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President's Message Frank Dignan

Hello everybody Frank here this month I would like a moment and think about the loss of our leader Jim FitzGerald who passed away on Oct 27 . Jim did more to promote N scale and NTRAK modular railroading .Before NTRAK n scale was considered a toy some think its not real modeling we know the difference don't we. Rest in piece Jim .

The next show will be the Greenberg show in Wilmington on NOV 23-24 we have a 20+40 space . There is a setup day on Friday from noon -700P.M. I believe we will be in the main hall same location as in the past. I don't need any more modules at this time and I will be there on Friday to assist in unloading and setup. .layout should be up on Friday leaving no excuse for not being in operation when the show opens something we have not done in a long time. Frank Dignan Coordinator.

Something that has come up in the past was use of the One track modules that a numbers have .One track is very popular outside New England my home layout such as it is, is a shelf switching based on one track .At some point I would like to use them on a club layout for switching using DCC this would add some interest other than running trains in circles .That's what most people think about modular railroading is running in circles.

I will be having Ntrak meeting at the Greenberg show on Sunday before the show opens.This is being done to discuss up coming shows and ongoing projects If you can't attend please call or email your concerns and I will pass them on. We can't wait for the annual business meeting . Just a thought but I don't think we will be doing the Hub show in Marlboro in December unless they get a cancelation of another group they just don't have any space for us. That's our loss it a great show I attend every year and would like us to do it in the future . Hope you get this before Greenberg if not **HAPPY HOLIDAYS** to all see you in the new year and think **WINTERFEST** That's all Frank D

The Passing of Jim Fitzgerald

Jim passed away on October 26, 2013 at 4:21 pm Pacific Time. He was the leader of NTRAK from the beginning. He will be greatly missed.



Ntrak Steal's the Show in Hingham by Geof Smith

Northeast Ntrak's participation in the South Shore Model Railroad Club's open house this year was an incredible success! The layout ran smoothly, and thanks to our participation in prior years in prior years, we had a bigger area this time around, away from the HO layout in the room. The new space allowed viewers to walk around the entire layout, instead of only along one wall.

And what a layout to see!

Show attendees as well as long-time HO modelers and members of the SSMRC were in absolute awe of Bob Pawlak's canyon modules, Toshi Abe's windmills, and Roland Kelley's carnival modules. In the words of one HO cynic, "If they ever want to part with those modules, they ought to take them to the Museum of Fine Art – they belong there."

A very special thanks to Toshi Abe, Frank Dignan, Mark Ferracane, Roland Kelley, Carl Mesrobian, and Bob Pawlak for bringing their modules to the show; and to everyone who came, ran trains, and helped set up and break down at the end of the weekend.

Thanks to everyone!

AUTO TRAIN TO DISNEY

By: Bryan Mathews



The Auto Rack waiting to be unloaded in Sanford, FL

What train travels 855 miles over 17 hours and your plus one is your car? If you have not guessed, it is Amtrak's Auto train. The train is 1/3 of a mile long with 3 engines and over 46 cars making it the longest passenger train in North America. The train includes the 3 engines, 4 crew cars, 17 coaches or sleepers, and 25 autoracks carrying 650 people and 330 cars. The train runs from Lorton, Va., just outside Washington DC to Sanford, FL., outside Orlando daily. Today, Amtrak's Auto Train carries about 200,000 passengers and generates around \$50 million in revenue annually. It is considered Amtrak's best-paying train, being the top of a handful of Amtrak trains that make a profit.



