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President's Message Dan Pawling

Sorry for the mix-up in the November Issue of the Newsletter. It went out to the members that receive it by mail saying it was the "September 2009" issue. Guess it is just part of getting old.

The News Letter Needs Your Help Yes You:

Roland has been working hard to get the news letter out every month without fail for longer than I have been a member and most of the rest of us take it for granted that it is always going to be there. Let's show a little club spirit and get him some photos, short or long articles to help him fill up the news letter. If you have been a member for more than half a year you owe him at least one short article.

Here are some suggestions:

Write about a show you went to 1 week ago to 10 years ago that you thought was good in some way and add some photos if you can. If you are building something new take photos and write something short. DCC information is always helpful, how to, new products, new ideas you want to try out or bounce off the club. What you saw on a trip you went on that was interesting. Write articles get extra credit at school for it or the journalism merit badge with the Boy Scouts.

We need a suggestion box for anything from new modules, getting new equipment and somebody to manage that. I will need the list of suggestions for the annual meeting so we can discuss it then. Write about the N-Scale product that you didn't like. There are endless amounts of ideas all we need is you. Please keep a good thing going. Out of state members & clubs please feel free to join in too.

Power Pole connectors & harnesses

I think the time has come that we start to build parallel harnesses or at a minimum our own adaptors so each of our modules are power pole ready. It is sounding like most clubs coming to Winterfest have already moved in this direction. I am considering building power pole harness to run parallel with the old clinch Jones harness & connectors already on my modules. Chris Oliva from Brooklyn Ntrak was saying that the DCC equipment will need to be Power Pole Compatible for Winterfest because some other clubs have power pole connectors only.

Roster Update

Bill Hayes has changed his phone number. His new number is 603-860-7196.

Success on the Boomer Show:

This was very enjoyable show because there was plenty of time for running trains, the creative work of clubs present at the show and chatting with our NE Ntrak crew. The attendance at this show was really good this year. We talked with a lot of the people passing through and found some interesting folks with new Ntrak standard specification modules that we may see in Wilmington at our next show. Ron Wood the coordinator for this show has done a great job getting us all together. The layout was up and running well before show time. Great work! It was due to the usual suspects everyone else must be running scared.

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Greenberg's Train & Toy Show



NTrak Track Question

Here is an email I received looking for suggestions for laying track. I forwarded it to Bob Pawlak and here is both the request for help and the reply from Bob with his suggestion.

"A member from Brooklyn NTrak. I thought I might use this venue to ask an NTrak Track question.

I should have finished tacking and gluing down my roadbed this weekend and would like to start laying track. I'll be using Peco Flextrack as well as Peco Electrofrog turnouts.

I've been browsing online and there seem to be ENDLESS ways of attaching track from "Liquid Nails" to "Household Goo" to "Woodland Scenics" adhesives.

[Silly little me was going to just tack them down with small atlas nails over some elmers glue, the same way I'd done for years. Do any of you have any different suggestions?

I was also thinking of adding short, standard, atlas tracks (maybe the 2" one) to the outside of each track because those get beatup on instillation and can easily be replaced. And I will be very gentle in attaching my switches (perhaps only a tack or smidge of elmers far from any moving parts.)

I'm also assuming that I can do all of my wiring after I glue track as I'm relatively handy with a soldering iron.

Thanks for any and all input, The New Guy

PS. I may still nail and elmers unless some of y'all tell me it's a truly horrible idea."

Hi Matt,

If you ask 10 guys, you will probably get 10 different answers. Here is mine.

I asked someone I knew who had been at it a long time. He recommended Plyo-Bond glue. It is most readily available in small (3 oz) bottles at some hardware stores but I once bought a quart of it on line. It smells nasty but I like the results and have always used it for gluing track to cork or track directly to plywood. I first put a coat on the cork or plywood and let it dry for a little while. Then I put a coat on the track and let it dry a little while. Then I put the track on the cork or plywood. It is similar to contact cement but not the same because it allows you to move the two pieces to final alignment after contact. For example, suppose it is a piece of straight track. After you put the two pieces together, you can put a straight edge along the edge of the ties and maneuver the track to get it straighter than when you first put it down.

