

President - Bob Fallier Vice Pres - George Michaels
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 President - Annual Meeting and Picnic

On June 10th NENT held its annual business meeting and picnic at Bob Fallier's house. Fifteen were expected but as luck would have it, twenty-two members were present. We missed seeing Bob Pawlak who is recovering from an illness and we wish him well. Thank you all who were able to make it. We ate and ate, but the best part was the cake that "Peteski" brought! If you missed having a slice, well you really missed it! Wow.

Here is a summary of the meeting events and updates....

Dues, Finances, & Membership: There were no issues or questions on either the financial or membership reports which were presented almost verbatim as Bob Pawlak had given them to me. There was some discussion regarding dues. This is an issue which has been getting worse each year and it is time to pull in the reins. First, dues have taken up to four months to be paid. It is unreasonable to expect Mr. Pawlak to maintain special accounting for laggards and slackers, and in addition it causes delays in getting on the mailing list for either your electronic or hard copy of the NTrak newsletter.

By vote of the attending members it has been decided that annual dues will be \$15.00 (increase of only \$4.00). Dues not paid within 2 months will be billed at \$25.00. Payment can still be made by check, but we will also invoice you through PayPal. As was noted, you may be more likely to notice an Invoice for Payment from PayPal than thru email. Hopefully this will garner your attention and make payments easier and faster.

The issue of supervision for minors was also brought up for discussion. By a member vote it has been agreed that parents will be required to be present when their minor children are in attendance at shows. It is unfortunate that this has become necessary, but recent events and actions of teen members has once again made it necessary to remind everyone that we are not baby-sitters and are not responsible for the actions of minors.

Storage Unit/Trailer: The subject was raised briefly, but no discussion followed.

Election of Officers:

President: By unanimous vote (sans myself) Bob Fallier

Vice President: George Michaels

Treasurer and Membership: Bob Pawlak

Editor: Roland Kelley

Operations:

Apparently we have lost a couple of Digitrax throttles. If you have one in your train/tool box, please return with out thanks. If the missing throttles are not returned, the purchase of two replacements was authorized by the group. I suggest they be painted an unmistakable sky-blue-orange-pink so that they are easily recognized and don't "accidentally" end up in someone's train box and taken home.

No other DC or DCC equipment purchases were deemed necessary at this time. The slight rise in dues is intended to help offset the cost of the missing throttles.

Dan Pawling, Jr. spoke at length about the new lift gate/bridge that he has been working on and presented several ideas.

Show Schedule: Not much has changed with the same numbers and coordinators. Please check out web-site for schedule information I respectfully ask that everyone do their fair share. If a show is reasonably close to home, even if you can't provide a module, please be there to play and assist in set-up and take down.

We've added the South Shore Model RR club show in Hingham on Oct 28-29. Only four of us signed up for that, hopefully we'll see a couple more added.

We have agree to use Saturday of the Pepperell Siding show as a tune-up/clinic day - open to all members of course. A perfect opportunity to check your wiring and fix any defects that have come up.

"Tour de Chooch" - Thanksgiving weekend is added to the schedule. Thank you in advance to the three members who volunteered to help out again. Fay has a substantial TTrak schedule with 17 shows on is platter.

Winterfest:

Bob Fallier continues as Chairman. George Michaels as Contest Chairman. Dan Pawling layout coordinator and Operation Wizard. Bob Pawlak will continue as Treasurer and Registrar.

1. George filled in and explained the process for raffle ticket purchases as we discussed at Greenberg. 1 ticket gratis, up to 5 additional tickets may be purchased with registration, and additional tickets at the show during model registration.

2. A strict cutoff time of 2:00 for model registration and contest entries.

3. Limit of 2 entries per person per category. Some essential discipline for picture taking will be in place. We will continue to use the entry # cards tht rick Salcer provided last time.

