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President's Message Bob Fallier

From the President's Chair - September 2020

The Year that almost wasn't, or perhaps just the year that changed modern history.

Either way, model railroading persists regardless of weather, pestilence, or pandemic.

Lots of things happening this month even without any shows going on. So I'll begin with the one show that IS still scheduled: Winterfest 2021. As of this morning, Sept 14th, the annual Springfield show is still on the calendar, pending City Health approvals and conditions, etc. If that changes I will let you know. To date I have 13 people who have confirmed that they will attend, all of whom are NENT members. I have not heard from Maine, NY, or our friends from Montreal yet. I think 15 people would be good, but I would like to cut it off at 20, assuming a few more are willing to attend.

With the club modules I think we can have a nice, modest layout. It will take a lot of work, but with all hands it may be no more complicated than the average Greenberg show.

This week I will speak with the Hilton Garden Inn and see what their plans are, room rates (if they have changed) and the possibility of arranging a room where we can join for dinner on Saturday night. I am not planning to have a banquet or contests this year with one exception: Perhaps a "People's Choice" award as we've done for the past two or three years. KISS.

As you may know by now, Micro-Trains is temporarily out of business, however Eric Smith does plan to attend the show in January. Due to the massive fires in Oregon the office does not have power and a restart date is TBD. But thankfully their building was left undamaged. Unfortunately several of their employees have lost their homes due to the fires. We wish them all a speedy recovery.

On our "team call" last week Jim Nolan offered to ask MTL if they can provide face shields, perhaps with an NENT or MTL logo on the head band.

Zoom call time. Jim Nolan is setting up a Zoom call for members on the First Tuesday of each month. Please watch for invites. There were only 6 of us on the call last week but a lot was accomplished. Please plan to join in if you can.

Editors Note

Sorry to say but it was not the Editors desk that messed up, but the President's message was never sent to me.

NTRAK dot ORG...

Fay Chin and I attended a US wide NTRAK zoom call last Saturday with 78 other members and officers. On the agenda was mention of "Super Clubs" which I believe NENT is one. This is based on the club paying for members in bulk rather than individual members paying their annual dues directly to NTRAK. In a DCC discussion it was strongly suggested that we include a chassis ground between our Digitrax Command Station and our boosters. Also recommended that each morning we reset the loco register. This can be done by simply pressing the reset button on the front panel (see attached photo).

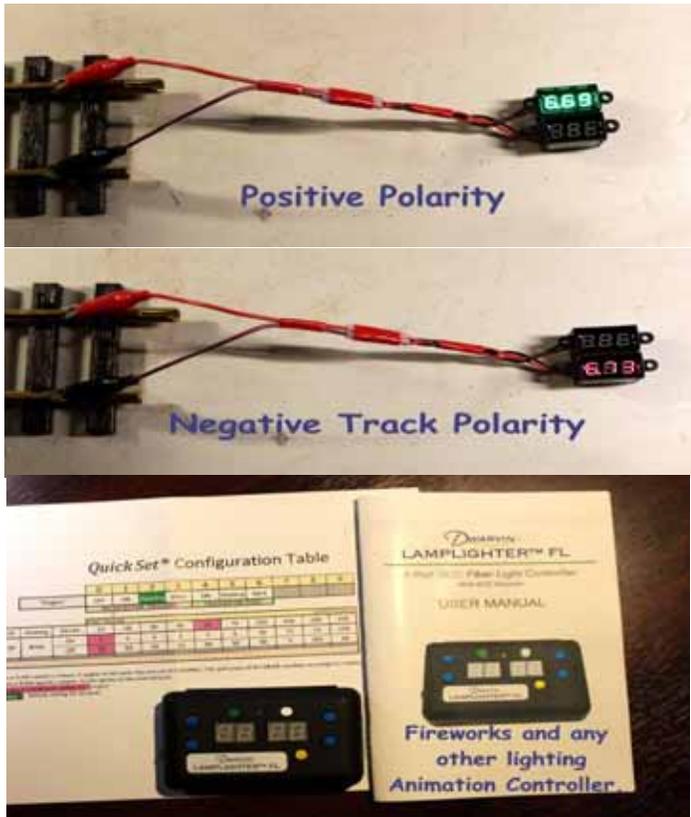


A new loco in NTRAK/TTRAK Logo, blue and white is available on the NTRAK web-site. A \$30 deposit is required, Super Club member price is \$112.50.

