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President's Message Bob Fallier

Let the fun begin! It's time for Show and Tell and don't forget Play. I'll be the first to admit that "I don't wanna grow up, I'm a toys r' us kid", and no doubt many of you feel much the same when it comes to trains. I've always found it curious that we are so fascinated by trains. Personally, I hate traffic lights. The red ones. I won't run a red, and I detest those fools who do, but I still hate sitting for endless seconds or even a minute or two waiting for the blasted thing to change. But I'll happily sit at a grade crossing while a hundred cars click and clack on the other side of the flashing lights and gate. I think that is probably true for most of us. We started counting passing freight cars when we first learned to count, and we still do it. There really is a certain fascination in watching trains go by.

That same passive enjoyment rings true when we watch our miniature trains sweep endlessly around our layouts or make a constant loop around our show layouts, with two trains heading in one direction and one train going the other way. Thank goodness for Winterfest and a layout that has ins and outs and lefts and rights. Thank you Dan and Chris for all the time and effort you spend creating that three day masterpiece.

A little closer to home are the regular shows. The Pepperell Siding Railway Club show is always the season opener and always seems to catch us off guard. We had a late start this year and John Doehring was really at odds getting enough modules to have a layout. Small it certainly was with only a single four-footer on each end and not enough room inside for a single table. And that really wasn't so bad at all. With limited space to walk there was also limited space to accumulate junk. No table meant no mess. We were not entirely without a table. Quite conveniently it was outside the layout and along the wall in the gymnasium. While I initially had some serious mis-giving's about the less than ideal participation, I for one certainly did have fun!

The layout was up and mostly running Friday evening. We discovered a short dead section of track on my rebuilt module which I discovered to be no more than a missing wire. Once the problem was found, the fix was quick and easy. I can't say the same for a Peco turnout that just would not make decent electrical contact, but once back home, I fixed that by adding a switched feed to the frog. All's well again and the module, first built in 2011 and then "shelved" after I built my Disney corner, is in a word: Different. And with a bit of pride, I think it probably drew more attention than the Disney module sitting next to it.

Several of us have the Kato Orient Express 15 car set that came out two or three years ago. The set is not one of the original Orient Express trains, such as the Simplon Orient Express, nor is it the almost as famous Fletch d' Or or Blue Train from which several of the cars have come. The Kato set represents an assortment of cars purchased by Intraflug in Switzerland in the 1980's and assembled as the 1988 Nostalgic Orient Express for a very unique trip across Europe, Russia, China, and ending in Hong Kong. Allowing only 60 passengers at \$20,000 per ticket, and an almost equal number of on-board staff, the train was the first to travel across both continents without changing trains. At both ends of the line through Russia, the bogies for every car were changed from standard gauge to Russian broad gauge and back again for the final journey through China.

Circling back to the Pepperell Siding show, my thanks to Jim Nolan for a book published in 1977 which has a very complete accounting for not only the Orient Express, but many of the luxury trains of the 19th & 20th centuries. The 40-page index lists nearly every car manufactured by Pullman or Wagon Lits from the very earliest wooden cars to the very last Pullman car. Not only was the book a good read, but for those interested in luxury trains and a bit of railroad history it provides a wealth of knowledge. So I began to do some research about the cars used in the Kato set, the majority of which were built in 1928 or 29, and a single car built in 1940. More on this in a separate article.

In the meanwhile, on November 3rd The Great Wellesley Train Show is nearly upon us and I hope we have a better response and a larger layout than seen in Pepperell. All hands on deck, please.

One last note: As I've mentioned before, I've been talking with the folks at Pepperell Siding club in hopes that we can utilize their facilities for occasional meetings, "tune-up" days, and a place to store our trailer, the last being a serious need. The final roadblock to their approval comes down to club insurance, which we do not have. I've suggested to our Treasurer and V.P. that we strongly consider an insurance plan for the group as a whole and for the trailer and contents. While I firmly believe this is an essential it will not come without some cost. It is my intent to keep this as inexpensive as possible. Because every one of us benefits in the long run, I think everyone of us needs to realize that we must also contribute to the cost. More on this later. Happy Rails,

**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

- 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

**Going back in Time
by Larry Lockwood**

Just an interesting thing I remembered from the distance past.

