

President's Message



Spring is coming. We are near the end of our season. The show we did at Museum of Our National Heritage was a big success. At one time there were people 5 deep in front of Bobs "Bridges and Canyons" modules. Great Work Bob! This is a show we must do from now on. At the show we gave out "Worlds Greatest Hobby" flyers. We had about 150 at the start of the show, we gave them all out. The flyers cost us nothing (except for a address label). We can get as many as we like. I recently received a new supply of 500. I am now putting larger labels on the flyers. Please feel free to give these out. We also need to print the brochures again. I would like to see a module done in stages showing how a module is built. On this module we can put flyers and literature.

It has come to my attention that the module listing is not up to date. Please let Bob Pawlak know if you have a module available (Not Retired). Last year Ernie and Ed built module kit and Bob did the wiring kits. Only a few units were purchased. A few members whom do not have access to woodworking equipment took advantage of the kits. We need more new modules. Dan and myself have bought both a straight and corner module kit, so we have a few new modules available.

The annual meeting will be different this year. We are planning a trip to the Hobo Railroad in Lincoln, NH. It is now storing the "Flying Yankee" while it is being rebuilt. We hope to do this at the end of May. Right now we are in the planning stages.

Til Next Month Mark

Northeast Ntrak, 41 Easy Street, Lowell, MA 01850-1731, Web Site - www.northeastntrak.org



National Heritage Museum Show

Family Fun Museum Train Show by Bob Pawlak

The National Heritage Museum show in Lexington, MA was held February 19-20, the first weekend of school vacation this year since there was no weekend between Christmas and New Years 2004. Attendance on Saturday (10 A.M.-5 P.M.) was 401 children and 588 adults. Attendance on Sunday (noon-5 P.M.) was over 900 for a total of about 1,900 for the weekend. By comparison, the attendance at the museum train show on December 28-29, 2003 was 3,291 in spite of a Patriots football game.

Eight club members provided the modules to build a 27'x31' rectangular layout with 31 feet of Mountain Division track that pretty well filled the room. We were able to get into the room between 2 P.M. and 5 P.M. on Friday before the show and 3 club members set up two sides and one corner of the layout including connector tracks and power. We were able to get into the museum at 7:45 A.M. on Saturday and were up and running 10 minutes before the first visitors arrived. The crowd was enthusiastic, seemed pleased with what they saw, and usually two or more people deep around the layout most of the time. The museum staff was very helpful and accommodating. They let us in on Friday for early set up, let us store a module overnight on Sunday night, provided a 4-wheel dolly for hauling our equipment, and provided about 30 step stools for use around the layout to help the children have a better look.



John Dunne, Bob Pawlak and Ernie Poole at the National Heritage Museum.



Some of the many kids enjoying Bob Pawlak's Bridge Module. This was the

Show Schedule

Apr 2 & 3 Greenberg Show
Shriners Auditorium, Wilmington, MA
Set-up Sat 8am Show 10am to 4pm
Sun 9am 10am to 4pm
Dan Pawling, 617-244-5261

April 24 Hooksett Lions Club, Hooksett
Memorial School, Hooksett, NH
Set-up 8am Show 10am to 4pm
Ron Wood, 603-889-0741

May 12 Children's Hospital, 300
Longwood Dr., Boston, MA
Set-up 7am Show 9am to 3pm
Robert Pawlak, 781-862-2485

Foxboro Show Review

By Ron Wood

On Sunday February 13, 2005 Northeast N-Trak participated in the Mystic Valley Railway Society's "Rail-A-Rama" model train show in Foxboro, Mass. We had a point to point layout, which was 44 feet in length utilizing both end loops. Attendance was brisk and exceeded 2,000 people according to my source at Mystic Valley!

Northeast N-Trak members in attendance were Roland Kelley, John Dunne, Steve Cappers, Mark Ferracane, Dan Pawling, John & Steven Consigli, and Ron Wood.

Setup for this show went exceptionally well and we had trains running as the show started. We hooked up the dcc on the "Valley loop" (red to blue). This worked well. What was interesting was the crowd that gathered when I proceeded to switch the paper mill module with my dcc locomotive! We kept the trains running and I was able to do some switching on the layout during the show. This got some conversation going among club members as well as drawing lots of questions from the public. Perhaps with the addition of a card or waybill system, we could start switching the paper mill on a regular basis? The idea was brought up to build a 4-foot module that would accompany the paper mill module, which would have a small yard to store cars for switching the mill. Perhaps operating our layout more like a real railroad would help keep things interesting. Of course we would still need to keep the trains running so visitors wouldn't get bored. Just some more food for thought!

The Mystic Valley group thought this was their most successful show yet. They thanked Northeast N-Trak for participating. I think this is a good show to keep. Thanks to all that attended and helped out. **Ron Wood.**

Something To Think About.

by the Editor

It will not be long and the Annual Business meeting will be upon us. It is time to start thinking about where the club is going. This club has many great modelers. We are going thru a transition from the members who started the club to a second generation to continue the club and live up to the outstanding reputation this club has earned over the years.

Many of the members who started Northeast N-trak have moved out of the area or are pulling back because of other commitments. They have for years built a great club and helped many of the newer members along. It is time for us to follow their lead and continue Northeast N-trak as a great club. We have many great modelers and do not have to take our hats off to any other club.

N-trak is a great Association and it has many goals, one of the most important is to put together a layout at train shows to get the public interested in model railroading. Hopefully in N Scale. This can only be done with active members willing to build and bring modules to shows. It is not enough to have many members willing to come to shows to run trains. If we don't have the modules we don't have a layout. Members willing to build modules and bring them to shows are what this club needs to survive. Without them the few members that do try will get burned out.

We had a very full schedule this year, It is my feeling that we do not have enough active numbers willing to bring modules to continue this busy schedule next year. We should look at cutting back on some shows until we have the manpower will to support it. Our main goal next year is to find and help present and new members willing to add to the number of active modules within our club.

More Myths:

(From the Long Island Ntrak Newsletter)

My equipment runs fine on my layout, but I have problems at shows. Its not my problem, its the layout.

Yes, there may be issues with some of the trackwork, but if other trains are making it through, perhaps you need to take a closer look at your equipment. Are all the wheels in gauge? (have you checked?) Are all couplers at the correct height and angle? Minor adjustments can sometimes make a big difference. And if most trains derail on your module, it needs work, even if your train runs through just fine!

Rail-A-Rama XXXVII Train Show

Sunday, February 13, 2005, proved to be one our most successful shows. The event took place at the spacious Christina's Function Facility on route 1 in Foxboro. The attendance exceeded 2,000. There were 37 dealers presenting model train items of various gauges plus souvenirs, books, videos, and other railroading articles. We had 11 operating train layouts. There were 2 small N Scale layouts provided by "N Less Trains"; The Boston Tinplate Trackers provided a 12' x 12' O gauge; Dirk Hertel had a 12' x 8' European O gauge layout; The Brass Caboose Shop had a Live Steamer display and a ride-on Rail Bus "hand-pump" Car; George LaPerche came with small N scale Winter scene layout; Old Colony Model Railroad Club had a 30" x 8' HO layout and a test track; South Shore Hi-Rail had a 16' x 32' O gauge layout with the "Hell Gate Bridge" and a train mounted video camera; Northeast N-Trak presented a 44' x 4' N gauge layout including a detailed model Circus & Circus Train; Douglas Wynne, had a 5' by 20' O gauge layout; and MVRs provided the Kids' Layout, 2 - O gauge loops for hands on operation by the children. Everyone seemed to have a good time.

Thanks again for your participation.

Sincerely,
Ray Winter