

## President's Message



Well, a new season is here with a bang. We have the opportunity to do something that the club has never done before, do two shows on the same day. November 6<sup>th</sup> we have the Bedford Boomers show and the Wells VFW post show. Dan and Dennis and I want to do the Wells show because it is a new area for us to show and it is a First Time show for them. Christopher Spampinato is a member of this club and he is the director of the show. Dan or myself will be the coordinator. Ron Wood will be handing the Bedford show.

The Greenburg Show that will be in December will be the last show that they do with the Greenburg name. In April the new name will be "**Great Train Expo**". We will have to see what happens to the show and see if we will still get paid for that show. I went to there website and found out that the same people who ran the previous shows will be running these.

I want to thank the members who helped out at the August Greenburg show. I was unable to attend but was told by Dan that we had a good turnout of members. I am now employed at Lowe's in Woburn and work weekends. I will try to make it to the Wells and Greenburg Shows. Until next month



*Kelly-Ann, an 8,000 pound female Asian elephant from Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey's Circus painted the breathtaking view of Niagara Falls today with children from a local school. Today (9/22) is National Elephant Appreciation Day, and was also proclaimed "Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey and Kelly-Ann Day" in Niagara Falls, N.Y. by the city's mayor.*

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## Winterfest 2006

It is time to start planning for **Winterfest 2006**, the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Northeast NTRAK Convention, January 27-29, 2006. The convention will once again be held in conjunction with the annual "Big Railroad Hobby Show" of the Amherst Railway Society, Inc. at the Eastern States Exposition Grounds, "The Big E", at 1305 Memorial Avenue, West Springfield, MA on January 28-29. This is undoubtedly the largest model railroad show in New England with 3 buildings full of layouts, exhibits, manufacturers and dealers. The show usually attracts an attendance of more than 20,000. Winterfest 2006, planned to be much the same as last year, will feature model, module, and photo contests; informative clinics; full capacity layout operations (including DCC); and a memorable Saturday evening banquet.

Our convention hotel again this year is the **Hilton Garden Inn**. It is centrally located just off Interstate 91 in downtown Springfield. The hotel, located at 800 West Columbus Avenue, is across the side street from the Basketball Hall of Fame and only minutes from "The Big E" and Springfield's AMTRAK station. A **convention rate of just \$79.00** (same as last year) plus tax (currently 12.45%) per night has been negotiated, single **or double** occupancy (find a friend to share a room to save some money). There will be a charge of \$10.00 per night for each additional guest in the room. Children eighteen and under may stay free when sharing a room with an adult using existing bedding. The charge for a rollaway bed (must be reserved in advance) is \$15.00 per night. **Hotel reservations should be made before January 8, 2006** by calling **413-886-8000** or **800-774-1500**. Please identify yourself as a member of **NTRAK** to get the special convention rate. After January 8, 2006, hotel reservations will be accepted on a space and rate availability basis only so don't procrastinate. The block of rooms is

(continued on page 4)

## Show Schedule for 2005 – 2006

### November 6 Wells Maine Show

Coordinator: Chris Spaminato – 207 646 6728  
Wells Elementary School, Rt. 109 Wells Maine  
(Main TPK exit 19 on RT 95, Left off ramp about 1mi on right)  
Set-up 8AM Show 10AM to 4PM  
Breakfast meeting @ Laura's Kitchen across street 7AM  
Endloop show please call to sign up ASAP

### November 6 Bedford Boomers, McKelvie Middle

School, Liberty Hill Rd/ Gault Rd, Bedford, NH  
Set-up 7am Show 10am to 4pm  
Coordinator: Ron Wood - 603-889-0741

### December 17 & 18 Greenberg Show

Shriners Auditorium, Wilmington, MA  
Set up Sat 7:30AM Show Sat 10AM to 4PM  
Sun 10PM to 4PM  
Coordinator: Dan Pawling - 617-244-5261

### January 27 to 29 WINTERFEST 2006 Big "E"

Exposition Center, W.Springfield, MA  
Set-up Fri noon to 5pm and Sat 7am  
Show Sat & Sun 10am to 5pm  
Coordinator: John Dunne - 508-697-7635  
Winterfest Coordinator: Bob Pawlak - 781-862-2485  
All clubs invited to help make the show a success

### February 18 & 19 Museum of Our National Heritage, Lexington, MA

Set-up Sat 8am Show 10am to 5pm  
Sun noon to 5pm  
Coordinator: Bob Pawlak - 781-862-2485

### February 26 Mystic Valley Show, Christina's

Function Facility, Rte 1, Foxboro, MA  
Set-up 8am Show 10am to 4pm  
Coordinator: Ron Wood - 603-889-0741

### April 1 & 2 Great Train Expo, Shriners

Auditorium, Wilmington, MA  
Set up Sat 7:30AM Show Sat 10AM to 4PM  
Sun 10PM to 4PM  
Coordinator: Dan Pawling - 617-244-5261

### April 23 Hooksett Lyons Club, Hooksett

Memorial School, Hooksett, NH  
Set-up 8am Show 10am to 4pm  
Coordinator: ?????

