

President's Message



Ron Wood

January Thoughts

Well! Happy New Year! It seems hard to believe that a new year is almost here! The last few months for me have been a blur with getting married and then my wife Carolyn getting sick. The good news is that she is doing much better! I want to thank all those who sent their prayers and best wishes. It really meant a lot.

Needless to say, my efforts and energy have been elsewhere recently and I haven't had any time to tend to the goings on in the club. Hopefully though that will change with the New Year and I can get back into the swing of things!

I'm excited about the museum show in Lexington at the end of December. I think any opportunity that we have to exhibit our modules outside of a model train show really goes a long way to not only meet potential members but it shows the world out there that we have some very talented modelers in our club! I believe that these types of shows including the one at Children's Hospital in Boston are a very important part of our show schedule. As we move forward, in light of the Hub Division show fiasco, my vote would be to try to do a show here or there that is at a venue that is not part of a model train show. Dan Pawling Jr. has suggested in the past doing a show at a school. I could think of nothing better to get young people interested in not just n-scale but model railroading in general. Like the article in last month's newsletter from J Simon's Observation Car it would be great to get kids away from computer games and interested in model trains. I think our new DCC throttles can work magic here.

Speaking of magic, I would be remiss if I didn't mention WINTERFEST 2003!

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Winterfest Chairman Jim Whitehead and crew have been very busy cooking up a great Winterfest this year. I would encourage everyone to consider attending this event. If you only attend one convention this year, make it WINTERFEST! Information is on the Northeast Ntrak website.

The club website has been updated with some new photos of modules as well as a show schedule and information on Winterfest. A hearty thanks goes out to Ed Smith for keeping up on that!

Well, I guess that's all for now. I hope to see everyone at the Museum show in Lexington and if not there then at Winterfest! Take care and God Bless! Ron.

Bill Gates' Advice

~ ~ Bill Gates recently gave a speech to some high school students where he outlined 13 things that he didn't learn in school. He claims "feel-good" politically correct teaching doesn't prepare students for real life. His "Rules":

1. Life is not fair - get used to it.
2. The world won't care about your self-esteem. The world will expect you to accomplish something BEFORE you feel good about yourself.
3. You will NOT make 40 thousand dollars a year right out of high school. You won't be a vice president with a car phone until you earn both.
4. If you think your teacher is tough, wait till you get a boss. He doesn't have tenure.
5. Flipping burgers is not beneath your dignity. Your grandparents had a different word for burger flipping - they called it opportunity.

6. If you mess up, it's not your parents' fault, so don't whine about your mistakes, learn from them.

7. Before you were born, your parents weren't as boring as they are now. They got that way from paying your bills, cleaning your clothes and listening to you talk about how cool you are. So before you save the rain forest from the parasites of your parents' generation, try delousing the closet in your own room.

8. Your school may have done away with winners and losers, but life has not.

10. In some schools they have abolished failing grades and they'll give you as many times as you want to get the right answer. This doesn't bear the slightest resemblance to ANYTHING in real life.

11. Life is not divided into semesters. You don't get summers off and very few employers are interested in helping you find yourself. Do that on your own time.

12. Television is NOT real life. In real life people actually have to leave the coffee shop and go to jobs.

13. Be nice to nerds. Chances are you'll end up working for one.

Follow-up by Roland Kelley

May I say it is nice to see that some of you are reading the Newsletter. A follow up on the article about NMRA planning to charge N-scale modelers a fee to set up and run at the national convention. We have the official word from Jim FitzGerald of Ntrak, David King of Maple Leaf 2003 and Mike that there will be no such charge. Also Mike is the Coordinator for the N-scale layout in Toronto and would like to get some idea as to the modules that might be coming from this Club. If you have any questions his email address is: mhind@pegasusinsurance.com

Schedule of Shows for Coming Year

Date	Set-up	Show Time	Show	Place	Show Coordinator
Dec 28	8am	10am to 5pm	National Heritage Museum	Museum of our National Heritage	Ron Wood, 603-889-0741
29		noon to 5pm			
Jan 31	1pm		Amherst Railway Society	Big "E" Exposition Center, Springfield, MA	Frank Dignan, 781-294-1925
Feb 1	7am	10am to 5pm	(Winterfest 2003)		
2		10am to 5pm			
Mar 29	8am	10am to 5pm	Greenberg Show	Shriners Auditorium, Wilmington, MA	Ernie Poole, 978-658-9563
30	9am	10am to 4pm			
Apr			Hooksett Lions Club	Hooksett Memorial School, Hooksett, NH	Ron Wood, 603-889-0741
May 16	7am	9am - 3pm	Children's Hospital	300 Longwood Dr., Boston, MA	Robert Pawlak, 781-862-2485



It's time to start planning for **Winterfest 2003**, our 9th Annual Northeast NTRAK Convention. The convention will once again be held in conjunction with the annual train show of the Amherst Railway Society in West Springfield, MA on January 31 through February 2, 2003 and will feature model, module, and photo contests, clinics, layout operations, and the traditional Saturday evening banquet.

