

President - Dan Pawling Vice Pres - Mark Ferracane
Treasurer - Chuck Tremblay Editor - Roland Kelley

Editor - Northeast Ntrak, 41 Easy Street, Lowell, MA 01850-1731, or
e-mail: NortheastNtrak@msn.com Web Site - www.northeastntrak.org

HAPPY NEW YEAR



President's Message Dan Pawling

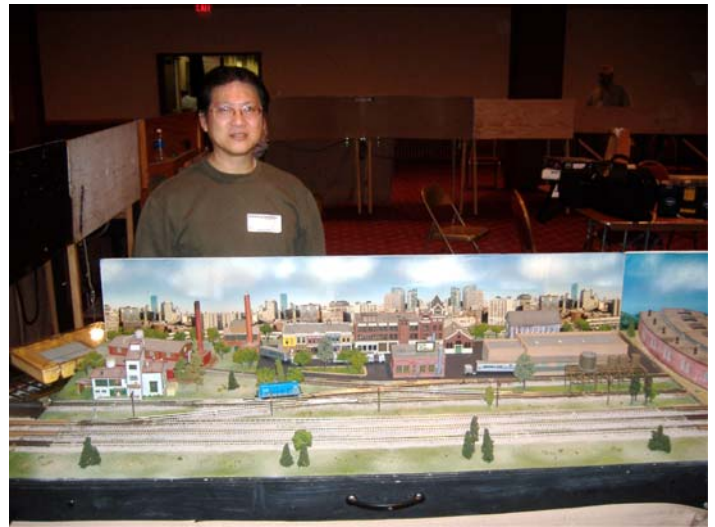
Module Registration Request Form

As January 3 only four people from Northeast Ntrak and nobody from MaineTrak has registered their modules for Winterfest. This is important to do because I need to have it for the master list for the contests, to make sure I don't forget you, as well as the specifications are needed for placement. Even if I know you I need the registration form so I have all your info. The following is the link to the web version:

<http://www.northeastntrak.org/winterfest/wfModuleRes.pdf>

Greenberg's Train & Toy Show

The Greenburg show was fairly busy this year it seemed like there was a surge in the crowd between 11:00 AM & 2:00 PM on Saturday but the rest of the time is was just a mild steady flow. We had a great show with lots of new modules and they are as follows Fay Chin 4' time saver, Michael Bubba 4' Larry Lockwood 8' module with bridges, Bob Fallier two excellent European modules and Bob's four Boy Scout (see pictures page 3) from Troup 12 of Hollis NH. The Scouts Matt, Trevor, Oliver, & Scott (I hope I have this correct) each bringing a module. This I believe was their first show and they did a great job. I would like to invite them back to our shows in the future. Maybe we will see them at the Big E in Springfield at the Amherst Rail Way Society's Train Show. Big thanks to the scout's parents in helping them get to the show.



N-Trak Time Saver by Fay Chin

I was working on my N-Trak modules one evening when an idea come into my mind to build a new module that was challenging and functional. My criteria included operator interaction and automation. I decided to build a Time Saver N-Trak module with industrial siding and switching. The N-Trak Time Saver is an adaptation of the late John Allen's Time Saver concept. The Time Saver is a game/puzzle layout that requires the operator to move railcars to different siding with restricted space capacity and a run around track. You can find more information on the web by searching John Allen Time Saver. The rule is simple; move five (5) railcars (boxcar, reefer, flatcar, hopper, and tank car) with a switching locomotive to designated sidings in the shortest time. There are variations of the rule such as the least number of moves. (continued on page 2)

Winterfest 2010

*** See You There ***

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.

