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President's Message Geof Smith

Well I'm sure Bob will have more to say, but I want to offer my sincere thanks to everyone who came and worked so hard to make the Winterfest layout a huge success. I especially want to make a big shout out to George Michaels for all his work making the DCC system work so well, and to Carl Mesrobian, who you may or may not know so often ends up carrying so many of our club boxes and paraphernalia home *and storing it in his attic!*

"And now, for something completely different:" Northeast Ntrak is now a co-sponsor of the Maine Model Railroad Tour. This is a free, self-guided tour of a great many home layouts in Maine, with tours in western Maine on one day, and eastern Maine another day. Clearly we'd be putting miles on our cars, but model railroading in Maine? Now that – as the sign says when you cross into the state – is *the way life should be*. For those curious, there's no financial obligation to the club for being a co-sponsor. Rather, we support the Maine Model Railroad Tour concept by providing publicity, encouraging eligible visitors to participate, advising on or participating in organizational discussions, and recruiting layout owners to host tours. Clearly the layout hosting bit falls on the Maine Track folks, but if you're of a mind to go on a road trip the dates for this event are going to be September 24 and 25, 2016. More details on what and where will follow.

To attend a tour, you will have to "register" online and receive a user name and password. Once you have this, you can open the private pages and see all of the details. This requirement was reluctantly adopted because many prospective layout hosts told us that they were adverse to the "general public" being let into their layouts. There are also common sense rules of etiquette for participating in the tour, so please visit their website for more information: <http://mainemodelrrtour.com/>

Sadly, I'd like to call your attention to the passing of two of our fellow modellers. Tom Hoover was a member of this club, although better known as the "father of the hemi;" he was an automotive engineer for Chrysler before coming to Massachusetts with Bosch. His wife still lives in Denton, Texas. Austin Plyem was a member of the Rochester, NY Ntrak club, and an avid model railroader. Austin was known to terrorize the contest chair of many a Winterfest, but he was a respected modeler and will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers go to the families of both of these gentlemen.

Winterfest 2016 - another successful year! A wrap-up from the Chairman's Chair...

Thank you to all participating members and family members. Winterfest 2016 was a terrific opportunity to meet, share ideas, and just have fun. As your "chairman", it's more of a working weekend than a time for play and it takes a lot of folks and their time to make everything go smoothly. And most things went pretty well!

Our guest speaker, Bill Garrioch from Ireland, gave us a good look at a steam restoration project that he has been part of. Thank you Bill!

There were a few early unexpected gaps and derailments, but fortunately no crashes. Fortunately the gaps and derailments were not on any of the many modules.

Thank you to everyone who entered the model contest. The model contest could have been a little easier, but your's truly bought transparent color dots - hard to write on and harder to see. *Mia culpa!* I'll leave that to more experienced hands next year.

And there was quite a bit of confusion again about what category models were in. We had "tents" and color labels, but the best laid plans weren't quite executed as expected. To address that next year, we'll ask that you register your models in advance. Just as you do your modules. We'll assign a number and put your model in the right category. To avoid "out of the box" models, we'll also ask you to describe your modifications on the Model Registration form. We'll also ask you to get your model to the table on Friday or as early as possible on Saturday. I may have to set a cut off time for getting your model into the case.

In all fairness, give the guys who spend time organizing and keeping things running some time to play. Believe me, they deserve it! And be sure to pick your models up EARLY on Sunday. Once the display case is taken apart anything can happen. My personal thanks to guys who spent their time judging the parade or counting ballots. It takes a lot of time and effort... all work and no play! Speaking of ballots... we found a few duplicates... shame, shame! I'll deal with this personally.

A few of you had some valuable suggestions for me. Write them down and send them to me, please. The good news is that there were very few (continued page 5) complaints, and those were pretty minor. I did not receive a

Stats from Winterfest Weekend
by Bob Pawlak

If I heard the announcement correctly and wrote correctly the attendance numbers for the ARS show were:

11,887 Saturday
7,800 Sunday
 19,687

Total population =23,686
 Which I think implies 23,686 – 19,687 = 3,999 Exhibitor badges, ARS volunteers, etc.
 Probably not counting children 16 and under.

End results for Winterfest 2016 compared with 2015 are:

<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	
85	99	Registrants
13	15	Spouse
52	46	Beef
26	34	Chicken
1	0	Childs
3	4	Extra mugs
12	14	Club cars (3 bought by Bob F for Boy Scouts)
19	23	Shirts

Summary: 2016 had 14 more registrants but about the same number of meals (78 vs 80 in 2016).



Model Photo - Jean-Francois Chaput



Proto Photo - Cody Fisher

2014-2015 NENtrak SHOW PARTICIPATION
SCHEDULE

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 your help.

MaiNe TRACK

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.

