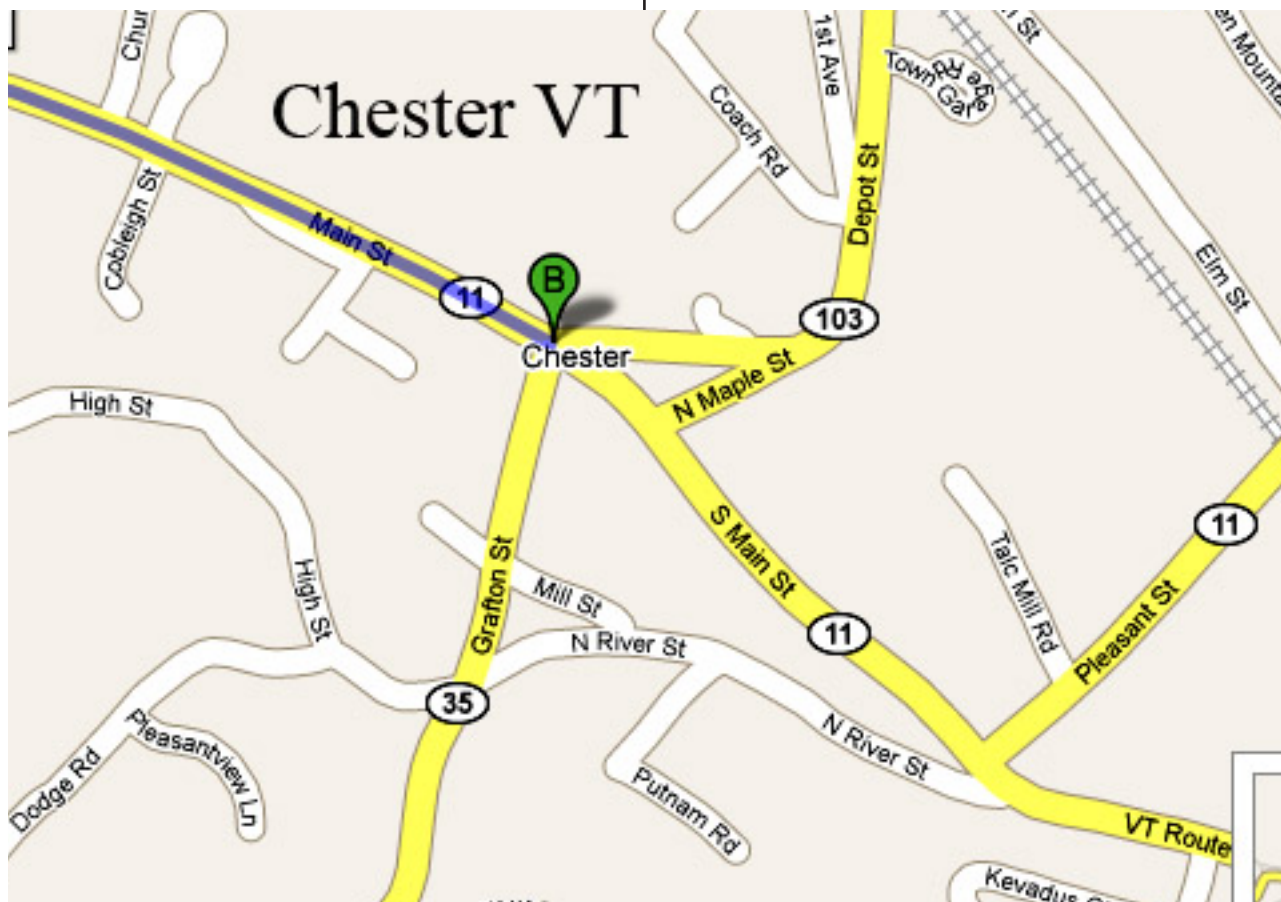
93 Main St  
Ludlow, VT 05149  
(802) 228-8188  
\$110-\$140 per double/queen room

Happy Trails Motel

<http://www.happytrailsmotel.com/welcome.html>

321 Route 103 South  
Ludlow, VT 05149  
Local B&Bs are +\$20 per night  
\$69 per night queen room

Note that there is a 9% VT state tax on accommodations (excepting the "first come, first serve" Newsbank housing on offer to early registrants).





# Map Swap

## DON'T FORGET TO BRING MAPS TO THE MEETING TO SHARE



### Correction

In the last issue, one of the book reviews was cut off and so incomplete. The following page contains the complete review as it should have appeared in January 2008. We apologize for the mishap and thank you for your patience.