The train split into two at Sanford, FL

Auto-Train Corporation's new service began operations on December 6, 1971, between Lorton, Virginia, and Sanford, Florida. The service was a big hit with travelers. Before long, the ambitious entrepreneurs of Auto-Train were looking to expand into other markets, and even established a short-lived service between Louisville,

Kentucky, and Sanford, Florida. The Auto-Train included passenger cars, autoracks, and a caboose. The company had its own locomotives and rolling stock. Lack of success from the Louisville expansion, high crew costs and several accidents put company into bankruptcy. Auto-Train Corporation was forced to end its services in late April 1981. Operating for almost ten years, Auto-Train had developed a popular following, as it ferried passengers and their cars between Lorton, Virginia, and Sanford, Florida. No one else offered a service quite like that of Auto-Train Corporation until, after a gap of almost two years, service was revived by Amtrak (the National Railroad Passenger Corporation), a federally chartered corporation which operates most intercity passenger trains in the United States.



Cars being loaded onto the Auto Rack in Lorton, VA.

I went on an Auto Train trip in July because my family wanted to get to Disney. You can arrive at the station between 11:30 to 3:00 to check-in. We checked in just after 11:30. At Lorton there is a wooden train layout, a playground, and a shop to get gifts and snacks. At Sanford there is another shop. At 3:00 you can get on the train where they have free snacks. The train leaves at 4:00. You can choose a dinnertime at 5:00, 7:00, or 9:00. At dinner I had the braised beef and the best peanut butter pie ever. They show a movie at 7:15 and 9:15. The movie was Hotel Transylvania on the way down and Brave on the way up. At 10:00 the lights dim. Breakfast is served at 6:00 though 8:00. They had bagels, muffins, and cereal with coffee, tea, and juice. You are supposed to arrive at 9:30 but you usually arrive early. At Sanford they must separate the train in to two. You then must wait to collect your car. I only had to wait about 45 minutes. If you take two cars you can have them loaded/ unloaded together. It was really good to have everything packed.



Tracks to Lakeport 2013 NER/NMRA Convention by Roland Kelley



The Convention this year was held at the Margate Hotel in Laconia, NH from October 17 to the 20. They broke attendance records with close to 250 attending. It was a fun weekend and the weather could not have been better. We had as you can see a large room for layouts. Hub division had the largest layout and gave the opportunity for attendees to operate trains. There was a good selection of Clinics, Presentations and Home layout visits. I did attend some of the Clinics. Have to say I was more interested in the train rides and speeder ride which I had never done before.



On Saturday took the WSRR Fall Foliage Special. It also departed from the Meredith Station. This time we traveled north passing by Lakes Waukewan and Winona. Leaving the station we pass by the Ashland Railroad Station and over the Ashland high trestle. Then we made our way by the Bonnie Brae Deer Farm and the Glave Hollow Tree Farm. Did not get very good pictures of the deer farm. (see below)

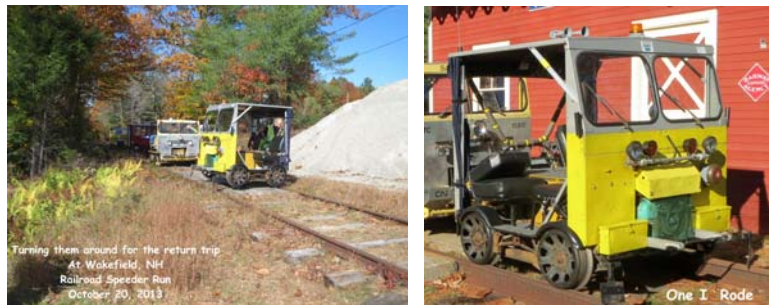


We then stopped at the Common Man Inn in Plymouth where we had lunch before returning to the Meredith Station. Saturday night the Convention Banquet was held at the hotel.

Sunday was the big day for me as I rode a speeder for the first time. There was about 30 people that signed up. It was a three hour ride. We also stopped for lunch, can't miss our meals. hahaha It was a lot of fun. Here are a couple pictures from that trip. After the ride was over it was time to head home after a great weekend.



On Friday I took the WSRR Tracks to Lakeport Rail-fan trip. It departed from the Meredith Station and went south along Lake Winnepesaukee and Paugus Bay through Weirs Beach to Lakeport. Before the trip started I had a chance to visit the cab and take pictures (above). Below I am boarding for the trip.