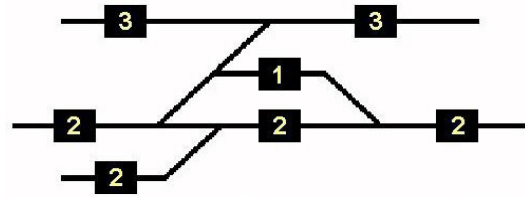
WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBER

Bob Fallier
115 Fine Hill Road
Hollis NH 03049

603-465-3785 email: bfallier@email.com

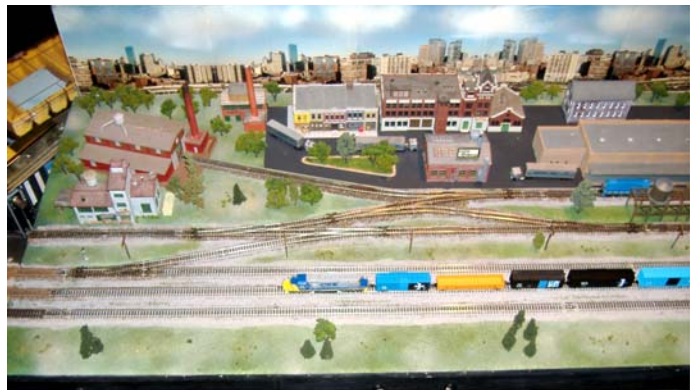
Bob has been in the hobby 40+ years. Has an 18' x 34' Euro - Swiss/German N scale layout. Has a scout troupe which has built modules that were in the show at Shriners in Wilmington.

(continued from page 1)



Track layout and storage capacity of sidings

To automate the layout, I used a Programmable Logic Controller that I had purchased on e-bay. You will be surprise what you can find on e-bay. This is an article for another day. For the technical geeks, the Programmable Logic Controller (PLC) is an Allen Bradley PLC-5/20 with two output cards and one input card. I have programmed and used this type of industrial controller in pharmaceutical facilities, coal and nuclear power plants. The first thing I had to do was design and build photo detector circuit to sense railcars at the end of the five sidings. The photo sensors tell the PLC that the railcars have reached its designation. (continued page 4)



Pictures of Fay Chin's new module shown for the first time at the Greenberg's Train & Toy Show in November. Pictures taken by Dan Pawling, Jr.





Here is part of the group at the Great Train Expo in Wilmington in November. (front row l to r) Peter Mathews, Brian Mathews, Michael Bubba, Mark Ferracane, Peter Wisniewski, (back row) Victor Brown, Bob Fallier, Paul Azevedo, Bob Pawlak, Dan Pawling, Jack Brown, Chuck Abraham, Fay Chin.

Great Train Expo
by Fay Chin

Northeast N-Trak participated in another successfully show at the Great Train Expo in Wilmington, MA. The layout dimensions were 26' x 40' with 48' of new modules. A Boy Scout group from New Hampshire brought 26' of new scenic modules (see photo's below). This was their first time participating in a show. It is good to see new modules and new participants. Maybe we can negotiate with The Great Train Expo for more space in the future. With only a minor back power feed problem from a yard power supply on my new module, the layout was up and running. I would like to thank all participants who brought modules and those who helped to make this show a success. Great job everyone!

Boy Scout group from New Hampshire and there 26 feet.



(continued from page 2)

The construction of the N-Trak framework, gluing down sub-road bed, installing turnouts, laying tracks, and scenery went quickly. The next tasks were to power all the turnouts, build a mimic control panel, light the buildings, light the telephone poles, and wiring. The construction took about four weekends to complete.



N-Trak Timer Saver



N-Trak Time Saver (left and right views)

Then the fun and easy part of the project began. The programming was very simple; the following is the sequence of operation: when the railcar reaches the end of the siding, the locomotive pauses and reverse direction. The PLC automatically switches the appropriate turnouts until all five siding have been spotted and the locomotive returned. I will incorporate a railcar counter, speedometer, and more on the main and branch lines in the future.

Winterfest 2010

*** See You There ***



Programmable Logic Controller and Time Saver Mimic Control Panel

The Timer Saver module can be manually operated. Using railcars with Microtrain (Kaydee) couplers, track magnetic uncouplers, and powered turnouts; the Time Saver can be operated from the mimic control panel with a hand-held throttle. The Time Saver rule was modified using random card selection to determine the railcars destination. The Time Saver operation is a bit of a challenge. Try it

Marks what is it contest

Answer one of these questions about the Picture and win one for yourself. If you are doing what you should be doing (building your module)it could be very helpful.

1. What is it made of?

Extra credit: Where did it come from?

Extra extra credit: What was it used for?

You can get 1 for each right answer.

Hints:

The size is 11 ¾"x12"x18 ½" and it is very light weight.

