



December 2006 NEWSLETTER

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Well, the Bedford Boomers Show was a success. But I wished that we had a better turn out at the Wells, Maine Show. The show was attended by Steve Cappers (Now living in Maine) and myself. The layout was just the two end loops. The show was well attended.

The Great Train Expo in Wilmington and The Hub Division show in Marlboro as you know now have been canceled. Last but not least, Registration for Winterfest 2007 will start on November 24th? As far as I know right now. Keep checking the website for information. And have a Happy Thanksgiving!! Mark

Hey you all what's up?

Yes folks you will not believe this one, I got a call today from Frank Hicks of Great Train Expo and he said that the FEZ room was being used for the Shriners Christmas party and that he has no place for us in the show. He sent on the 6th by FedEx the usual honorarium of \$150.00 and 25 exhibitor passes which I quickly glanced at as I was running out the door and did not realize the contents of the letter. I think Northeast Ntrak will keep the honorarium. He has guaranteed us a place in the March 2006 show which we have already done. I hope he means 2007 I will be speaking to him about that and I will also tell him we want the guarantee in writing, more space in a better lit room, and better exposure to the crowd.

For Ntraks free exhibitor pass at ticket collection point you can tell them Frank Hicks the show manager is holding exhibitors pass to get into the show for free if you want to go. While your there find Frank and tell him he should have called a much sooner then he did.

That said we still need to have more active members. Before the Great Train Expo canceled our space, only seven members were bringing modules. What's up with that? There are over 52 of us and that's the best we can do? It would be really nice if someone could bring a 4' straight with or with out the mountain line or how about swing by my house to pickup a few modules so I don't have to stack them on top of each other inside my van. Better yet take home the yard if you can make it to the next show. If that's not possible come Saturday morning and please help us set up, see you at 7:30 and don't forget the donuts & coffee. There is Sunday night when the guys who brought 2-5 modules & equipment would like to get on the road home like everyone else. Some of us are very careful with our modules so always ask how you can help. Its your club if you want it to last, help out and have some fun with us, learn something new or teach someone something. Oh and how's your module coming along and do you need any help. Talk to someone at the show about what you are building.

Disclaimer: I am not responsible for guilt and depression there after. This does not include members that contribute to the operation of the club in other ways and you know who you are. New members please don't take this harshly but please do get involved that is the best way to help get your project off the ground and out of the basement. The club works better the more active members we have with modules and willing to bring them to shows.

The Hub Show in Marlboro on December 2 & 3 has been Canceled for Northeast Ntrak due to the lack of NE Ntrak membership participation. The small percentage of showing members can't always and shouldn't be expected to make to all the shows. We have too many shows this year for the amount of members showing. I Vote that we cut it in half next year and do a really good job at the shows we choose. I will still be glad to help any one build a module on Tuesday night at my place or lets set up another time.

I don't have time to here about excuses or complaints especially about my spelling and poor grammar. All I want to do is run some trains. Lets do it. Ciao! Daniel F Pawling JR

Syracuse Train Show by Roland Kelley



This November Ernie and I drove to Syracuse, NY to join the Train Show at the State Fair Grounds. This was my fifth time at this show. It is the biggest train show in upstate New York.

The show is in two buildings at the fairgrounds. I displayed my Ringling Bros Circus in one of the three N trak layouts at the show. The attendance for the two days was around 10,000. On the way out we ran into some lake effect snow and it slowed us down a little. Saturday was a dinner for the Ntrak group.



Above are pictures from the Saturday night dinner. (l to R) Ernie, Brian & Clay from FunTrak Club and Roland.



Ernie did not bring any trains or module, but did bring out his fathers circus models and displayed them with Circus Model Builders display area. CMB has a large display at this show. At the fairgrounds is also some old train equipment on display. One of the main engines there is the GG-1 number 4833. See some of the equipment on display on page 4.

"MTL, Co run # 952-070 - 4 pak 50' Box Cars"
by Paul Azevedo



In keeping with my interest in western railroads, I have contracted with Micro-Trains to produce a quartet of Santa Fe Bx-70 boxcars. The MTL car used is the 077 00 000. The cars are based on the 50' single door boxcar built by ACF in 1956. The four road numbers that comprise this set are: 12463, 12479, 12485, & 12491. Beginning in 1970, Santa Fe cars were repainted with the large Circle Cross herald, w/ Cooper Black billboard lettering "Santa Fe", and the roof walks were removed. \$100.00 per 4-pack includes USPS Priority shipping/insurance. Email me at: paul.azevedo@hotmail.com to check for availability. Send check/money order to:
 Paul Azevedo, P.O. Box 2041, Fall River, MA 02722-2041

Icky, Slimy, Slippy, Slidey
By D. Pawling, Sr.

