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President's Message Bob Fallier

The leaves are beginning to turn their autumn colors. The nights are cooler and the air conditioner has been turned off for the year. The sun is coming up later and setting before seven each evening. Autumn is coming much too soon and where has the summer gone?

Well for me the past month has been very busy with work (I thought I retired in Feb?) and a project in Laos. Conference calls with one of my congressional reps and meetings at one of our US senator's offices, dozens of emails and I've probably spoken publicly and personally with 2-300 people. As one of my Eagle scouts said years ago: "When no one else does, I will." Therefore I have been. I finally received a reply back from the US State Department, Bureau of Public & Military Affairs, to confirm my efforts and the budget of \$90M that Obama promised in 2016. Curious? MAGAmerica.org or MAGinternational.org What is "MAG"? The Mines Advisory Group. Landmines, not coal or mineral mines. Please visit. Tell them Bob sent you. And a prayer for my friend Shania that she doesn't get killed while doing the real work in Laos.

To the trains.

I hope each of you has had time to go out and enjoy the summer with rail fanning stories to tell and write about. Roland will always accept your notes and pictures. While I haven't been out watching trains, or even running them on my layout, I have been busy on a new module. I spoke about it last month, so I won't bore you with more details. But I will say it does have a lot of details to find. Now in the final stage of adding Lexan panels to the front and forming a curved skyboard. Coming soon: The Pepperell Siding two day show on the 29th & 30th. The school will be open Friday afternoon for prep and early Saturday morning. Contact John Doehring with questions and to let him know what modules you will have available. John's contact info: jddoehring@yahoo.com I've spoken with the Pepperell Siding folks several times and it sounds like the only hold up right now is our club insurance. They are willing to have us as guests several times a year to give us a place for clinics or general meetings. I doubt that we would have need of their facility more than 4 times a year. But first we need to resolve the insurance question.

Since the 2018-19 show season has begun, it is most

certainly time to pull those modules out and do some cleaning and refurbishing. Does it really matter how our modules look? Yes! That is perhaps the first impression someone may get of NTrak or N scale in general. We represent the hobby so lets make a good first impression. One evening working on a module instead of watching TV can really get you in the mood for "show time". So why not put down the potato chips, set up your modules and get out the dust brushes, paint brushes, glue, and scenery materials. Broken pieces staring at you? Why not fix, replace or remove them? Nothing looks worse to our visitors than a module that looks like it hasn't been used or cleaned in ten years. The television can wait, and none of us needs the extra calories.

Wiring issues? If you have questions about Power Pole connections, please ask. I'll not only answer your questions, but I'd be happy to install them correctly. A full set will cost less than \$10 and I'll even install them for you. Both NE NTrak and I have the correct crimper so no excuses. And there is a right way to assemble them per the NTrak manual.

Winterfest preparations in the works. This could be an interesting year. Your overwhelming support of our "mini-show" last January is very much appreciated! The invitations for our 2nd Annual Mini-Show on Friday night are going out and several manufacturers have already given me a tentative OK for the 2019 show. The unexpected cut-off of production in China will have a wide ranging impact on our manufacturers and what they can provide us for awards. Therefore I'm asking for their support/products much sooner than I usually do. Hooray for Rapido Trains offering to help Atlas and probably other manufacturers. At any rate, we will hope for the best, but we must also be prepared to have substantially less product available for awards. I promise to do my best for you.

I received some very good suggestions regarding the "Information Letters" that I do for you and I will be incorporating those changes this year. A few small changes can make things much easier.

If you haven't started work on your contest entries, what are you waiting for? Two of my entries last January took less than two hours each. If I can win then anybody can!

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T-TRAK Train Show Schedule 2018 & 2019

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

nttrak@gmail.com

September 28, 2018. Old Colony Model Railroad Club,
Taunton Holiday Inn, Taunton MA

Show 10:00 am to 3:30 pm

September 29-30, 2018, Peperell Siding Model Railroad,
Varnum Brook Elem. School, 10 Hollis St., Pepperell MA

Show 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

October 13-14, 2018, Nashua Valley Railroad Assoc.
Boxboro Regency Hotel, Boxboro, MA

Show Sat 10:00 am to 5:00 pm Sun 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

October 20, 2018. North Shore Model Railroad Club,
American Civic Center, Main St., Wakefield MA

Show 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

October 27-28, 2018, Southshore Model Railroad Club,
Bare Cove Park, 19 Fort Hill St., Hingham, MA

Show Sat & Sun 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

November 17-18, 2018, Greenberg's Train and Toy
Show, Shriners Auditorium, Wilmington MA

Show Sat & Sun 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

December 1-2, 2018, 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 25-27, 2019, Amherst Railway Society Railroad
Hobby Show, Eastern States Exposition Fairgrounds,
West Springfield MA

Show Sat 9:00 am to 5:00 pm - Sun 10:00am to 5:00pm

February 16-17, 2019, Greenberg's Train and Toy
Show, Swansea Mall, Swansea, MA

Show Sat & Sun 10:00 an to 4:00 pm

March 10-11, 2019, Southshore, 19 Fort Hill St.,
Hingham, MA

Show 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

March 16-17, 2019, Greenberg's Train and Toy Show,
Shriners Auditorium, Wilmington MA

