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President's Message Mark Ferracane

Well first I want to say is THANK YOU for everyone who was there for me at my Wife's wake last month. I know some people were not able to attend but I have received a number of condolences from them.

The season has started and we are going strong. I want to thank John Dunne and Mike Walker for coordinating the first two shows we have done this season. Mike Walker will be coordinating the Bedford Boomers show on November 2nd. This show has layouts only, there are no dealers at this one. So make sure you have everything you need for this show. Then the next show we do will be the Greenburg Show on the 22nd & 23rd, Dan Pawling will be the coordinator for that show. Dan has a new job and he is working more than he did before, so Tuesday night work nights are up in the air right now. Call him and see if he will be having a meeting before you go to his home.

If you have the time to attend, check out Tour de chooch on the 27th & 28th. It is a self guided tour of model Railroads in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Ernie Pool's Montana Rail Link Layout will be open on Sunday. Hope you all are able to attend some of the layouts.

Last but not least, REGISTRATION for Winterfest 2009 will be starting after Thanksgiving. Start making your plans for the weekend of January 23rd to 25th. The hotel will be the Hilton Garden Hotel in West Springfield. Hope to see you there!
Til Next Month
Mark

Pepperell Siding Model RR Show by Mike Walker



The Northeast NTRAK Club participated in the Pepperell Siding Model Railroad Show on Sunday October 5th. Our club has done this show for a number of years. We had a good showing of club members as well as some family members. That really helped in getting our equipment into the hall, getting legs & backdrops mounted, setting, leveling & clamping modules.. Most everyone pitched in on installing the dreaded joiner tracks. Many hands definitely make the work easier. We were up and trains running about 10 minutes before the show started at 10:00 am. Not bad since we did not get into the school until about 7:45. A small snafu with the school custodian opening (not) doors. The overall layout was 22 x 14. We had relatively smooth operation for most of the day.. DCC was active on the RED line in the early afternoon... Brian and Peter had Thomas & Percy running... always a hit with the kids.. Dan was able to do some fine tuning to the switches in the yard module that were misbehaving a bit. Tim Putnam has done a nice job with the scenery on his new module. And Tim's brother Russ, who helped us setup, is an HO Scale fan and did some running on the Pepperell Siding Club Layout..
(continued on page 4)



Winterfest 2009

It is time to start getting excited about Winterfest 2009, the 15th Annual Northeast NTRAK Convention, January 23 - 25, 2009. The convention will once again be held in conjunction with the annual "Big Railroad Hobby Show" of the [Amherst Railway Society](#) (ARS) at the Eastern State Exposition grounds ("The Big E") in West Springfield, MA on January 24 - 25. This is undoubtedly the largest annual model railroad show in New England and became the largest in the U.S. last year by adding a 4th building of layouts, exhibits, manufacturers and dealers. The show usually has an attendance of around 20,000. Winterfest 2009, planned to be much the same as last year, will feature model, module, and photo contests, clinics, full capacity layout operations (including DCC), and a memorable Saturday evening banquet.

Our convention hotel, again this year, is the [Hilton Garden Inn](#), 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 the Springfield AMTRAK Station. A convention rate of \$85.00 plus tax (currently 12.45%) per night has been negotiated, single or double occupancy. Reservations should be made before January 5, 2009 by calling **800-774-1500** or **413-886-8000**. Please identify yourself as a member of NTRAK to get the special convention rate. After January 5, hotel reservations will be accepted on a space and rate availability basis only. There is ample free parking at the hotel for registered guests. Other accommodations in the area with special train show rates can be found at www.amherstrail.org/show/accommodations.htm.

The Better Living Center building at "The Big E", will be open after 1:00 PM on Friday for layout set-up 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 PM Friday. There will be no charge for parking during set up on Friday. Please read the article titled "[Winterfest Layout Operation](#)" which is applicable again this year. The hotel will be available after 4:00 PM for check-in. The Convention Registration Desk will open at 7:00 PM in the hotel conference room area just off the main lobby. A series of entertaining and informative clinics will begin at 7:30 PM near the registration desk. Again this year, there will be a \$5.00 charge for parking at "The Big E" on Saturday and again on Sunday for the train show. The ARS (and, therefore, we) will **NOT** be selling the parking hangtags in advance. However, "The Big E" will be selling hangtags, on Friday, which provide unlimited entry/exit on show days at a cost of \$10.00.