Remember those gorgeous colored leaves from several weeks past? Except for the constant re-supply for another round of raking, bagging and disposal, they were pretty wonderful to see. But, when wetted and crushed they become less enjoyable, even hazardous to foot and motor traffic. And, to trains, too, as I recently learned from a MetroNorth Commuter RR handout. Leaves can get crushed on the surface of the rails by passing trains.... If the leaves are completely dried, the crunchy powder may just blow away. But if there is the slightest bit of moisture present in the leaves or on the rails, the crushed leaves will become a slippy, slimy coating. The slime can lead to wheel spinning, even automatic emergency stops, or slower running altogether to avoid slipping wheels. Although sanding by the power units does help individual trains, the rolling wheels do not remove the gunk from the rails. Dirty track!! Sound familiar?

Avoiding delays to achieve on-time performance is a major goal of passenger railroads. To help with this MetroNorth has two types of equipment to clean rails. One is a flat car equipped with high pressure water jets aimed at the rails. The second is a car with revolving steel brushes to scrub the rails clean. The efforts seem to pay off for MetroNorth -- during the October - November 2005 season: the on-time percentages were in the mid- to high-90's. That done get ready for the next slippy-slidey season with snow and ice!

Show Schedule for 2006 - 2007

Dec 2-3, 2006, Hub Division Show, Marlboro, MA
 Best Western Royal Plaza Trade Center, Marlboro, MA. (Rt. 20 exit off I-495)
 Set up Sat 7:00AM Show Sat 10AM to 4PM - Sun 10PM to 4PM
 Coordinator: Peter Wisniewski - 978-658-0866

Jan 26 to 28 WINTERFEST 2006
 Big "E" Exposition Center, W.Springfield, MA
 Set-up Fri noon to 5pm and Sat 7am * Show Sat & Sun 10am to 5pm
 Coordinator: John Dunne - 508-697-7635
 Winterfest Coordinator: Bob Pawlak - 781-862-2485

February 17 & 18 Museum of Our National Heritage, Lexington, MA
 Set-up Sat 8am Show Sat 10am to 5pm - Sun noon to 5pm
 Coordinator: Bob Pawlak - 781-862-2485

February 25 Mystic Valley Show, Foxboro, MA
 Christina's Function Facility, Rte 1, Foxboro, MA
 Set-up 8am Show 10am to 4pm
 Coordinator: Dennis Yip - 617-964-5311

Mar 24-25, 2006 Great Train Expo, Shriners Auditorium, Wilmington, MA
 Set up Sat 7:30AM Show Sat 10AM to 4PM - Sun 10PM to 4PM
 Coordinator: Fay Chin - 978-657-7913

Apr 15, 2006, CVMRR Show, Lebanon, NH
 Coordinator: Doug Lawson - 603-543-0226

Apr 22, 2006, Hooksett Lyons Club
 Cawley Middle School, Hooksett, NH
 Set-up 8am Show 10am to 4pm
 Coordinator: Mike Walker - 603-426-8620

May 10 Children's Hospital, 300 Longwood Dr, Boston, MA
 Set-up 7am Show 9am to 3pm
 Coordinator: Bob Pawlak - 781-862-2485

Aug 9 - 14 N-Scale Collector Convention, Hartford, CT

Welcome a New Member
Larry Lockwood

We would like to welcome Larry Lockwood to Northeast Ntrak. Larry is retired and has started a modular layout using the Ntrak spec as a module. He has three modules in various stages of construction. He is interested in DCC.

Larry Lockwood 508-865-3432
 179 Home Way
 Millbury, MA 01527 ljlockwood@version.net

Syracuse Roadtrip Article and Photo's by Ernie Poole



Most of you know by now that my dad passed away on the 1st day of this year. It was a tough New Years day for the family, but it started a chain of events that ended up in my traveling with Roland to the Syracuse, NY trainshow in early November. Dad was a lifelong railroad modeler and had two real loves as I remember it. One was the narrow gauge railroads, and that was centered on, but not exclusive to, the Colorado and Southern. The other, or at least one of the others, was circus modeling.

