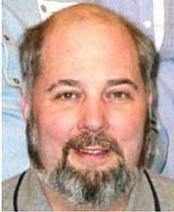


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President's Message Mark Ferracane

Ok, so I was WRONG! And so were the Mayans, the world did not end. The Patriots did not make it to the Super Bowl! But we still have the Bruin's, Celtics and Red Sox. LOL! Go Teams!

Well, Winterfest 2013 is over. I am looking forward to 2014, are you? The show next year will be on the 25th and 26th of 2014. I hope everyone who attended had fun. Did you find any Bargains? Remember what the Amherst Railway Society says "If you cannot find it at the show it probably does not exist!" I think the layout ran well, we did have some DCC problems in our loop. But otherwise everything ran well. And I found some bargains at Tuckers Hobbies. By the time you will be reading this the website will have the link to the Winterfest 2013 Contest Winners. Congratulations to all the Winners! The banquet went well this year; we ate before 9pm. LOL. Thanks to Bob Faller for stepping up and taking the duties of Bob Pawlak. It went like a well-oiled machine! Thank you!

Our next Show is the Museum of Our National Heritage in Lexington on February 16th and 17th. This is a two day show. Saturday 10-4 and Sunday 12-4. Let's Wow them as always. And the Bay State Model Railroad Museum will be having its annual open house on March 2nd and 3rd. Well, here are picture 4 months apart. The pictures were taken at the Big E. Both are in the same location. What a difference 4 months make. I think our layout is better in the same spot.

Til next month, Mark



Winterfest 2013 Wrap-Up by Bob Pawlak, Co-Chairman, Winterfest 2013

Attendance of the Amherst Railway Society train show in West Springfield, MA on January 26-27, 2013, was 12,071 on Saturday and 8,486 on Sunday for a total of 20,557 for the weekend. In addition there were about 4,500 exhibitors. Last year's attendance was the largest in the last previous 8 years at 22,322 and the year before it was 20,459. Winterfest 2013 had 89 primary registrants and 80 meals at the banquet. Last year we had 88 primary registrants and 88 meals. Because of a change in our web-master and other problems this year, we were quite late in getting the on-line registration process up and running. Fortunately, use of the temporary manual registration process seemed to offset these problems so that the final number of registrations was not impacted. This year the weather was seasonably cold with some frosty windshields in the mornings but there were clear skies all weekend and no significant remnants of snow or ice anywhere in the parking lots.

The layout this year had fewer modules than last year, the equivalent of about 65, 4' modules versus 69 last year and 83 the year before. The layout this year consisted of two Ntrak loops that were 30'x24' (Loop 1) and 30'x31' (Loop 2) together with a 20'x12' (Loop 3) of MaiNe Trak modules (1' x 4' straights with two mainline tracks and 2' corners). The three loops were not connected together with transition corner modules as was the case last year. Last year it was too difficult for DCC operators to follow their trains around the long continuous Red Line Route from outside the layout because of the crowd density.

The end result was that the layout had 96' of track with DCC on the Red, Yellow, and Blue lines of Loop 1 and 110' of DCC on Red Line and 110' of DC operation on the Yellow and Blue Lines of Loop 2 plus 60' of double track operation on the MaiNe Trak loop. Four DC throttles were used to control the Blue and Yellow and Blue Lines of Loop 2. We had a 12' yard in Loop 1 and a 16' yard in Loop 2. There was a lift bridge for entry into all 3 loops. The resulting layout exactly filled our 30' x 78' space allocation with enough room to include our Model Contest Display Case and Photo Contest Display Racks on two long tables.

Dan Pawling, Jr. was our layout coordinator again this year and worked together with Chris Oliva of Brooklyn Ntrak, our DCC Master, to design and build the layout.
(cont. page 6)