When I was growing up in Nebraska we had several alfalfa mills in our little town that dried the alfalfa and packaged it so it could be used at a later date. The large quantities of alfalfa were mainly used to feed livestock, so the drying preserved it. Back then the alfalfa was packaged and loaded into box cars. One of the interesting things they did in the old days was to move these box cars by hand with this tool. I don't know what this tool was called but we saw the workers using it all the time. They usually left it by the dock so as kids we would fiddle around with it. The tool was like a pry bar with a

**2017-2018 NENtrak SHOW PARTICIPATION
SCHEDULE**

**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 (MaiNetrak)

**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 your help.

long (maybe 6ft) thick handle. The working end had a steel flange that fit over the top of the rail and above that was a section that fit the wheel curve. The workers would put their tool between the rail and the wheel and pull down on the end of the handle. This would allow them to move the box car a few inches then they would slide the tool forward and pull again and again. This allowed the car to be moved away from the dock and they would move another car to the dock to be loaded. Has anyone else seen this tool being used ?

Don't know why this old scene popped into memory.

Some Images from the Peperell NTRAK Meeting - A Sightseer's Guide by Claus Schlund

We had a great time getting together in Pepperell, and as the day progressed I thought i'd permit myself a chance to wander around and be a sightseer - taking a few pictures to let everyone know what's beautiful and what's new! So join me for a quick look around...



I can't quite tell, is that a Buddha inside the Japanese Temple?



Beautiful fall foliage at Terrapin Station.



Bob does a great job of explaining his Disney modules to everyone.



Very nicely done wooden vehicular bridge, also at Terrapin Station. (above & below)



An oil refinery generates lots of revenue traffic for the rainroad.



We see abandoned railroad tracks in real life all the time, but they are seldom modeled on our modules. (next)



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A high level of activity keeps the crew of this switch engine pretty busy.



A brand new bridge duck-under module spans four feet and allows us to get in and out.



Jim explains some of the finer points of model railroading to these two interested visitors.



I had a great time this weekend.

Four Reasons to Create A Personal Inventory of Your Collection and How TroveStar Can Help

Author: [Jenna](#)

The May 2018 **NMRA (National Model Railroad Association) Magazine** featured the article "A Word to the Wise: Inventory!" by Thomas Roskelly who lost his home to a fire. He penned the article to urge his fellow model train enthusiasts to not only create an inventory of their train collection (and any items they might lose in a fire) but to safely store it so it too is not destroyed by the ravages of heat and flames. (Mr. Roskelly did have an inventory of his train collection but it was stored in a fire-proof safe, which did not survive the heat of the fire; house fires can approach 2400 degrees.)

To be sure, Mr. Roskelly shares some very sound advice. If you are not already convinced for the need to have a personal inventory available on-line, here's a list of reasons a detailed list of your collection can be useful.

Avoid buying duplicates.

An on-line version of your inventory is just the thing you need before you make that next impulse buy at the next hobby shop or train show. With a live version (via your smart phone) of your inventory, you can quickly check to see if you already own the item that interests you.

Easily and quickly furnish insurance companies with a detailed inventory of your collection.

If your collection has been damaged/destroyed because of a fire or a flood and you need a list of your melted/water-logged trains to submit to your insurance company, you can log on to your on-line Inventory and print out your *former/damaged* collection.

Get the best possible prices from dealers for your collection.

If you are thinking of selling your collection, you can print out your inventory and shop it around to the dealers. An accurate list of what you are selling (versus "Here are 2 boxes full of 150 rolling stock.") will get you the best price.

Leave your affairs in order.

We all go to the great train station in the sky someday. Want to leave an accurate list of your collection to your heirs? Create an on-line personal inventory to help plan for that final departure.

The TroveStar n-scale model trains database currently features more than 53,500 locos, rolling stock, structures and accessories. You can use all of this reference data to create your own personal inventory. It's free and easy.

To learn more, please see our blog article: [How to Create Your Personal Inventory Using TroveStar Reference Data.](#)