As I was sorting out what to do with all the railroadiana he left behind, I thought of Roland as someone who would be interested in the circus models. He was as it turned out, and I delivered about a dozen circus cars and even more handbuilt wagons to him to find a new home. The majority of the models are in 1:48 (O) scale, but a few of them I believe to be 7/16" scale, are much larger.



Roland invited me to join him for the weekend to display the collection with the Circus Modelers Group at the Syracuse show. This is a very large show on the order of our Springfield show in February. Springfield is larger, but Syracuse is not far behind in real estate. Two large buildings jam packed with trains of all sizes. He had connections with the group, and arranged table space. They were very glad to have the display, and the weekend was a big success. I set out the display of Dad's equipment, and included some of Roland's (N) scale equipment to round out the table space. I also learned a lot about the circus talking with the group.

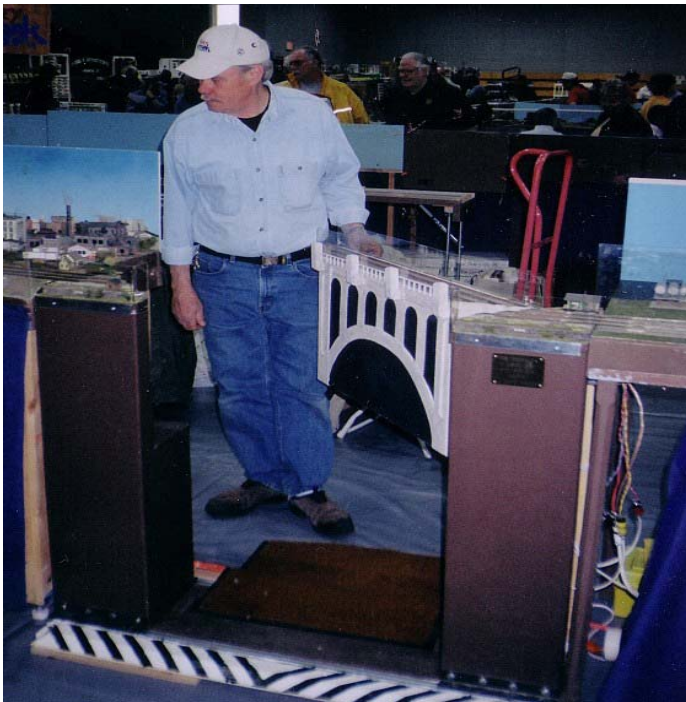
We had dinner on Saturday evening with some old friends. Austin Plyem, Brian King, Harry Smith, and other Springfield regulars were there with the NTRAK group. We ate some pretty good food, told some pretty good stories, (all true of course) and drank some adult beverages. It was a nice weekend and I enjoyed it all. Well, except for Roland getting up at 5:30am on Monday! But even that worked out well, as the tree guys were at my house doing some work that day and I got home in time to supervise.

I hope you enjoy the photos I took while we were there.

A Visit With Valley N-Trak
(A Remembrance of Rich Marko)
Story & Photo by D. Pawling,



Bill Pontin built the Rich Marko Memorial Bridge in memory of his friend.



Bridge." In the picture Bill is demonstrating how the swing bridge opens. Mainline power lines run through the pillars and base. If I remember correctly, power is shut off on the approach tracks when the bridge is opened.

Rich Marko was present at Winterfest 2003 where his animated logging modules won the "Best in Show Award - All Categories." Steam jennies on the ground puffed smoke and powered booms which swung timbers about. A boom on a sailing ship was busy loading timber. Back in the forest a voice called "TIMBER" and a tall tree crashed to the ground.

WOW! And then, when no one was looking, the tree would slowly return to the upright position ready to repeat the performance. WOW, again! A picture of Rich showing a bit of his module was printed in the May 2003 NE N-trak Newsletter. Rich Marko - a true innovator.



One of two water-filled tank cars in the Fire Protection Service of the MetroNorth Commuter Railroad. This one stationed at the Railroad Maintenance Facility in Croton-Harwau, NY on the former Hudson River NY Central mainline. (Photo by D Pawling, Sr.)



Above are some of the trains on display at the Railroad Museum located at the New York State Fairgrounds.

I was able to attend the Housatonic Model RR (HO) Club dealer show in Fairfield CT in March 2006. The show was well attended by dealers and the general public. There were a number of model layouts of various scales including Valley N-trak. I chatted with several members including Art Frankforter and Bill Pontin. I asked about Rich Marko and was saddened to learn that he had passed on (Sorry, I neglected to ask for more information).. Bill then showed me what he had done to honor his friend -- "The Richard Marko Memorial