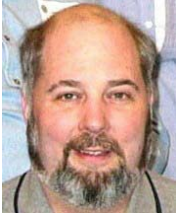


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President's Message Mark Ferracane

The best laid plans of mice and men, well the Boy Scout Show in Rochester, New Hampshire date has to be changed. We had planned on the 8th, but that is Easter Sunday. Bummer. We are going to push the date back 1 week. The new show date is the 15th of April. This show is for fund raising of the Boy Scout Troop 357 of Rochester, NH. I hope we can give them a GREAT Show!

Well, the first show of the year is in the books. Thank goodness that the Concord Model Railroad Club changed the date of the show. We had a few problems with the layout. Shorts, and misinstalled rail joiners. The DCC system needs to be purged of addresses. We cannot put any more locomotives on the system. The command station is FULL. Anyway...I hope to have the problem fixed by the next show. And one other thing, PLEASE REMOVE BATTERIES FROM THROTTLE before putting them away!!! I found 2 throttles in the bag with the batteries still in them. It does two things, one-Damage them and two it waists the batteries. If you find a Low or Dead Battery, use common sense and throw it away.

I have a friend who has some modules he had built and will be selling some of his detailed modules. The modules feature Kato and Peco track. I will be getting pictures of the modules. They have never been showed. So if anyone needs a New Module or one to start with here is your chance. Contact me.

There will be no Pepperell Show this year. There was a conflict in getting the School for the event. The next shows we will be doing will be in November, Bedford Boomers and Greenburg shows. For people who do not know, Bedford Boomers is a Layouts Only Show. There are no Dealers, so make sure you have what you need with you. There will be no one to buy it from. The Greenburg Show is a 2 day show and it is one of our best shows. (The Club gets Paid for showing)! The end of next month the website will have Registration for Winterfest 2012!! This will be our 18th year doing the show. So get your Contest entries ready.

Until next Month!
Mark

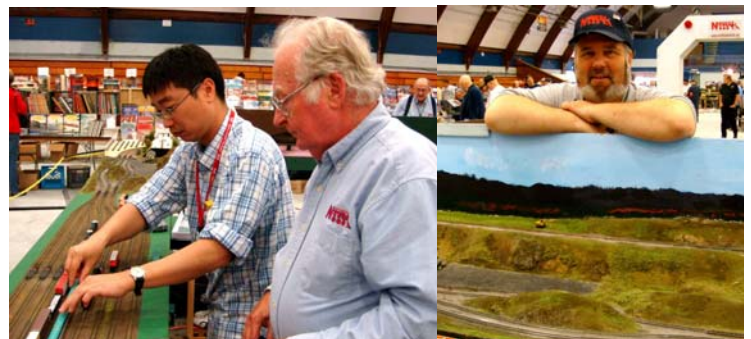
Concord Show Review by Dick Brotherton



The Concord Train Show was held at Everett Arena on September 11, 2011. We had a 26X 14 foot layout. Doug Lawson, 3" corner and the bridge: Mark Farracane, two 4' straights: Bob Fallier, 3" and 5" straights: Oliver Fetter, 4' straight: Roland Kelley, two 4" straights: Dick Brotherton 4' straight: Ron Wood, Pete Mathews, and Tashiyuki Abe each brought 3' corners.

We had two new SHOW STOPPERS. Oliver Fetter's "water filled" volcano with the tracks running through a transparent lighted tube. Bob Fallier modules (totaling 8') of the " Learning Temple of The Flourishing Law" is a definate prize winner.

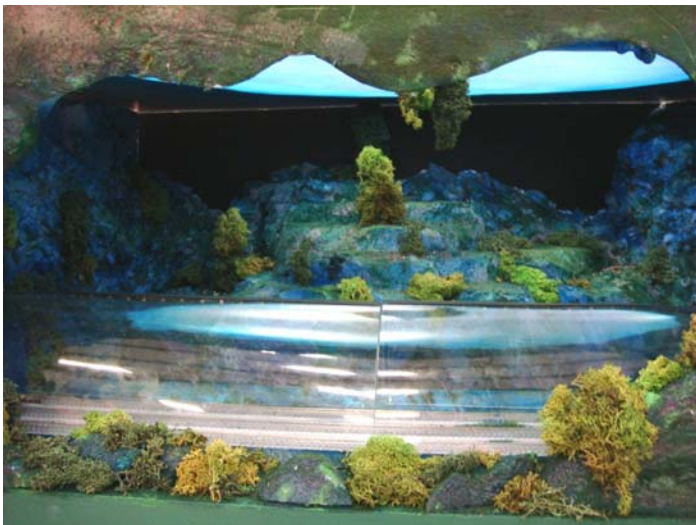
I would like to thank the members who came and helped set up, and take down. It may have been a small show on a beautiful day, but we were fairly busy, and had a good time. A special thanks to Mark Farracane who was more of a co-coordinator than a participant, and Roland Kelley our roving reporter.