4. Contest awards unchanged from the format used in previous years.

5. Photos of sample awards in the newsletter to spur people to get their modules on models ready. (continued page 4)

T-TRAK Train Show Schedule 2017 & 2018

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

August 20, 2017, Concord Model Railroad Club, Everett
Arena, Loudon Road, Concord NH
Show 10:00 am to 3:30 pm

September 27, 2017, Old Colony Model Railroad Club,
Taunton Holiday Inn, Taunton MA
Show 10:00 am to 3:30 pm

October 1, 2017, Peperell Siding Model Railroad,
Varnum Brook Elem. School, 10 Hollis St., Pepperell MA
Show 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

October 21, 2017, North Shore Model Railroad Club,
American Civic Center, Main St., Wakefield MA
Show 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

October 28-29, 2017, Southshore Model Railroad Club,
19 Fort Hill St., Hingham, MA
Show Sat & Sun 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

November ?, 2017, Wellesley Community Train Show,
219 Washington St., Wellesley, Ma
Show 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

November ?, 2017, Metro South Train Show, Temple
Beth, 671 North Main St., Randolph, MA
Show 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

November 18-19, 2017, Greenberg's Train and Toy
Show, Shriners Auditorium, Wilmington MA
Show Sat & Sun 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

December 2-3, 2017, NMRA HUB Div Model Train Show,
Best Western Royal Plaza Trade Center, Marlboro, MA
Show Sat & Sun 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

January 6-7, 2018, Greenberg's Train and Toy Show,
Hanover Mall, Hanover, MA
Show Sat & Sun 10:00 am to 4pm

January 27-28, 2018, Amherst Railway Society Railroad
Hobby Show, Eastern States Exposition Fairgrounds,
West Springfield MA
Show Sat 9:00am to 5:00pm - Sun 10:00am to 5:00pm

February ??-??, 2018, American Heritage Museum, 33
Marrett Rd., Lexington MA
Show Sat 10:00am to 4:30pm - Sun noon to 4:00pm

March ??-??, 2018, Southshore, 19 Fort Hill St.,
Hingham, MA
Show

March 17-18, 2018, Greenberg's Train and Toy Show,
Shriners Auditorium, Wilmington MA
Show Sat & Sun 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

April 2018, NMRA Spring Training, TBD

April ??, 2018, Hooksett Lions Model Train Show,
Crawley Middle School, Hooksett NH
Show 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

2017-2018 NENTRAK SHOW PARTICIPATION SCHEDULE

October 1, 2017 Pepperell Siding Show, Varnum Brook
Elementary School, Pepperell, MA

Set-up: 7:00am - Show 10:00am to 4:00pm
Coordinator: **John Doehring - 978-433-6337**

November 18-19, 2017 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**

**December 2-3, 2017 - NMRA HUB Division Model Train
Show, Best Western Royal Plaza Trade Center,
Marlborough, MA**

Coordinator: Rob Selberg (MaiNetrak)

Jan 26-28, 2018 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 10-11, 2018 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 24,25, 2018 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 22, 2018 Hooksett Lions Club, Cawley Middle
School, Hooksett, NH

Set-up: 8:00am - Show 10:00am to 4:00pm
Coordinator: **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.

New Email address:

**Andres Lum has a new email address:
lumand22@gmail.com**

From the Past do you remember?



NE Ntrak Annual Business Meeting - June 10, 2017



(front row l to r) David Mesrobian, Bob Fallier, Dan Pawling Sr., Carl Mesrobian, Dan Pawling Jr., Russel Koehly, Jeff Koehly, (standing l to r) Frank Dignan, Fay Chin, James Pyle, Dick Brotherton, Roland Kelley, Ron Wood, Peter Wisniewski, Mark Ferracane, John Doehring, George Michaels, Mrs. Carolyn Wood, Peter Mathews, Larry Lockwood, Brian Mathews.



r) Our newly elected President Bob Fallier conducting the Annual Business Meeting going over some of the changes he would like to make.



(l) The chocolate cake at the Annual Business Meeting brought by Peter Wisniewski.

The 2017 National N Scale Convention



George Michaels attended the convention in June and displayed two of his TTrak modules. Here are the two modules he displayed. The top of the mountain of the module on the right can be picked off to get any car that might get stuck inside. Have to say he did a great job hiding the fact that the mountain can be lifted off.



(continued from page 1)

6. Change to the module registration. Dan says he receives very few module registrations by mail. The suggestion is made that check boxes be added to the online registration if you are bringing a module and will it be in the module contest. We do not intend to give you more work to do by adding these check boxes, but we do need to make sure that the info does get to Dan on time. So maybe you are both recipients of the electronic copy. George will work on this.

