

President's Message



Its October again, the leaves are falling and its getting cooler. That can only mean one thing, its Model Railroad Show season again. On the 12th of September I was at the Concord Model Railroad show. They would like us to attend next year, I told them the reason we did not this year is due to not having the information on the show early enough. We are doing our first show of the year in Taunton on September 19th, it will be a point to point layout. We are bringing about 40 feet of modules to the show. The Northshore Show is on October 23rd. We are still looking for Coordinators for some of the shows.

Dan Pawling is having module work nights at his home on Tuesdays. Dan and I built a rack to go into my van so I can transport 4 modules safely. Therefore we can build a larger layout. But we still need people to help set-up the layout. If you plan to run trains and you do not have a module, PLEASE plan to arrive early to help set up or stay late to help breakdown the layout.

NEWS:

Congratulations to Mike Boucher and his wife on the birth of there son.

Bob Pawlak will be taking over as chairman for Winterfest.

And from all of us a BIG GET WELL SOON to John Dunne. We are thinking of you in our prayers.

Til Next Month
Mark

Tracking in the Woods

It seems there were these two lawyers who went hunting together. After a long walk through the woods they came upon a couple of tracks. "Deer", says one. "No, elk," says the other. They were still arguing when the train hit them. Submitted by Dan Pawling Sr.

Northeast Ntrak, 41 Easy Street, Lowell, MA 01850-1731, Web Site - www.northeastntrak.org

Chantilly Convention Final From Northern Virginia NTRAK

by John Drye, Convention Chairman

Wow! doesn't BEGIN to cover it.

507 modules (four-foot equivalents) in the "big" layout, 550 all together (including 3 TRAK, T-TRAK, oNe TRAK, CAT TRAK and the all-night layout in the hotel lobby).

More than 1100 N-Scalers, arriving from as far away as Japan, New Zealand, Germany and Switzerland, plus 30 some states and Canada.

Almost 18,000 members of the public, including kids of all ages.

Pretty much every manufacturer in N Scale, in person, or contributing door prizes and other support.

Publicity in area newspapers, multiple radio sports, several live and taped TV broadcasts, posters all over the DC area and one whitewashed fence.

Definitely, a show to remember.

Northern Virginia NTRAK cannot begin to thank all those who contributed:

* Members of all the clubs who contributed modules, trains, equipment and expertise to get the layout up and running (in just over 24 hours--amazing!);

* Attendees who ran hundreds of trains over 70 miles of Red Line Route and 100 more miles of "Branch lines";

* Sponsors who supported the show with generous donations of time, expertise, and merchandise; and

* The public, who showed up in overwhelming numbers.

Together we have shown the flag to nearly 20,000 model railroaders (many of them kids), fulfilling NTRAK's mission of promoting the hobby, in a spectacular fashion.

Show Schedule

Oct 23 Northshore Model RR Club,
American Civic Ctr, 467 Main St.,
Wakefield, MA
Set-up 7am Show 9:30am to 3:30pm
Dan Pawling, 617-244-5261

Nov 7 Bedford Boomers, McKelvie
Middle School, Bedford, NH
Set-up 7am Show 10am to 4pm
Ron Wood, 603-889-0741

Nov 21 Mystic Valley RR Show,
Christina's Function Facility, Rte 1, Foxboro, MA
(point to point w/end loops)
Set-up 8am Show 10am to 4pm
Ron Wood, 603-889-0741

Dec 18 & 19 Greenberg Show
Shriners Auditorium, Wilmington, MA
Set-up Sat 8am Show 10am to 4pm
Sun 9am 10am to 4pm
Dan Pawling, 617-244-5261

Jan 28 to 30 Winterfest, Amherst
Railway Society, Big "E" Exposition
Center, Springfield, MA
Set-up Fri Noon to 5pm, and Sat 7am.
Show 10am to 5pm on Sat and Sun.
Frank Dignan 508-866-9660

Feb 13 Mystic Valley Show, Braintree, MA
(Point to point w/end loops)
Set-up Show
Mark Ferracane, 617-489-2159