CONTEST WINNER AT WINTERFEST 2013

Motive Power - Diesel

Winterfest Photo's by Geof Smith



First Prize
John Bingel

Amtrak RDC



2nd Prize
Jean-Francois Chaput

CN GP9 & Slug



3rd Prize
Jean-Francois

CP Rail - Red Barn

Motive Power - Other

Rolling Stock - Passenger



1st Prize
Rick Salcer

"City of New York" 661



1st Prize
Simon Ginsburg

CalTrains Commuter Engine and Car



2nd Prize
Yvan Mayrand

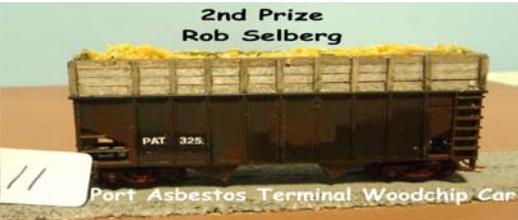
May & Rand Circus Car

Rolling Stock - Freight



1st Prize
Ken Harstine

SP ventilated boxcar



2nd Prize
Rob Selberg

Port Asbestos Terminal Woodchip Car



3rd Prize
Jean-Francois Chaput

Hot Metal Bottle Car

Rolling Stock - MOW



1st Prize
Dean Daughenbaugh

GN MOW crane & flat



2nd Prize
David Reussow

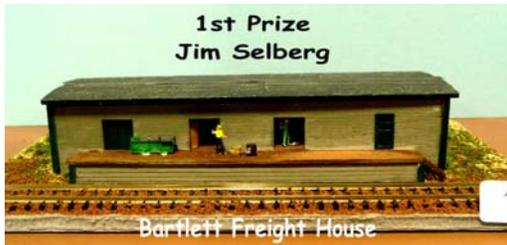
Video Camera Car



3rd Prize
John Becker

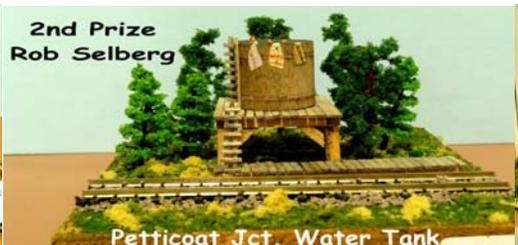
Surveyor Crew Speeder

Structure - On-Line



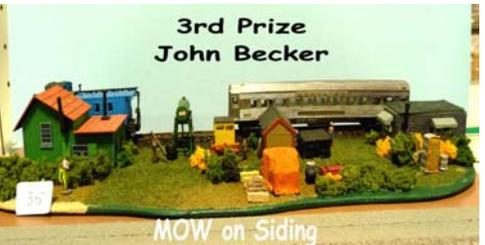
1st Prize
Jim Selberg

Bartlett Freight House



2nd Prize
Rob Selberg

Petticoat Jct. Water Tank



3rd Prize
John Becker

MOW on Siding

Structure - Off-Line



1st Prize
Chris Oliva

Billboard



2nd Prize
John Becker

Farm Scene



3rd Prize
Jean-Francois
Chaput

High-rise building

CONTEST WINNER AT WINTERFEST 2013

Best in Show



**Bob Fallier
The Magic Kingdom**

1st Prize - Module

**Roland Kelley
Builder**

**Peter Wisniewski
Electrical**

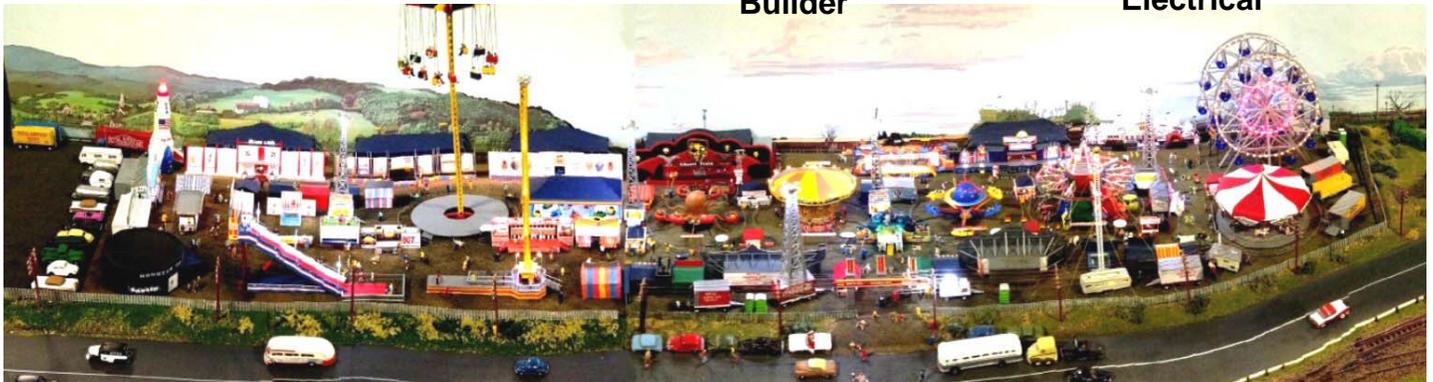


Photo - Prototype



**1st Prize - Eric Seidelmann
NS business train at dawn**



**2nd Prize - Yvan Mayrand
CP Christmas train**



**3rd Prize - Jim Selberg
Amtrak Adirondack**

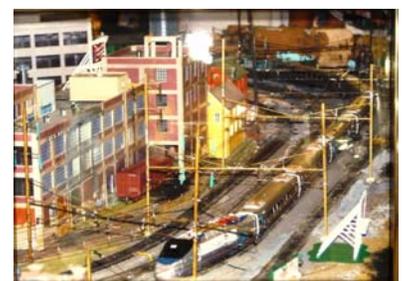
Photo - Model



**1st Prize - Mark Ferracane
CEFX AC4400's**



**2nd Prize - Mark Ferracane
ATSF/UP/Amtrak**



**3rd Prize - Dan Morris
Amtrak under wires**

Dear Editor: Once again I have the honor and privilege of sharing some RR photographs taken by my former manager. This time she was on a family trip to Alaska. Jennifer has made available to me almost 90 excellent shots of land, sea and glacial landscapes, wildlife and human occupation taken while there. I have selected mostly RR related photos for this story. The first part shows the Alaska RR. The second part shows the White Pass & Yukon RR. Wikipedia on the Internet will tell you more than you want to know. About each RR... Jenn – Thank you so very much for allowing us to see and enjoy your pictures.
Dan Pawling, /Sr.

Scenes from Alaska
Photos and Story by Jennifer
Pianowski



Jennifer on the cruise ship

Dan ----Please see my pictures that I took on my trip in Alaska and Canada in June 2012. The first half of the pictures was taken on a stretch from Anchorage, Alaska to Seward, Alaska. I moved throughout the train taking pictures from windows and at the back of the train while we were passing snowcapped mountains. I did see moose, a bear and an eagle's nest on this stretch, but was not able to get good pictures of them.

