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President's Message

Winterfest 2008

WRAP-UP

by Bob Pawlak

Well, Winterfest 2008 is in the books. My gratitude goes out to Bob, Chuck and Ed for making the convention run so smoothly. And to all who participated at Winterfest goes a big thanks, without you the convention would not be a success. We received a plaque from The Genessee-Ontario club congratulating us for running Winterfest. My thanks go out to them. The new changes at the Show (New Building) was due to the Fire Marshall wanting 14ft wide isles, The Amherst Club made a compromise in 12ft isles. The new building made the show less crowded and easier to walk around. Attendance was 20,645 for the two days. Before the new building there was a 6 year wait for dealers to get into the show.

Dean Daughenbaugh of the N-Scale Collector presented to the club a check for coordinating the layout at the Convention in Connecticut in August. It was a lot of work but well worth it. The next N-Scale Collector Convention will be at the end of June in Louisville, Kentucky. The KSONS Club is coordinating the show and hopes to break the record size layout the was in Chantilly, Virginia in August of 2004.
Til Next Month, Mark

Attendance of the Amherst show for the weekend this year was 20,673 with adults at \$10 (children 15 years old and under were free). Last year's attendance was 20,799 with adults at \$8 (children under 12 were free). The show used a fourth building this year aiming at being the largest train show in the United States. Winterfest had 75 primary registrants (79 last year) and 92 meals at the banquet (down from 102 last year).

The Ntrak layout this year looked like the Big Dipper. There was a rectangle (pot) 30' wide by 58' long with a transition corner leading to 18' of straight, a 3' corner, and a 6' end loop to form the "handle" for a total layout length of 80' (pot plus handle). The result was a 168' long Yellow and Blue Line loop and a 228' long DCC Red Line Route that went off the main loop, around the end loop, and back.

The MaiNeTrak club also brought, set up, and operated a separate 12' by 16' rectangle of OneTrak modules (4' x 1') with two mainline tracks and 2' x 2' corners. By next year we hope to figure out a way to connect the MaiNeTrak loop to the Ntrak loop to extend the DCC Red Line Route. The remainder of our allotted 30' x 80' layout space consisted of two 10' tables to display entries in the model and photo contests.

Since the early days of Winterfest, Tucker Hobbies has usually donated a Micro Trains (MT) car to each primary registrant for doing the show (traditionally handed out Sunday afternoon). For the previous three years, Micro-Trains Line Co has increased their donation of prizes to at least one MT car per registrant (handed out at registration on Friday night). Last year prizes were also given to first place winners in each of several model, photo, and module contest categories. This year Micro Trains Line Co increased their donation of prizes to 150 cars so that a second car could be handed out to each registrant after they picked their door prize. This year prizes were awarded to both first and second place winners of the contests.

This year I offered to give away "at least 10 better prizes" to those who brought modules for the layout as an incentive for filling our allotted 30' x 80' layout space. We handed out 54 special blue prize tickets, one for each 4' module equivalent and drew tickets to give away 14 better prizes including 4 locomotives!



Above (l to r) Rick Hartung and Austin Plyem from Genessee-Ontario Club presenting an award to Northeast Ntrak for 25 years running Winterfest to Mark Ferracane, President of Northeast Ntrak. To the right is a picture of the certificate.

Show Schedule for 2007 – 2008

Mar 29-30, 2008 Great Train Expo, Wilmington, MA
Shriners Auditorium, Wilmington, MA
Set up Sat 7:30AM Show Sat 10AM to 4PM - Sun 10PM to 4PM
Coordinator: Dan Pawling - 617-244-5261

Apr 22, 2008, Hooksett Lyons Club, Hooksett, NH
Cawley Middle School, Hooksett, NH
Set-up 8am Show 10am to 4pm
Coordinator: Mike Walker - 603-426-8620

Winterfest 2008





**Best In Show
Andre' Brodeur**

Winterfest 2008

Prize Winners



**1st Prize Model Photo
Dave Reussow**



**Parade of Trains
Mike Krembel**



**Richard Marko Animation Award
Ken Harstine**



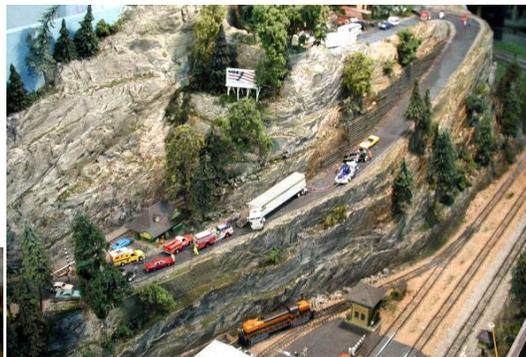
**1st Prize Humor
John Becker**



**1st Prize Prototype Photo
Mike Krembel**



**1st Prize Structures Offline
Bill Pontin**



**1st Prize Module
Austin Plyem**



**1st Prize MOW
Andre' Brodeur**



**1st Prize Structures Online
Harry Leifer**



**1st Prize Motive Power - Steam
Richard Salber**



**1st Prize Motive Power - Diesel
Andre' Brodeur**



**1st Prize Passenger
Frank Dignan**



**1st Prize Freight
Mike Krembel**



**1st Prize Motive Power - Other
Harry Leifer**

I wish to thank our sponsors again for the excellent set of prizes they donated this year. I hope everyone will join me in thanking them by purchasing their fine products. Bob Pawlak

