

President's Message



Well another month has gone by. Where does the time go? I don't really have much to report on this month. It sounds like we are getting some new members, which is great news! Perhaps since the efforts to have a holiday party this past December didn't work out, we could have a holiday party this coming December. Perhaps a get together after the spring Greenberg shows this year? I would also like to have some sort of a "workshop" and or business meeting where members can bring a module that needs work or for new members who want some tips on getting started with building a module. The business meeting part of the session could be hearing members concerns of the club, ways to increase membership and ways to increase the finances of the club. Dan Pawling is working on the shirts and those should be ready to order soon. I guess that's all for now. Until next month!
Ron.

Welcome to a New Member

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Museum Show Success by Bob Pawlak

Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 28 and 29, 2002 was the first time the Northeast Ntrak Club did a train show at the Museum of Our National Heritage in Lexington. Set up for the 23' x 23' layout with stanchions started at 8 AM and trains were running when the steady flow of visitors began at 10 AM.

The museum staff did an excellent job of publicizing the event. A picture and write up were reported seen in numerous different local papers from Wilmington to Weston. As a result there was an excellent crowd of 1200 visitors in 7 hours on Saturday and another 1000 visitors in 5 hours on Sunday (counted by the museum staff) despite the Patriots game on Sunday. There was a good mix of parents, children, and grandparents that generally were not familiar with N scale or Ntrak. They asked a lot of questions and spent a lot of time going slowly around the layout.

After lunch on Saturday, the Red Line was converted to DCC operation with two trains running most of the time. Ernie Poole and Jim Whitehead worked with the youngsters to train them to use one of the radio throttles to drive one train while Bob Pawlak and other club members took turns trying to prevent the new operators from collision with another Red Line train. Perhaps 70 or more youngsters took a turn at driving a train for a while during the two days. A picture-perfect train wreck resulted when one of the student engineers accidentally hit the change direction button on the throttle of his double stack train. The cars were appropriately jackknifed in a large pile, the loads were scattered about, and the lead loco of the following train was lying on its side. The crowd loved it!

There is a narrow balcony around three-quarters of the room which gives a mile-high-airplane-like view of the layout which is quite interesting as can be seen from the



accompanying photo above taken by Ron Wood.

New member Corey Lynch participated in a show for the first time and brought the 8' straight module that he has been working on. John Dunne had to cancel his 8' straight at 6 AM Saturday due to illness so Black Hole Mountain Division trains didn't have much to run on and the layout was 4' shorter than planned. For future planning, a 27' x 31' layout with stanchions is about the largest possible while still maintaining about a 6' aisle all around the layout. Also for the future, do not try to move the lectern out of the way since it has wires connected into the floor. Ask the museum staff to please move it if it is there.

Based on the positive reaction of the museum staff, the resulting smiles of the crowd of new faces, and the consensus of participating club members, the show seemed to be a definite success and will most likely be proposed as a repeat between Christmas and New Years next year.

Schedule of Shows for Coming Year

Date	Set-up	Show Time	Show	Place	Show Coordinator
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