May 11 Children's Hospital, 300 Longwood Dr,  
Boston, MA



**Betty Consigli at the Steamtown Roundhouse and turntable.**

**Steamtown Train Museum**  
**by John Consigli**

If you have never been to the **Steamtown Museum** in Scranton, PA, you should load up the wife and kids and head out on the highway. Plan on a three & a half hour drive from the Mass Pike and Route 84 interchange. Located near the intersection of Route 84 and 81 in Pennsylvania, Steamtown has been designated as a National Park. Admission to the museum allows you to reenter the premises the next day at no charge. The park allows for AAA discounts, so be sure to bring your card. While purchasing your tickets, you will be given the option of obtaining a ticket for the Scranton to Moscow, PA Steam Train ride powered by a fully restored Mikado and vintage passenger cars. It is worth the money and lasts about 2 and a half hours. You can likewise purchase tickets for the Trolley Museum which is located on the grounds and also well worth the price of admission.

Upon entering the parking lot, you will notice many large steam locomotives parked on side tracks located next to a live rail yard. Everything from a 2-8-0 Consolidation to a very large Union Pacific Big Boy surround the beautifully restored roundhouse along with operational turntable.

Together with the Makado Steam Excursion tour, you can purchase tickets for an 0-4-0 Switcher that puffs around the yard as well as ride on one of the many fully restored trolleys that operate daily from the Trolley Museum. The AAA discount does make a difference.

Once inside the Train Museum, you will be impressed with the large collection of rail memorabilia as well as pictures and artifacts from rail days gone by. You will

view movies, original rail cards, as well as vintage locomotives in various stages of restoration. The museum depicts technological improvements as well as safety issues confronted by the railroads throughout the early years of rail travel.

Housed in several buildings, neatly set up to overlook the turntable, this railroad collection is quite extensive. I was amazed to see the #759 Nickel Plate Road Berkshire undergoing work in the roundhouse.



We have enjoyed this trip so much that we have made the journey several times. Plan on staying at the Clarion Hotel or the Hampton Inn. If you really want to splurge, the Radison has turned the former Erie Lackawanna Train Station into a hotel. The accommodations are excellent and the eggs benedict is very tasty. You will find that all the major hotels are located in the area and that the rates are really quite reasonable. You can always find something to eat at any number of the delicious restaurants located in Scranton. You will also note that within walking distance of the Steamtown Shopping Mall, located adjacent to the Steamtown Museum, you'll find Scranton Hobbies across the street from Gryzbowski's Train Store on Main Street in the downtown area.

The lack of toll booths along Route 84, together with courteous Pennsylvanian drivers, has brought us back again. I think both you and your family will like it too.



**Steven with #2317 in the background.**

**Vice President's Message**



In the past five years our club has taken a dramatic change in many ways. Unlike many people I don't think our club is falling apart, but instead is in a process of training the new generation to take over. The love of N-scale trains is in all of us. I know this because even if you don't often come to shows you still keep paying that yearly membership to know you are part of something great. That special feeling inside makes you feel proud to be part of this club. I think we all value this feeling, but when you take pride in something there is always responsibility to it.

Some of us may not know what those responsibilities are but if you just seat down for five minutes and thought about the efforts other people make in running this club; you will know what you need to contribute. Now I don't want you to feel shamed about things you did in the past because in my opinion we all did nothing wrong. We just have been going down a different path leading to failure. What we have been doing is securing our own private interests, which is causing us to sacrifice liberty and culture.

How do I mean this you ask? Some people leave their train running at a show, but walks away to leave other members to watch it. This steals the liberty of others to run a train and leaves members at the layout to do your responsibility. It eventually sacrifices or effects culture because people after doing this makes a habit out of it. In this case it almost questions why we even signed up or offered to run a train anyways. Do we love trains or not? We need to think of the people around us more. Lets build a greater friend ship with one another, and know what we individually need to do. Then we can be a better club. True empathy is knowing where you stand.

**Old Colony Show, Taunton**



*Modeling railroading must be very tiresome for our younger members as you can see from the photos. Steven Consigli above and Dennis Yip below taken at the Old Colony Show in Taunton on September 18, 2005*



**Websites for Train Lovers of the Northeast**  
*by Ken Ganser, Brooklyn Ntrak*

[www.railserve.com/jump/junp.cgi?ID=14758](http://www.railserve.com/jump/junp.cgi?ID=14758)

New York Car Float web site pictures and information of Car Float operations in the NYC area.

