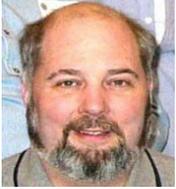


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President's Message Mark Ferracane

Well the 2011/2012 season is over. We had successes this season, a new show at the end of the season.

The annual meeting will be on June 9th at the Bay State Model Railroad Museum in Roslindale. The meeting will begin at Noon. And bring something to RUN! The layout is DC, and DCC engines will work fine on DC. The Club will be open to us. We will be discussing the 2012/2013 Season as well as Officers. I received an E-Mail from Bob Pawlak, he told me that he wishes to step down from Winterfest Chairman. Bob Faller has volunteered to take his place. Also Chuck and Ed wish to end their duties of Winterfest. All I can say is Thanks for all the service you have done for the organization over the years.

The Rochester New Hampshire show was a success! The Boy Scouts raised over \$1300 for their Troop. We were the only layout there, next year they hope to have more. The vendors were very happy they made some money. Well done to all who participated. And a Big Thank you from the Scouts!



National Train day in Boston was a joke. I do not know how it was in the Bigger markets. New York, Chicago and Philadelphia. Boston had Displays from Mystic Valley and Mass Bay Railroad enthusiasts. There was an Operating Thomas Layout and Operation Life Saver was there also. There was an Acela Train set you could walk through. It was like a plane on rails. The only thing you could not do is go into the engineer's compartment. Bummer! So I went out to Worcester and went to Union Station. There is a T Stop near the Intermodal yard. There I saw 2 east bound trains and saw a Mijack loading containers on a Double stack car. There were 4 Commuter Rail Trains sitting for the Monday Morning Commute to Boston. All in all it was a good day.

Changes for Winterfest 2013 by Bob Pawlak

I have had too many birthdays and no longer feel up to continuing to be Chairman of Winterfest. It is time to pass the baton to someone else. I have done the job for the past 8 years trying to continue what Jim Whitehead and his crew of helpers started and built up over the 10 years prior to my agreeing to take over for Jim. I was very lucky to have the continued help of original team members Ed Smith and Chuck Tremblay working together doing the key jobs of design and maintenance of the on-line registration process, convention registrar (Treasurer), Contest Chairman, preparation of the awards presentation, etc. Unfortunately, Ed Smith does not plan to continue to participate in Winterfest and Chuck does not wish to continue to be convention registrar.

I asked Bob Fallier if he would be willing to be Chairman of Winterfest. He agreed to help in a major way for Winterfest 2013 and might then be better ready to be the 100% Chairman for 2014. I am sincerely grateful for Bob's willingness to commit to this plan. Therefore, for starters, Bob Fallier has agreed to solicit, gather, and distribute the prizes and promotional materials from our sponsors which in my mind includes being the Master of Ceremonies at the awards banquet. Meanwhile, I will provide my files and experience to Bob and hope to hand off and familiarize him with as many of the various other duties of the Chairman as soon as possible. In essence, we will act as "co-chairs" while Bob Fallier ramps up and I ramp down to zero. Of course if anyone else would like to "compete" for the Chairman's job or help Bob Fallier substantially with other aspects of the job, we would be very happy to hear from you.

Once I am free and clear of the Chairman's job, I told Chuck Tremblay I would be willing to take over for him as Winterfest Registrar. I also plan to continue doing "membership" and continue being coordinator of the Museum show as usual.

I wish to sincerely thank all those who have helped with Winterfest in the past and hope everyone will continue to do so for 2013 and in the future. At the moment Dan Pawling, Jr. has agreed to coordinate the layout again; Mark Ferracane has started the process of taking over the web page; Ron Cavanaugh has agreed to get the shirts, mugs/glasses, and module plaques; and I
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hope John Becker will agree to orchestrate the Parade of Trains (best train) Contest again. We have a signed agreement with the Hilton Garden Inn for a block of rooms anticipating Friday night registration and clinics along with a banquet Saturday night next January as usual. But **the biggest jobs currently vacant** are of the Contest Chairman and several helpers responsible for determining the winners of the model, photo, best train, and module contests. The model contest involves storing and transporting the model contest display cabinet; receiving and photographing each entry; printing and counting ballots; and summarizing a list of the winners (2 or 3 people). The photo contest involves storing and transporting the photo contest display racks; receiving and photographing each entry; printing and counting ballots; and summarizing a list of the winners (2 people). The module contest involves numbering and photographing each module; printing and counting ballots; and summarizing a list of winners (2 people).

