

President - Bob Fallier Vice Pres -
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 Bob Fallier

From the Corner Cubicle: a note from the President.

Endurance: 1. the ability or power to beat prolonged exertion, pain, or hardship. 2. The survival or persistence of something despite the ravages of time (Encarta Dictionary, North America) 3, Hordes of screeching children (BF).

If there is any test of Endurance & Survival, it is truly the Lexington Show at the Heritage Museum each February. Getting through that one show is truly a test of personal endurance, patience, survival, and number of other qualities, both quantitative and qualitative. It is truly a test of one's personal fortitude and certainly one's patience. It is also a testament to the form and function of modular railroading.

Where else but at a show like this, with children and adults pawing and pointing at anything within reach, that the construction of our modules and the parts and pieces there of, are put to the extreme test of endurance and survival? And at what other show do you tremble with foreboding fear and dread, the ten o'clock opening of the doors?

Well Mr. Jim Fitzgerald, your theories, standards, and recommended practices have certainly been put to the test and been proven to be "sound". And we, the gentleman (and perhaps ladies) of Northeast NTrak shall once again engage the screaming hordes of five-year-olds and the touchy-feely-pointing moms teaching their children to do as they do (and conversely telling said horde that they should do otherwise).

We will endure the knocked over trains, the painful screech of the displeased, the high pitched squeals of joy when Thomas and Friends round the corners, and we will marvel at the focus and intensity as a few small faces among the masses, ponder the almost perpetual motion, count the number of cars in a single train over and over, and eventually, at long last we shall depart from the place having brought but a tiny portion of the broad scope of model railroading to a fresh, new inquisitive generation once again. In the end, we shall survive the ordeal. We will fix and repair, glue and adjust. And then like undaunted martyrs, come back and do it again next year just for the fun of it.

From the Chairman's Chair: "It's a Wrap!"

Thank You to everyone who attended Winterfest 2017. Thank you for your hard work, participation, perseverance, and your support! I sincerely hope everyone went home with good stories to tell and a box full of RR goodies. Once again I think this was a very successful show and personally I had a great time despite my minor handicap. Thank You to the Amherst Railway Society for hosting the show for us to enjoy!

This was the first time since joining NTrak in 2009 that I did not bring a module to Springfield. As "Chairman" I get to haul boxes and storage tubs full of "stuff". From N Scale Enthusiast there were 3 ½ boxes full of NSE booklets. A thick stack of stuffed envelopes with the equivalent of a full ream of paper in them for registration. There were 58 award certificates to be printed out, 42 of which to put into certificate covers, and a prize to match accordingly to each first place winner. There were 75 pieces to share with you on the Door Prize tables, and a few extras "just in case". In addition to all the things that the job normally requires that we bring, we also brought a junction module, the "knock down" model display case and the two tee-pees for the photo contest. When everything was packed and ready, there wasn't any room left for my own module.

For yours truly, Winterfest is the culmination of almost three full months of preparation and even though this was my 5th year as chairman, it never seems to get any easier. Beginning in November and early December I send out over 70 emails to manufacturers and distributors asking them to provide appropriate donations. Each of those emails has a personal note thanking them for their support in previous years, giving them any good updates about Us, and a "formal request" attachment. In January the follow up phone calls need to be done to anyone I haven't heard back from. As with any business, its about building relationships with our supporting partners. The more we can do to support them, the more they feel inclined to support us. At least that is the plan. It doesn't always work as well as I hope, but sometimes we get a real bonus in the deal. Despite all the work and preparation it remains a rewarding job. Believe me, I like giving away \$3 - \$4,000 in awards each year. This year the total products that you took home, not counting the cars given on Sunday from ARS, was about \$3,400! Nice work everyone! You earned it.

