



September 1993

Excellence in N Scale Modular Railroading
P. O. Box 233 Wilmington, MA 01887

Annual Meeting

On Saturday, July 10, 1993, Northeast NTRAK held its annual meeting at the home of Ernie Poole. About 20 members made it to the meeting plus spouses. The meeting was held in Ernie's layout room and since there were no chairs, the meeting went on without substantial discussion or delay. The current slate of club officers was reelected to another term. Bill Munroe, president; Chuck Tremblay, treasurer; Ed Smith, secretary and Fay Chin, membership chairman. After the meeting, we all retired to the backyard for barbecued hot dogs, hamburgers and delicious steak tips along with salads and snacks.

Convention News

The NMRA and NTRAK conventions were held in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania during the first week of August. Ernie Poole, Ron Wood and I were in attendance for the entire week. Jim Whitehead managed to escape from a busy work schedule for a full day of prototype tours. The convention had its high points and low points (as you will be reading about a little later). Bruce Alcock was supposed to be there also, but during the week before the convention he sold his house and had to arrange for movers, etc. Photos and a description of Bruce's 4-foot module are in an article in the June 1993 issue of Railmodel Journal.

Concord Show

On Sunday, September 11, the Concord Model Railroad Club will sponsor their seventh annual show at the Everett Arena (Exit 14 off I-93) in Concord, New Hampshire. Setup starts at 8:00 AM and the show runs from 10:00 AM until 4:00 PM. We have a limited amount of space, so not everyone's modules can be accommodated. Bill Munroe is our show coordinator (617-729-2432).

Wakefield Show

On Saturday, September 18, the North Shore Model Railroad Club will again hold their annual show at the Americal Civic Center on Main Street (Rt. 129) in downtown Wakefield from 10:00 AM until 4:00 PM. The hall will be open at 8:00 AM for setup. We will be setting up our layout in the basement room directly accessible from the parking lot. Fay Chin (508-657-7913) and Jim Whitehead (617-729-0970) are our coordinators.

Dues

This is a reminder that Northeast NTRAK annual membership dues are payable in September. For those who have not done so already, please send \$12 (checks payable to Northeast NTRAK) by the end of September to:

Northeast NTRAK
P. O. Box 233
Wilmington, MA 01887

Modules For Sale by Ed Smith

I have several basic modules (no scenery, no track, no wiring) for sale to Northeast NTrak members. There are three standard 2-foot by 4-foot modules. Two have the "toolbox latch" type quick connect legs that Doug Lawson first used. The third has standard fold-up legs (not attached). All three had some scenery and track work, but most of it has been removed. These are the perfect starter modules for members that do not have a module and do not have woodworking tools and other equipment necessary to build their own. If you are interested in owning one of these modules, please contact me at (508) 772-4870. Help with completing the modules is available from several club members.

I also have a set of two 1-foot modules that needs a home. These modules have some scenery & signals and are used to compensate when mixing 3-foot and 4-foot modules in the same layout. Contact me if you would like to be the caretaker of these modules. Minor scenery skills will be necessary to keep these in mint condition.

Valley Forge Recap by Ron Wood

This year the NMRA and NTRAK conventions were held in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania from August 1 to August 8. Northeast NTrak members Ed Smith, Ernie Poole and I brought modules to participate in the Worlds Largest NTrak layout to date! The layout consisted of over 250 modules and approximately 1600 feet of track. A walk around the whole layout following a train took over 2 hours! There were NTrak clubs from all over the country in the layout.