Ed Smith, with the help of various others in recent years, has put together an awards presentation (slide show) for the banquet. Pictures of the prize winning entries have been shown as the winners are announced. Building this slide show is a tough job which has often caused Ed and his team to miss part or all of the banquet meal. This slide show is a special treat that we will probably have to forgo at Winterfest 2013. It would save a lot of time and trouble for a new team to simply take pictures of the winners after they have been chosen, perhaps in the calm of early Sunday morning. Pictures of the prize winners are needed for use in the Newsletter.

As a minimum, Northeast Ntrak could simply host the coordination of the layout and arrange some way for most participants to eat together on Saturday night. We could have no registration, no clinics, no block of rooms, no contests, and no prizes. This to me would be just a typical train show, not a convention and not worthy to be called Winterfest. I would much prefer to see Northeast Ntrak members step up to offer Bob Fallier their long term support, volunteer to fill the vacancies outlined above, have Winterfest 2013 almost like most previous Winterfests, and make it easy for Bob Fallier to be willing to become Chairman for 2014. Then again, if Northeast Ntrak members aren't willing to do that, maybe the members of the other Ntrak clubs who consistently participate in Winterfest will be willing to come to the rescue. Whatever happens, I will be happy to help facilitate continuation of the Winterfest tradition by helping to find and train volunteers for the various jobs.

Rochester Show Thoughts

by Ron Wood

The most recent show for Northeast N-Trak in Rochester, NH was not without issues. What happened is not something related just to the Rochester show and can happen at any show. While we were setting up on Sunday in Rochester, it became clear that there were two members of the club that were on the layout plan that had not arrived. One was to be bringing 12 feet of modules and the other one 8 feet. Needless to say, this left us about 20 feet short! Fortunately, all four corners were present and accounted for so with last minute adjustments, the layout was rearranged and all connected as the show opened. This brings to light a few very important things for us as a club to remember. First of all, there were two coordinators to this show. Whenever that happens, the chance for miscommunication increases. The coordinators need to communicate between themselves to be able to know who is confirmed for the show and to make sure the same person hasn't been called multiple times. Second, as the show date nears, it is important for the coordinator(s) to confirm, either by phone, e-mail, or snail mail, the participation of members to ensure a smooth setup but also to know what the layout is going to look like. I feel it is important to mention this because there are a number of newer members who might want to coordinate a show in the future and for the seasoned members, a refresher is helpful. Once the layout was up and running in Rochester, it became clear, there were no sign up sheets in the club boxes! Anyone know where they went to? Over the summer and periodically throughout the year, an inventory of the club boxes should be conducted to ensure we don't run out of items such as the sign up sheets and membership applications. Some of us have been doing this for a while and as the saying goes, "model railroading is fun". Or at least it is supposed to be. I'm just saying we need to pay more attention to the basics. One final thought, we were the only layout at the inaugural Rochester show and imagine being a member of the public looking at our layout. How were we perceived? Frantically re-arranging the layout, appearing very disorganized ..? It's not a big deal to do it right..just a few thoughts. Ron.

**More pictures
from Marks
National Train
Day in
Worcester, MA**



Time For A Change **by Chuck Tremblay**

After serving as the Treasurer for Northeast N-Trak since the club's inception over 30 years ago, I feel it is time to step down and let someone else take over.

Due to numerous changes in my personal and professional life over the last few years, I have not been able to perform the Treasurer's tasks as well as they should be. Every year for the last 5-6 years I have spoken with Bob Pawlak prior to the annual meeting, which it is increasingly hard for me to attend, regarding my continuing as the Treasurer and leave him with the message "If nobody else wants it, I'll keep going".

With the changes Bob has announced elsewhere in this newsletter regarding Winterfest, he has graciously volunteered to take over as Treasurer. While I realize this is an elected (usually uncontested) position, I would hope you would support Bob becoming the next Treasurer of our organization. As he will be continuing as the Membership Chairman, in some ways combining these 2 positions will simplify both tasks and bring some efficiency to both jobs.

This will be a gradual transition over the next year as Bob transitions the Winterfest Chairman duties to Bob Fallier. I will continue for one more year as Winterfest Registrar. Bob and I will work out a detailed plan for the transition of the Treasurer's tasks that will support our parallel activities. We will work to make this as transparent to the membership as possible.

