

President's Message



I would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. Our next two shows are in Foxboro and Wilmington. Ron Wood and Dan Pawling are the Coordinators for those shows.

I would like ALL MEMBERS to let us know what they have for modules and if they are available for use at shows. The roster lists what each member has and we would like to have an updated list available for show coordinators. Also, coordinators for the shows who have cell phones will have the number listed on the roster and beside the contact info for the show. So if you are running late you can contact the show coordinator.

December 5th The Bay State Model Museum is having its annual Christmas Open House. It will run from Noon to 4pm. Drop by and see the entire club in operation.

Until next Month
Mark

Welcome a New Member

Jim Muller
42 Marion Street
Medford, MA 02155
jimntrak@huntatophy.com

Jim has been to Dan Pawling's and built a 2' x 4' box. He attends the MIT HO Club weekly, has an empty basement in the house he just bought (for a layout), is in his 30's, Electronics Engineer, been in the hobby 15-20 years.

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

Winterfest 2005

It is time to start getting excited about **Winterfest 2005**, the 11th Annual Northeast NTRAK Convention, January 28-30, 2005. The convention will once again be held in conjunction with the annual "Big Railroad Hobby Show" of the Amherst Railway Society at the Eastern States Exposition grounds, "The Big E", in West Springfield, MA on January 29-30. This is undoubtedly the largest model railroad show in New England with 3 buildings full of layouts, exhibits, manufacturers and dealers. The show usually attracts an attendance of more than 20,000. Winterfest 2005 will feature model, module, and photo contests, informative clinics, full capacity layout operations (including DCC), and a memorable Saturday evening banquet.

Our convention hotel again this year is the new **Hilton Garden Inn** which is centrally located just off Interstate 91 in downtown Springfield. The hotel, located at 800 West Columbus Avenue, is across the side street from the Basketball Hall of Fame and only minutes from "The Big E" and Springfield's AMTRAK station. A **convention rate of just \$79.00** (\$6 less than last year) 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 in advance) is \$15.00 per night. **Hotel reservations should be made before January 5, 2005** by calling **413-886-8000** or **800-774-1500**. Please identify yourself as a member of **NTRAK** to get the special convention rate. After January 5, 2005, hotel reservations will be accepted on a space and rate availability basis only so don't procrastinate. There is ample free parking at the hotel for registered guests.

Winterfest 2005 registration materials will be snail mailed shortly to previous attendees without a web address on file and will also become available one day later on our website at www.NortheastNTRAK.org. It is much

preferred that you register online. **Full registration for Winterfest 2005 is \$25.00 but only \$20.00 if you register before January 1, 2005.** This covers registration for you and your spouse plus your children under the age of 16. Older children and other adult family members must register separately.

The Better Living Center building of "The Big E" will be open after 12:00 P.M. on Friday for layout setup activities. Those who do not bring modules but plan to run trains should also plan to share in the fun of meeting and working with new and old friends to set up and test the layout. Please try to have all modules in place, clamped, and connector tracks installed before 5:00 P.M. Friday. Please read the article titled "**Winterfest 2005 Layout Operation**" in last month's newsletter for more details.

The hotel will be available after 3:00 P.M. for check-in. The Convention Registration Desk will open at 7:00 P.M. in the hotel conference room area just off the main lobby. A series of entertaining and informative clinics will begin at 7:30 P.M.

Again this year, there is a charge for parking at "The Big E" but you may **purchase a parking hangtag for \$5.00** (\$1.00 less than last year, **valid Saturday and Sunday**) as part of your Winterfest 2005 registration.

Everyone at the banquet will receive a festive **British pint drinking glass** with the Winterfest logo printed in orange as a change from the traditional blue imprinted coffee mugs. Extra British pint drinking glasses will be available at \$5.00 each while the supply lasts. New this year will be an opportunity to purchase a **commemorative Winterfest 2005 T-shirt for just \$12.00**. The Winterfest logo will be printed in orange on the front of a light gray shirt. Shirts must be ordered and the size (S through XXL) must be chosen prior to January 1, 2005 as part of the advanced registration process. The shirts will then be printed and handed out at the convention
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Wakefield Show



Behind Dennis Yip's module at the Wakefield show are (l to r) Al Pawling, Dennis Yip, Steven Consigli and Dan Pawling.