## PRESS RELEASE

### BOSTON & BEYOND

A Bird's Eye View of New England

About Bird's Eye Views | Boston | Beyond Boston |



### *Boston and Beyond* *A Bird's Eye View of New England*

an exhibit from the Norman B. Leventhal Map Center at the Boston Public Library  
Place: McKim Building, Boston Public Library,  
Copley Square, Boston, MA

Admission: Free

Times: Daily. January – June 2008

Contact: Eileen Warburton [ewarburton@bpl.org](mailto:ewarburton@bpl.org)  
617-859-2138

*Boston and Beyond: A Bird's Eye View of New England* marks the public debut of a renowned American collection of 19<sup>th</sup> century bird's eye views. The free exhibit from the Norman B. Leventhal Map Center at the Boston Public Library runs daily at the Central Library, Copley Square, Boston, from January 8 until the end of June, 2008.

In an age before flight, bird's eye views were highly unusual maps that fantasized an aerial perspective of a town as imagined from an oblique angle of about 2,000 to 3,000 feet. Like a miniaturized village, the town "below" appears in minute detail showing street patterns, the architectural elements of houses, the factories, churches, parks and cemeteries, the wharves and the railroads that characterized each community.

"Bird's eye views represent a unique cartographic medium," said exhibit curator Ronald E. Grim, "because they defy most cartographic conventions. North is seldom at the top as we expect, for example, because these images have been positioned to emphasize the economic and cultural features most important to that town."

After the Civil War, towns throughout New England proudly commissioned these views as civic "portraits" of their growing communities to advertise for new industries and new residents. All over the region, expanding urban centers posed for a picture that froze their image in an era of enormous social change.

Continued on page 7



## Reviews

Wood, Denis, Ward L. Kaiser, and Bob Abramms, *Seeing Through Maps: Many Ways to See the World*. Amherst, MA: ODT Inc., 2006 (ISBN 1931057206). viii, 152 p.: ill., maps; 22 x 28cm.

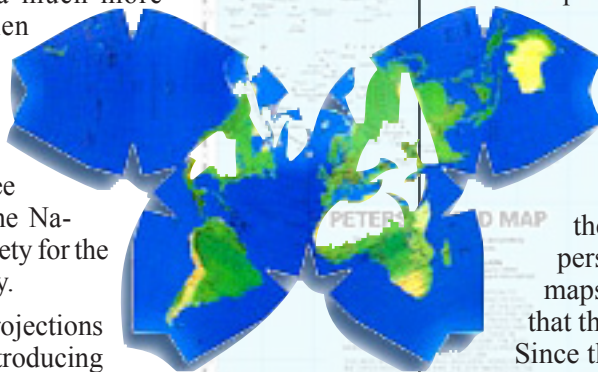
Abramms, Bob, *Many Ways to See the World: A Thirty Minute Tour of Intriguing World Map images*. Amherst, MA: ODT Inc., 2006. DVD video.

*Reviewed by Reed Lowrie, Cabot Library, Harvard University*

The double-edged title of this book, first published in 2003, refers both to how we use maps to see the world, and how we can learn to look critically at what's on the paper (or screen) to see the thinking that lies behind the map. Given that the book is published by ODT—publishers of the controversial Peters map—and that it has a quote on the front from noted leftist historian Howard Zinn, the reader would be excused for expecting a polemical treatment of the subject. In fact the book is a very balanced study of map projection and of the uses and misuses of maps in the contemporary world.

The bulk of the book is devoted to the history and practice of map projection. The first several chapters offer a primer on the subject and a brief gloss on the development of the Mercator projection and its later use as a general purpose world map. Other projections, including the Peters, are introduced and used as a means of talking about the impossibility of having both accurate size and accurate shape. Throughout this discussion the authors hammer home the point that viewers must always be aware of the map's purpose, and that the projection must coincide with this purpose. Mercator is an excellent projection for what it was designed for—navigation—but a much more questionable one when it is used in world geopolitical mapping. Compromise projections are reviewed in relationship to the three projections used by the National Geographic Society for the bulk of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The discussion of projections is used as a way of introducing more unusual maps, including world maps displaying the southern hemisphere at the top of the map. This is a useful way of stimulating thinking about mapping conventions, and their consequences, where north becomes equated with “top,” and by extension, with “good” and “heaven,” while the south becomes allied with



## Seeing Through Maps

### Many Ways to See the World

Denis Wood,  
Ward L. Kaiser,  
Bob Abramms



*"An ingenious way of looking at the world"*  
Howard Zinn, bestselling author, *A People's History of the United States*

“bottom,” “bad” and “hell.” Earlier in the book they call this phenomenon the “Mercator-in-the-mind,” where by constantly seeing one view of the world we start to believe that this is in fact what the world looks like. An obvious point that is ignored in the discussion, however, is that world maps are designed to be facsimiles of globes, and the earth is indeed oriented in only one way. The northern hemisphere is always “above” the southern hemisphere, the artic is on the “top” of the planet and Antarctica the “bottom.” It is not only northern cultural and political dominance that dictates that the north is shown at the top of a world map.