Our convention hotel this year is the **Hilton Garden Inn**, a brand new hotel, centrally located off Interstate 91 in downtown Springfield. The hotel, located at 800 West Columbus Avenue, is across the street from the Basketball Hall of Fame and only minutes from the Eastern States Exposition grounds. A convention rate of \$85.00 plus tax (currently 12.45%) per night has been negotiated, single or double occupancy. There will be a charge of \$10.00 per night for each additional guest in the room. Children eighteen and under may stay free when sharing a room with an adult using existing bedding. The charge for a rollaway bed (must be reserved) is \$10.00 per night. Reservations must be made before January 9, 2003 by calling **413-886-8000** or **800-774-1500**. Please identify yourself as a member of NTRAK to get the special convention rate. There is ample free parking at the hotel for registered guests.

The Better Living Center building on the Eastern States Exposition grounds will be open after 12:00 PM on Friday for layout setup activities and the hotel will be available after 3:00 PM for check-in. The Convention Registration Desk will open at 7:00 PM in the hotel lobby followed at 7:30 PM by an excellent lineup of clinics and slide shows. There is, again this year, a charge for parking at the train show, however, you may purchase a reduced rate parking pass with your **Winterfest 2003** registration.

On Saturday morning activity will shift to "The Big E". Model Contest and Photo Contest entries will be received from 8:30 AM until the show opens. (A model contest and a photo contest entry form will be included in your registration package. Please request additional entry forms during convention registration.) Train operation at the layout will continue all day and will include the "Parade of Trains" best-train-in-show competition to be held from 2:00 to 3:00 PM.

Saturday evening activities at the convention

hotel will begin at 6:30 PM with an "Attitude Adjustment Hour" featuring a cash bar, hot hors d'oeuvres and a digital slide show.

The banquet this year will feature a Tossed Garden Salad with dressing, your choice of sliced Grilled London Broil with a Mushroom Cabernet Sauce or Sautéed Breast of Chicken with a Lemon Caper Sauce, potato and vegetable, rolls and butter, and dessert. Water, coffee or specialty teas will be served with the meal and the cash bar will remain open for the duration of the banquet. The price for the banquet and appetizers (Stuffed Mushrooms, Sesame Chicken and a Mixed Cheese Plate), plus our usual entertainment, awards, and industry updates is just \$26.00 per person. A special meal is available for children under 12.

On Sunday the focus returns again to "The Big E" for more layout operations and shopping. Layout takedown and farewells will wrap-up the convention activities after the show closes at 5:00 PM.

We encourage you to bring your best modules and enter our module contest. Layout space is somewhat limited; so if you are planning to bring a module, please contact the Layout Coordinator, Frank Dignan, at 781-294-1925 as soon as possible to reserve your space. We plan to run DCC (Digitrax) on at least one line, so bring your DCC equipped motive power.

Full registration for **Winterfest 2003** is \$30.00, \$25.00 if you register before January 1, 2003. This covers registration for you and your spouse plus any children under the age of 16. Older children and other adult family members must register separately.

An online [registration](http://www.NortheastNTRAK.org) form may be obtained at the Northeast NTRAK website (www.NortheastNTRAK.org).

New Members By Bob Pawlak

Please welcome the following two new members:

Dan Leavitt
62 Cedar Hill Road
Ashland, MA 01721
508-878-3026
daniel_leavitt2000@yahoo.com

Doug Hartwell
35 Hampton Road
Exeter, NH 03833
603-772-5178
doughartwell@attbi.com

Please also make the following changes to your Membership List:

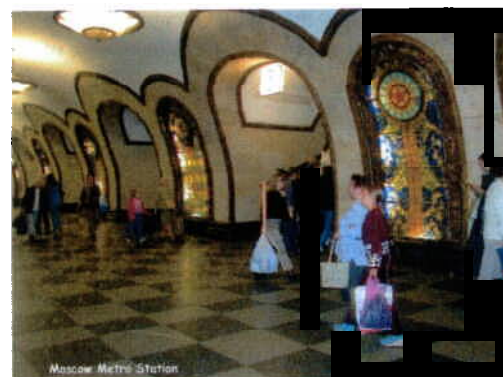
Peter Wisniewski
peter.wisniewski@sun.com
Ron Wood rbwo@attbi.com

Public Transportation in Russia by Roland Kelley



One of the many trolley's in St. Petersburg, Russia, August 2002

On my visit to Russia I had a chance to see some of the public transportation systems in Moscow and St. Petersburg. Their Metro system has the most frequent trains I know of in any city. during rush hour the subway trains run every 45 seconds. In non-rush hour they are every two minutes. There stations are museums. Moscow has a very large



One of the Moscow Metro stations. Every station is a living museum of marble statuary, mosaics and crystal chandeliers. This was done during Stalin's period. Seeing Moscow was the first subway, London was, they would have the nicest.

trolley bus system and a smaller trolley bus system. Some of the trolley busses look like they date back quite a few years. By in large the trolley bus fleet is quite new and includes many articulated busses. Between the trolley busses and the trolleys the noise is a lot less and less polluted. St. Petersburg is the reverse of Moscow, a larger fleet of trolleys and less trolley bus's. Didn't get to see much of the trains or get any pictures. The regular city bus fleets in the two cities were made in Russia and quite new. The private bus, or Motor coach, fleets for charter were all made in Western Europe. In one of the little towns outside of Moscow had a chance to ride in one of the old Russian busses, it must have been at 15 years old and was like riding in an old school bus.

