

President - Bob Fallier Vice Pres - George Michaels
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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

From the Presidents Chair... February 7, 2020

The Results Are In... Winterfest 2020 is over!

And your management team can breathe a long sigh of relief, almost.

Bob Pawlak is finalizing tallies of expenses, raffle sales, and other financial stuff. George is now responsible for the contracts with ARS and the hotel. Jim Nolan has a head start on prizes and promotions for Winterfest 2021. Bob Arcus, Jim Pyle, my wife Diane, and "Peteski" can relax for a few months. A big thanks to Dan Pawling for this, his last year as Layout Coordinator.

Total attendance was up substantially from the last 3 or 4 years with 21,534 admissions plus the usual 3,500 show related people. Excellent and Thank You to everyone who participated.

Overall I think we had an excellent show, although I've been told we didn't always have trains running, or not enough trains running. We will all need to work on that because it is our trains that draw and hold attention. Checking out modules is nice, but people watch trains. So next year, and really any show, let's make a concerted effort to look at the schedule, see where openings are, and fill them. This is about our audience more than about us. We are the ones who will keep the hobby alive and well, and that won't happen unless our audience is enthusiastic about what they see.

Which brings me to the next topic: Cleanliness. We looked a whole lot better than previous years. The chief slob was not among us to little the tables with boxes and junk. But, there was still an assortment of boxes and bags conveniently left on the tables. Let's try to be considerate of others when we put something on a table at any show. They are shared spaces and usually limited, so please try to keep as much of your personal stuff under your module(s) as you can. If you are overflowing the space, then maybe you are bringing too much stuff. I'm guilty of that. Of my large black train tote, I ran one small train. So I'm guilty of two things: Not running trains often enough, and bringing too much.

What we did have a lot of were models. Thank you to everyone who entered one of the model contests. From my own experience, dedicating a model to one of the contest categories is too easy. I look for something that perhaps hasn't run for a while. A shelf queen. If it won't be run, then why not use it for something else? I loved the engine with half

the shell missing. Great idea! The off-line structures showed a lot of time and effort. My tall building came in second and I spent many hours working on the interiors for each level, installing the random lighting, and so on. But it lacked that extra "hand made" touch which took first place. My entries that won first place, I'm grateful for your votes. I won three engines, thank you very much, and I gave one to the second place winner in one category and I've given back the other two so that someone else can win and enjoy them next year. For me, recognition for my work is sometimes better than a prize. So this year, like last year, thank you for your votes. Thank you for the prizes, now let me "pay it forward".

What we didn't have were very many entries in the Parade of Trains. Only 4 this year. That made it easy for the judges, but I really have to question why so few entries?

The Layout! Excellent job everyone! We had some early problems on the blue line which was the result of a single connector being backwards (reversed polarity). The lesson we learned is this: When there is a short on DCC and you can't figure it out easily by disconnecting modules and a meter isn't giving positive results, KISS it! Keep it simple. Go back to basic DC. With DCC you can't determine polarity because you are putting an AC voltage on the track. Put DC on the track and you can always check polarity. You are either going to have plus voltage on the outside rail, or negative voltage. Where it flips, you have a short. Simple!

What else? **Lost and Found.**

Two items were left behind as we were cleaning up: A nice little set of screwdrivers and a calculator. If you can tell me what they look like, they are yours. Otherwise they will go into one of the club boxes.

The Banquet!

Lowell Smith kept it short. He was supposed to join us for the "Mini-Show" but a miscommunication caused him to miss it. Thank you Lowell once again for your thoroughly enjoyable talk! Thanks also to Bruce Alcock for his presentation and "road map" for NTRAK. Bruce has a very long history with NTRAK and I think we can all learn from his years of experience across model railroading.

We asked for your opinion about the banquet. The majority of you voted to have a buffet style dinner again next year. A few preferred a plated dinner as we've done in the past. I received some comments (continued on page 2)

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

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

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 Thanks for
your help.