Looking forward, with a Leadership Team in place that can devote more energy to some of these activities, we should consider the following:

- Set up Pay-Pal on our web site for dues, Winterfest registration, or other collections needs
- A revised dues structure, our current dues barely covers our National Membership costs
- Do we convert to, or offer the option for, electronic delivery of the National Newsletter, which has a significant cost savings and is in color
- Investigate becoming a non-profit organization. This was an expensive and complicated activity when investigated many, many years ago. I believe it is much simpler now (and Bob won't be paying our minimal income tax as I have been doing!)

I want to thank all of our members for supporting me in this role, and dealing with my, shall we say, laid back approach to the position. Please give Bob the same support going forward as you have given me.

Boy Did I Step In It.

Well first, please amend what you are all thinking. That's not what I stepped in.

This past winter Bob Pawlak asked if I would be willing to step up to the plate and accept the role of chair person for the 2013 Winterfest. I gave it a bit of thought, just a perusal of the information that Bob sent me soon thereafter. Being late at night, I hardly noted all the many responsibilities that the job entailed. I filed away the email.. well filed it somewhere.

In April I decided that I owed Bob P and the organization a re-visit with that email and realized that I must have filed it into the cyber unknown, and asked Bob if he would kindly resend.... which he promptly redid. Now what have I gotten myself into? I went through the many pages, single spaced. Had it been a speech, it would have taken 20 minutes to read. There is a lot, more than most of us realize I'm sure, in fulfilling the roles and responsibilities required to make each and every Winterfest a successful event.

So having second, third, and fifth thoughts (the 4th was before coffee and didn't count), I replied to Bob Pawlak my conditional agreement. Conditional in that being a bit of a "newbie" to Northeast N-Trak, I'm definitely not ready to take on the entire load, but I am certainly willing to take up shield and armour, and do as much as I can to co-chair the event. Afterall, when many voices were heard last November/December crowing about participation, I was one among many who offered to do my part for the good of the group and the hobby. So here I am up to my knees, having really "stepped in it".

That said: thank you Bob Pawlak for asking and encouraging me to accept this role. Thank you also for having done so much that so few of us have had any insight as to the bulk of tasks that all need to be performed.

Of Northeast N-Trak members, and those of our affiliate clubs/organizations, I would ask to indulge your patience as I become more cognizant of the many steps, procedures, contacts, and duties that entail this decidedly monumental role. No doubt there will be a few hiccups, but hopefully no major derailments or head-on collisions. I fully welcome your critical assessment of past events and ask for your thoughts, suggestions, and ideas for the continued success of the Winterfest show.

Full steam ahead ! Bob Fallier

National Train Day 2011 in Washington DC Story and photos by Dan Pawling, Sr.

After experiencing the Third National Train Day at the 30th Street Station in Philadelphia in May 2010, I decided that I would go to the Fourth NTD in Washington, DC. in 2011. I was somewhat familiar with both stations from the late 1940's and later, so a visit to the grand architecture of each would be refreshing – and it was. Another motive was to see AMTRAK's 40th Anniversary Train and perhaps get some pictures to share. That train and the visiting private cars were parked at platforms in the train shed. Visitor access was excellent, but the lighting was poor for photography. However here is some of what I saw.



The Anniversary train consisted of two locomotives, the P49 #822 and the F40PH # 406 were on the ends of the train. Both are specially painted in AMTRAK's Phase III design. There was a car for equipment and storage; the AMTRAK sleeper #10020 (the travelling crew's quarters); baggage cars numbers 10093, 10094 and 10095 used for the museum displays; "bistro"/café car-type, # 85999, used on Acela trains; and a "company store" car with memorabilia. After "snaking" through the Anniversary Train, we visitors crossed the platform to walk through the several private cars. Sorry, I did not collect the names of the cars or their histories or take pictures inside although that was permitted. Each are uniquely decorated and awesome. One of the pictures shows the nose of a locomotive on the left and the observation platform of a private car on the right. The loco is a recent acquisition of Virginia Railway Express, one of the commuter lines using DC's Union Station. That private car just oozed Texas hospitality!!! After the tour I wandered around Union Station, now very much occupied by various retail stores. The train show exhibits were cramped into available space close to the train gates. The exhibit by NS showing their research and development activity was excellent. Regardless of the crowding, the station is still a national jewel and the show was, too.. I'm glad that I went and now I am ready to see the Fifth Annual Train Day show being held at Grand Central Terminal in NYC, which irony of ironies, is not served by AMTRAK. The display space will be in the former huge waiting rooms and a couple of commuter platforms should be fine for visiting the trains. Wish me luck for better pictures.