There are a number of changes and improvements on the new NTRAK web-site, please check it out.

Roland Kelley is doing a Rolling Stock Roster Reduction sale. A number of items have already been spoken for with sales pending. Please contact Bob Fallier (bfallier@Email.com) for updates. I have tested about 50 engines, most of which are painted for Pennsylvania. There are some nice brass imports as well (NJ1 MPB-54 electric railbus & NJ1 MP-54 3 car set). All are lettered for PRR. After next weekend

Some News Worthy News for a Change
by Bob Fallier



(Sept 19th) remaining stock will be listed on TroveStar.

Having fun yet? Here's a small project that I recently did. I wanted to have a clearly visible indication of polarity outside on my garden railroad. I found a small digital volt meter on Amazon, available in different colors. Hmmm? So I ordered 3 in green and 3 in red. By the time they arrived I already had a much better solution installed, albeit at a much higher price. So what to do with these? Very small, they only measure 0.5 x 1.0 x 0.75 inch plus small mounting tabs on the sides. In an "ah-ha" moment I wired them in reverse to a pair of small alligator clips. With normal forward polarity the green display lights up and in reverse the red display lights. I took 1 pair and stuck them together with industrial double stick tape and connected the leads. Positive from one and negative lead to one alligator clip, the opposite leads to the other clip. Works on any DC scale from about 3.5 to 30VDC.

At about \$3.00 each they could be a nice diagnostic gadget for your toolbox. Did I mention they are also water resistant? Epoxy sealed case though I wouldn't soak them too long. Available in red, green, blue, and yellow.

Next up: Fireworks! This could be a real eye-opener on my Disney module. I've mentioned several times in past months that I've been planning on doing this using Dwarvin Lighting. Well the new kit arrived today.

Cog Railway
Mount Washington, NH
by Roland Kelley

It has been a long time since I rode the Cog Railway so I went up this month with three friends and went up. Below is a picture of two of the four trains doing the trip.



At the base some of the old equipment used to build the railroad.

The Mount Washington Cog Railway is the 1st mountain climbing cog railway in the world. It was built in 1869. Unlike most trains, the locomotives push the coaches up the mountain. There is a cog rail in the center of the tracks. (see picture below) That allows the trains to go up steeper grades.



The coaches have their own separate braking system and can come down the mountain by themselves. The day was nice and clear until we arrived at the top on Mt. Washington. It was cloudy and very windy.

The summit of Mt Washington is 6,288 ft. Twice a day the run the steam engines. The rest of the day the run the new BioDiesel



engines. The biodiesel trains burn 16-28 gallons of fuel per round trip. The coal-fired steam locomotives use one ton of coal plus 1,000 gallons of water on the ascent.

We all had a great trip and would recommend it to all of you. Maybe the warm summer would be better.

What's in the box: The control box with an LED display and seven (yes 7) buttons for operation and programming. 60 feet of fiber (I ordered fiber in two different sizes), detector wiring kit for four detectors, a power supply, programming chart, and 42 page instruction book. There are 8 pairs of light output ports and it can even be operated via DCC. This should be fun! A bit of programming before I jump in and start installing fiber into my skyboard.

As I mentioned last month, the NENT Newsletter is not Bob's Blog space. It is YOUR space about you and your hobby. So Just Write something. Don't worry too much about spelling and grammar and whether you should use a colon or semi-colon. Just Write! Send Pictures! Roland will be happy to add them with your captions.

This is so easy a caveman could do it. So what are you waiting for? No more excuses that you don't have time or don't know what to write. If you took a picture that you like, send it to Roland with a sentence or two and get a gold star! Maybe not literally, but you know what I mean.

Share the Fun.
Share the hobby.
And share your passion for what you do.

That's it for September.

Richard Brotherton Moves

We have moved also. We are no longer nearby, but would like to stay in contact with the club. Our new address: 4436 Hemmingway Drive, Kalamazoo, MI 49009. New land line 269-447-2883. Cell Phone is still the same, 604-757-3449. Email is still the same. We moved out here to be closer to my oldest son. I have been looking for N-Trak out here. but nothing yet. I'm blaming COVID19. Charles came with us.

Pictures from the past