Our cruise ship stopped at Skagway, Alaska where we were able to walk through the town. I took some pictures of the White Pass & Yukon Railroad equipment that was near the RR station; I think it was for snow removal. The history of the railroad as part of the Gold Rush is very interesting. We did not ride the train, but did ride AMTRAK from Vancouver. BC to Seattle, WA.

I hope that you enjoy the pictures,



Alaska RR climbing north from Anchorage



End of train - Anchorage left behind!



Heading to Seward, AK



Alaska #4325



WP & Y Snow fighters at Skagway RR Station



3 ft gauge rotary snowplow hungry for snow



snow trains wooden caboose



RR Station at Skagway, AK

CONTEST WINNER AT WINTERFEST 2013

Humor



**1st Prize - Chris Oliva
Occupied Block**



**2nd Prize - Yves Rousseau
Traffic Jam**



**3rd Prize - John Becker
Flat car with dinosaur bones**



Parade of Trains Winner - Rob Selberg



Paul O'hegyi Award - Rob Selberg

Winterfest Contest Notes by Geoffrey Smith

This was my first Winterfest as chair of the mighty Contests. First, I want to offer a deep bow of appreciation to Ed Smith, who for many years ran the contests. What an unsung hero! And then, I especially want to offer complementary rail passes to Chuck Tremblay, Rob Selberg, and Peter Mathews and his wife for their tremendous help taking photos, counting ballots, and all around being a huge help this year! This job is more than any one person can do on their own!

The good news for those thinking of taking on this project in the future (and you *will* get your chance!) is that we are automating the registration process and ballot counting – which will really reduce the time required. I'm happy at this point to volunteer to continue to serve as Contest Chair next year, assuming no major disasters, but like all jobs in a club: everyone should have the opportunity to share in the work.

So speaking of next year's contests, I have a couple of questions I'd appreciate an email as feedback to consider:

1. The categories for models are motive power, rolling stock, and buildings, but in the buildings category we often get entries that are more mini-dioramas rather than buildings. For those who devote time to building a fine building, they are forced to compete with dioramas that while well

done are often more about the scenery than the building on it. I realize having a base to a building entered into the contest allows the owner to then place it directly into a module or layout, but do you think we ought to make a rule that the base cannot exceed the size of the building's footprint by more than half an inch on each side? We just don't have enough display room to create a diorama category – and isn't that what the modules are anyway?

