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President's Message



Winterfest 2006

Winterfest Thanks By Bob Pawlak

Many thanks are in order after Winterfest 2006: first to the Amherst Railway Society (ARS) for having the Big Railroad Show; then to those who helped establish and build the Winterfest tradition; then to Northeast Ntrak for hosting Winterfest again this year; then to all those who registered, brought modules, brought extra equipment for the layout, helped set up the layout, ran trains, helped operations; brought models, trains, and photos for the contests; to those who helped run and judge the contests; and everyone else who contributed in some way to make Winterfest 2006 happen!

A special thank you goes to our sponsors who were generous again this year and provided a wide selection of quality N-Scale products for prizes for our contest winners and for the door prizes distributed after the banquet. Remember that the web pages of all our sponsors are listed at www.northeastntrak.org. Click on Winterfest Information, click on Winterfest Support, and then click on a sponsor's logo. You might consider sending a personal thank you to a sponsor for your door prize. Of course the best way to thank our sponsors is to purchase their products!

We were pleased and very thankful that Micro-Trains Lines,
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Show Schedule for 2005 – 2006

February 26 Mystic Valley Show, Christina's Function Facility, Rte 1, Foxboro, MA

Set-up 8am Show 10am to 4pm

Coordinator: **Ron Wood - 603-206-5572**

April 1 & 2 Greenberg Show, Shriners Auditorium, Wilmington, MA

Set up Sat 7:30AM Show Sat 10AM to 4PM

Sun 10PM to 4PM

Coordinator: **Dan Pawling - 617-244-5261**

April 23 Hooksett Lyons Club, Hooksett Memorial School, Hooksett, NH

Set-up 8am Show 10am to 4pm

Coordinator: **?????**

May 11 Children's Hospital, 300 Longwood Dr, Boston, MA

Set-up 7am Show 9am to 3pm

Coordinator: **Bob Pawlak - 781-862-2485**

Well, It was another fun weekend and Winterfest 2006 is in the books. I want to thank our Chairman Bob Pawlak for the fine work he has been doing since taking the job over from Jim Whitehead. I also want to thank Chuck and Ed for all the behind the scenes work they do. All in all it was a great weekend. I noticed that this year there were not a lot of the bargains to be found at the show. There was one dealer trying to sell a VINTAGE RS-11 for \$95, and the newer version is available for \$65 and DCC ready. I bet he did not sell it. I wonder why? I wish more companies would re-tool there locomotives to be DCC ready. Kato does not make there locos with DCC, but they are DCC ready. It makes it easier to change over to DCC. Atlas makes both, DCC ready and DCC equipped. I was asked by a club if we would do one of there shows. There are a few things we need to know before we commit to a show. How much space can we have? Where is the show located? Is there a conflict with another show we are already doing? And the Biggest question, how many members will show up? Its easy to say "lets do this show". But without the help of members it is worthless.

The next two shows coming up are Lexington and Foxboro. Bob Pawlak and Ron Wood are the contacts for the show.

March 4th & 5th The Bay State Model Railroad Museum will be having there 2 day open house. Show times are 10-4 both days. Until next Month

Mark

Dear Editor -- I think I speak for all of us who were at Winterfest 2006.that it was one of the most friendly, companionable, well-oiled, well thought out -well, briefly -- DAMN GOOD SHOW -- from preliminary invitations , and requested collaboration, the clear, detailed explanation of the "rent increase" and pass-along surcharge, the show operations, banquet, clinics and even the speedy knockdown at the end of the show. And there was the behind the scenes negotiations with the Amherst Society, the several manufacturers who sponsor Winterfest, the in-house teams that handle registration, treasurer functions, layout planning, contest operations including photography, judging and presentations, editorial, etc., etc. -- for all of this and more --**THANK YOU,BOB PAWLAK !!! Dan Pawling, Sr**



Chuck Tremblay and Bob Pawlak at Winterfest 2006, Picture by Dan Pawling.



No I'm not Happy!! No really I am not!! Frank we need your hat. (Mark & Judy Ferracane) Picture by Dan Pawling.