I don't like nails, pins, tacks, etc. I use what I call "snake weights" that I built especially for gluing track down. I bought a bag of buck shot - maybe 25 lbs at a sporting

goods store that is sold to people who reload shot gun shells with the stuff. It is not exactly lead, but very heavy in little balls. I then took an old piece of sheet and used a sewing machine to make an 18" long by 1-1/4" diameter bag and filled it with the buck shot and sewed the end of the bag closed. Don't stuff the bag too tight so it will be very flexible. Make more than one bag so you will have enough length for a 3' long section of track. After you glue your track, plop the "snake weight" on the track to hold it in place. Don't put so much glue down that it comes up through the ties or you will glue the snake weight to the track. The snake weight will handle most any shape of curved track.

I have a 12' x 3' Ntrak module I call "Bridges Canyon" that (believe it or not) has about 240' of Micro Engineering code 55 flex track and switches on it. I didn't use cork at all to save weight. I glued the track directly to 1/8" plywood pieces which I then glued to pink foam insulation. After a while, I didn't let the glue dry much and I put ballast down mostly between the rails and then used the snake weights. Later I added more ballast as necessary, mostly not between the rails.

Bob Pawlak, Northeast Ntrak

2009-2010 NENtrak SHOW PARTICIPATION SCHEDULE

Jan 29th-31st 2010 Winterfest, Springfield, MA Amherst Railway Society - Big Railroad Hobby Show

Big "E" Exposition Center, West Springfield, MA

Set-up Fri noon to 5pm & Sat 7am

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

Layout Coordinator: Dan Pawling Jr., 617-244-5261

Winterfest Coordinator: Bob Pawlak - 781-862-2485

Feb 13th & 14th 2010 National Heritage Museum Lexington, MA

Set up Fri 2pm - 4:30pm, Sat 7:30am - Show Sat 10am to

4:30pm - Sun noon to 4pm

Coordinator: Bob Pawlak - 781-862-2485

March 27-28, 2010 Greenburg Show, Shriners Auditorium, Wilmington, MA

Set up Sat 7:30am - Show Sat 10am to 4pm - Sun 10am to 4pm

Coordinator: Fay Chin 978-657-7913

Web Site: www.GreenbertShows.com

April ??, 2010 Billerica Train Show (LINER LAYOUT NEW SHOW)

Set-up 8am - Show 10am to 4pm (Information pending)

April ??, 2010 Hooksett Lions Club, Cawley Middle School, Hooksett, NH

Set-up 8am - Show 10am to 4pm (Information pending)

Show Dates **Subject to Change**...Check Newsletters for Updates. Please check schedule for errors and send up dates to Roland at northeastntrak@msn.com Thanks for your help.

From Prototype to Model by Bob Pawlak

Last January, I was driving from the convention hotel to the "Big E" on Sunday morning following the Winterfest banquet the night before. I was happy that the work of the banquet was finished and I could look forward to a relaxing day of running trains and seeing the Amherst Show.

There is a railroad yard which parallels the road for several blocks where I usually see dull, rusted, and weathered full scale freight cars. I was, therefore, somewhat shocked to see the pair of cars pictured below because they looked brand new or at least fresh from the paint shop with striking colors. I pulled off the road to have a closer look. Fortunately, I had my camera and the two cars were spotted such that it was easy to take a picture of them. I thought it was unusual that a tank car and box car would both be painted in such a flashy color scheme with identical logos and be coupled together.



One of the logos on the tank car said "Safety Train, The Firefighters Education and Training Foundation." I figure the pair of cars was on some sort of tour and safety training mission. As I got back in the car, I thought to myself, "Those two cars would look great as Micro-Trains models!"

A few days later I sent an e-mail to Eric Smith of Micro-Trains Line with photos of the two cars attached. I told him where I had seen the cars, suggested they would make great models, and thanked him again for being a sponsor of Winterfest 2009.