Imagine That -- Mt. Oliver



One of the two new modules at the Concord, NH show was by Oliver Fetter, a 13 year old Boy Scout from Hollis, NH. He came up with the idea and built this module. It is an inactive volcano. The volcano has become a lake over the years. Today it is full of fish and maybe even a mermaid or two.



The railroad rather than going around the volcano went through. As you can see in the picture above the tracks go thru a tunnel at the bottom of the lake. Great idea and hope to see it at the Springfield show in January. (also see article page 4)

The Hobby Emporium will have a 30% off sale on Saturday, September 24, from 10AM to 6PM. Some items as much as 50% off. It is for one day only. 978-649-5055.

2011-2012 NENTRAK SHOW PARTICIPATION SCHEDULE

October 1, 2011 Pepperell Siding Show, Varnum Brook Elementary School, Pepperell, MA

Set up 7:00am - Show 10am to 4pm

Coordinator:

Canceled

October 29-30, 2011 South Shore Model Railroad Club Show, 19 Fort Hill Street, Hingham, MA. (In-line Show)

Set up 7:00am - Show 9am to 4pm

Coordinator: Geof Smith - 781-214-9401

November 10, 2011 Bedford Boomers, McKelvie Middle School, Bedford, NH

Set up 7:45am - Show 10am to 4pm

Coordinator: Mike Walker - 603-426-8620

November 19-20, 2011 Great Train Expo, Shriners Auditorium, Wilmington, MA

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

Coordinator: Fay Chin 978-657-7913

December 3-4, 2011 Hub Division Train Show, Royal Plaza Trade Center, Marlboro, MA

Set up Sat

Coordinator:

Canceled

Jan 27-29, 2012 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 19-20, 2012 National Heritage Museum, Lexington, MA

Set up Sat 7:30am - Show Sat 10am to 5am - Sun noon to 5pm

Coordinator: Bob Pawlak - 781-862-2485

March 26-27, 2012 Great Train Expo, Shriners Auditorium, Wilmington, MA

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

Coordinator: Fay Chin 978-657-7913

April 15, 2012 Boy Scout Show, Rochester, NH

Set-up 7am - Show 10am to 4pm

Coordinator:

April 2012 Billerica Train Show (Pending)

(Liner Layout) Show 10am to 4pm

Coordinator:

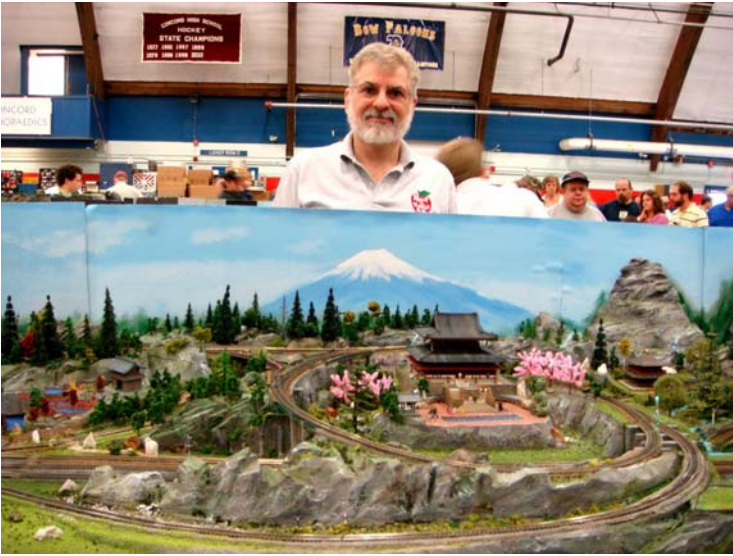
May 13 or 19, 2012 Hooksett Lions Club, Cawley Middle School, Hooksett, NH

Set-up 8am - Show 10am to 4pm

Coordinator: Ron Wood - 603-320-0639

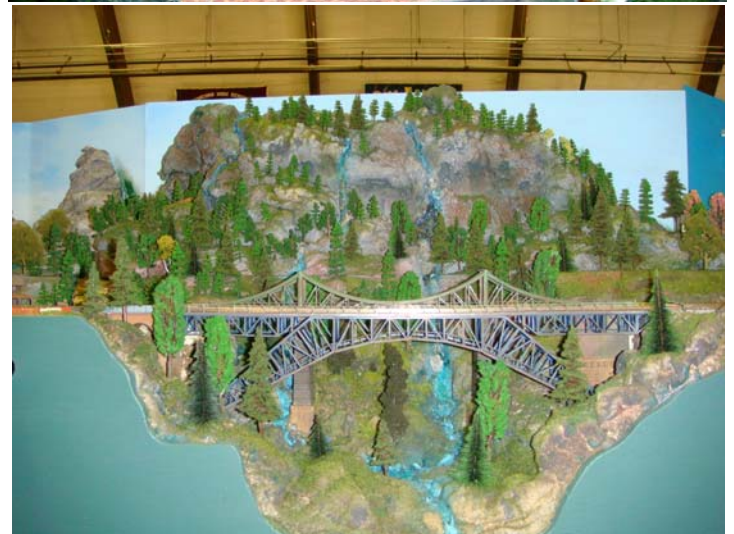
Show Dates Subject to Change...Check Newsletters for Updates. Please check schedule for errors and send up dates to Roland at: northeastntrak@msn.com Thanks for your help.