Everyone must have a badge issued by the ARS to gain entry to the show buildings on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Adult admission to the show for the public is \$10 per day or \$18 for a two-day ticket. However, all Winterfest registrants receive an "exhibitor badge" because they each bring modules, trains and equipment; help set-up or take-down; and/or contribute to the operation of the layout in some way. Registered spouses and children should be especially aware of the privilege of having an "exhibitor badge" in addition to their Winterfest badge. This year ARS plans to print names on the "exhibitor badges" before distributing them based on the list of names I provide to them before January 13, 2009. To obtain your badge, you must stop at the Show Office on Friday after 1:00 P.M. as you arrive for layout set-up and say you are part of the "NTRAK layout". The Show

Office is located just inside Door #7 at "The Big E". If you don't arrive until Saturday, the badges will be available at a booth just outside Door #7. The ARS "exhibitor badges" will not be distributed as part of Winterfest registration on Friday night as was done in the past.

On Saturday morning convention activity will shift to "The Big E". Please arrive early to help with track cleaning and final testing so a full set of long trains will be rolling when the doors open to the public at 9:00 AM. Be sure to help fill all the slots on the sign up sheets. We need 3 trains on the Blue Line, 3 trains on the Yellow Line, 3-5 trains on the Red Line under DCC, a Layout Supervisor and 3 Tower Operators for each hour of operation. [Model Contest](#) and [Photo Contest](#) entries will be received from 8:00 AM until 10:00 AM. We have improved the online model and photo contest entry forms that should be filled out online and printed for each of your contest entries. We will also have some paper copies of the forms at the registration desk for last minute entries. 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 1:00 to 2:00 PM. **Note:** Voting in the model and photo contests **must** be completed before 2:00 PM.

Saturday evening activities at the convention hotel will begin at 6:30 PM with an "Attitude Adjustment Period" 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 Françoise with Lemon Butter Sauce, potato and vegetable, rolls and butter, and dessert. Water, coffee or tea will be served with the meal. The cash bar will remain open for the duration of the banquet. The price for the banquet and appetizers (probably Stuffed Mushrooms, Spring Rolls and a Mixed Cheese Plate), plus our usual entertainment, awards presentation, updates from manufacturers and exceptional camaraderie is again just \$32.00 per person this year. A special meal is available for children under 12 for \$10.00. Everyone at the banquet will receive a large coffee mug with the Winterfest 2009 logo. Extra mugs will be available at \$5.00 each while the supply lasts.

Northeast NTRAK has commissioned **Micro Trains** to produce a [special run covered hopper car](#) commemorating 25 years of model railroading excellence. The club car is painted in B&M blue with bright white graphics. The cost of each car is normally \$29.00 plus \$7.50 for shipping and handling per order for up to 6 cars. The car is being offered to Winterfest 2009 registrants as part of the online registration process at a special price of only \$27.00. The car will be available to layout visitors during the show for the regular price of \$29.00. Again this year, there will be an opportunity to purchase a commemorative Winterfest 2009 T-shirt for \$15.00. Shirts must be ordered and the size (S through XXL) must be chosen prior to January 1, 2009 as part of the online registration process. This year, the shirts are black with bright white lettering. Shirts and special run cars will be handed out at the Winterfest Registration Desk on Friday evening.

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. Please pick up model and photo entries at 3:00 PM. Layout take down and farewells will wrap-up the convention

activities after the show closes at 5:00 PM.

We encourage you to bring your best modules for our module contest. If you are planning to bring a module, please contact the Layout Coordinator, [John Dunne](#) at 508-697-7635 as soon as possible to reserve your space. New modules, with completed scenery, are encouraged but should be thoroughly tested at other shows, prior to use at Winterfest. We plan to run DCC (Digitrax) on the Red Line, so bring your DCC equipped motive power and radio throttle.

I know it is difficult for some people to arrive Friday afternoon for module set-up or to stay until the show ends on Sunday at 5:00 P.M. I also know it takes extra effort to haul, set up, and take down another module in addition to bringing your best module. However, it is very important to maintain the tradition of promoting NTRAK by completely filling our allotted 30' x 80' layout space! Therefore, to encourage more people to bring modules, a "Module Raffle" will be held again this year for those who bring modules. About 10 "better" prizes will be distributed during the banquet on Saturday night. One Module Raffle ticket will be given out at the layout on Saturday for each 4' of modules that is in the show layout. For example, a person with a 3' corner or a 4' straight module in the show layout gets one ticket; an 8' module gets 2 tickets; a 16' yard gets 4 tickets; a 6' plus 2' set of modules gets 2 tickets; etc. The more modules you bring, the better your chances of winning a special prize.

Full registration for **Winterfest 2009** is again just \$32.00, \$27.00 if your registration form and payment is received before January 1, 2009. There will be a \$4.00 registration charge for spouses again this year. Children under the age of 16 are free. Older children and other adult family members must register separately. It is essential that you register online. If you don't have web access, please ask a friend to help you register online.