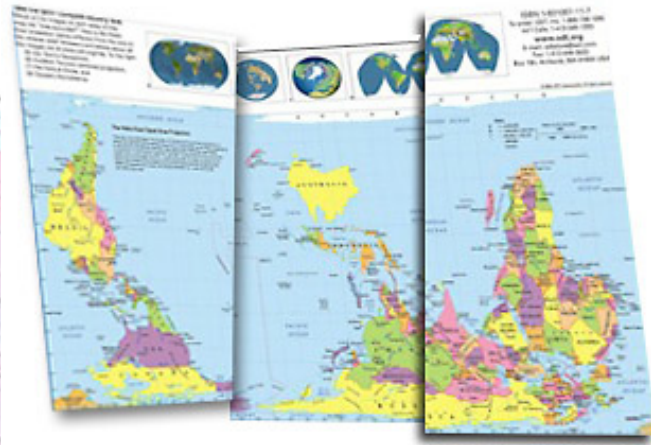
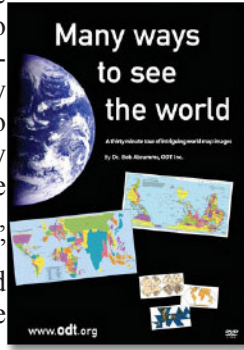
Following the discussion of projection is a more general one on mapping and the process of selecting what is and isn't shown on any given map. Van Sant's GeoSphere Map is used as an example of a map that purports to be highly accurate, yet is a collage of thousands of satellite images, stretched into a Robinson projection, erasing all evidence of clouds, and making the entire earth bathed in daylight. While there is nothing wrong with that per se, the photographic look of the map connotes that it is something that in fact it is not: an accurate picture of the world. This dovetails into a distinction that is at the heart of the book: the need to tell the difference between what a map *denotes* and what it *connotes*. In fact (denotation), the Mercator is a “conformal projection on which lines of constant compass are straight lines,” but what it connotes is the “world... as it really is!” Likewise, the Peters is an equal-area projection in fact, but the message, or connotation, is that it's “fair to all peoples.”

The final chapters extend the discussion to the power of maps to influence thought and perspective. The authors argue not only that maps play a role in constructing our reality, but that there is no such thing as an objective reality. Since this is a topic that has engaged thinkers for centuries, some may pause in wonder at a one paragraph dismissal of objective reality. Nevertheless, the authors are persuasive in their discussion of the ability of maps to create a view of reality and to do this in some measure by never indicating that this is what they are doing. In what could be a summary of the book, they write that “seeing



through maps [is] to admit that truth is found in many places and seen from many angles.” On the final pages, the authors point out that part of the work of maps in creating reality is to perpetuate the existing power structures. Maps are generally created by people in powerful positions who want to maintain those positions. By constantly asking what the purpose of the maps is, and who created it, rather than by accepting it as a “real” view of the world, the enlightened map reader can really begin to see through maps.

None of this will likely be new to map librarians or to other professionals who do a lot of work with maps.



The book seems best suited for upper level high school students, lower level undergraduates, or the interested lay reader. It is clearly written, in a conversational tone, and explains any concepts that might be new to the reader. The production values are a little below par: there is no color inside—which is unfortunate given the number of map reproductions—and the line drawings sometimes look a little like clip art. Libraries also should plan on rebinding if the book gets even moderate use. The review copy came with a DVD that is essentially a half-hour lecture by Bob Abrams of ODT, covering the same territory as the book. It could be viewed independently, or in concert with the book. The book has two appendices. The first covers the use of the Peters projection in human resource training and adult education and will be of limited use. Appendix B, however, is a detailed table of map projections with an example and brief description of each as well as a note on their individual strengths and weaknesses. This appendix alone may be worth the cost of the book, which all map libraries should consider purchasing anyway, as it is an excellent introduction to a complex topic.

(Color versions of some of the maps discussed in the book can be seen, and purchased, at the ODT web site, where this book is also available: <http://odtmaps.com>.)

[Editor's note: Chapter one of *Seeing Through Maps* may be downloaded from the website.]

### *Boston and Beyond...* Continued from page 5

Today, what we see is an aerial snapshot of the region's vitality and urbanization at the very moment in history when industrialization and immigration transformed New England from its rural beginnings to the robust engine of America's economy.

“This 500 piece collection of bird's eye views,” said Dr. Grim, “is really remarkable because, outside of the Library of Congress, no other institution holds so many or such fine examples.”

Unseen by the public for over 50 years, these bird's eye views have recently been preserved through a prestigious *Save America's Treasures* federal award in which the National Trust for Historic Preservation declared that these maps are of “national significance” and possess “exceptional value in illustrating the intellectual and cultural heritage of the United States.”

