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Treasurer - Chuck Tremblay Editor - Roland Kelley

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President's Message Dan Pawling

Roland Kelley & Peter Wisniewski Win "NMRA Golden Spike Award"



The Carnival Module was part of the Ntrak layout at the NMRA Train Show in Hartford. Peter and I have put in many hours on this module and it is nice to have others enjoy our work. The award says "Congratulations for your exceptional efforts". Peter and I thank the Judge's for picking our module for this award.

Attendance at the annual meeting was surprisingly good. Thanks to Bob for making those RSVP reminder calls. Bob & Marilyn Pawlak graciously allowed us to hold the annual meeting at their home and once again they both did an outstanding job hosting our meeting. A big thank you from us all!

I also want to thank Mark Ferracane for the six years service to the club as the club president. For those of you that don't know this is a voluntary position with very little reward for the amount of time that the position requires. This position represents a lot of time when one works 40 or more hours a week. Mark's generosity to take on the position for six years has been greatly appreciated by the club. In addition to the standard work load in the presidents position Mark was able to lead & help produce the club car and sell off more than half of them.

Annual Meeting agenda notes:

The main event of the meeting is that I have been elected as the president of the club and Mark Ferracane took on the VP for northeastern MA. VP for New Hampshire & VT is (undecided) as well as VP contact for Maine. The following officers remain the same at present: Roland Kelley is the News Letter editor, Bob Pawlak membership coordinator & Winterfest coordinator, Chuck Tremblay treasure, Ed Smith web master.

Projects on the list to be worked for the 2009-2010 season:

Show schedule was discussed, reviewed & there are some shows with no dates because the info is not in &/or there is not a coordinator for the show to make it happen. The status of the upcoming shows will be noted on the schedule please keep an eye on the monthly newsletters to keep informed on the status of the shows. The show schedule is subject to change as the season progresses & information becomes available. If you have a show you are interested in coordinating let me know about it so we can see if it possibly work.

Trailer:

Mark Ferracane has offered to purchase a trailer and loan it to the club for use & storage. He is asking for reimbursement for the additional insurance expense & the additional registration expense. Mark will get us a quote on the insurance & registration expenses

Video camera engine Pete **Winooski** is looking into putting together a video camera engine for the club. If anyone has an old video monitor or recorder to donate, loan or sell to the club that could be used for this project this that would be helpful in keeping the cost down.

Show coordination information sheet needs to be sent to coordinators and apprentice coordinators. The show coordinators will need to follow the outline for each show. We have become lax about the responsibilities of this position and will be restoring these responsibilities. One of the most important duties talked about that needs restoration will be the

rule about running time at shows and the use of the sign up sheet. The coordinator will be responsible to get the names of the folks who bring equipment and modules to the show on the running time sign up sheet before anybody else signs up. I think that this should be done in the order of the quantity modules & equipment. If you have running time you will be required to sign up for tower time at the same time you sign up for track time.

Best train joke/Cartoon submitted to the news letter up to the January issue will win a Micro Trains car and special mention at the Winterfest Convention. Submit your train jokes to Roland Kelley the newsletter editor; his contact information is on the top of page.

Rules of the new president:

Please read the newsletter so you can be informed on what is going on with the club. This will help me save time on unnecessary phone calls & emails. Don't ask me a question that can be answered by reading the news letter. For club suggestions please send emails to me if you are able so that I can easily add them to the master list. To make this a great club we need your participation. Remember we all joined the club to have fun, so have fun & help those club members that are working hard so they can have fun too.

Calling me: If I don't return your call it is more than likely that I am really busy so please try again to help me out. I reserve the right to add rules as needed as the year progresses.

Tour Business is Booming on BCSR

by Bob Pawlak



The tour business is booming and the operating costs are way down on the Bridges Canyon Scenic Railroad with the new acquisition of a Bachman Open Sided Excursion Car and a Bachmann Spectrum GE 44 Ton Switcher. Two "Bridges Canyon Scenic Railroad Tours" signs were added to the roof of the excursion car to advertise the tours and the loco was lettered "BCSR 6". The DCC equipped loco runs slowly and smoothly up and down the ruling 2.5% grades of the railroad hauling the fully loaded tour car with no problem.

During the steam/diesel transition era, there was a union rule that both an engineer and fireman were required to operate any locomotive weighing over 45 tons, although the fireman had little work to do on new diesels. The 44 ton diesel locomotive was originally designed to skirt this requirement and be operated by just one employee, thus significantly reducing operating costs.

Peter J. Prudent, safety engineer for the BCSR, has resigned complaining bitterly that he has suffered many sleepless nights since the new acquisition worrying that someone will faint while crossing Heart-In-Mouth Bridge and then fall out of the open sided touring car into the Columbia River 120' below. Meanwhile, word is getting out to all thrill seekers from miles around to come view the spectacular sights of the canyon and experience the inherent dangers of the open sided tour car.

Tours leave Bridges Canyon Station daily (rain or shine year round) at 9:00 A.M., 11:00 A.M., 2:00 P.M., 4:00 P.M. and 6:00 P.M. (June 1 through August 31). The tour goes up two levels to the Mountain Division siding at the highest point of the railroad and then descends five levels all the way to the siding adjacent to the Snake River at the lowest point of the railroad. After a brief layover at the siding, the tour train returns to Bridges Canyon Station. Cost of the tour is \$30 per person. Children 5 and under are free. All passengers are required to sign a 3 page disclaimer form before being allowed to board the tour train. The ride is not recommended for the faint-hearted.