T-TRAK Train Show Schedule - 2015 & 2016

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

March 2016, Greenberg's Train and Toy Show, Wilmington MA

April 2016, NMRA Spring Training, Taunton MA

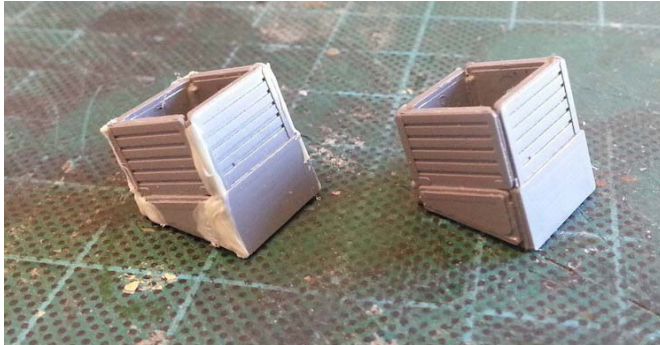
April 2016, Hooksett Lions Model Train Show, Hooksett NH



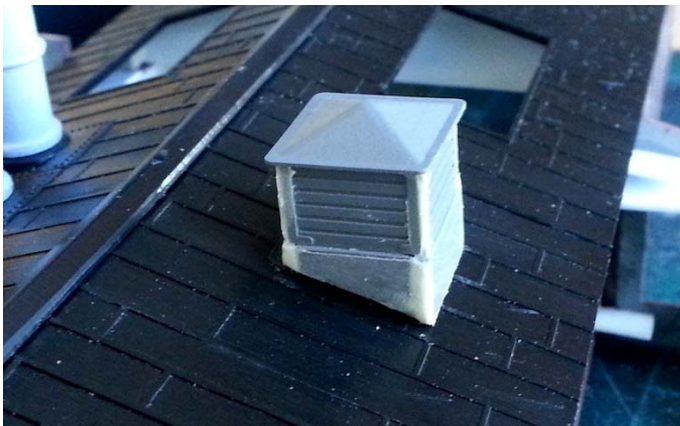
....it is just a fun holiday layout (not under the tree), but it did take a lot of work and thought to put it together and Russell designed (and continues to redesign!) this himself. Karyn Kaminski (Russell Putnam's mom)

Modelling Tricks
by Mike Boucher

Recently, I was working on a kit which had 4 small pieces glued together to make a roof vent. Unfortunately, the pieces are molded such that it left huge gaps at each corner. So, I used my "top secret homemade filling putty" to fill in the gaps. Here's a pic of one with the filler applied (but not sanded), and one showing what it looked like before...



And after several applications, and final filing and sanding. As you can see, the corners look MUCH better than the "straight out of the box".



My filling putty isn't all that top secret, its pretty simple. I use Tenax as the glue when assembling plastic kits. This is available from many hobby shops (I get mine at either Hobby Emporium in Tyngsboro, MA, or Spare Time Shop in Marlboro, MA) When I finished a bottle, I poured a little bit from the newly purchased bottle into the old. Maybe 1/8" deep. Then, I took a bunch of small styrene scraps and dumped them into the bottle. The solvent in the Tenax will melt the styrene. Every day, stir it up a bit until everything is melted and has a consistency slightly more watery than peanut butter. If its too solid, add more solvent. If too watery, add more styrene.

Once the batch is to your liking, you apply it like you would any other filler. Since its based on plastic solvent, the filler bonds with the plastic, so it won't chip off like some fillers can. When dry, its as solid as styrene and

can be easily sanded.

When you're running low, pour in a little more Tenax and more styrene scraps and make some more.

Carolyn's and my trip to Pennsylvania this past June
by Ron Wood



Lehigh Valley RDC at RR Museum of PA at Strasburg, Pa



Amtrak AEM-7 new arrival at RR museum of Pa at Strasburg, Pa



Amtrak Pennsylvanian at Altoona, Pa

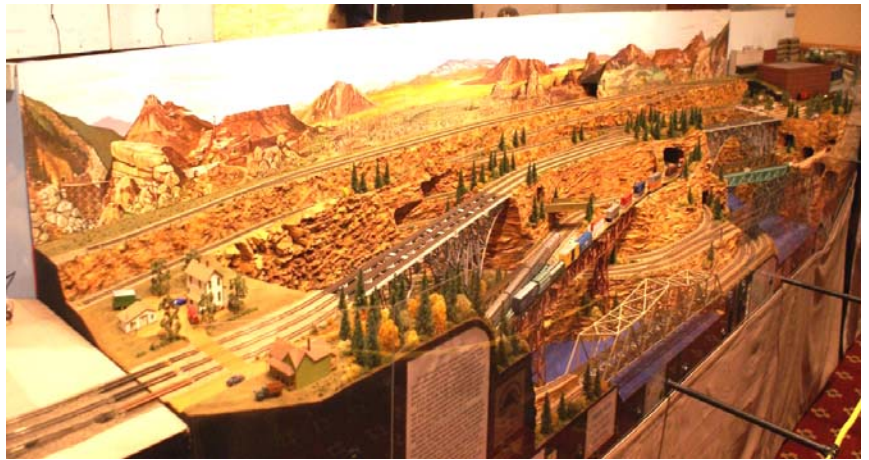


Reading Observation/lounge car at RR Museum of Pa at Strasburg, Pa

The winners at Winterfest 2016



Best in Show - Chris Oliva



1st Place Module - Bob Pawlak



Marko Award for Animation - Fay Chin



Electric - Chris Oliva



Diesel - Geof Smith



Passenger - Rick Spanos



Humor - Andre Belanger



Steam - Adam Hoffman



MOW - Andre Brodeur



Freight - Jean-Francois Chaput



Vehicle - Andre Brodeur



On line - Jim Selberg



Off line - Charlie Davanzo

single phone call or email about hotel reservations before the show this year. Thanks to all who registered early and a big thanks to the Hilton Garden Inn for their great service.