[www.gingerb.com](http://www.gingerb.com)

Black Diamonds to Tidewater. A brief historical perspective of the Central RR of New Jersey, Lehigh & New England, and the Lehigh & New England, and the Lehigh &

**Member Fred Gamber dies of Cancer.**

He was one of the original members of Northeast Ntrak and was fairly active when I joined in 1987 or '88. He was a nice guy. Ron Wood.

The Boston Globe  
 September 19, 2005

GAMBER, Frederick S. of Melrose, Sept. 16, 2005. Husband of Joan M.(Hubbard) Gamber. Stepfather of Deborah Ward & her husband Tom, Frank Vitukevich & his wife Patty all of Saugus and Laurie Buckingham & her husband Corey of Stoneham. Brother of James Gamber of OH & Carl Gamber of NC. Also survived by 9 grandchildren and 1 great grandson. Funeral services were held at The Redeemer Lutheran Church, 60 Forest Park Rd. Woburn, on Tues. Sept. 20th, at 11AM. Relatives and friends invited. Visiting hours in the Gately Funeral Home 79 W. Foster St. Melrose, on Monday Sept. 19th from 4-8PM. Burial in Puritan Lawn Memorial Park in Peabody. Memorial contributions may be made in Fred's memory to the Redeemer Lutheran Church, 60 Forest Park Rd. Woburn 01801. US Army Korean War Veteran. For directions, obituary, & to sign guest book, visit [www.gatelyfh.com](http://www.gatelyfh.com)

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**Editors Comment:**

One of the hardest things to getting out the Newsletter each month is getting articles from members to fill the pages. This is our newsletter and it is as interesting as the articles you submit. I Receive the Newsletters of other Ntrak Clubs in the Northeast and most of them have people that write monthly columns. If we could get a couple of members to write monthly it would be a great help. Maybe someone could cover DCC or just the direction of N-Scale modeling.

Would like to thank John Consigli, Dan Pawling, Sr., Ron Wood and Mark Ferracane for there articles this year. We need more of you to follow there lead.

Remember without articles of interest to the members there is no Newsletter.

**Working on Houses in Woodsville**  
*By Ron Wood*



Being one of the regulars at Dan Pawling's house on Tuesday nights has allowed me to help scenic the Paper Mill end loop. I got to thinking that there needed to be some housing for the employees of the mill and started figuring out what type of houses to build and where exactly they would go. I eventually decided on the company house, which is a Laser Kit from American Model Builders. It was economical too, as there are three houses in the one kit! After building the Interlocking Tower from American Model Builders and finding a home for it on the Coal Mine end loop, I decided that I liked the quality of those types of kits as well as the relative ease of construction.

I have found that I now enjoy a new facet of the hobby and that is assembling the kits to go on the end loops. I think that it is a way to be able to contribute something worthwhile to the club. I did run into bit of a learning curve on the first house however, as I found it necessary to paint both the inside as well as the outside of the walls so they wouldn't warp! Wouldn't of thought of that as being an issue. I also figured out a way to make the cast white metal chimneys look nice and realistically weathered. It took some trial and error and indeed each chimney is a little different but I think the results are favorable.

Hudson River Railway.

<http://raildata.railfan.net>  
 The Fallen Flag Railroads of New Jersey.

[www.readingrailroad.org](http://www.readingrailroad.org)  
 A Reading Railroad Site

20 more than last year to avoid the problems some people had when making their reservations last year. There is ample free parking at the hotel for registered guests.

**Winterfest 2006 registration materials will, hopefully, become available just after Thanksgiving** on our website at [www.NortheastNTRAK.org](http://www.NortheastNTRAK.org) (then click on Winterfest Information). It is essential that you register online. If you don't have web access, please ask a friend to help you register online. **Full registration for Winterfest 2006 is \$25.00 but only \$20.00 if you register before January 1, 2006.** This covers registration for you and your spouse plus your children under the age of 16. Older children and other adult family members must register separately.

**To reserve space for your module in the Ntrak layout** please call the Layout Coordinator, John Dunne, at 508-697-7635. New, fully scened modules are encouraged but should be thoroughly tested at some other show prior to use at Winterfest. The Better Living Center building of "The Big E" will be open after 12:00 P.M. on Friday for layout setup activities. Those who do not bring modules but plan to run trains should also plan to share in the fun of meeting and working with new and old friends to set up and test the layout. **Please try to have all modules in place, clamped, and connector tracks installed before 5:00 P.M. Friday.** Please read the article titled "**Winterfest Layout Operation**" which is applicable again this year. It can be found at [www.NortheastNTRAK.org](http://www.NortheastNTRAK.org) (then click on Winterfest Information).