7. The mini-show was explained as a replacement for the clinics on Friday.

8. George suggested after the meeting that we ask a few people to act as "dinner representatives". Meaning, Someone offers to make a reservation next door for dinner for a group of X people. All he needs to go is collect names and make one call to Uno's. This may save considerable wait time and consolidate groups. The intent is in part to get people fed and back to registration and the mini-show on time. Registration will be in the elevator lobby or if available, a smaller room next to us. This may also help get people who have come independently from a club to join a group for dinner.

9. The suggestion was also made that the vendors are given a time slot of 10 minutes to do a quick power point for us. This should be well within their comfort zone and help augment their product demos. Show will begin at 7 with vendor slide shows beginning at 7:30.

10. Fay Chin offered to set-up a demo track for DCC and DC for the vendors. I'll provide the Digitrax Zypher that we brought in March and I have a DC power pack as well.

11. I will send letters out to the vendors this month to remind them of our discussions in January.

12. Display cabinet lighting. I have purchased self-contained LED lighting units which can be easily turned on/off or have the batteries replaced when necessary. These will dramatically improve the visibility of models in the displays.

NTrack Banner:

I have an 8' tall banner kit that had been used for corporate trade shows. The group agreed to investigate using it for NENT for a new banner. The banner would hang vertically instead of horizontally, take up less table space, make us distinctly visible, and all roll up into a handy storage case.

A reminder to everyone: Show season is not very far away. And even Winterfest will be here sooner than expected. I would like to see many more members contribute their hard work to the model contest. Pull out your box of parts and get busy! Whether you are kit bashing or weathering, or planning to build a model that is completely unique, summer is the perfect time to sit out on the deck or patio and work on it.

Play time: My home layout, although still very much under construction, had several tracks running on DCC. Mark showed up almost two hours early and both th and Russell Putnam stayed late to run trains and test tracks that i had not run on yet. Mark had a minor issue when one of his coaches got stuck in a tunnel and Russell surprised me by running on a wired, but as yet untested section. On Thursday following the meeting i was further surprised when one of my trains took a right turn into the unknown, exited a few moments later and continued in an continuing llood taking a full five

minutes to circle from one end of the layout to the other. On this layout... That is a first! Work continues through the summer.

Next issue - What did you do for fun this summer? Winterfest prize announcement and other goodies.

Happy Rails, Bob Fallier

Prize Winnings at the NSE Convention in Pittsburgh



Best In Show Module by Roland Kelley and Peter Wisniewski



(left) 1st Place Vehicles, Fire Engine by Peter and (below) Motive Power: Steam by Peter.



(above) Diorama 2nd Place for his building with the inside fully detailed and lite by Peter.



Second Place in "Freight Cars" with RBB&B train by Roland Kelley

Recap of 25th National N Scale Convention by Dora



Day 1 On Wednesday morning (June 21) I hopped into my pick up truck (which had a back seat full of T-Trak modules) and headed toward the 25th Annual National N Scale Convention in Pittsburgh, PA.

With visions of N-Scale in my head and plenty of coffee, I strong-armed a 12+ hour drive from Woods Hole, MA across Pennsylvania (through four tunnels, five construction-related traffic jams and two flash floods) and arrived in Station Square in Pittsburgh. I was exhausted but excited to be back in my college town where I would experience all things n-scale for a short few days! I checked into the Sheraton hotel. There I met up with two friends (Peter and Roland) from my local [Northeast NTRAK club](#) and we headed over to the Opening Remarks event.



Opening Remarks

At the Opening Remarks, Dick Ollendorf of the NSE did a nice job getting us all warmed up for the event and I was able to do my quick presentation of the [Peer-to-Peer marketplace](#) for the several hundred NSE members. I chatted with a number of other old friends prior to falling over in my bed unconscious.

Day 2 (Thursday) involved my sleeping late, locating Dave Ferrari, setting up my T-Trak modules and eating (not necessarily in that order). It also allowed for a lot of social catch-up time before the real business kicked in on Friday.

It was a bit of a fire-drill in the T-Trak department as it seems people take a LOT more liberties in their wiring for the modules than we would ever tolerate in N-Trak. Eventually, by late at night, we got it all working.