As the year went by, I proceeded to forget about the cars until I got my copy of the Micro-Trains Line Micro-News with pictures of the new releases for September, 2009. Lo and behold, there was the blue and red tank car! The write up said, "It was built in August 1972, serviced in March 2008 and runs on Barber Roller Bearing trucks. Tank car 72223 is part of a consist of cars that travel regionally each year to provide free safety training to



emergency responders. The program is provided by TRANSCAER (Transportation Community Awareness and Emergency Response), a voluntary outreach effort focusing on training communities to prepare and respond to a possible hazardous material transportation incident in partnership with companies, in this case DOW Chemicals." I had to have one of these cars so I quickly bought one. The picture above shows the model tank car from about the same angle as the prototype picture. The picture below is a picture of the box car with the same paint scheme and logos as the tank car.

About six weeks later a package arrived from Micro Trains with a complimentary copy of the same Dow tank car and a note that read in part: "This is our way of saying thank you for your contribution and making it possible for Micro-Trains to release this authentic scale model. Micro-Trains wishes to thank everyone involved, whether you are a modeler, rail fan, collector or source of prototype data." That was a nice surprise!

My prediction is that the matching box car will eventually be a new release by Micro-Trains. The morale of this story is: keep your camera handy and send suggestions for new release models to N-scale manufacturers.



Fay Chen is the coordinator for the Greenberg Show & I think he has a few surprises for us. He has a new mystery module that he has kept under wraps for what seems like months now. What could it be? I am hopeful that we can fit in the new group of folks from New Hampshire that may join us at the show. The drawing for the layout is likely to change & hopefully Fay will get a chance to get a new one out to us once he has final commitment from all the possible modules. **Breakfast at Raffiello's** at 7:00AM or a little earlier if you can is on Saturday morning. We have been known to do it on Sunday too. It's got to be that Wilmington road kill that brings us back. Raffiello's is off Concord Street on the left about a half mile or so after the turn off for the Greenburg Show if you are coming from I 93. See you there or go hungry! We need several cameras here taking pictures please bring yours. Jack make sure you bring your dad's camera.

Winterfest 2010

This year is the 16th Annual Northeast Ntrak Convention on January 29-31, 2010. On-line registration for this is scheduled to begin no later than after Thanksgiving Day, 2009, at www.NorthEastNtrak.org. I have attached a copy of the new Module Registration Request Form to the newsletter so that this process can start early. The intention of this form is to get the set up process to run more smoothly on the Friday before the show. If you have multiple modules that can be separated I will need to know that but if you have two 4' modules that always need to be together then you have one 8' module. The online module registration form will be up dated so please check on that. The information that is asking for will help me organize a list, possibly make module ID cards, work out bugs in advance & design the layout in advance of set up. The date the Module Registration Request Form is received will play an important part of the registration process so it is important to complete & send it in as soon as possible. There is an arrival schedule listed in the registration form & we would like to hold to the schedule so everyone can enjoy dinner and the Friday evening clinics. Thanks for your cooperation on this in advance.

It's time to get cranking on those potential prize winning modules for the model contest entries; spruce up your best module for the module contest; decide on your best train to run in the Parade of Trains contest; print and frame those great pictures you took recently (no repeats from previous years please). The last two years of entries were fairly light so it was easy to win a prize will it be the same this year? Nothing ventured nothing gained. If you need to find out what the categories are log on to the NE Ntrak web site and look at last year's contest winners and categories. Good luck every one Dan Pawling



More pictures from the Bedford Show



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Vandalized Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum Seeks funds to rebuild

WILLIMANTIC, Conn. — The Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum is working to raise money to fix **damage done by vandals Nov. 3**, the north-central *Connecticut Journal Inquirer* has reported. Museum officials fear the damage tally could reach as high as \$100,000.

Vandals broke windows and spray-painted graffiti on museum displays; Willimantic police say they're investigating, but have made no arrests. The museum held an open house last weekend to allow the public to see the damage firsthand, and began its fundraising campaign there. It will hold a "goods and services benefit auction" Friday, and will hold its normal fundraising event, its fall train show, Nov. 15 at Windham High School.

Anyone wishing to donate money can send donations to the museum at P.O. Box 655, Willimantic, CT 06226.