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### President's Message Bob Fallier

Well folks, here we are again. Just a little over a month from Winterfest, almost Christmas and at the end of Chanukah. New Year's Eve is right around the corner and "It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas..." Lights and decorations and that cold, white stuff on the ground. Bear with me here, I'm trying to fill in space for the newsletter.

When are you guys going to start writing some articles? They don't need to be long, they don't need to be great, but they are needed. Come on, I know you guys are not shy, I know you have computers, and 90% of you can type with at least two fingers. And you all have a story to tell. Heck, you've got enough stories to tell at shows to fill volumes. Why not write them down and send them to Roland? Promise, he won't bite.

#### Next – Winterfest!

Have you done your registrations and sent your checks to Bob Pawlak? NO? What are you waiting for? Valentine's Day? Hotel reservations done yet? I booked mine last March just to make sure I had a room with a view. Yes, I've done my registration and sent in my check. And I bought extra Raffle Tickets.

You know what those things are, right. Those little stiff paper things with numbers on them. Someone puts them into a hat, pulls one out, you have the matching number and what did you win?

Here's a hint of what one of the prizes might be... But no ticket, no prize. (Scale Trains web photo)



Ooooooh! Now is that worth a few dollars' worth of tickets. Thank George Michaels and TroveStar! Darn right I bought extra tickets and we will make tickets available at the show if you didn't purchase them with your registration. Have you seen one of these things running? Wow! You half deaf guys won't need hearing aids because when the turbine fires up, it just screams! And it pulls like crazy!

# HAPPY NEW YEAR

If you want either of the lanterns I told you about last summer for you your train room or collection, the only way to get them is to pay a dealer \$85 to \$150 or buy a few tickets for \$5-\$10-\$20 and win one at the banquet. Value/rating data sheets included with each one.

Guess who is coming to dinner? Come on, guess. No, nothing like two years ago when I had to unplug the projector. No, I don't apologize for that. I saw you guys napping during the video. And no, as much as I'd really like to get Jason from Rapido Trains, he can't make it. You do have to admit that the Rapido presentation last year by Bill Schneider was pretty darn good.

Now please jump into your 'way-back machine' 6 years. Never mind what you had for breakfast this morning, I can't remember that either. In 2012 we had a very entertaining guest who talked about fun stuff, like operating sessions, and rules, and playing with trains, and whoopsies. Yes, ladies and gentlemen, he is coming back this year with more stories for us. As a matter of fact, he asked me at Winterfest 2017 if he could come back to see us again. Ladies and gents please welcome Lowell Smith and his lovely wife Barb as they join us once again.

What else should I talk about? Raffle tickets.... Yeah. In order for us to build up a really good assortment of goodies for next year and beyond, we do ask that you to buy at least a couple of tickets. Just like the national shows. You buy tickets, we buy good stuff, you win good stuff! We all win!

More changes... No tables in the back of the room for door prizes this year. You all get at least one ticket in your registration envelope.... Instant Raffle Ticket for the goodies.

I have MTL cars for you this year. Eric Smith sent us a great assortment and I have one for everyone who picks up their registration envelope Friday night or Saturday morning. The earlier you pick it up, the wider the selection of cars to choose from.

Also in the package I received from Micro-Trains: 1 DOT test car. If you have the DOT GE U30C engine, the red-white-blue car is a perfect complement for it. I also received 6 individual Smokey the Bear cars. Let me know in advance (continued on page 3)

## 2017-2018 NENTRAK SHOW PARTICIPATION SCHEDULE

### 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 17-18, 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](mailto:northeastntrak@msn.com) Thanks for your help.

## The Evolution of Rolling Stock Models by GDM



I just received a couple of brand new 2-Bay Open Hoppers from Bluford Shops. As usual, I was excited to see a new model made for more obscure road names with Bluford's typical attention to historical accuracy.

While looking over these hoppers, something occurred to me. N Scale Models are going through a period of rapid evolution.

At TroveStar we spend a lot of time looking at older models. Given that N Scale was born in the 1960s and that TroveStar was built to handle every mass-produced model every made, we get our hands on lots of different models representative of over five decades of N Scale manufacturing. Normally, over time, things don't seem to change that much. Starting around 2015, that was no longer the case. We are seeing what might be called a 'third generation' of rolling stock.

### **First Generation**

In the 1960s, all rolling stock was made from what we would now consider fairly crude toolings. It was difficult to produce thin stirrups and ladders; separately applied detail meant a brake wheel. Couplers were mostly attached to the trucks and the wheels were mostly nickel-silver plated pizza cutters. These models can be considered a first generation.

### **Second Generation**

The advent of the knuckle coupler as produced by Kadee in the 1970s set the stage for a number of different changes that occurred over the next few decades. We saw magnetically operating knuckle couplers replace the Rapidos and most wheels became low-profile plastic pieces that would run quietly and reliably over Code 55 track. This second generation also sported newer printing techniques that (continued on page 3)

## 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](mailto:nttrak@gmail.com)

**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 17-18, 2018, American Heritage Museum,** 33  
Marrett Rd., Lexington MA

Show Sat 10:00am to 4:30pm - Sun noon to 4:00pm

**March 10-11, 2018, Southshore,** 19 Fort Hill St.,  
Hingham, MA

Show 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

**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 2017, NMRA Spring Training,** TBD

**April 22, 2018, Hooksett Lions Model Train Show,**  
Crawley Middle School, Hooksett NH

Show 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

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allowed for cleaner decoration with numbers and letters only legible with a magnifying glass. Separately applied detail parts made possible opening doors, applied ladders, roof-walks, end platforms, brake detail and much more. We all became accustomed to these new models and even older molds were being re-released with higher-quality trucks and wheels.