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Inc. donated a car to each of our 81 primary registrants again this year. About 40 different cars were handed out, drawn at random, during registration on Friday night. This car was in addition to the traditional MT car we get from ARS and Tucker's Hobbies for setting up and operating the layout that was handed out on Sunday afternoon. (Remember that the pick of the Sunday car is based on the order of postmark of the check that completes the Winterfest registration process, so register as early as possible next year.)

The 3 clinics were well presented and well attended on Friday night after registration. Thanks very much to our clinicians: Austin Plyem for Tips and Techniques for Weathering and Detailing; John Becker for Basic Maintenance & Tune-up Tips; and Rick Spano for Animation Mechanisms and Video Examples.

Many thanks to Northeast Ntrak member Jim Byington for being our guest speaker this year to tell us about the National Historic Park and Vintage Tourist Trolley Line in Lowell, MA. I can't wait for April to drive up to Lowell to take a trolley ride!

If anyone has any idea at all of a possible guest speaker for next year, please drop everything and tell me your idea before it dissolves from you mind. Also, if you have an idea for a clinic you would like to give or a topic you would like to learn about, please let me know.

Special thanks go to tower operators who remained on the job after their shift expired; John Becker for the Parade of Trains; Harry Leifer, John Gillen, Charles D'Avanzo, and Conrad Schellenberg who brought extra throttles and DCC equipment; Mark Ferracane who brought the digital projector; Bob Gatland who supplied the walk-through-bridge module; Chuck Tremblay for registration and contests; Ed Smith for web page work and being Contest Chairman; John Dunne and Ron Cavanaugh for layout coordination, glasses, module plaques, and T-shirts; Dan Pawling, Jr., Mike Walker, and Dennis Yip for spearheading layout assembly; Conrad Schellenberg, Bob Gatland, and Mark Ferracane for DCC set up and maintenance; Dennis Yip and Dan Pawling, Sr. for photo contest work; Jim Whitehead and Steve Cappers for taking pictures; and all others that helped that I may have missed.

There were things that were done last year that I forgot to do

this year (headset radios) and things that will hopefully be done better next year (express registration line for those already paid). If anyone has comments or suggestions for improvement of Winterfest, please use the "Winterfest Feedback" form found under "Winterfest Information" on our web page www.northeastntrak.org for that purpose. What I like most is to have someone suggest something and then volunteer to do the job that will make the improvement happen for everyone's benefit.

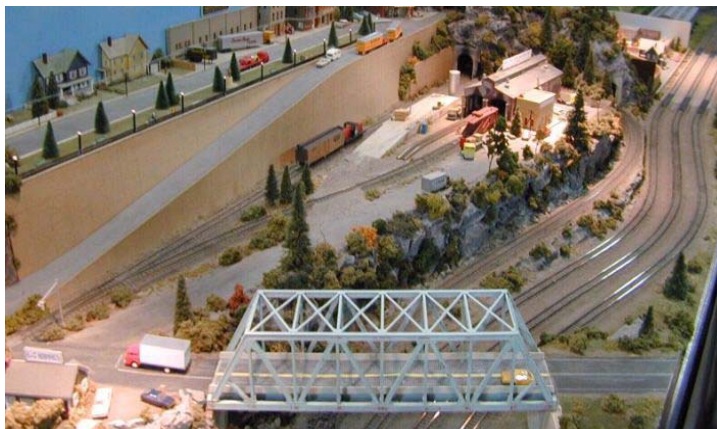
I suggest everyone get started on models and photos for the contests next year and continue working on completing those new modules. Any module that has previously received the "Best of Show" award or the "Paul Ohegyi Scenery Excellence Award" is "disqualified" from receiving them again so we need more new modules to compete for these top awards.

Thanks again to everyone who came and contributed to Winterfest 2006! Save the date for Winterfest next year - January 26-28, 2007!



Steve Cappers, Dan Pawling, Sr and Linda Cappers at Winterfest 2006. Picture by Dan Pawling.

First Place Module by Jim Dahl Winterfest 2006



LAYOUT ACTIVITIES, WINTERFEST 2006
Summarized by D. Pawling, Sr.