(continued from page 1)
and criticisms which I've passed along to the HGI
management.

The awards went quickly with thanks to Russell Putnam
who we kept busy running back and forth to deliver certificates
or prizes. We ended up with more raffle items than I had
expected, adding four items on Friday and Saturday to the 12
that I already had numbered and labeled. While a few of the
raffle items were donated, we purchased all but two of the
engines, including the grand prize, the ScaleTrains engine
with DCC and Sound. We will have another one from
ScaleTrains next year. The proceeds from ticket sales are
used to make those purchases. As our budget gets a little
bigger I can purchase better items for you to win. Last year I
think I bought about \$30 worth of tickets and won several
items. This year I bought \$40 worth and won two small sets of
Jackson Terminal containers. Every ticket has the same
chance of being drawn, but the more tickets you purchase, the
better the prizes I can make available to you.

A big thanks to Jim Nolan for hauling the trailer almost 200
miles each way and a big thank you to everyone who stayed
to the very end to help pack up and clean up. Many hands
make light the work.

Next on the agenda: Another work day is planned for
Feb. 22nd in lieu of the Lexington museum show. Then
Greenberg in March.

I need your input, suggestions, and experience in planning
the October HUB Div show in Westford. This is intended to
demonstrate Operations on a railroad. We can keep it
simple. We run Red and Yellow as usual, but if we have a
station then we stop at the station on Red or Blue. If we use
my Dammtor Station module, Yellow does not have a
platform and can be used as an express route. Klaus has
offered his 12' module as one end of a point to point utilizing
the Blue only track. Fay's time saver might also come in

handy. Again, we need YOUR input and we can't
wait until September to plan this one.

That's all I have for this month.

**Happy Rails and see you on the 22nd in
Amesbury.**

Bob

**Check out the following site for pictures of all
the winners at Winterfest 2020.**

http://www.nenscale.org/Winterfest/previous_years/2020/contest/contest.php

**Setting up for Winterfest 2020. Pictures by
Alex Dagget.**



CONTEST WINNERS AT WINTERFEST 2020

Pictures by Peter Wisniewski and Derk Solko



1st Place - Module
Bob Fallier



1st Place - Motive Power Steam 35
Bob Fallier



1st Place - Freight
Yvan Maynard



1st Place - Motive Power Electric
Alex Dagget



1st Place - Motive Power Diesel
Andre Brodeur



1st Place - Structure On-Line
John Bucker



1st Place - Passenger
Ken Harstine



1st Place - M-O-W
Bob Fallier



1st Place - Structure Off-Line
Steve Kelly

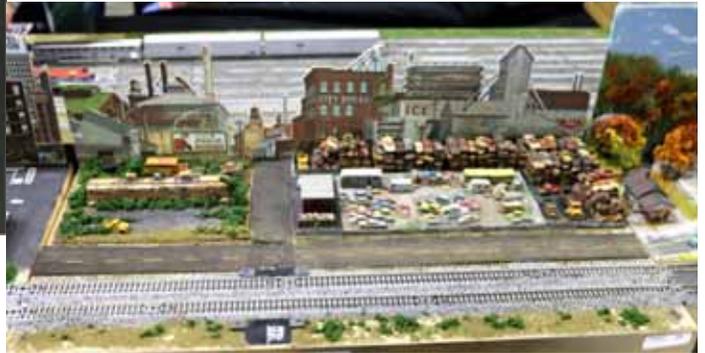
Winterfest Contest Winners Continued



1st Place - Prototype Photo
Michael Wong



1st Place - Parade of Trains
Bob Fallier



1st Place - T-Trak Module
Gert Schulz



1st Place - Model Photo
Gilles Moniot



1st Place - Best Animation Module T-Trak
Dudley Foster



1st Place - People's Choice Award N-Trak
Roland Kelley



1st Place - People's Choice Award T-Trak
Bill Pontin