### Third Generation

But these new hoppers from Bluford made me realize we are just now seeing another leap forward. These cars have body-mount couplers. That reminded me that Horizon is now retro-fitting body-mount couplers on their Roundhouse toolings that were re-released under the Athearn Brand. New Micro-Trains bodies are also equipped with body-mount couplers - such as the new husky-stack well car. The Bluford models also have metal wheels. Metals wheels, just a year ago, were considered a 'premium' feature. Now, modelers expect to see them on all new releases. The profile on these new chemically blackened wheels are as tight as can be managed to look good and run well on track. The wheels on the Bluford model reminded me of Eric Smith telling me all about the new offering from Micro-Trains; user-installed metal wheels. Lastly, though the Bluford Models do not have this feature, we now expect to see etched metal detail parts used where extreme precision is warranted - such as roofwalks and end-platforms.

In summary, we have just recently moved from a world where these three features (body-mounted couplers, blackened metal low-profile wheels, and etched metal details) stopped being premium features and are now considered 'standard.' I am not arguing that any of these things are new or revolutionary, but rather that the mind-set of the consumer has subtly, but definitely changed.

### New Member

Alex (Al) Daggett  
7 Outlook Farm Road  
Natick, MA 01760  
617-238-6601 email:  
Alex.daggett065@gmail.com

retired, N scale home layout with double loop, switching, w/turntable and expansion tracks.

"Seems like a nice bunch of people - Frank invited me to come back and run some of my trains. I live 15 minutes away so i took him up on it. It was fun!"

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if you are interested in the DOT or Smokey cars (individually or as a "set").

Please don't ask if or what our host, the Amherst Railway Society will be giving away this year. I won't know until it happens.

What else? Module Registration. The layout planners need to know what you plan to bring. Please don't wait until the last minute. Models - must show your own handiwork. And I know you've been working on one all summer, so let's see it! Display lighting - yes the cabinets will have lighting this year. And I finally replaced the glass shelf that I broke last summer.

More news. NENT is purchasing a club trailer. I don't have all the minute details that I know you will want, but for a long time we've needed a way to store and transport the club yard, club corners, club boxes, and the like. The trailer is fully enclosed, lockable and perfect for us. It will not be used for personal storage of any kind. The person pulling the trailer will have the right to use it to transport his own module(s) for only the specific show that he is bringing it to. Price: \$2,000.

I am also looking for a location where we can meet more regularly, maybe even have a semi-permanent layout? Let you know when I know. No promises, but it's something that I think we really need and will benefit both old and new members.

Do you DCC? Of course, you do. Doesn't everyone do DCC? Which means you need decoders, RRampmeters, speedometers, and more, more, more. Ok, yes, this is a plug for Streamlined Back Shop who has once again donated a decoder and sugar cube speaker (looks more like 1/3 of a sugar cube). So if you need DCC goodies, go to SBS4DCC.com. Good stuff, good prices, Bryan is a great guy to talk with and he does installations. For DCC, the RRampmeter is indispensable.

Speaking of Rapido Trains. I just received a Conrail DL-9 from Jason. I haven't decided which category it will be for, but it's yours if you win 1<sup>st</sup> place in one of the contest categories. Sample photo.



**That is about all I have for you at the moment.  
Happy Chanukah and Merry Christmas to all!  
Bob**

**Family Train Travels in 2017**  
**By D. Pawling, Sr.**

During 2017, parts of the Pawling family travelled by rail in Europe and others took advantage of railroads here at home. Photos were sent to me to share with you in this family newsletter.

Jeff and Jackie Pawling began their European tour in Norway; flew to Gdansk in Poland, and began their rail trip in the neighboring town of Sopot.



(Photo above) was taken at the Sopot RR station. Note the catenary and the style of the electrical pickup. They were headed to Berlin, Germany. About 200 miles from that city the train lost power. While waiting to move a rail grinding crew came through on another track. That is Jackie supervising the operation (photo below). After two hours the train continued No explanation for the delay.



Later in the trip, they stopped in Prague, Czechoslovakia where they found a Beer Bar that delivered their drinks by railroad (Photo below).



Later in the year Dan, Jr. and Paula Jo flew into the Amsterdam airport, went downstairs to the RR station under the arrival building and took a shuttle to the city. (photo below)



Meanwhile, back home, Great Grandson Calvin entered his second year by seeing the AMTRAK Vermonter roar thru a grade crossing in South Deerfield, MA and has ridden a narrow gauge train several times in an amusement park in central MA. He also enjoyed a trip on the steam train operated by the Maine Narrow Gauge RR Company and Museum in Portland ME. He has, of course, been gifted with a large assortment of toy trains. All of the travelers enjoyed their trips and would do it again