Feb 19 & 20 Museum of Our National
Heritage, Lexington, MA
(Normal layout w/end loops)
Set-up Sat 8am Show 10am to 5pm
Sun noon to 5pm
Bob Pawlak, 781-862-2485

Mar ?? Greenberg Show
Shriners Auditorium, Wilmington, MA
Set-up Sat 8am Show 10am to 4pm
Sun 9am 10am to 4pm
Dan Pawling, 617-244-5261

?? Hooksett Lions Club, Hooksett
Memorial School, Hooksett, NH
Set-up 8am Show 10am to 4pm
Ron Wood, 603-889-0741

May 19 Children's Hospital, 300 Longwood
Dr., Boston, MA
Set-up 7am Show 9am to 3pm
Bob Pawlak, 781-862-2485



The remaining original cab cars of the 6 RDC's making up the New Haven Railroad's experimental "Roger Williams". The "Roger Williams" was purchased in 1956-57 by the New Haven for service between Boston & NYC, but did the Boston & Providence run.

Renovated, up-dated, seen here at the Danbury Railroad Museum yard, Danbury, CT on 5/2/2004. (By Dan Pawling Sr.)

We need Articles for the Newsletter

Give me some help by writing an article or two for the Newsletter. The Newsletter needs your help. Send your articles my mail or e-mail: rkrbbb14@msn.com, or the address on the Newsletter.

Clinics at Winterfest 2005 by Bob Pawlak

It is great to sit, listen, and watch someone give a clinic as many people have experienced at Winterfests in the past. But perhaps it is now your turn to consider volunteering to give a clinic at the next Winterfest. Isn't there some particular area of the hobby that you especially enjoy, know a lot about, or have a special technique for doing that other N-scalers would find interesting and enjoyable.

Perhaps you know someone who has an expertise that you would like to learn about and you could encourage that person to give a clinic for everyone's benefit. Perhaps you have a great set of photos from a rail-fanning or rail museum trip that you could share with others to wrap up the clinics session at Winterfest 2005.

If you have ideas, suggestions, or questions about the clinics session or want to volunteer to give a clinic at Winterfest 2005, please give Bob Pawlak a call at (781) 862-2485.

The Mount Washington Cog Railway *By Roland Kelley*

It was over twenty years ago when I last visit and rode the Cog Railway. So on September 12, 2004 a friend and I went for the day. There are changes afoot. The first automatic switch was installed at Waumbek in the spring of 2003. The second was installed at Marshfield Base. Al LaPrade – the designer of the switches at both Marshfield Base and Waumbek. The new automatic hydraulic switch has replaced a manually operated nine piece system. The nine piece switching system was installed in 1941 as a means to allow trains to pass each other. LaPrade a mechanical engineer for the last 38 years was inspired by an 1890 Swiss design. State of the art, the new Cog Railway switching system will not only insure greater safety at the switches but cut travel time to the summit.



This picture was taken of a train going up the mountain as we waited on the siding.

Two other projects are underway at the Cog Railway. The first is to open up this winter for skiing. They did some testing last year just to see how it would go over. This year they are installing equipment to make snow and have plans to run ski trains part way up the mountain from December thru March.



Here is a picture of the old nine-piece switch system still in use at the top passing siding.



Above pictures show the work being done to put in the snow making equipment.



Picture above shows the new hydraulic switch being thrown. Below it is all set for the train to pass through. These pictures were taken at Marshfield Base.



The next project which will be completed in 2005 is a passing loop. The passing loop will be 2000 feet long and will cut down on the travel time to the summit. Construction of the new switch and passing loop started this year as soon as the weather conditions were favorable. In late April the first of the pre-formed concrete footings was shuttled up the tracks on flatbed cars to the site of the new switch at Waumbek. The train had to make several trips to the work site as each pre-formed footings weighted one ton. Steel for the structural base, rail and components to construct the switch are being moved and installed at he present time. A total of 40 tons of steel have been moved to the Waumbek site.

So if you haven't visited the Cog Railway in some time maybe it is time to revisit it. It seems that they are working on having it open year round. You ski people might combine trains and skiing the winter.