An online [registration](#) form may be found at the Northeast NTRAK website (www.NortheastNTRAK.org).

In summary, save the dates for Winterfest 2009; make your hotel reservations **now**; call the Layout Coordinator **now** to reserve space in the layout for your module; fill out the online registration form and mail in with 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; think about how you can personally contribute to make Winterfest a little bit more enjoyable for everyone else this year; and then get totally psyched to help make Winterfest 2009 a really fun time for everyone!

Bob Pawlak, *Chairman, Winterfest 2009*

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Show Schedule for 2008 – 2009

Nov 2, 2008 Bedford Boomers, Bedford, NH
McKelvie Middle School, Liberty Hill Rd/Gault Rd, Bedford, NH
Set up 7:00AM Show 10am to 4pm
Coordinator: Mike Walker - 603-426-8620

Nov 22-23, 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: Fay Chin - 978-657-7913

Jan 23 to 25, 2009, WINTERFEST 2009, West Springfield, MA
Big "E" Exposition Center, West Springfield, MA
Set-up Fri noon to 5pm & Sat 7am
Show Sat 9am to 5pm - Sun 10am to 5pm
Coordinator: John Dunne - 508-697-7635
Winterfest Coordinator: Bob Pawlak - 781-862-2485

Feb 14 & 15, 2009 Museum of National Heritage, Lexington, MA
Set-up Sat 7:30am Show Sat 10am to 5pm - Sun noon to 5pm
Coordinator: Bob Pawlak - 781-862-2485

Mar 28 & 29, 2009 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 ??, 2009, Billerica Train Show,
NEW SHOW
Set-up 8am Show 10am to 4pm
Coordinator: Peter Matthews - 978-667-7906

Apr ??, 2009, Hooksett Lyons Club, Hooksett, NH
Cawley Middle School, Hooksett, NH
Set-up 8am Show 10am to 4pm
Coordinator: ????

July 5-11, 2009, Hartford NMRA Convention
Start planning now.

2008-2009 Northeast Ntrak Membership List by Bob Pawlak

Please review the enclosed annual revision of the Membership List and send any corrections for your listing to Bob Pawlak. Please send Bob any other changes of address, e-mail, etc. as they occur during the year. Such corrections will be published in future newsletters. Please make such changes to your own copy when you see them published. Please note that most names are paid members but others are "honorary" members by long standing past association with Northeast Ntrak. Still other names receive complimentary copies of our Newsletter as key members of nearby clubs, etc.



The Pepperell Siding Club that hosted the event thanked Northeast NTRAK for our participation. The show is an important fund raiser for their club.. They also had an open house that day in their club house about 2 miles from the school.. Attendance was good, about the same as last years show and there were 15 additional vendor tables sold this year.. There were seven operating layouts at the show from N to G scale and even the live steam was setup outside for kids & adults to ride on.. So I guess it was a successful show all around.

I would like to thank the following members for their active participation in making this show happen: Bob Pawlak, Dan Pauling , Mark Ferracane , Tim Putnam, John Dunne, Ron Cavanaugh, Peter Mathews and John Doehring, Special Thanks to Brian, Jeff, and Russ for helping with setup & takedown

Hope to see you at the Bedford Boomers Show on Sunday November 2, 2008 !!



Your help is Needed by Roland Kelley

We are in the beginning of another year of model railroad shows. With seven shows left we have a lot of work ahead of us. In order to meet the requirements of these shows we need everyone to get involved. We need more people to build and bring modules to the shows. Yes, we also need members who will show up to help in the set-up and break-down and to run trains. Still the most important thing is to have enough members coming to the shows that will bring the needed modules.

It has been 14 years now that I have been a member and I have seen many members come and go. Some have just grown old and moved away for retirement. Some have gotten worn out because they were carrying the work that other members should have shared. It is always sad to see good members being pushed so hard to support the club while others just sit back and do very little. Yes I do understand that most clubs do have a few members that do most of the work, but we need the few to grow a little to include more members. It does not mean that you have to attend every show but we do need your module and help at some of the shows. We need people to share bring the club boxes and to help set-up at the shows. It should not be the same person all the time that has to do this. This club is our club and it will be as good as we make it with our contribution. How much are you contributing?

Don't forget we also have in our backyard, Hartford, CT, the NMRA Convention in July, 2009. We should be making plans as a Club to attend. How many of you are planning to attend and will you bring your modules? This is our chance to show molders from around the world the excellent modules of our club. If you are not planning to attend please rethink it as we need your attendance.

We also need your help with articles for the Newsletter. Do be shy. Most clubs have at least six to ten members that write articles for there newsletter on a monthly basis. Would like to thank Dan Pawling, Sr., and Bob Pawlak without them we would have very few articles throughout the year.