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Winterfest 2017
Model & Photo Contest Winners

- 1st Place: Motive Power - Steam
Stan Houpt
- 1st Place: Motive Power - Diesel
John Bingle
- 1st Place: Motive Power - Other
Chris Oliva
- 1st Place: Rolling Stock - Passenger
Ken Harstine
- 1st Place: Rolling Stock - Freight
Ned Schwarz
- 1st Place: Rolling Stock - MOW
Andre Brodeur
- 1st Place: Structure - On line
Jim Pyle
- 1st Place: Structure - Off line
Stan Houpt
- 1st Place: Humorous
Jean-Francois Chaput
- 1st Place: Vehicle
Andre Brodeur
- 1st Place: Photo - Prototype
Sheldon Slusser
- 1st Place: Photo - MModel
Yvan Mayrand
- 1st Place: TTrak Module
Bill Pontin
- 1st Place: NTrak Module
Roland Kelley



2016-2017 NENTrak SHOW PARTICIPATION SCHEDULE

March 25,26, 2017 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: Frank Dignan - 508-866-9660

April 23, 2017 Hooksett Lions Club, Cawley Middle School, Hooksett, NH
 Set-up: 8:00am - Show 10:00am to 4:00pm
Coordinator: Jeff & Russell Putnam - 603-835-6952

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 - 2016 & 2017

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

March 11-12, 2017, Southshore, 19 Fort Hill St., Hingham, MA
 Show

March 25-26, 2017, Greenberg's Train and Toy Show, Shriners Auditorium, Wilmington MA
 Show Sat & Sun 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

April 2017, NMRA Spring Training, TBD

April 23, 2017, Hooksett Lions Model Train Show, Crawley Middle School, Hooksett NH
 Show 10:00 am to 4:00 pm



1st Place: Humorous, Jean-Francois Chaput

Winterfest 2017 T-TRAK
by Fay Chin

The Amherst Railway Society Railroad Train Show on January 28 & 29, 2017 was held at the Eastern State Exposition (the Big "E"). T-TRAK (aka, Northeast Region T-TRAK) displayed a 30' x 25' layout in an "E" shape with over 75 modules. It would be equivalent to a 30' x 60' rectangular layout.

T-TRAK had participants from Genessee-N-Ontario Model N-gineers (G-N-O), Northern New Jersey T-TRAK (NNJTT), New Jersey Southern T-TRAK, Northwest Georgia T-TRAK (NWGA), Valley NTRAK of Connecticut (VNTRAK), New Hampshire, and Northeast T-TRAK (NTTRAK). Below is the group photo:



Participants in the group photo (left to Right) are: David Reussow (G-N-O), Dave Ferrari (NNJTT), Mike Maloney (NNJTT), Patrick O'Conner (NNJTT), Fay Chin (NTTRAK), Bill Pontin (VNTRAK), Warren Soffel (NNJTT), Richard Beland (NWGA), Dirk Nieuwdorp (NNJTT), and Phil Brown (NNJTT). Not present when photo was taken: George Michaels (NTTRAK), Russ Putnam (NTTRAK), Jeff Putnam (NTTRAK) and New Jersey Southern T-TRAK.

The T-TRAK had a Module Contest which was judged by the public. The T-TRAK module contest 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place went to Bill Pontin (Valley NTRAK of Connecticut). There was a tie for 3rd place. Since we did not have two certificates for 3rd place, I solicited 3 persons to break the tie. Bill got two votes and the other module (my double drawbridges module) got the remaining vote.



1st Prize - Animated Water Fall by Bill Pontin



2nd Prize - Water Scene by Bill Pontin



3rd Prize - Water Scene by Bill Pontin

There were so many quality modules, it was hard to judge. If you did not have a chance to see the T-TRAK layout, I have included a few photos below:



Restaurants by Phil Brown



Ice Cream Truck by Pat O'Conner

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Double Drawbridges by Fay Chin

I want to thank everyone for their participation. I specially want to thank Russ and Jeff for helping me pack my forty T-TRAK modules after the show. Until Winterfest 2018, I encourage you to build your award winning T-TRAK modules and join us.

Paper or Plastic? by James Pyle

When I was starting my new Seattle module, I was daunted by the number of buildings. Because I was modeling an actual place, I had specific buildings I wanted to include. Thanks to Google maps and street view, I could see what the building looked like. By first designing the buildings with paper, I could balance what works on the module, and also represents the prototype. For example, the building I was modeling was 5 stories, but after making my first paper model, I determined that was too tall, and would block the view of the rest of the module. Now that all my paper buildings have been refined, and even been to a few shows, it is time to commit to the final designs.

By having the paper model, I already have a big head start. By printing the paper walls, I have a template of what I need in plastic. I bought some brick styrene, some clear, and some white styrene. Now it was a matter of cutting out of styrene what I had already printed on paper.

