

President - Geof Smith Vice Pres - Bob Fallier
Treasurer - Robert Pawlak Editor - Roland Kelley

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



President's Message Geof Smith

Many thanks to John Doehring for coordinating the October 3rd *Train-a-palooza* and Sunday, October 4, at the Varnum Brook Elementary School. It was a wonderful opportunity for everyone to tune up their module for the remainder of this season, and many took the opportunity – and then stayed on for the show on Sunday. A special thanks to Bob Fallier for helping to re-wire the connectors for many modules, something that should add to the reliability of modules and help speed set-up at shows going forward.

Speaking of set-up, it still took us nearly three hours to set up for the Pepperell show. We can do better, especially if we have a show where we can't get in the day or night before! The key is teamwork. For show coordinators and those exhibiting:

- Try to set a common time for everyone to come and bring their module to a show. If you're bringing a module, do your dead-level best to show up at that time.
- Start set-up with the bridge unit, if it's to be used, and then build in one direction only, continuing all the way around the layout. We want to minimize the need to lift entire sections of the layout to align them.
- Coordinators, try to assign teams for set up, wiring, installing connector tracks, etc. Let's see if we can't work together to set up and break down at shows rather than be "every man for himself."

Our next show will be the South Shore Model Railroad Club show in Hingham on October 24-25. Frank Dignan is coordinator, so please call him if you can help. His number is 508-866-9660. And for those feeling like a road trip, check out the Great Falls MRC show at the Auburn Middle School Train Show in Auburn, ME, on November 1, where MaiNtrak will be exhibiting.

Pepperell Show, Module Tune-up Workshop, and a New Show Season *by John Doehring*

NE NTRAK successfully kicked off its 2015-2016 season at the 2015 *Pepperell Model Railroad Club Show* in Pepperell, MA. Just like last year, club members gathered on Saturday morning to assemble the layout a day before the Sunday only show. Members then took advantage of the day with an informal pre-season tune-up workshop. Scenery improvements were made by some, while others simply cleaned the cobwebs off of their garage and basement stored modules. Bob Fallier helped several members/modules converting from Cinch Jones to Powerpole connectors. (Bob later realized we'd neglected to do this for the club bridge!) George Michaels attended to more extensive surgery on Dick Benton's new 4ft Sawmill module, completing the wiring for this first time module – a beauty! Russell Putnam also provided his new, well-done 4ft. straight module for the layout – nice job Russell!

On Sunday morning we finished set up and wiring and had trains running as the show opened. Red and Blue lines were set for DCC, while Yellow was reserved for DC running. Trains ran continuously throughout the day and the layout held up well. Show attendance didn't seem all that high to me (it was quite a nice fall day in Pepperell) but NE NTRAK engineers enjoyed the open mainline. All in all it was a great start to a new year for all of us.

As layout coordinator, I want to offer a special thanks to all who participated and helped at the Pepperell Show – Michaels, Lockwood, Mesrobian, Fallier, Ferracane, Doehring, Wood/Tyndall, Benton, and the Putnams. Special mention goes out to Peter Matthews for hauling the club boxes in bound, and to Carl Mesrobian for transporting a truck full of modules (yard, bridge, corner and 4ft. straight) and for taking the club boxes home with him as well. Thanks Carl! Props also to Frank Dignan who drove up from the South Shore to provide moral support, Geoff Smith who came by on Saturday, Roland Kelley, and Rob Selberg and Steve Cappers who came down all the way from Maine to help with assembly, tear down, and running of the trains. We've good a good group!

OK NE NTRAKers – it's on to the next stop!

T-TRAK Train Show Schedule - 2015 & 2016

If you wish to be part of the T-Trak layout contact Fay Chin Show Coordinator at e-mail faywchin@gmail.com

November 21-22, 2015, Greenberg's Train and Toy Show, Wilmington MA

December 5-6, 2015, NMRA, HUB Division, Marlboro MA
January 30-31, 2016, Amherst Railway Society Railroad Hobby Show, West Springfield MA

February 2016, American Heritage Museum, Lexington MA
March 2016, Greenberg's Train and Toy Show, Wilmington MA

April 2016, NMRA Spring Training, Taunton MA

April 2016, Hooksett Lions Model Train Show, Hooksett NH

**Tom Hoover Remembrance
by Chuch Trembley**

Sorry to hear of Tom Hoover's passing. He was an early, very active member of the club before he left the Boston area. Early on we collaborated on one of the longest trains we ever ran (about 300 cars as I recall, 2/3 were his!). I learned a lot from him as I was getting serious in the hobby. He was a prolific modeler and always had a good story, either about trains (At one time in his career he worked for GE Locomotives) or cars, especially about the Ramchargers. I am sorry to learn of his passing, he was a great person.

<http://blog.caranddriver.com/tom-hoover-the-father-of-the-hemi-passes-away-at-85/>

<http://www.allpar.com/corporate/bios/hoover.html>

http://www.johnbbrownfuneralhome.com/fh/obituaries/obituary.cfm?o_id=3096712&fh_id=14198

MaiNe TRACK

Nov. 7, 2015, Auburn Middle School, 38 Falcon Dr., Auburn, ME Set-up 8am Layout 8x16 ft.

Dec 4-6, 2015 Hub Division Model Train Expo, 181 Boston Post Rod, Marlborough, MA Set-up Friday 3pm 12x24 ft layout to include 16 ft of Northeast NTRAK straight modules (see Hub Division web site for Hotel info and discounts).

Jan 29-31, 2016 Winterfest at the Big E (details depending on Layout coordinators needs)

Apr 23, 2016 Mount Ararat High School, 73 Eagles Way, Topsham, ME Set-up 8am Layout 12x20 ft.

