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President's Message Bob Fallier

From the President's chair - May-June 2020

Well by now we're either bored silly or finding a myriad of projects to keep us busy. As you know by now, I'm pretty busy outside working on the garden railroad, nearly doubling the size from just a year ago.

Many of you have responded via email to "Checking In". I think Jim Nolan started that and what a great idea! And if it wasn't Jim, then a great thank you to ????. Even though we haven't had any shows since January, it is always good to hear from each other, spurring each other on. Nothing worse than complacency.

So, here we are. Almost summer. We made it through a wet April and a cool May. We've survived the virus and hopefully we all stay healthy enough so that we can look back in a few years and recall 2020 with some degree of mirth. For me, it hasn't been a big deal. In part because I've been working from home for 3 years and I'm in a somewhat isolated community. But even here in sleepy Hollis, the impact of the virus has been very real. I was finally able to get a haircut yesterday, a month over due and getting pretty shaggy looking.

Dunkin Donuts has been closed except for a few hours on Saturdays, and like everywhere else, stores have almost all been closed.

The good news is that Home Depot and Train on Tracks have remained open. Home Depot an "essential" business with occasional waiting lines to get inside. Train on Tracks, where I do most of my N scale and all my G scale, had to lock his door, but a couple of knocks and moments later it magically opened. For the first couple of weeks of lock-down the local police would come by to check that he was locked. A quick phone call would make sure I could get in.

I have goodies on order from Lowell Smith, an engine from Rapido due any time, the first of the Planets series of cars from Micro Trains is available, and I just bought a Kato SD70 in the 1982 blue Heritage colors and a Digitrax decoder for it. Keeping busy, I finally assembled a building from CMR with incredible laser etched detail.

As I mentioned last month, I'm also talking with Dwarvin Lighting about fiber optic "fireworks" for my Disney module. I doubt that I'll have that ready before the November Greenberg show, but perhaps in January?

Now... speaking of January, there has once again been a change in plans for Winterfest leadership. George Michaels informed me last week that he would like to step back from the Chairman role.

I've agreed to handle it again for 2021, but we really need someone to take over as Chairman. With the assistance of Bob Pawlak, Jim Nolan, "Peteski", Jim Pyle, Alex Daggett, Bob Arcus, & Fay Chin, the chairman job is much easier than in the past. It is mostly administration and coordination. You will work with the team members, formalize the contracts with Amherst Railway Society and the hotel, both of which are pretty easy. You will M.C. the banquet and in general ensure that the various moving parts come together.

As chairman, you will have a lot of support from people who have been doing their part for a while and both George and I will provide all the background material & information you need.

Seriously... we really need someone to take on this important role. I've done it since 2012, time for someone else to take the helm.

That is again a wrap. A bit shorter than my usual, but it has been an unusual year.

Happy Rails. Stay safe, stay healthy.
Bob