Once the styrene walls were done, the building needed some finishing touches. That is people. I had some people that I had accumulated over the years. I also bought some unpainted people. By leaving the unpainted people on the spruces, it is relatively easy to paint them. There is a nice you tube video on how to do

this. I glued down some strips of white styrene as floors and now had a place to put the people.

The next step was interior walls. This is where the computer drawing package came in handy. I could zoom in, and draw some doors, signs, clocks, or whatever I wanted. I printed this on 4x6 photo paper and cut it to size. Then I just glued it inside my building and I had walls. On the same paper, I printed the exterior signs. These were easy to cut out and glue on the outside. I included a few signs using different font sizes. Then after printing, I just picked the one that fit the best.

The final step was the roof. I had a template of the size from the paper model. I just cut this out of styrene. To make it a little more realistic, I glued on some styrene strips to look like ventilation ducts. Then some black and gray paint and the roof was done.

So for scratching the question is not "paper or plastic?" Rather doing "paper then plastic" can lead to a very nice building.



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As a few of you are aware, I tend to "disappear" most of the time on Saturday and Sunday. Sightseeing around the show, a little. But most of what my wife Diane and I are doing is visiting and cajoling and thanking our corporate sponsors and supporters and hopefully creating new relationships to explore in the coming year. Sometimes they are more than happy to give me something to add to the goody-bag, Touch Toggles for example, and sometimes I will need to follow up individually in the coming months. And I give away a few of those extra coffee mugs. Sometimes just as a "Thank You" and sometimes as a visual reminder on their desk that I will be contacting them again next year. This year was a little more complicated because of my sprained ankle, so all my walking Saturday and Sunday was on crutches. Thankfully I was able to leave my "sticks" in the hotel room Saturday night for our banquet in hopes that I would not need them. Whew! The only downside is that it just doesn't leave any time to run trains.

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Our Contest Chairman and NE NTrak President, Geof Smith, took a very high profile job in NYC in December and it was a real scramble to find a replacement for him, and you know how hard it is to get volunteers. But George Michaels (Trovestar.com) stepped right in and did an excellent job! Thank you George and your wife Jenna! You can thank Frank Dignan, Mark Ferracane, and Jim Pyle for stepping up and volunteering to pull the model, photo, and other contests together and tally the results. Arnulf from Canada also offered to help, but given his limited availability, I let him off the hook. Thanks also to Dan Pawling for organizing the Parade of Trains, which I missed out on once again this year. On the downside, our photographer failed to take pics of the models and George didn't know about that until too late. Oh well. We'll do better next year.

Although I always invite our sponsors to our banquet and offer them time to speak, they almost all go to the ARS dinner instead. Well George filled in very nicely for them, taking just a couple of minutes to talk about each of the major manufacturers that support NTrak each year.

There are a lot of things that need to be done before, during, and after the banquet, and I don't apologize for all my interruptions. I either give extra awards or goodies away during the meal, or take extra time after we eat. I prefer to not make us all stay any longer than necessary. Extras that were given away included two sound decoders from MRC. A Digitrax & a Zimo sound decoder from Streamlined Backshop (SBS4DCC.com), a set of Touch Toggles for controlling stall motor turnouts complete with power supply and a few other items. These are products that I receive that I prefer went right into the right hands rather than put them on the door prize tables. You just never know what I might have in the toy box. Special thanks to our Clinicians Ken Harstine and Mark Ferracane for keeping you out of trouble on Friday night.

In addition to all the products and gift certificates (4 just from N Scale Architect, 1 each from Top Hobby Trains and Trains on Tracks, and 2 from Hobby Emporium), Northeast NTrak also gave \$25 cash awards to 6 members who always do more than their share of work each year. In addition to all the things that your Chairman does, you also need to thank Bob Pawlak for all of his work keeping the registrations and financials in order, George Michaels for getting the web-site and on-line registrations ready, and of course Dan, John B., Fay, and Chris O. for all their work planning your layouts.

Our keynote speaker was Bill Schneider from Rapido Trains. Bill gave us an excellent power-point presentation taking us through the typical stages almost

any manufacturer will follow; from selecting a new model to produce, laser scanning the prototype, sound recording, and the entire production process. Although it was biased toward Rapido, Bill made it generic enough that it could apply to virtually any manufacturer in our hobby. Thanks Bill for a great presentation! And he had no idea that 'Rapido Man' would show up just as he was getting ready to start. I didn't know either until the *By, Gosh & Begorrah Central* called and said Rapido Man was needed right away so solve the AV problem!

