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### President's Message Bob Fallier

#### November? Really?

The newsletter is late again. My fault...again.

Here we are, three weeks into October and I haven't had a single beer. Well that doesn't matter since I don't drink beer anyhow. Now a good ale is another matter, for later.

Last month we had just finished the Concord show and there was much talk about a work day, something which we have batted back and forth for as long as I've been in NTrak. It finally happened. If you were there in Amesbury on Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> you know how productive we were and how much fun I think we all had actually getting things done. A few highlights:

Bob P brought his new bridge. A shiny, riveted, solid, work of mechanical art. We added PowerPole connectors, connected it to another module and tested all three tracks. Perfect. Once again Mr. Pawlak is to be heralded.

Dan Pawling pulled in with a complete woodworking shop in the back of his van. I think he's related to Doctor Who, because what he pulled out of the van could not have all fit, therefore we must conclude that his van is actually a Tardis. Dan, Jeff, and Alex worked through the day replacing the legs on the yard. No more wobbles, no artificial limbs or crutches to hold the yard steady.

Jim Pyle and I focused on replacing Cinch-Jones connectors with PowerPoles at each end of the yard, the new bridge (we need to formally christen it), and for all the DCC units.

John Consigli, with help from Frank, Bob P, and others worked on his new corner module as did Ron Wood replacing the track on his corner module. Carl was there in the morning, pitching in where needed, and Russell Putnam was everyone's handyman, always willing to pitch in where needed. No excuses from people who were thinking "it's too far". George Michaels came up from the Vineyard and was there until the very end. Our defacto DCC guru, George tested the new cables, including 'we' connectors, and made sure the Command Station and boosters were all in working order.

We plan to attach a simple set of instructions on how to clear "Slot Max" messages, which should be done at the end of every show.

There is still work to be done on the yard. The modular connectors between the 4 yard sections are pretty "iffy" and need to be replaced, but we ran out of time and housings. We also need to work on the actuators for the turnouts and probably need to replace some of the track. But overall, the yard is in better shape now than it has been in years.

We had fun! As usual the core people were there and Jim Nolan provided lots donuts, coffee, and pizza for lunch.

Next on the schedule is the Wellesley show on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, with set-up on Friday afternoon if you can make it. Dan Pawling is the show-coordinator. Then we have the Greenberg show, Tour de Chooch (for a few of us), and a break until Winterfest in January. Jim Nolan has penciled in another work day on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February, weather depending.

#### Winterfest...

Have you done your on-line registration yet? It is up and running and ready for you. Don't forget to PRINT two copies of your registration, and then complete the registration process by printing out your confirmation and mailing one copy with your check to Bob Pawlak. Registration is not complete until Mr. P has your check in hand. With that, a reminder that with out a completed registration, you cannot enter the module or model contests.

#### Raffles, Mini-Show, and Banquet...

The raffles will be the same format as last year. You pick the product you would like to win, put your tickets in the basket and hope we call your number. Jim Nolan is sending out invitations to select manufacturers for the mini-show. I'm happy if we have 4 or 5 vendors, thrilled if we have 6. Jim is also taking on the role of Grand Solicitor Magnifique, asking for product donations as I've done for the past seven years. Jim Pyle is the Master Accountant of Ballots. We will be looking for judges for the Parade of Trains again. "Peteski" and Diane Fallier will be receiving your model contest entries again.

You voted for no guest speaker this year. So be it. You'll just have to put up with me that much more. No, actually I'll be handing the microphone over to George since he is the new Winterfest Chairman. We think the banquet and awards will go more quickly and smoothly, with ample time for the raffles. (continued on Page 4)

**T-TRAK Train Show Schedule**  
**2019 & 2020**

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)

**October 26-27, 2019, Southshore Model Railroad Club**, Bare Cove Park, 19 Fort Hill St., Hingham, MA  
Show Sat 9:00 am to 4:00 pm , Sun 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

**November 23-24, 2019, Greenberg's Train and Toy Show**, Shriners Auditorium, Wilmington MA  
Show Sat & Sun 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

**December 7-8, 2019, NMRA HUB Div Model Train Show**, Best Western Royal Plaza Trade Center, Marlboro, MA  
Show Sat 10:00 am to 5:00 pm & Sun 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

**January 25-26, 2020, Amherst Railway Society Railroad Hobby Show**, Eastern States Exposition Fairgrounds, West Springfield MA  
Show Sat 9:00am to 5:00pm - Sun 10:00am to 4:00pm

**March 7-8, 2020, Southshore Model Railroad Club**, 19 Fort Hill St., Hingham, MA  
Show 9:00 am to 4:00 pm- Sun 10:00am to 4:00pm