***For the 2 Maine shows contact us ahead of time as we try to meet for breakfast. Times and locations of that may change.

The Passing of Austin Plyem

Sadly we heard this past week, Austin Plyem, passed away. He had been in a local hospital with a heart issue.

Austin was an excellent modeler from the Rochester, NY area and a regular participant at Winterfest. He will be missed.

**2014-2015 NENtrak SHOW PARTICIPATION
SCHEDULE****November 21-22, 2014 Great Train Expo, Shriners
Auditorium, Wilmington, MA**

Set-up: Fri 1:00pm - 5:00pm - Sat 7:30am
Show Sat 10:00am to 4:00pm - Sun 10:00am to 4:00pm
Coordinator: Frank Dignan - 508-866-9660

**Jan 29-31, 2016 Winterfest, Springfield, MA Amherst
Railway Society - Big Railroad Hobby Show**

Big "E" Exposition Center, West Springfield, MA
Set-up: Fri noon to 5:00pm & Sat 7:00am to 9:00am
Show Sat 9:00am to 5:00pm - Sun 10:00am to 5:00pm
Layout Coordinator: Dan Pawling Jr., 617-244-5261
Winterfest Chairman: Bob Fallier - 603-465-3785

**Feb 13-14, 2016 National Heritage Museum, Lexington,
MA**

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

**March 19-20, 2016 Great Train Expo, Shriners
Auditorium, Wilmington, MA**

Set-up: Fri 1:00pm to 5:00 pm - Sat 7:30am
Show Sat 10:00am to 4:00pm - Sun 10:00am to 4:00pm
Coordinator: Carl Mesrobian - 978-578-5374

**April 24, 2016 Hooksett Lions Club, Cawley Middle
School, Hooksett, NH**

Set-up: 8:00am - Show 10:00am to 4:00pm
Coordinator: Geof Smith - 603-762-1874

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

**A note from the Vice President...
Bob Fallier**

The workshop on Saturday October 3rd was a great opportunity to get a lot of work done on a number of modules. While I worked on connectors, others worked on cleaning and connecting modules. On Sunday morning, the only module not already connected was my own. The bridge needs some work and the suggestion was made to Start with the Bridge and square the layout from there. Something Frank has been saying for ages! I think we should convince Bob Pawlak to engineer a new bridge and Carl Mesrobian, our resident master cabinet maker, to build it. It should fit in a shoe box for travel and storage, and look like London's Tower Bridge when in use. - Or something in between -

It was a relaxing Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning we were up and running with out any issues. With only a handful of members in attendance, there was ample time to run trains and "play". Thanks to George for your DCC tutelage, and thanks to all of you who were able to attend!
Happy Rails! Bob F.

The Pepperell Show October 4, 2015



(Standing l to r) Carl Mesrobian, George Michaels, John Deveau, Bob Fallier, Rob Selburg, Dick Benton, Larry Lockwood. (Sitting l to r) Steve Cappers, Russell Putnam, Mark Ferracane



Two of the new modules at the Pepperell Show are shown above. On the left is one by Russell Putnam. It is still being worked on but from what he has done so far it is looking great. Another new module (above right) by Dick Benton is done and looks great, The detailing is outstanding. Good work to both of you guys. As you know to do shows we need modules and good ones. It looks like that is what you both are doing for the club.

Our Summer Vacation
by Ron Wood



In June, my wife Carolyn and I went to Pennsylvania for vacation. We started by visiting Altoona. We went to Horseshoe Curve and the Altoona Memorial Railroaders Museum. It had been 15 years since I last visited the area and things had changed a little. The area downtown opposite the Amtrak station called Rail Walk had been near a mall but the mall was gone and is now a medical center. Also, new since the last time I visited was the addition of a roundhouse building to house some museum pieces at the Railroaders museum. I was able to check that out as the doors were unlocked but there wasn't much to see. There was a heavily weathered and rusted GG1 and a few Pennsy Passenger cars. I was expecting to find the Pennsy steam engine that had been on display at Horseshoe curve to be there but it was nowhere to be found. There were still a lot of pieces of equipment outside in the elements and while they looked good, mother nature is slowly taking its toll on some of them. The museum itself is a treasure trove of all things Pennsy and especially Altoona. Definitely worth the trip to see the history of the community and the Railroad.



Next it was on to the Harrisburg/Enola area. We stayed a night at the "Bridgeview Bed and Breakfast". This was right on the Susquehanna River and had an awesome view of Rockville Bridge the main railroad bridge to cross the river in the area. One of the longest stone arch/concrete railroad bridges in the world so I've heard. Saw lots of black and white engines (Norfolk Southern). There were a few engines from the Union Pacific spotted but alas no Heritage engines from NS. Not a single one! There was a rumor that the Wabash engine was in Harrisburg but it never appeared. The next day was spent touring Hershey and the chocolate world and Troegs Brewery.

Finally it was off to Strasburg to ride the Strasburg Railroad and visit the Railroad museum of Pennsylvania. Both were excellent. One word of advice, always check the events calendar when visiting as we managed to arrive at the Strasburg RR during the middle of the Thomas the Tank engines visit. Well to hell with kids with parents and grandparents in tow. What fun...NOT! We stayed a night at the Red Caboose motel what was pretty cool to spend the night in a real caboose. We stayed in the Reading caboose. Then it was off to the Crayola Experience in Easton PA.



before finally heading home. It was a long week with a lot of fun. Next time we also decided we would choose an area and spend a little more time there instead of doing so much driving/riding.

I did get inspired to do a N-Trak module featuring the Cresson helper facility--especially the realistic three track mainline! Time will tell if that gets done! Until then see you trackside! Ron.