At the Common Man Inn in Plymouth, NH

2013-2014 NENTRAK SHOW PARTICIPATION SCHEDULE

Dec 7-8, 2013, Hub Division, Royal Plaza Trade Center, Marlboro, MA

Set-up: 7:00am - Show 9am to 4pm (HOURS)
Coordinator: John Doehring - 978-433-6337

Jan 24-26, 2014 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 to 9am
 Show Sat 9am to 5pm - Sun 10am to 5pm
Layout Coordinator: Dan Pawling Jr., 617-244-5261
Winterfest Chairman: Bob Fallier - 603-465-3785

Feb 15-16, 2014 National Heritage Museum, Lexington, MA

Set-up: Fri 1pm - 4:30pm & Sat 7:30am to 10:00am
 Show Sat 10am to 4:30pm - Sun noon to 4:00pm
Coordinator: Bob Pawlak - 781-862-2485

March 22-23, 2014 Great Train Expo, Shriners Auditorium, Wilmington, MA

Set-up: Sat 7:30am - Show Sat 10am to 4pm - Sun 10am to 4pm
Coordinator: Frank Dignan - 508-866-9660

April 20, 2014 Hooksett Lions Club, Cawley Middle School, Hooksett, NH

Set-up: 8am - Show 10am to 4pm
Coordinator: Ron Wood - 603-320-0639

June 2014, N-Scale Enthusiast Roanoke, VA

August 7-10, 2014 Capitol Limited N Scale East Convention, Dulles Expo Center, Chantilly, VA If you are interested go to:
www.bigtrainlayout.org

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.

Looking for Empty 2x4 Module Or someone that will build one for Me

Do you know of anyone who is building the 2x4 table modules for sale to members. I have a layout but no table. If so get in touch with me at:508-769-6013 or kaptkanga@aol.com. Dick Benton

Pictures from the South Shore Model Railroad Cub Show



Editors Comment

A lot of talk has been going on about the need to change our club shirts. I think you are missing the boat. It is not the shirt that has to be changed it is the requirement that club members should wear a club shirt at all shows. It is what makes us look like an organized group and not just a group of guys that just happened to get together for a train show. The shirt that Dan came up with a few years back is great. The problem is that we don't require members to buy and wear it. If you are going to join an organized group then you should be required to dress like you are a member. It should not be optional but just a way of showing we are part of the Northeast Ntrak club. I think we should stay with the shirts we have now. Changing the color and know one wearing them does what? We used to have rules in the club and everyone went by them and we all had a great time at the shows. It seems that today everyone does what they want and many are not happy but unwilling to say anything. Just my thoughts.

Winterfest 2014 is just around the corner.

For many New Englanders, winter is the time for skiing, ice skating, shoveling, and firing up the wood stove. We put most of our outdoor activities "on the shelf" and get ready for those long cold days of winter. But for model railroaders everywhere, winter is the perfect time to settle in and get started on long awaited projects. For some of us it's the perfect time to work on our home layouts, kit-bashing, track-work and scenery building. For some, it's quality time at the work bench or table doing intricate detailing, changing couplers or wheel sets, or putting the finishing touches on some overdue weathering.

For those of us who enjoy the opportunity to go to model railroad shows and conventions, there are choices every month. Some may be a local model railroad club hosting other clubs at a local auditorium and providing a place to set up model layouts large and small in many gauges and variations. And of course there are always the combined operating layout and vendor shows like the upcoming Greenberg Show in Wilmington, Ma. or the HUB Division show in Marlborough, Ma., and for those of you in other states, your own local or regional shows.