My special thanks as always to my wife Diane. Each year she dives in to help organize the awards and certificates, and this year to helping to print, collate and stuff over 500 sheets of paper in your registration envelopes, and then follow me around for two days while I talk to our corporate supporters.

Very much to my surprise, the large modules that I fully expected to win either Best of Show or First place did not. That shows what little I know. Bob Pollack was there with his fascinating Rivers and Canyons as was Roland Kelly with his carnival modules. Chris Oliva, Brooklyn N, brought his exceptional NY station module group that I think rivals both Bob & Roland in fine details. Fay Chin and Dave Ferrari put together a great "M" shape T-Trak layout, and Valley N had a substantial rectangular layout in the Mallory Building. Overall, an excellent representation of virtually every level of ability. And the grand prize winner – came from the Mallory layout! Congratulation Dick Kapitan!

We have retired the well-worn Paul O'Hegyi Award for Scenery Excellence. Between handing it out and handing it back each year, it has begun to like it could use a bit of sprucing up. We will continue to do the O'Hegyi award, but you'll have something to keep and use – Thanks to John Bingel and *Valley Trains N Hobbies*.

A full list of contest winners has been posted on our web-site. [2017 Contest Winners](#)

At dinner Friday night several of us sat down for a long discussion about ways that we might improve the weekend for everyone. One of my concerns is that we give fair value and opportunity to every one for their efforts. We've added T-Trak modules into the awards mix as what we might call "small format" but what about MaineTrak? Their modules are somewhere between N and T, and just because they don't run all three main tracks, doesn't mean they don't take just as much effort to build and maintain. Does that mean I add yet another module category to the awards? I don't know. Let's just say it remains TBD pending your input.

Clinics are tough. A: because the same people end up volunteering each year, and B: because it's difficult to talk over all the noise of registration going on at the same time. (continued on page 6)

For 2018: Instead of 2 or 3 clinics on Friday during registration, a change that I've proposed to our lead members and also to *Kato, BLI, Rapido, Intermountain, Fox, Atlas*, etc., is that next year we have a Mini-Show and maybe an informal panel discussion instead of the typical clinics. I'd like to have each manufacturer display their new N products just for us and be available to speak with you, the "alpha" n scale modelers, one-on-one or in small groups. No holds barred. Every manufacturer I spoke with during the show agreed to the idea. I'll publish more about this later this year.

And, I've already lined up our Key Note Speaker for 2018 and I think we can look forward to a very *entertaining* presentation. No. I'm not going to let the cat out of the bag, so please don't ask until November or December. As Hans Solo said..."Trust me."

Thank you ARS for the cars that you provided this year. They are always very much appreciated by all of us!

Once again I think we all had a great time and the weather could not have been better. Not too good that people went elsewhere, and not too wet, frigid, or snowy enough to keep people home. Attendees: 19,541 at the gate, 23,291 total.

The Floor is Yours....

Kudos are preferred, but your Suggestions, Comments, & Criticisms are always welcome. Got something to say, here's your chance.

Happy Rails to everyone,
Bob Fallier

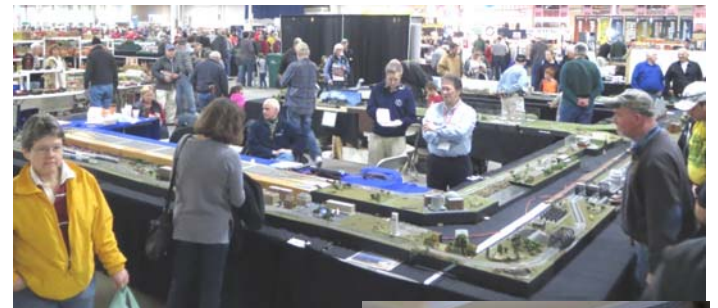
PS: And remember, I can always be bribed with chocolate.



(Left) **Diane Fallier** helping **Bob** to prepare for the **Banquet**. (right) **Bill Fallier** starting the meeting.



Layout in the Better Living Center.



(above) John Bingel presenting the "Paul O'Hegyi Award" for Scenery Excellence to Chris Oliva.

(left) Ken Harstine giving a workshop of "Finishing 3D Printed Models"



Banquet on Saturday Night.



Guest Speaker Bill Schneider (seated) answering questions after his talk on "Developing and Producing Models in Today's Global Market".