**March 28-29, 2020, Greenberg's Train and Toy Show**, Shriners Auditorium, Wilmington MA  
Show Sat & Sun 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

**April ??, 2020, Connecticut Valley Model Railroad Club**, Kearsrge Region Middle School, 32 Gile Pond Road, North Sutton, NH  
Show 9:00 am to 3 pm

**2019-2020 NENtrak SHOW PARTICIPATION SCHEDULE**

**November 2, 2019 - Wellesley Train Show**, 219 Washington St. Wellesley Hills, MA  
Set-up: Fri 1:00 pm & Sat 7:00 am  
Show Sat 10:00 am to 3:00 pm  
Coordinator: Dan Pawling - 781-801-6480

**November 23-24, 2019 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 7-8, 2019 - NMRA HUB Division Model Train Show**, Best Western Royal Plaza Trade Center, Marlborough, MA  
Show Sat 10:00 am to 5:00 pm & Sun 10:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Coordinator: Rob Selberg (MaiNetrak)

**Jan 24-26, 2020 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 4:00pm  
Layout Coordinator: Dan Pawling Jr., 617-244-5261  
Winterfest Chairman: Bob Fallier - 603-465-3785

**March 28-29, 2020 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 ??, 2020 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.

**Do You Remember 10-23-2009???**

Here are some pictures to remind you.



Another picture from 10-23-2009. See we are not always playing with trains.



(Right) see we don't always play with trains.



## Workshop Day by Jim Nolan

We had the workshop yesterday in Amesbury where we keep the trailer. We had coffee and donuts and pizza for lunch. We had a good turnout with a good amount of work getting done.

Dan Pawling made new legs for the yard module. He was assisted by Ron Wood, Alex Dagget and myself. Jim Pyle and Bob F changed out the yard power connectors to power pole connectors.

Bob P brought the new bridge up and had the power pole connectors added. The bridge is a beauty !! Works great too.

Ron Wood put down some new track on his module. He was assisted by Jeff and Russ Putnam, Frank Dignan, Carl M., Alex Daggett, and George Michaels.

John Consigli brought his 3' corner and put down new roadbed and track on it. He was assisted by Jeff and Russ Putnam, Frank Dignan, Carl M., Alex Daggett and George Michaels.

George and I talked about DCC and added the WiFi interface to the DCC system. George, Bob F., and I talked about the Mini-Show for Winterfest.

All in all it was a great day. We are tentatively planning for February 22, 2020 for the next workshop. I will set that up.

I would like to thank the members for making this a success. The date will be sent out earlier next time so members can make plans more in advance.



Frank, Alex, John and Ron working on John's corner module.



(left) Bob Pawlak and George Michaels talking about the bridge module. (right) Jim Pyle and Bob Fallier making the power pole connections.



(top left) Jim Pyle cutting off the old yard wiring connectors. (top right) Frank, John, and Ron working on John's corner module.



(left) George Michaels and Bob Pawlak. (right) Dan Pawling working in the driveway with his table saw. He was trimming and sanding the legs as to not create dust inside the space. We wanted to leave everything as we found it.

Also thanks to Russ Putnam and John Consigli for cleaning the driveway before we left.

Dinner with a Difference. This year we will try out a buffet instead of plated meals. Each table will be called up in turn. We'll have a little different look to the tables, too. Service with a smile. The doors will not open for happy hour until 6:30 and dinner will not be served before 7:00. Don't make me get out my BFH. There will be no pushing or shoving to be first in line.

**What else have I forgotten?**

The garden railroad has had a few minor changes, but alas, the time has come to bring in all the buildings and scenic effects, clean them off, and put them away until next spring. Which reminds me; the flying fish is still out there. The acorn bombardment has just about ended, saving about 500 of them for the squirrels when other food gets scarce. Those are in addition to the 4-500 that I've tossed back into the jungle to reseed. The jungle is by now a bit thin, and mostly brown, which makes it easier to see trains rolling along. As the track and supports begin to settle I can see sections that will need to be raised or leveled a bit next spring. That's just part of the annual maintenance on a garden railroad.

I did a couple of videos running around the layout. Interesting as the train approaches twigs and leaves and you hear them crackle as the wheels roll right over them. You can do a quick search for "Stoneman & turkey divide" on youtube. Video taken with a full size camera on top of a flat car.

Once again, that's about it for this month.

Happy Rails!

Bob



More pictures from the workshop by Bob F.



Sorry for the mixup guys. Enjoy the correct Presidents Message for November. Roland