Speaking of contests: we added TTrak to the module contest this year. We had 3 distinct NTrak module winners, all from the BLC. I met with Geof Smith and made an executive decision to give Chris Oliva "Best of Show", bumping Bob Pawlak to 1st, myself to 2nd, and that allowed me to include Dick Brown in 3rd. The reason for this is that I wanted to ensure that at least one winner was from the Mallory layout. Chris received the new **Kato Amtrak** set, Bob P. a **Rapido Trains GMD-1** with DCC & sound. Second place received a **Bachmann "44 tonner"**, and Dick Brown will receive a nice surprise that was intended for 2nd place.

If you didn't register, your module didn't get a number. No number, no vote. As a reminder, club modules (yards, corners, etc) are not included in the voting. UNLESS it is registered as your own module, but used by the club. One yard fell in this category. Also, modules that function as one, whether 8 feet or 24 feet, are registered as one unless they are distinctly different scenes and can be used independently.

For the rest of the contest winners, I had to cut back quite a bit on awards. Did you go visit our sponsors and say 'hello'? We received only about 40% of the quality prizes that the manufacturers usually give us. So seriously, email those who did help us and thank them. A big thanks to Eric Smith from Micro-Trains for really helping us out at the last minute. Two manufacturers who had committed to providing stuff for us backed out... I don't know why, but I'm working on it. A dealer we were counting on didn't show at all. But....

I did have some surprises from dealers who weren't at the show. **Top Hobby** is always supportive. **Hobby Emporium** came through again. **Model Builders Supply** had textured sheets and a nice sampler of scenery materials. **Lowell Smith** - those were not inexpensive cars! Bluford Shops and Logic Rail helped again this year, too! Thanks too to several private donors! Check out **DCC Concepts** (www.hhonline.com) and **Touch Toggles** <http://www.berretthill.com/controls/> We've come to expect a goody (Micro Trains) when we check in at registration, and a car on Sunday from Amherst Railway Society (ARS). Sorry guys, I can't give you what I don't have. We'll try again next year. Instead this year we made sure that all the "first timers" received a MTL car at registration and saved the rest of them for the Door Prize Tables.

What would you say to a "swap meet"? Bring something with you to the banquet and use the happy half hour to do a bit of swapping. Like Toys for Tots, it should be new,

unwrapped and worth trading! On that subject, your opinion of the "Special Auction" that I've done the past two years? Yes... No...?

While some of us go to Winterfest to buy trains, some of us just want to run trains. I brought a few to run on Sunday and never took them out of the box, and I only purchased one freight car. But hardly a cheapo... My wife and I spent enough for several Kato sets on artwork. Disney and trains go hand in hand, and what better way to combine them than in a stunning painting, already framed and ready to hang?
\$\$ Ouch!

Here's a summary:

- Public attendance over 19,000, somewhat down from expectations, perhaps due to the weather being *too good*, if that is possible.
- There were no hotel registration issues, with 1 exception which could have been resolved by the individual in advance.
- There were no annual ARS cars offered, instead we received small HO-O-S scale kits, and only half the number needed for our registrants.
- Overall donations from manufacturers were substantially down from previous years. I received about 40% of what was given in '13-'15. As a result, I've asked one of our members who specializes in and teaches marketing techniques, to review our annual vendor request letter to see how we might improve our approach to vendors, etc.
- Several vendors were either not present this year or actually surprised me by Not having material for us to pick up at the show as had been previously arranged.
- There are several new vendors/manufacturers that *are* or *may be* contributors in 2017. I'm very hopeful about 2 or 3 of those.
- With the help of Peter Winewski, I've arranged for our key note speaker for 2017. More on that later.
- There were a couple of lost and found items, John Tyndall - 3 rubber feet, and a Kato engine jewel case.
- One of our members left quite a mess on the floor in the BLC. I believe they were Kato box inserts. Some people's kids...!
- I also received some marketing goodies from Digitrax when I got home. Those I will distribute accordingly (pens, screwdrivers, literature).
- There are about 14 coffee mugs left. If we don't sell them, I'll distribute them to our supporters next year.
- I've sent a very positive thank you to Steve

Vinelli at the HGI for excellent service at the hotel.
Feedback? Volunteers? Clinics?

Now's your chance to expound on what a great time you had, and if you must, you can whine a little too.

See you all next year.
Happy Rails !
Bob Fallier

Some Modules from Winterfest 2016