Dave Ferrari puts finishing touches on T-Trak layout.

Then we popped over to the auction room to participate in an entertaining couple of hours of watching various N Scale items (large and small) go up for auction using the old style hold-up-your bidding card format.



Auction

I purchased a couple of collector sets of special run MTL tank cars.

Day 3 (Friday) was shopping day. The Swap-a-Rama is a major event where buyers can find sellers of all kinds of items new and used. The prices are superior to eBay or just about any other venue (including the previous night's auction).



Swap-a-Rama

For runners (people who buy trains to run them) it is nirvana-like experience where you can find many, many low-priced items at prices to help you assemble a consist in whatever era or road name your heart desires. It is better than the Amherst Railway Show because although there are fewer vendors, they are exclusively dedicated to N Scale and hence the selection is superior. Also, the prices of older

items have now dropped to match newer items! I was able to acquire road numbers that previously had been unattainable due to silly, high-collector prices.

I also got a chance to run my Kato TGV set on the T-Trak layout and enjoyed chatting with T-Trak guys from all over the Northeast and Midwest.

The evening was capped off by a dinner-boat ride up and down the three rivers of Pittsburgh (Allegheny, Monongahela and Ohio).



Gateway Clipper River Cruise

I noticed that all the old steel mills along the rivers, which were present during my college days (though no longer operating by the mid 1980s) were now replaced by luxury condos. The dinner was pretty good, the company was excellent and the view fantastic!

Day 4 (Saturday) I spent a lot of time talking to manufacturers about what was new. I added [blogs](#) about about what I learned from manufacturers (and posted to TrainBoard and Nscale.net): re-releases from Athearn and Fox Valley as well as new products from ScaleTrains.com and Atlas.

I am always surprised at how *nice* the vendors are at these events. I also managed to find a few more affordable and interesting items at the vendor tables. I then headed back to the layouts to run some more trains.

The big event of the show is the banquet.



Erick Smith of MTL plays the Ukele at the convention banquet

Micro-Trains special run car - a pickle in a gondola

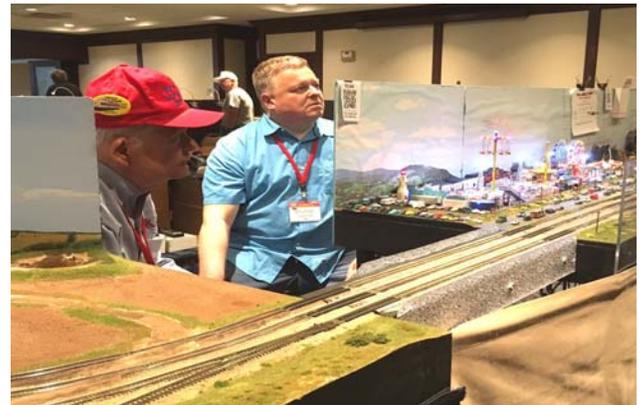
Every attendee received a Micro-Trains special run car - a pickle in a gondola. Very surreal. It seemed like it belonged on the cover of a Velvet Underground LP.



Velvet Underground LP (album art by Andy Warhol)

I guess if Andy Warhol was into N Scale, that is the car he would have wanted. Appropriate since he got his start in Pittsburgh.

The raffle was a ton of fun as always. They also announced the winners of the model contests and Peter and Roland racked up the wins! Of special note: they jointly (and deservedly) won the best-in-show award for the carnival module, which we all know and love. Congrats to Roland and Peter!



Roland and Peter with the Carnival Module

Day 5 (Sunday) OK OK I slept late. I missed a lot of the Manufacturer breakfast. I did catch Craig Ross of Bluford announce the long list of product runs that Bluford Shops will be producing this next year. Apparently business is taking off in N Scale and all the manufacturers are making money and making lots of new products. This is just a wonderful time to be in this hobby as a larger variety of cool stuff is hitting the shelves at a faster pace than anytime in the last 50 years.

Kudos to the NSE for putting on yet another grand Convention and for picking a great venue for this epic annual show. The hotel's location on the former Pennsy line afforded railfans a chance to see prototype freight consists roll by the hotel windows every hour or so. That and the excellent view of the downtown Pittsburgh skyline just across the river from us was a real treat.

I will be back for Salt Lake City next year.