The Leventhal Map Center manages the historic map and atlas collection of the Boston Public Library to make it accessible to educators and the world at large. Teachers are encouraged to bring their students to *Boston and Beyond* for a specially guided tour. Transportation is underwritten if needed.

Education is the Leventhal Map Center's focus. Their philosophy is that maps are a unique, highly graphic resource for integrating different learning skills and ideas into classroom teaching. They provide diverse and innovative curricular materials aligned with the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) through their website, <http://maps.bpl.org>. They also staff a teachers' hotline to offer advice and direct support for incorporating maps into any lesson plans or approaches.



An impressive variety of *Teacher Resources* are available on the Map Center's website, <http://maps.bpl.org>, accessible through a range of portals like age and grade, content knowledge, skill development, and critical thinking. A teacher, for example, could plan a focus on the “Age of Exploration” while also fostering research or creative writing skills while emphasizing critical awareness of historical bias or political justice. There are in-depth resources like *Maps in the News* that offer detailed analyses of contemporary global hot spots through maps. Archived to date are comprehensive packages on Darfur, Iraq, Bolivia, New Orleans, and, soon, China.

Roni Pick, Director of the Norman B. Leventhal Map Center, explained, “I can't believe the opportunity we have to inspire people of every age and background to think in challenging ways about the world we have inherited, and to use fresh perspectives to examine politics, geography, culture, the environment, ethnicity, and history through maps.”

The Map Center's website, <http://maps.bpl.org> is a spectacular, effortless way to explore the maps in the library's collection, take a virtual tour of all Leventhal Map Center exhibits, or read interpretative analyses of global history through maps. Content-rich, the site is packed with more than a thousand maps from the middle-1400s to yesterday's GIS images. The intuitive design allows for easy access and superbly sharp resolution. A recently-updated “zoomify” feature smoothly delivers precise details as the viewer moves comfortably over the map. Images, even tiny details, may be downloaded or printed. By February, map reproductions may be ordered online for direct delivery.

## Are You There?

The NEMO website includes pages by members or their collections and we want to list yours. The best way to get listed is to send your link and a paragraph annotation. Visit the website for examples: <http://www.northeast-map.org/>. Click on "Member Pages" and take a look.

## Are You Here?

While you are at it, do want to publicize a website or page that you did, or one that you want to tell your carto-friends about?

Submit the info and link to the *NEMO Newsletter* and we'll make sure to let the membership know in the next issue. Write an article or description and send it to the editor.



## Ahoy, NEMO Members

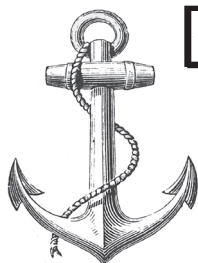
Thursday & Friday, June 5-6, 2008

22nd Annual Meeting at

NewsBank — Chester, Vermont

# REGISTER TODAY!

North East Map Organization  
c/o David J. Bertuca, Map Librarian  
Arts & Sciences Libraries  
225 Capen Hall  
University at Buffalo  
BUFFALO NY 14260-1672



Did your membership expire?  
If this box is checked  
Please renew today!

## The NEMO Newsletter

Quarterly Journal of the North East Map Organization

Number 63

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Published quarterly by the North East Map Organization (NEMO), all rights reserved. Contact the editor for permission to reproduce material. The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of NEMO nor its members.

We welcome contributions and suggestions. Please submit materials to the editor by e-mail, 3.5" disk (PC/Mac (Word, RTF, or ASCII, tif, jpg)) CD-ROM, or by sending a typewritten document. Submissions and newsletter questions should be directed to:

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phone: 716-645-2947 x229

fax: 716-645-3710

[dbertuca@buffalo.edu](mailto:dbertuca@buffalo.edu)

**NEMO** (North East Map Organization) is dedicated to serving as a unifying body for all who use, produce, collect, and market maps and cartographic information in the Northeast; increasing communication between all interested in maps; and working with state, regional, and national organizations and government agencies in dissemination of maps and cartographic information. NEMO's principal region is CT, DE, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT, and Ontario/Québec.

**NEMO Membership** is \$15 per year. Membership year runs June-May and *NEMO Newsletter* subscriptions are included with membership. Back issues for the current year are included with new memberships. To join, send a check for \$15 payable to **North East Map Organization** to:

**Eric Riback**  
National Geographic Maps  
P.O. Box 4357  
Evergreen, CO 80437

phone: 800-962-1643 x123

fax: 509-461-4285

e-mail membership-related questions/address changes to:

[nemo@mapville.com](mailto:nemo@mapville.com)

## First Class Mail

Return address requested