Gardens and Temples of Japan



Above is the Learning Temple of the Flourishing Law model. The picture below is showing the detail of the inside of the Temple. Look at the detail, not seen here but he has also put the artwork into the ceiling of the Temple. [Check next month for article by Bob about his module.](#)

The second new module was an 8 foot by Bob Failer. Bob is also the leader of the Boy Scout Group into model railroading which Oliver Fetter is a member. This was an outstanding module of the Gardens and Temples of Japan. This is a module you have to see in-person to enjoy all the work and detail he has put into it. Here are some pictures to show you his work. Hope to see it in Springfield in January. This is an outstanding module.



Pepperell Siding Model RR Club do to the uncertainty of securing the Varnum School in time to organize a good show, the membership present at the business meeting voted to postpone the show until spring 2012.

Oliver's Mountain by Bob Fallier

What if you are 13 years old, it's summer time, and you like model railroading? What if you are creative and unbounded by adult linear thinking? Kid's always think "out of the box" because they haven't been "boxed in" yet.

I'm not quite sure what spawned the idea for Oliver's volcano, but from the moment he mentioned it to me, I thought it was a great idea. It hadn't been done before. It would be unique, and with some guidance and encouragement, could be done within his abilities.

Oliver had already built the basic 2'x4' platform, although it needed some tweaking to match N-Trak design conventions for clamping. We built a basic square box from 1" Styrofoam insulation board and Oliver had already built the layered interior land form. The "box" was offset a couple of inches allowing a bit more exterior detailing to one side.

With the box and land form in place, we used gap filling spray on foam as both an adhesive and to create a lumpy sort of underwater interior. We added several vertical slabs of foam on the outside to create the mountain sides. In the front corners we added extra foam chunks for bracing and additional depth. This allowed us to taper the front corners into a more realistic shape. When we were reasonably happy with the overall shape, we used several colors of paint, starting with a gray primer, to create the background colors both inside and out. Perhaps not typical for a real volcanic lake, we used dark blue (automotive candy apple) and polymix green/black on the inside. The outside colors are polymix brown/black, forest green, and black.

Natural red sandstone from Utah and Woodland Scenics talus is used for rocks both inside and out. While the paint was still fresh, we sprinkled Woodland Scenics "fine earth" and various turf/grass mixtures onto the wet paint. Just a bit of scenery material, static grass, coarse turf, polyfiber, and small trees, were used around the lake surface where vegetation would find it difficult to grow on a hard volcanic surface. We applied several shades of natural lichen inside the volcano, and a last minute sail boat on the lake.

The idea of a green mountain track was considered, but we would either need to completely hide it, or create a separate tunnel for it, and finally scrapped the idea.

The main tracks are laid on cork roadbed, but rather than separate the cork strips and use the beveled sides, we opted to leave everything inside the tunnel square and even. The foamboard, cork, and track was painted gray to simulate modern concrete construction. Oliver soldered the feed wires to the Atlas track and everything was glued in place.

The Tunnel...

Initially we tried to form the tunnel with Lexan. *Don't.* After literally hours of forming with a heat gun and bending the material down into slots cut lengthwise in a 1x6, we could not get a consistent shape or the 5" wide base width that we needed. Ultimately I decided to try the same thing with Plexiglas and had the tunnel shaped in less than an hour. The Plexiglas was initially

28" long which we then cut in half.

Automotive LED lighting strips with self adhesive backing was added along the top centerline of the tunnel. The LED strips came in very convenient 12" lengths. We recessed 1/8" phono jacks just inside the front of the mountain opening and added matching phono plugs to the LED strip lights. Thus if there is a problem inside the tunnel, we can easily unplug the power and lift out the tunnel sections right from the front without disturbing any of the scenery. To keep everything in line, and give the appearance of a "base", we used 1/2" x 3/4" aluminum L channels on the front and rear of the tunnel, painted to match the blues and greens used elsewhere. The tunnel portals are simply shaped cardboard covered with scenery materials.

Apparently the tunnel is not entirely water tight and you might spot a work crew cleaning up a bit of a leak or just keeping the "glass" clean. Let your the imagination run wild. In the underwater world, anything could happen, and anything might magically appear. But I'll leave that up to Oliver.



By the way... if you missed the Concord show on September 11th, you missed Oliver handling the Tower almost exclusively all day long. All three tracks, not just his assigned time slots and track. And if you ask him what he would prefer to run... he'll probably say Steam engines. The magic of side rods in motion is still alive and well!

What next...?

Perhaps to boldly go where no N-Trak has gone before....
Happy Railroading,



Another picture from the Concord show