

President - Bob Fallier Vice Pres - George Michaels
Treasurer - Robert Pawlak Editor - Roland Kelley
Winterfest Chairman - Bob Fallier

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

25 Years at the Amherst Railway Society Show. That is some serious dedication to NTrak and to the hobby. Thank you everyone for your contributions, large and small.

Better a little late than premature, this this letter is a little late.

Thank you to everyone who attended Winterfest 2019! I think we had an excellent display of modules on all three layouts. Everything was connected and while I can't speak for TTrak, we were up and mostly running Friday night. Saturday morning the Valley layout apparently had a serious electrical problem, but they were able to resolve it and get trains running, I believe a big thank you is in order for Chris O for lending his DCC expertise at the Mallary layout. And speaking of Chris, his module "group" has now grown into a real work of art and a fully independent layout I wish my work was even half as good.

There was some great competition among both the models and photos. Choosing a model photo was a challenge as there were, in my humble opinion, two really excellent pictures. There were only two steam engine entries this year and if you noticed, both displayed retired engines, worn and aged, on a mini-diorama. Did anyone notice the bird nest on the Baldwin 2-8-8-2? The winning Electric engine was also on a mini-diorama. I understand the electrical fire on the roof of the JNR EF-58 was not too serious and the engine was able to limp back to the shed under its own power. In the Rolling Stock-Freight category I really had to laugh at the Vote for Bob's entry! Excellent!

Its really unfortunate that in my role as chairman I don't have time during the show to really enjoy meeting with all of you and talking about your modules and contest entries. But I do a lot of walking and even more talking. The chairman's job is about creating or maintaining relationships with the people and companies that support us each year. Some are as consistent as day follows night, but there are some who I really need to chase, and others I have to just let drop out of the picture. That's the nature of business. Nurture the relationships that are valuable and know

when to let go the ones that are no longer beneficial to us. And then sometimes we don't really have much say in the matter at all.

So who did provide products for us this year? In no particular order: Micro-Trains (100 cars), Trains on Tracks (two Fox Valley engines), Fox Valley (4 cars + 2 engines w/DCC), East Coast Circuits (Random lighting circuit), Touch Toggles (set for DC or Tortoise), Evan Desighs (LED packs), Top Hobby Trains (\$25 gift cert), N Scale Architect (4 gift certs of \$40 & \$50), Hobby Emporium (engine), Walthers (catalogs and building kits), Streamlined Backshop (ESU sound decoder), Valley Trains (engine), Perplexing Puzzles (creafsmen Grist Mill kit), PWRS/North American Rail Car (cert for freight car), N Scale Enthusiast (several cars and engines), plus several private contributions. In addition everyone received a PanAm car courtest of TroveStar (George Michaels) and you are encouraged to visit TroveStar. It's a great site and a tremendous resource of information.

Many thanks to everyone, especially the guys who start working on Winterfest months before the show. Dan, Chris, Bob Pawlak, George without whom we would never get anything done. Many thanks also for John Becker and Jim Pyle for running the Parade of Trains, Jim Nolan for all manner of help, and Peter Wisniewski for handling the bulk of the pictures taking. Thanks also to Jenna Michaels and my wife Diane for taking charge of the model/photo contest entries. Bob Arcus - were you also helping with the contest entries? Thank you Roland for keeping the presses running and getting all the updates, news and letters out to everyone year after year! Thank you to anyone I missed, your hard work is very much appreciated.

How many modules and contest entries were there? Lots! The New York guys are expanding and making the rest of us get more creative within our limited space. Speaking of space. What a mess. Glad I didn't have to be there very often or very long at a time.

The Mini-Show! I think it went better than last year even though we had a couple of last minute drop-outs. ScaleTrains called me late Friday and said they just couldn't possibly make it and Lowell Smith could not make it to Springfield at all this year. But we still had fun. Colin was first up to talk about Micro-Trains. Then Chris Palomarez from Athearn, and last we heard from Dan from PWRS (have you looked closely at the details on the new PWRS cards?) Registration went smoothly and everyone could choose from a selection of new Micro-Trains cars plus the PanAm Car from TroveStar. First timers to the show also received one of the ARS cars from previous (continued on page 2)

**Ttrak: Best Train
Dan Pisowloski**



**Ttrak: Best Module
Forest Bevins**



**Scenery Award
Southern NJ NTRAK**



**1st Place: Structure – On line
Dudley Foster**



**2018-2019 NENtrak SHOW PARTICIPATION
SCHEDULE**

**March 23,24, 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

**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

March 9-10, 2019, Southshore, 52 Bare Cove Park Dr. Hingham, MA

Show 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

March 16, 2019, Hub DivSpring Training, May St. Auditorium, Worcester State University, Worcester, MA

March 23-24, 2019, Greenberg's Train and Toy Show, Shriners Auditorium, Wilmington MA

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

(continued from page 1)

years. Thanks also to Mart Gaudinsky from Fox Valley and brought several goodies for our awards and Fay for standing in for Kato.