MODULES: Although a few modules were no-shows by 5 PM Friday, the remaining 30 were assembled quickly by evening and all lines were operational before the 9 AM opening of the show on Saturday. DCC caused sporadic problems on both days, trying the patience of Conrad Schellenberg, Bob Gatland, Bob Pawlak and other DCC techs, but when it was working the crowd was awed and the operators, too. There was about 168 feet of mainline track on the blue and yellow lines and with the peninsula in operation, 208 feet of mainline for DCC on the red line.

One or more members of the following NTrak Clubs brought modules to the show: Northeast NTrak, MA (9 modules); Valley, CT (5); Brooklyn, NY (4); Genesee-Ontario, NY (3); Central Valley, CT (5); Long Island, NY (1); Albany, NY (1 - the blessed bridge); unidentified clubs/ persons (2).

MODULE CONTEST AWARDS: Best in Show to Chuck Gardner, Genesee-Ontario; 1st Place to Jim Dahl, Valley; 2nd Place, Austin Plyem, Genesee-Ontario; 3rd Place, Steven Dale (Club?) the radioactive Chernobyl 8-footer.

PARADE OF TRAINS: This annual contest drew 23 contestants, mainly freight drags of various extant and fallen flag lines. John Deere was represented several times. Passenger trains included an SP Daylight, the California Zephyr, the Super Chief, and AMTRAK. In first place was Ned Schwartz with a military freight; 2nd place to Dave Dyson, the D&RGW Ski train; 3rd place to Coleman Clark with John Deere and Wiking tractors on flats. Judges were Mike Walker, Ron Wood and Dennis Yip (Thanks, guys).

And the coveted, prestigious Paul Ohegyi Award for Scenery Excellence went to Charles D'Avanzo, Brooklyn NTrak.

PHOTO CONTEST: There were twelve entries overall. For **Photos of Prototypes** -- 1st place to Ken Harstine; 2nd Place, Don Brimmer; 3rd Place, John Becker. For **Photos of Models** - 1st Place, Don Brimmer; 2nd Place Harry Leifer; 3rd Place, Michael Hind.

MODEL CONTEST: Because of space limitations, only the First Place winners will be listed here (OK, so sue me!) - very likely, all

winners will be shown of the Northeast NTrak web site report on Winterfest 2006. Austin Plyem and Don Brimmer submitted many entries -- Don said, "There's nothing else to do in Bar Harbor, ME in the winter." **First place winners** are: Austin Plyem, **Passenger**; Don Brimmer, **Power-Other, Freight, MOW, On-Line & Off-Line Structures, Humor**; Alan Grabsch, **Steam**; Dennis Yip, **Diesel**.

ATTENDANCE: Over 21,000 visitors attended the show over the two days, a marked improvement over the past couple of years. On Saturday there were 12,600 present - we sure knew it was crowded.

Three images remain fixed in my mind; (1) the picture of the young man in the Sunday Springfield Republican with his eyes close to Bob Gatland's bridge, watching a train pass by; (2) the two young boys whose noses just reached the upper edge of the Gatland bridge to watch my steamer roll by and who followed the train and me around the circuit three times, and (3), and the girl, maybe 8 or 9 looking wistfully at the modules and trains (I hope she asks a Grandpa or Aunt or someone for her own set).

Many thanks to all for the highly cooperative, pleasantly disciplined operation - we were professional!!



Ron Wood, Bruce Alcock and Doug Lawson. Pictures by Dan Pawling.



Dennis Yip & Dan Pawling, Sr at the model display. Picture by Dan Pawling.



Charles D'Avanzo, Sam Haas, & John Gillen all from Brooklyn Ntrak.



(l to r) Dan Pawling, Jr, Mike Walker, Dennis Yip (back & awake) and Ron Cavanaugh



Members from Valley Ntrak.



Bob Pawlak, installing connector tack on the mainline.



Jim Dahl & Art Frankforter both from Valley Ntrak in front of Jim's First Prize winning module.



Bob Phillips, Steve Dale & Art Frankforter of Valley Ntrak.



Frank Dignan has returned

Another get weekend of train'in and just great friendships is now history. Winterfest 2006 is now behind us and we look forward to next year.

All pictures on this page by Dan Pawling, Sr.