Winterfest 2008 Sponsors

Athearn, Inc.	Micro Engineering Co.
Atlas Model Railroading Co.	Micro-Trains Line Co.
Aztec Manufacturing Co.	Microscale Industries, Inc.
Bowser Manufacturing Co.	Neal's N-Gauging Trains
Classic Metal Works, Inc.	Northeastern Scale Lumber Co.
Deluxe Innovations	The N-Scale Architect
Design Preservation Models	N Scale Collector
Digital Plus by Lenz (N Scale)	Platinum Rail Publications (N-Scale)
Digitrax	Squeak N Products
Evergreen Scale Models	Sylvan Scale Models
InterMountain Railway Co.	Tomar Industries
Kato U.S.A.	Tucker's Hobbies
Ken's Trains	Wm. K. Walthers
Logic Rail Technologies	Woodland Scenics

The following 13 groups were represented at Winterfest 2008:

Albany, NY N-Trak
 Brooklyn N-Trak
 Central Valley Ntrak
 Dayton Ntrak
 Genesee-N-Ontario Model N-gineers
 Jersey Central N-Trak
 Long Island Ntrak
 MaiNeTrak Club
 Montreal N-trak
 Northeast N-Trak
 Northern New Jersey N-Trak
 Ottawa Valley Ntrak
 Valley N-Trak

Winterfest 2009 is scheduled to take place January 23-25, 2009. Save the date!

GUEST SPEAKER RUSSELL BUCK **by Dan Pawling, Sr.**

Our guest speaker was Russell Buck of the Amherst Railway Society and of Tucker's Hobbies, Warren, MA. He spoke of his family's involvement in model railroading over several generations, the railway society, hardware and hobby shop business, and cultural development in the Springfield-Palmer-Amherst area. Russ's dad, Robert A. Buck, who was also present, brought along historical documents from his collection. Bob, over the years, has been active in preservation activities in the Amherst Railway Society and in the town of Palmer. He is a supporter of the preservation of the historic Union Station in Palmer, which is now the fine restaurant "The Steaming Tender." He is a member of the Palmer Public Library Railroad Advisory Board and a contributing editor to the book "One Town & Seven Railroads" recently published by the Palmer Public Library. Thanks to a tip from Bob, I bought the book at the show and am well pleased with it.

The Buck family has been most supportive of Northeast NTrak



over more than 14 years of the club's participation in the Amherst Railway Society's hobby show. Thanks for that, Bob and Russell, and for your fine presentation, as well.

CLINIC SPEAKERS **By Dan Pawling, Sr.**

Three clinics were given on the night of January 25th. First was Ken Harstine (Northeast NTrak) who described how buses are made to move freely on his award winning module without a visible guideway or power source. His module has the usual 3-track mainline at grade in the front. Snow covered slopes rise up two levels beyond the tracks. The ski resort on the upper level is base station for operating gondolas which pass forward over the tracks towards an off-module parking area. A roadway rises from an out-of-sight rotary at the back of the module through an "S" curve to a roundabout in front of the resort. Keeping to the right the buses travel up the hill to the resort, pause to transfer passengers, then return downhill and out of sight. Bus service has been more frequent than on the railroad below and at a satisfactory pace. The roadway is underlaid with a wire. The battery powered, rear wheel drive buses are guided by a tiny magnet connected to the steering linkage of the front wheels which follows the underlaid wire. Other electronic sensors and logic are used to detect the presence of the bus at various locations and start and stop the bus during its route. Not surprisingly Ken won "Best of Show" at the 2007 Winterfest and in 2008 was presented with the Richard Marko "Excellence in Animation" award by Valley (CT) NTrak during the banquet.

The second speaker, Chris Oliva (Brooklyn Ntrak), showed us how to "Build PRR-Style Catenary from Scratch." He explained that on the mainline between NYC and Washington, DC the Pennsylvania RR (and now AMTRAK) uses vertical H-beams, one on either side of 3- and 4-track main lines and single beams at one side of 1- or 2-track rail lines. This style has been in use since the 1930s when the corridor was electrified. Chris provided a seven-page set of diagrams which included a source list of materials for the convenience of other modelers. Chris also had a model showing the fully rigged catenary with single and paired H-beam support columns. To add further reality, he had two of his kit-bashed electric locomotives on the tracks beneath the catenary. Chris said he has not electrified the catenary.

The third presenter was Bob Gatland (Albany NTrak) a longtime practitioner/experimenter with DCC. Bob began by describing some of his experiences including aches and pains with DCC. He invited comments from the floor and this turned into a very lively discussion of problems, solutions and the service capacity of various manufacturers.

Our thanks to Ken, Chris and Bob for their very interesting presentations of their recent modeling work. Additional thanks are due Bob for again bringing his "bridge/gate" to the show so that all could enter with ease and dignity.