2. The most popular contests were the motive power – diesel (48 votes), on-line structures (44 votes), and freight car rolling stock (42 votes). The least popular were motive power – steam (no entries), motive power – other (one entry, 19 votes), and passenger equipment (2 entries, 25 votes). For most entries, the categories are self-evident, but where they're not we use contest committee's discretion on what to call it (for the humor category this can be challenging). Do you agree with this approach, or should the model owner determine the category?

All constructive thoughts, comments and criticism is welcome! Contact me at:
geoffrey.smith@ironmountain.com

(cont. page 1) Dan produced a detailed layout plan that was sent out about a week before the show to those bringing modules. As a result, the layout went together rapidly with no extra movement of modules. Of course the 3 separate loops without the junction modules made the layout much easier to assemble. Loop 1 was fully operational before 5 P.M. Friday. All the other modules were clamped, most connector tracks were installed and most of the throttles and DCC equipment were in place in the other two loops before 5 P.M. Friday.

I wish to thank our sponsors for the excellent set of prizes they donated again this year. I hope everyone will join me in thanking them by purchasing their fine products and services.

Winterfest 2013 Sponsors

Athearn, Inc.	Hobby Emporium	Squeak N Products
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Classic Metal Works, Inc	Ken's Trains	Tomar Industries
Deluxe Innovations, Inc.	Logic Rail Technologies	Top Hobby Trains.com
Digitrax	Micro-Trains Line Company	Tucker's Hobbies
Evergreen Scale Models	N Scale Enthusiast	Wm. K. Walthers
ExactRail	N Scale Reference Guide	Woodland Scenics
Fox Valley Models	Platinum Rails Publications (N-Scale Mag)	

I wish to thank the following people for their special help with Winterfest this year:

Bob Fallier – Winterfest Co-Chairman, obtained prizes, conducted awards presentation
 Diane Fallier – Assisted assignment of prizes and awards presentation
 Steve Valin - Web Master, development of revised on-line registration process
 Geof Smith - Contest Chairman, awards presentation preparation
 Gerri Smith – Model and photo contest check in assistance
 Those who helped count ballots
 Chuck Tremblay – Registrar (Treasurer), Friday registration, help with contests
 Ron Cavanaugh– Obtained the T-Shirts, mugs and module plaques
 Ray Frick – Helped Friday registration
 Dan Pawling, Jr. – Layout Coordinator
 Chris Oliva – DCC Master, helped layout coordination
 All those who brought DC and DCC equipment, boosters, throttles, etc.
 John Becker – Orchestration of Parade of Trains contest
 Those who judged the Parade of Trains contests
 Lowell Smith– Guest Speaker
 Clinicians – Ken Harstine, Bob Gatland, Simon Ginsburg, Chris Oliva and Dan Pawling, Jr.
 Mark Ferracane – Provided digital projector for clinics and banquet
 Chuck Tremblay– Photographs of parade of trains contest entries and module entries
 All those who brought modules for the layout
 All others without modules who helped with set up and tear down
 All those who brought models, photos, and trains for the contests
 All others who helped in some way that I failed to mention

The following 19 groups (and number of participants) were represented at Winterfest this year:

Albany, NY N-Trak (7)	NJ Southern (7), Coolingswood, NJ
Brooklyn N-Trak (9)	No Group Affiliation (6)
Genesee-N-Ontario Model N-gineers (5), Rochester, NY	Northeast N-Trak (15)
Great North End (2)	Northern New Jersey N-Trak (3), Paterson, NJ
Jersey Central N-Trak (3)	Sun-N-Sand (1), Scottsdale, Arizona
Long Island Ntrak (3)	Swiss Division (2), Zurich, Switzerland
MaiNeTrak (6)	Upstate (1)
Montreal (6)	Valley N-Trak (Oxford, CT) (7)
N Scale Enthusiast (2)	Vendor (1)
Niagra (2)	

Next year the Amherst Railway Society train show will be held on January 25-26, 2014 and Winterfest will be held on January 24-26, 2014. Bob Fallier will be Chairman of Winterfest 2014 and Bob Pawlak will be Treasurer of Northeast Ntrak and Registrar for Winterfest 2014.