Wakefield Show *by Dan Pawling*

The Wakefield show was a success as far as getting modules having fun and running time. Thank you to all that participated, especially those that came through at the last minute. Thanks to those that dropped off modules, went off to work or off to there previous engagements. I had generally a good experience as a new show coordinator although I think I made a few mistakes. One mistake was not to call earlier to get more club members and more people with modules on board sooner. I also am disappointed that I did not call more members to get more of us on the N.E. N-track calendar. Although it is not necessarily the show coordinators responsibility to call every one, I think it would be good to communicate with as many folks as possible to ensure the success of the show. This can be a lot of work when one has other responsibilities.

Show Coordinators Report D Pawling JR Wakefield, North Shore Model Rail Road Club

Lay out: 14' X 22' with a total of 16 modules
 D Pawling 1 Straight 4', 1 Yard, Club boxes & DCC equipment
 D Lawson 1 Straight 12'
 J Whitehead 2 corners 3'
 R Kelley 2 Straight 4'
 E Poole 1 corner and one straight 4' (extra corner Pawling's error)
 R Wood 1 corner 3'
 S & L Capers 1 corner 3'
 D Yip & A Pawling 1 straight 4'
 Set up, Towers, Yard Master, Pack Up help:
 J Deveau, J Pawling _____?
 Noted Visitors: John & Steven Consigli
 Show attendance was moderate for this show

and I do not have the official count. There were lots of young children who wanted to see Tomas run when it was sitting in the yard. The weather was a gray raw fall day which probably helped attendance. The layout was located in the basement which does not get the flow of folks that go up stairs. John Willey was the only exclusive N-Scale vendor.

Taunton Show *by Dan Pawling*

Show Coordinators Report: Coordinator John Dunne (recorder & assistant D Pawling JR) Taunton, Old Colony Railroad Club (Frank Ritz Club Coordinator)
 Lay out: In line with end loops
 D Pawling 2 Straights 4', 2 End Loops
 B Pawlak 1 Straight 12' & DCC
 M Ferricane 1 Straight 4'
 R Cavanaugh Club Boxes
 Set up, Towers, Yard Master, & Pack Up help:
 J Pawling _____Did I miss any one here____?
 Noted Visitors: John & Steven Consigli, Did I miss anyone here?

Note to Coordinators: Publish these records to see what we do as a club and who does it. This will help us realize what & who we are as a club.

The next two shows will be coordinated By Ron Wood and one show will have passed by the time this news letter has been published. I would appreciate it if members would take it into their own hands to contact Show coordinators even if you don't plan to bring a module. It would be helpful to know if there is going to be help for those that always do bring modules after all this is a very limited and shrinking resource. So let's protect this resource by getting involved.



Model railroading can be hard work, just ask Jeff Pawling, After helping to get the layout at the Wakefield show set-up he needed to take a nap.

Address correction: Ron Wood's address should read Apartment 101



Dennis Yip getting the inspiration to write an article for the NE Ntrak Newsletter. Taken at the Westfield Show.

Refrigerated Railroad Cars *By: Dennis Yip*

Railroad cars have been transporting our daily essentials food groups in refrigerated cars for many years, but truly when did it all begin? Well, since the beginning of the 1840's refrigerated cars were used to transport only milk and butter. The country could not enjoy fresh produce and other foods from other states at the time because the invention of an efficient refrigerated car was not invented yet. It would be twenty-seven years later, when J.B Sutherland of Detroit, Michigan would patent an efficient refrigerated car. He designed an insulated car with ice bunkers in each end. Air came in on the top, passed through the bunkers and circulated through the car by gravity, controlled by the use of hanging flaps that changed the air temperature. With his new invention mid-Western cities that lacked resources could be established.

The increasingly widespread distribution of fresh foods expanded markets and helped people's diets of meat, eggs, produce, butter, milk, cheese, and fish. Parker Earle of Illinois would also invent the same year, the first refrigerated car that carried fresh fruit as well. His car carries 100 pounds of ice and 200 quarts of strawberries, and ran over the Illinois Central Railroad. This would be the beginning of how refrigeration on railroad cars started in America.