But for we New Englanders, the "biggie" is Winterfest at the Big E, in West Springfield, Ma.! In the deep of winter, cold and dark as the days may be, Winterfest is warm and hospitable and a great time to put winter on hold for the weekend. It's not only a great place to run those trains that you've been collecting, perhaps for years, or that brand new as yet untried DCC engine and consist, but an opportunity to garner ideas from other modelers, regardless of scale. Did I mention shopping? There is always that. Booth after booth, table after table of goodies all intended for model railroaders. What's new from the manufacturers? Well you can look at pictures in your favorite hobby magazine, or get up close and personal with your favorite manufacturers and take a look at things (admit it - toys) from suppliers or manufacturers who you might not have seen or bought from before. Sometimes its hard to resist the temptation and sometimes you know right where you want to look for that special engine, or coach, or kit.

Winterfest isn't just about the running trains and sight-seeing. For Northeast N-Trak, it's about shaking hands, sharing stories, helping right a derailment, coaching a newbie, or just talking with a visitor who has come to see your trains running and your unique module. Winterfest is about many individual parts 'n pieces assembled into a marvelous "whole" that captures the fascination and imagination of young and old.

Winterfest is a great opportunity to meet and greet folks who you might least expect to see. You just never know who might be there. A couple of years ago one of my company's senior VPs showed up. I was as surprised to see him as he was to see me! We converse all the time at work, but never knew that we shared a common hobby.

As a "newcomer" in 2010 and a total novice to N-Trak, I can tell you from my own experience that spending the weekend or just a full day at Winterfest is well worth it. So get yourself off your siding and onto your main track.... your N-Trak. The on-line registration forms and important information should all be ready by the time this newsletter gets posted. If you are new or have questions about N-Trak or Winterfest, please email me.

As the new Northeast N-Trak "chairman", gopher, and decision maker, I'm open to your suggestions and comments.

I highly encourage you to bring a module. Please fill out the Module Registration form so that the "Layout Maestro" can plan accordingly. The more the merrier and the better impression we as N-Scalers make on the public. If you have a new module, please make every effort to ensure that your connections and polarity are correct. If your module has been around the block a few times and showing a little wear, please try to give it a face-lift. Sometimes all it takes is a soft paint brush to clean off bits of debris and accumulated dust. Nothing beats fresh green trees and foliage. If your module(s) has been in a humid basement all summer, please allow plenty of time for it to acclimate to drier winter air. A little change in humidity can cause your frame and thus your track, to warp and kink where you least expect it.

Thank you all, from Montreal, to Portland, Boston to Trenton, and every club and member in between, for a great "Winterfest 2014"! See you all in January.

Happy Rails,
Bob Fallier
NE N-Trak Winterfest Chairman
bfallier@email.com

Winterfest 2014, Springfield, MA., January 24-26, 2014

Once again, Northeast N-Trak will host "Winterfest 2014", the 20th annual Northeast Ntrak Convention held in conjunction with "The Big Railroad Hobby Show" of the Amherst Railway Society, Inc. at the Eastern States Exposition Grounds, "The Big E", 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield, Ma. on January 24th through 26th, 2014.

The 30'x80' Ntrak layout setup will take place on Friday January 24th between noon and 5:00 P.M. The Hilton Garden Inn, 800 Columbus Ave, Springfield, MA will again be the convention hotel with registration and clinics Friday night and the traditional banquet, guest speaker, presentation, contest awards, etc. on Saturday night. Model, module, photo, and Parade-of-Trains contests will be held at the layout on Saturday.

To reserve space for your module in the Ntrak layout, please call the Layout Coordinator, Dan Pawling at 617-244-5261. Hotel reservations should be made before January 2nd, 2014 by calling 800-744-1500 and mention "Ntrak" to get the convention rate of \$95.00 + tax. Convention details and the on line registration forms can be located at www.NortheastNtrak.org and should be completed no later than December 1st 2013. Click on Winterfest Information.

For other questions please write to Bob Fallier, Winterfest 2014 Chairman at bfallier@email.com or by calling 603-465-3785 or 603-518-9218.