The hotel will be available after 3:00 P.M. on Friday for check-in. The Winterfest Registration Desk will open at 7:00 P.M. in the hotel conference room area just off the main lobby. A series of entertaining and informative clinics will begin at 7:30 P.M. near the registration desk.

**Winterfest registrants must have an "exhibitors badge" to gain entry to the show buildings on Saturday and Sunday.** In past years, we have supplied a list of names in advance and the Amherst Railway Society has typed exhibitor badges available for individual pick up at the Show Office beside Door 7. This year we have been instructed to request a number of badges (no names) and "all badges over the number deemed reasonable will be invoiced at \$8.00 each." Our allocation of badges, hopefully enough for everyone, will be picked up all at once and then distributed at the Winterfest Registration Desk on Friday at 7:00 P.M. If you do not already have an exhibitor's badge in hand when you try to enter the show building on Saturday morning, it will cost you \$8.00 to get one to gain entrance. Again this year, there will be a \$5.00 charge for parking at "The Big E" on Saturday and Sunday for the show. The Amherst Railway Society (and, therefore, we) will not be selling parking hangtags in advance. You are on your own to pay for parking at "The Big E".

Everyone attending the banquet will receive a festive **British pint drinking glass** with the Winterfest logo. Extra British pint drinking glasses will be available at \$5.00 each as part of the registration process. Again this year there will be an opportunity to purchase a **commemorative Winterfest 2006 T-shirt for just \$12.00.** The Winterfest logo will be printed on the front of a light gray shirt. Shirts must be ordered and the size (S through XXL) must be chosen prior to January 1, 2006 as part of the advanced registration process. The shirts will then be printed and handed out at the Winterfest Registration Desk on Friday at 7:00 P.M.

On Saturday morning convention activity will shift to "The Big E". Please arrive early and help with last minute set up, track cleaning, and final testing so a full set of long trains will be rolling when the show doors burst open at 9:00 A.M. Be sure to help fill all the slots on the sign up sheets for 3 trains on the Blue Line, 3 trains on the Yellow Line, and 3-5 trains on the Red Line (DCC), 1 Layout-Supervisor-Helper and 3 Throttle-Tower-Operators for each hour of operation. Model Contest and Photo Contest entries will be received from 8:00 to 10:00 A.M. We will have model and photo contest entry forms that can be filled out online and printed for each of your entries. We will also have paper copies of the forms at the registration desk. Train operation at the layout will continue all day and will include the "Parade of Trains" best-train-in-show competition to be held from 2:00 to 3:00 P.M. Note that **voting in the model, module, and photo contests must be completed before 3:00 P.M. on Saturday.**

Saturday evening activities at the convention hotel will begin at 6:30 P.M. with an "Attitude Adjustment Hour" featuring a cash bar, hot hors d'oeuvres and a digital slide show. The banquet this year will feature a tossed garden salad with dressing, your choice of sliced roast sirloin with mushroom demi glace or chicken francaise with lemon butter sauce, potato and vegetable, rolls and butter, and dessert. Water, coffee or specialty teas will be served with the meal. The cash bar will remain open for the duration of the banquet so you can fully test your British pint glass. The **price for the banquet and appetizers** (probably stuffed mushrooms, sesame chicken and a mixed cheese plate), plus an entertaining guest speaker, contest awards presentation, up-dates from manufacturers, and exceptional camaraderie is just **\$32.00 per person.** A special meal is available for children under 12 for \$10.00.

On Sunday the focus returns again to "The Big E" for more excitement and team effort to keep the layout operating at full capacity. Of course shopping and seeing the rest of the show is always an option. **Model and photo contest entries should be picked up after 3:00 P.M. on Sunday.** Layout takedown and tearful farewells will wrap-up the convention activities after the show closes at 5:00 P.M.

**In summary, save the dates for Winterfest 2006; make your hotel reservations now; call the Layout Coordinator now to reserve space in the layout for your module; fill out your registration materials when they become available online after Thanksgiving and mail in your check promptly to finalize your registration; finish up those potential prize winning models for the model contest; spruce up your best module for the module contest; decide on your best train to run in the "Parade of Trains" contest; print and frame those great pictures you took recently (no repeats from previous years please); start packing a variety of trains to help keep the layout running at capacity [we plan to run DCC (Digitrax) bring your DCC engines & your radio throttle]; and then get totally psyched to help make Winterfest 2006 a really fun time for everyone!**

Bob Pawlak, Chairman, Winterfest 2006