Along with running trains, there were the usual convention activities such as clinics, prototype tours, fantrips, and of course layout tours. The layout tour that stands out (other than being the only layout tour that we went on) was the Light Green Tour, better referred to here as the layout tour into the "Twilight Zone." This tour included four layouts and was to depart close to 7 PM. There were two buses that would start at each end therefore keep the whole thing moving along. The first half of the evening went OK and we saw Bob Jans' multi-level HO-scale layout that was still under construction and Frank Miller's very large, nicely detailed O-scale layout. On the way to Rick and Linda Spano's N-scale Scenic and Undecided RR layout, things got downright strange. We pulled over to the shoulder of the turnpike and we were told that the other bus had a transmission problem. About twenty minutes later, we led the ailing bus to a gas station. We were in scenic New Jersey by this time and even though there was no problem with the bus we were on, our driver had to use his trouble shooting skills. As the minutes went by, it became evident that there were many armchair bus mechanics on the other bus because everyone from the other bus was crowded around and looking into the engine compartment. Jokes were surfacing about "How many NMRA members does it take to..."

After about half an hour and a couple of gallons of transmission fluid and a test drive by our bus driver, we drive the 1/2 mile to Rick Spano's house! The remainder of the evening (or was it morning by this time) went without incident, but three Northeast NTrakers swore up and down not to do any bus tours anytime soon. Finally, the bus pulled into the convention center parking lot at 2:45 AM. All of us were looking forward to sleeping in -- unless you were unlucky enough to have a tour later that morning that left at 7 AM!

That's Entertainment by Jim Byington

As we are all aware many of us in NTrak belong to other train related groups. I am no exception. I belong to the Boston and Maine Historical Society and have taken on the task of being the program chairman for the society, arranging programs for our monthly meeting. These are usually in the form of slides or movies and are presented to the membership by one of the society's members or by a guest. Yes, I said guest! Could you be a guest presenter? The answer is, a resounding YES! If you or someone you know, has slides, movies, or video of the B&M or ANY railroad we have Just the forum for you to show off your talents. We are not fussy about what you have to show. Members do not sit and criticize your work. As with those of us in NTRAK, members just enjoy seeing anything about trains. I will gladly help you with the presentation. If you want to show your slides etc. and have me do the narration, No problem. The length of the presentation is up to you. Flexibility is our rule. As a matter of fact if two of you would like to make a presentation on the same night (safety in numbers) that can be arranged. Your presentation can be recent or from the distant past. The time frame of your material is not a consideration with us. Please take advantage of this opportunity so that others might enjoy what you have captured on film or slides! The Boston & Maine Historical Society answering machine telephone number is (617) 628-4053.

White Elephant Table Guidelines by Chuck Tremblay

Since we had some problems with the operation of and funds from the sales table at our most recent Greenberg Show, I propose the following method of keeping records and managing the White Elephant Table at all future shows. (See attached record keeping sheet)

Before placing items on the table:

- Each person who wants to place items on the table (Seller) will list them on a copy of the attached sheet, specifying an item description, the asking price, and a minimum price that will be accepted (if there is one).
- Each item will be tagged with a small self adhesive dot with the initials of the Seller and the asking price.

During the Show:

- The table will be manned at all times by a member of Northeast NTrak
- Each Seller is expected to spend some time manning the table.
- Once an item is on the table, it should not be removed until the end of the show. If an item must be removed, it must also be crossed out on the Seller's list.
- When an item is sold, the adhesive dot will be removed from the item and placed on the Seller's list, to the left of the item description, and the selling prices will be noted in the appropriate column.
- Checks will be accepted at the discretion of the Seller. Fees for bad checks are the responsibility of the Seller.

After the Show:

- The Seller is responsible for removing their own unsold items from the table.
- All funds and item lists will be given to the Treasurer, or the Show Coordinator, who will then forward them to the Treasurer.
- The Seller will be mailed a check for the items sold, minus the club commission of 10%, during the week following the show.

- If there should be any shortages or overages, the amount will be divided evenly among all Sellers who sold items at the table.
- The club will receive a 10% commission on all sales.

Your Article and Byline Here

Your secretary is always looking for articles about the hobby from the membership. They don't need to be perfect, just describe some facet of the hobby that interests you enough to want to tell others about it. Train show and rail fan articles are also welcome. For more information on submitting your articles for the newsletter, call Ed Smith at (508) 772-4870.