Jim Whitehead playing with Doug's narrow gauge train at the Wakefield Show.

Bedford Boomers Train Show



Set-up of the end loops by Dennis, Dan & Ron.



Ron Wood, Ron Cavanaugh & John Dunne taken a rest at the Bedford show. It was great to see John up and around again and feeling good.

years list had 49 members. If the seven lost members are still with us we have had some growth this year. For this club to survive we have to get serious about growth & retention. If this means we need to change some rules, activities or what ever to do this lets hear your ideas. There are some new members on this year's member list and I would like to welcome the new members and hope it is a great modeling year for you. If you have questions about the club feel free to call you can find my number on the list.

Save a tree! Save postage!

If you are still receiving your Newsletter by mail please consider email, it saves the club money.

Bedford Boomers Review By Ron Wood

On Sunday November 7, 2004, 8 members of northeast N-Trak got together at the Bedford Boomer's show in Bedford, NH for a point to point layout utilizing the end loops. This year, we used the transition modules of John Dunne that swings the mountain line behind the skyboard on modules. In this manner, we were able to accommodate Roland's two excellent circus modules in a layout that requires mountain line. Despite a few kinks/modifications that need to be made on those transition modules, I feel they will be a welcome addition to the club and will add to our flexibility at shows.

The show drew a steady crowd and the Bedford Boomers appreciated our presence. Herein lies a problem. If we are to do shows of this kind, we need greater member participation. At last count we have close to 50 members on the list. However as the number of members has grown slightly over the last few years, the number of new and "active" modules has not. Perhaps we need to have a club meeting to actually discuss this in great detail, of course inviting the newer members to share their views. We simply cannot continue to operate successfully as a club without greater member participation with more modules. Just my opinion.

Thanks. Ron.



Doug and Dan setting up trains to run on the layout at Bedford. Red & Blue ran DC with Yellow and mountain running DCC.

Ntrak Tales by Bob Gatland

The Double Slip Solution

In the early days of Ntrak, the show coordinator was happy to get any modules for a show. Many minor and some major deviations from the "specs" were usually winked at and the module went into the layout anyway. Compare this with the recent Chantilly convention where modules were subjected to detailed inspections by the module police.

I remember one very early Long Island Ntrak show where a quick inspection of the module showed that there were double slip switches on the yellow and blue lines. We're not talking about the newer, more reliable Peco switches that are now available. These double slips were state-of-the-non-art and were capable of derailing any and all cars and locomotives that dared to pass through them.

The owner of the module had a brilliant solution to the problem--he used re-railers as connecting tracks at both ends of his modules to re-rail wheels as they passed by--assuming that they could make it that far while bouncing along the ties. But another Ntraker came up with an even better solution.

Sometime during the course of the show, while the owner was elsewhere and unknowing, the points of all of these double slip switches were carefully and permanently soldered into the through track alignments. Things ran much better after that. When the module owner discovered the "repair", we all gave him shoulder shrugs and blank looks. "Really. Oh gee, look at that. No, I didn't see a thing."

Message from VP Dan Pawling

The Tuesday night fix up, build new meeting & run trains at my house has been continuing and we have made some progress on the paper mill on the end loop. Mark Ferricane has been running the DCC testing engines and giving me a few pointers and working on one of his older modules. Please call or make sure the meeting has not been canceled. I am also going to do some weekend workshops in the near future. If this interests you please call and let me know what times would be good for you. We also have a new member Jim that has joined us and has made some good progress on his new module.

The new membership list is out and I am disappointed to say that I see seven names missing from the list. If anyone knows what happened to these folks please call Bob Pawlak or Dan Pawling let us know what has happened. If you can encourage them to let us know their status this would be helpful too. The current list has 48 members listed, last

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Registration Desk on Friday at 7:00 PM.