A word about the schedule. There are times printed and published for you for a reason. If you need to be at the Parade of Trains 15-30 minutes early it is for a good reason. The times to enter your models is posted. Please be there on time. We are changing model pickup time next year from 12:00 to 2:00 pm. A complaint we heard from the public was that the display case was half empty early on Sunday. I'll repost that for you next year. *Happy hour on Saturday begins at 6:30, not 6:10.* If you arrive early, don't expect to get in the door and get served just because you are there. This was a major disruption to the servers schedule and as a result some people were served dinner before others had even been served their salads. *Dinner begins at 7:00 pm.* The banquet on Saturday had some problems, and gents, (continued on page 5)

Winterfest 2019 Contest Winners

1st Place: Motive Power – Steam
Bob Fallier



1st Place: Motive Power – Diesel
Chris Oliva



1st Place: Motive Power – Electric
Bob Fallier



JNR EF58 appears to have a minor electrical problem.

1st Place: Rolling Stock - Passenger
John Lauzon



1st Place: Rolling Stock - Freight
Stan Houpt



1st Place: Rolling Stock - MOW
Frank Dignan



1st Place: Humorous
Yvan Mayrand



1st Place: Vehicle
Andre Belanger



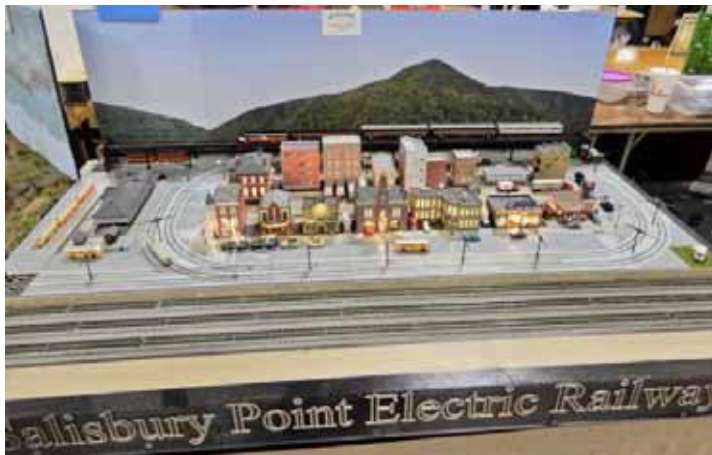
1st Place: Structure – Off line
Chris Oliva



**Best in Show:
Roland Kelley**



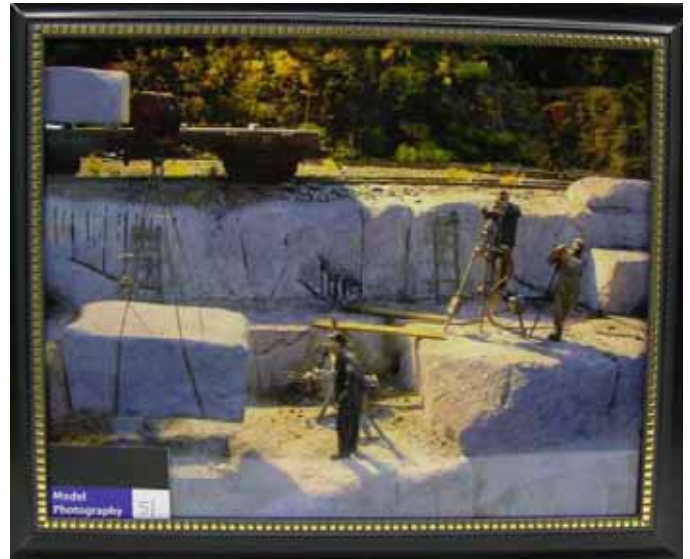
**1st Place: NTrak Module
Jim Nolan**



**1st Place: Parade of Trains
Adam Rosenberg**



**1st Place: Photo - Model
Rick Hartung**



**1st Place: Photo - Prototype
Michael Wong**



Peter getting his camera ready to take pictures, for the awards presentation.



(continued from page 2)
management of the Hilton, both for the Hilton Garden Inn and higher up the chain.

If you cooperate and abide by the schedule that I publish, give the servers time to get everything ready in proper sequence, there won't be any more problems such as we experienced this time. I can assure you that the Hilton Hotels and Hilton Garden Inn do not want a repeat and will do everything they can to ensure our experience next year is flawless. You have my word!