Show Sat & Sun 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

April 21, 2019, Hooksett Lions Model Train Show,
Crawley Middle School, Hooksett NH

Show 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

2017-2018 NENtrak SHOW PARTICIPATION SCHEDULE

September 29-30 2018 Pepperell Siding Show, Varnum
Brook Elementary School, Pepperell, MA

Set-up: 7:00am - 9:00am

Show Sat 9:00am to 4:00pm Sun 10:00am to 4:00pm

Coordinator: **John Doehring - 978-433-6337**

October 27-28, 2018 Southshore Model Railroad Club,
Bare Cove Park, 19 Fort Hill St, Hingham, MA

Set-up:

Show Sat & Sun 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Coordinator: **Frank Dignan - 508-866-9660**

November 17-18, 2018 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 1-2, 2018 - NMRA HUB Division Model Train
Show, Best Western Royal Plaza Trade Center,
Marlborough, MA

Coordinator: Rob Selberg (MaiNtrak)

Jan 25-27, 2019 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**

March 16-17, 2019 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 21, 2019 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

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A reminder or two: Don't forget to register on-line as soon as the 2019 on-line pages are ready and don't forget to send your check to Bob Pawlak. **You are not registered until Bob P. has received your payment in full.** Also – To be clear: without a *completed registration*, you cannot enter any of the contests. This includes models, photos, Parade of Trains, and module contests. You can certainly bring your modules for inclusion in the layout, but they will not be given contest numbers. Period.

And last: Just a reminder that we cannot and should not offer to be responsible for a guest child. If you offer to allow a child to run trains with you, or enter the member area inside a layout, his/her *parent(s) must remain within earshot* and you must take full responsibility for any accidents that may occur. This is not negotiable (says the great and powerful Oz).

Did I forget anything? Probably. I always do.

Happy Rails! Bob Fallier

PRR L1 and H8 Ride Again by Konrad Malkowski

I am a new member of NER NTRAK. My modeling interests include modeling Polish State Railways (PKP) as well as The Pennsylvania Railroad. I model in a wide range of scales (Z, N and HO), but for this article I will focus on just N scale and Pennsylvania Railroad. The one downside of modeling steam engines of North America is the fact that each railroad had it's own unique designs. So apart from generic USRA based designs of certain locomotive classes (mikado, pacific, consolidation, american), and models of iconic west coast steam engines (BigBoy, Challenger, FEF) model railroaders are stuck with either obtaining brass models, or kit-bashing if they want to have a model of their specific favorite railroad.

To build an L1 I decided to go the kit bashing route. I was hoping to obtain a shell from GHQ models. Unfortunately these shells are no longer in production, so I turned to 3D printing, OpenSCAN and Shapeways. It took me nearly 8 months to develop what I consider a decent passable conversion kit shell for the Kato Mikado.

Below are the photographs of the first print of shell. This is how it comes from Shapeways..



After the protective cage is removed the model looks as follows:



This is how it sits unpainted on the Kato mechanism.



When I designed the PRR L1 shell to convert a Kato Mikado model to PRR L1 I designed it with space for DCC wires and decoder in the boiler.



And here is how my first iteration of N PRR L1 looks like after painting and adding decals.

I didn't quite like how the Belpaire looped so I ended up lowering the belpaire boiler a bit to make it more smooth with radial sections of the boiler. I think it came out quite nicely. See for yourself.



This version of the shell can be ordered at Shapeways at the following links: <http://shpws.me/LW3Z>

I have also made a corresponding air cylinder for the front of L1. <http://shpws.me/M5pM>

I took similar approach to create a PRR H8 conversion shell for Bachmann N scale consolidation mechanism. In this case I had to make some of the boiler sections longer than "exactly" to scale to fit the mechanism. I tried to speed up development cycle here by using a home 3D printer to print the shell. Unfortunately a standard 3D printer is just not cut out to handle the details at smaller scales. So I only printed the model once at home to make sure it fit the shell. After that I just relied on Shapeways.

Just like in the case of L1 there is space for a small DCC decoder in the smokebox of the shell.

Overall I think the model came out quite nicely, see for yourself.



The most glaring problem is the lack of a proper PRR tender... But there is only so much time in a day.

If you are interested in acquiring a shell for yourself they are available at: <https://bit.ly/2M5seWd>

Overall building the L1 and H8 shells were my first forays into the world of 3D printing. It was a very rewarding experience and I continue to design new models. With each new model I learn new tricks and better way of doing things. This brings me immense satisfaction. But from modeling standpoint the best part is: The L1 and H8 ride the N scale rails again :

Trains along the Rhine River by Roland Kelley

As I sailed along the Rhine River in October 2005, I saw many trains on both sides of the river. If we were not passing a train on the right side of the boat we were passing on on the left side. One thin i noticed was that there frieght trains ran often but averaged only 30 to 60 cars, not like the 100 car trains you see in North America. The picture is while we were sailing thru the wine country in Germany.



Four foot bridge module by Jim Pyle



This is a 4 foot fixed bridge module I made. I wanted a simple project. I was inspired by one of the Greenberg trains show where we thought we would be 4 foot short. This should be easy throw in the car in case of emergencies.