On Saturday morning convention activity will shift to "The Big E". Please arrive early and help with track cleaning and final testing so a full set of long trains will be rolling when the doors burst open at 9:00 A.M. Be sure to help fill all the slots on the sign up sheets for 3 trains on the Blue Line, 3 trains on the Yellow Line, and 3-5 trains on the Red Line (DCC), 1 Layout/Supervisor/Helper and 3 Throttle-Tower Operators for each hour of operation. Model Contest and Photo Contest entries will be received from 8:00 to 10:00 A.M.. We will have model and photo contest entry forms that can be filled out online and printed for each of your entries. We will also have paper copies of the forms at the registration desk. 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 P.M. Note that **voting in the model, module, and photo contests must be completed before 3:00 P.M.**

Saturday evening activities at the convention hotel will begin at 6:30 P.M. 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 breast of chicken with apple bread stuffing, potato and vegetable, rolls and butter, and dessert. Water, coffee or specialty teas will be served with the meal. The cash bar will remain open for the duration of the banquet so you can fully test your British pint glass. The **price for the banquet and appetizers** (stuffed mushrooms, sesame chicken and a mixed cheese plate), plus an entertaining guest speaker, contest awards presentation, up-dates from manufacturers, and exceptional camaraderie is just **\$30.00 per person**. A special meal is available for children under 12 for \$13.00.

On Sunday the focus returns again to "The Big E" for more excitement and team effort to keep the layout operating at full capacity. Of course shopping and seeing the rest of the show is always an option. **Model and photo contest entries should be picked up after 3:00 P.M. on Sunday.** Layout takedown and tearful farewells will wrap-up the convention activities after the show closes at 5:00 P.M.

We encourage you to spruce up your best modules and enter them in the module contest. Layout space is somewhat limited, so if you are planning to bring a module, please contact the **Layout Coordinator, John Dunne, at 508-697-7635** as soon as possible to reserve your space. We plan to run DCC (Digitrax) on the Red Line so bring your DCC equipped motive power and your radio throttle if you have one.

In summary, save the dates for Winterfest 2005; make your hotel reservations now; find a friend to share your room to save yourself some money; fill out your registration materials promptly when they become available soon; finish up those potential prize winning models for the model contest; decide on your best train to run in the "Parade of Trains" contest; print and frame that great picture you took recently (no repeats from previous years please); start packing a variety of trains to help keep the layout running at capacity; and then get totally psyched to help make Winterfest 2005 a really fun time for everyone!

Bob Pawlak, Chairman, Winterfest 2005

Pacific Northwest Railroading Quiz **From Trainsorders.com**

- Which city has the busiest railroad junction in the Pacific Northwest?
 - Spokane, WA
 - Portland, OR
 - Settle, WA
 - Vancouver, WA
 - Grand Junction, ID
- Which of these cities is located on BNSF's Columbia River Sub?
 - Pasco, WA
 - Wenatchee, WA
 - Portland, OR
 - Wishram WA
 - All of the above.
- If you were standing next to a SP branchline in Oregon during the 1980's, which type of locomotive were you most likely to see?
 - SD40-2
 - SD9
 - GP9
 - SD40T-2
 - GS-4

4. Which of these PNW passes never had a railroad on it?

- Pengra Pass
- Stevens Pass
- Santiam Pass
- St. Paul Pass
- None of the above

5. James Hill, son of the "Empire Builder" Jim Hill, built his mansion in what locale?

- Seattle, WA.
- Spokane, WA.
- Hillyard, WA.
- Boise, ID.
- Maryhill, WA

Answers Next Month.

Show Schedule

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 Sat 9am to 5pm
Sun 10am to 5pm

John Dunne 508-697-7655

Feb 13 Mystic Valley Show, Braintree, MA

(Point to point w/end loops)
Set-up 8am Show 10am to 4pm

Ron Wood, 603-889-0741

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

Apr 2 & 3 Greenberg Show

Shriners Auditorium, Wilmington, MA
Set-up Sat 8am Show 10am to 4pm
Sun 9am 10am to 4pm

Dan Pawling, 617-244-5261

Feb 13 Mystic Valley Show, Braintree, MA

(Point to point w/end loops)

Set-up Show
Mark Ferracane, 617-489-2159

?? Hooksett Lions Club, Hooksett

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