Also brought to my attention was some really inappropriate behavior before and during the banquet. Rudeness toward the wait staff is absolutely unacceptable! It makes all of us look bad and I take the heat for it afterward. All I'm going to say is either act like a valued guest or don't come. Period.

A word about the awards. I was especially pleased this year to make it a Micro-Trains year. For at least 15 years, and more likely 20+ years, Micro-Trains has been our most consistent and generous supporter. Each year since I've been chairman, Eric Smith has contributed 90+ cars to NTrak groups across the country. At retail, that's about \$2,000 in contributions every year that we all get to take home for free. My personal thanks to Eric and Colin for their participation in our event this year. As I mentioned earlier, we had some great model entries this year and I strive to give the best possible award that I have in inventory for each category. We all want new engines, but sometimes those are pretty limited and this year was more difficult than in previous years. We all know why. What I did a little differently this year was to give the best I had, whether an engine, a gift certificate, or cars. Every Second Place winner had his choice of Micro-Trains cars. For the Parade of Trains, first place I decided to award a grain for a train and the winner took home a set of 4 Rapido Trains, McGinnis coaches with easy-peasy lighting. Another change this year was a public vote for modules. You may have noticed the yellow ballots available around the layouts for "People's Choice" award. Due to several instances of ballot stuffing over the years, we decided that the winner of the People's Choice will be a certificate.

I had my suspicions when I received the People's Choice award, thinking perhaps the "joke was on me" for changing the rules, but when I asked, I was assured that my little Japanese themed module did get the most public votes. So the idea works. We as members of NTrak have a more discerning eye for details, track work, concept, and application, so we judge modules by a somewhat different set of criteria, and your votes for best module really do confirm your judgement. "The rules of engagement shall not be changed."

A few assorted comments for you? As we've always said, no out of the box entries for either the model or Parade of Trains. I think we were fine on models, but there seemed

to be a couple of parage entries that looked pretty new and unmodified. One late entrant put his train on the track, ready to run DCC, but he had never used DCC before. This is not the time to get your DCC learners permit. 'Nuff Said"

Someone commented that "The organizer should not be allowed to win prizes." I can understand his comment. I did take home four awards last year, and five this year. Perhaps seemingly a lot for one person. But just like everyone else, I only get one ballot slip, one vote. Maybe I just put a little more time and effort into my entries than he did. I probably bought more raffle tickets, too. Last year I put two engines back into the inventory, and two of my prizes went back into inventory this year. So, sir, perhaps you'll have a chance to win them next year.

Just as a reminder, you are limited to three (3) model entries *total* and two photos per category (three if there is extra space). First and Second place models cannot be entered again for two years, third place entries will have no waiting time. Why wait two years? To encourage everyone to enter and not be concerned that you might be competing with a previous winner. Simple, eh?

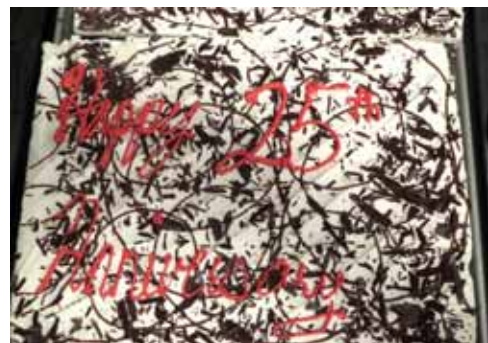
A final thanks to Amazon Robotics for allowing me to print the certificates, hundreds of pages of information, ballot slips, and almost everything else in your registration envelopes.

Don't forget the pages from Hobby Emporium are also a 20% off certificate. Use 'em or lose 'em.

Well that's a lot of writing for a two-day show. I hope everyone had a great time and hope to see you all again next year.

Happy Rails,
Bob

The Cake to Celebrate Winterfests 25th





Kato and Woodland T-TRAK kits by Fay Chin

I had the opportunity to evaluate their pre-production kit. Kato along with woodland scenic will be producing T-TRAK standard Singles and Corners in the spring. The kits are foam based with all the building materials, including Kato tracks, plaster, glue, foil back sheet, leveling bolts and construction pins. The kits are ideal for beginners like Scouts and 4-H clubs. Surprising, the kit was quite rigid when completed. With good illustrated instructions, I was able to build the kit within an hour. I added a coat of Mod Podge (mat medium) to strengthen the foam sides.

The kit does not include scenery such as the woodland scenic trees nor ground material. I used envirotec to create the water effect and 3D printed foreground building and accessories.

The Kit was a fun project. Below is my finished T-TRAK corner.



Bob Pawlak was also asked to build a Kato and Woodland T-TRAK kit. Below is his completed module called "Hikers". A T-TRAK member, Matt Campbell Jr. is now the proprietor of this excellent module.



A couple other modules on display.