Did You Hear?

A change in prototype wheel profiles may soon be recommended to the American Association of Railroads according to an article in the June issue of Trains magazine.

The wheel profile was last changed in the '80's. Since then, heavier cars have caused increased wear to track and wheels. How this change will impact the NMRA RP-25 rule is not known at this time.

Step Track Gauge for Ntrak

The Step Track Gauge for NTRAK Module Connecting Tracks is now available, this tool was made available due to the help of John Cook and Jim Fitzgerald of NTrak. The cost of the tool is \$8.99. It is a Track Gauge for Ntrak Module Connecting Tracks.

<http://www.rodneysrrtools.com>

Model Railroaders!

You can now get the "Model Railroad Hobbyist Magazine" on the internet for free. It will come out quarterly and will be free to download. It is a hobby-vendor sponsored eZine and forever free magazine. Go to <http://model-railroad-hobbyist.com> to check it out. Each issue will be 100+ pages.

NEW MEMBERS - WELCOME TO THE CLUB

Michael Buba 978-764-7494
23 Carson Terrace
Swampscott, MA 01907
e-mail: m.buba@comcast.net

Michael has over 20 years in model railroading

Edward Bunker 978-283-3838
P.O. Box 909
Gloucester, MA 09131-0909
e-mail: edbunker1@comcast.net

Ed has over 20 years in model railroading and is a member of the North Shore Model Railroad Club, Wakefield, MA

Annual Summer Business Meeting



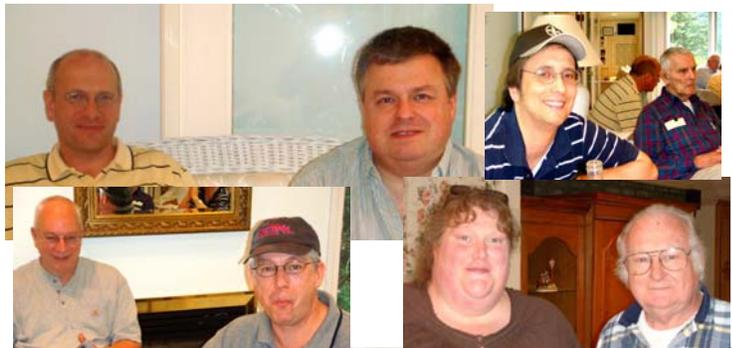
The annual Business Meeting was called to order by our President Mark Ferracane. He talked about the 12 shows that were scheduled last year but that we were only able to do 9 as we did not have the member support to do all 12.

Mark discussed the NMRA Convention in Hartford in July and asked for any members that could attend. They have given us 48' x 90'. That is more than the amount at the Springfield show. Valley N-Trak is handling the layout.

Then a club trailer was discussed again. Mark is looking to purchase a trailer for himself. What he would like is for the club to pay the difference between what the insurance on the trailer would be without the Ntrak gear and what the insurance will be with the Ntrak gear in it. The trailer he is looking at would be 6' x 12' x 8'.

The show schedule was discussed for the 2009 - 2010 season.

Then elections were held and Dan Pawling, Jr. was elected President and Mark Ferracane was elected Vice President. Everyone wishes them both well in the coming year.



Fay & Bob cooking up a storm, with chicken and Beef.

Our hosts at the Annual Business Meeting was Bob & Marilyn Pawlak. We would like to thank them for a great cookout.



**NMRA Convention
2009 Hartford, CT
by Mark Ferracane**

Day 1 Wednesday the 8th:

I arrived at the convention center at 10:30am and was told that we cannot get in until Noon. I had to go to the registration booth and pick up my Badge and UNLOADING Pass. That allowed you to enter the building to unload. Easier said than done. It was controlled chaos. Most of the layout arrived by 5pm and we had some of it set up.

Day 2 Thursday the 9th:

The rest of the layout arrived by 3pm and was connected. The layout took some time to get wired up and we had a problem with the DCC. The trains would run in some sections but not on others. We found out that the wires on the booster was reversed and it was causing a short and the system would shut down. I went over to the Digitrax booth and saw the new DT-402D throttle. The throttle has more functions available and is now Duplex. That means that you do not have to plug in to acquire or consist a locomotive. The new system also requires a new receiver. The UR-92, we have a UR-91 with our system. We will be upgrading our system to allow for the new throttles. The older DT-400's can be sent in September to Digitrax for upgrading. Hopefully the turn around time will not take too long.

Day 3 Friday the 10th:

Well the layout gave us some problems, but we worked them out by the time the show opened to the Conventioneers. At noon the Show opened to the public. There were many manufactures and vendors in the hall. (The Show was not as big as The Big E). It would have fit in 2/3 of the Better Living Center. Digitrax brought us a few DT-402D's and a UR-92 to try on the layout. Thanks Digitrax!!!! At the BLMA Booth, Matt Brown from the History Channels "Extreme Trains" was on had to sign autographs and sell the first season DVD of the Show. At the MRC booth they were giving samples of their new Trees. The trees are Birch and look very realistic.



Day 4 Saturday the 11th:

The show opened at 10am. Digitrax let us use a few of the DT-402D throttles. They worked ok, the DT-400R's worked about the same. We won a award for

LAYOUT. The layout was bigger than Springfield. The layout at Springfield is 83'x33', this layout was 46'x82'. 8 1/2 Scale miles around. Wow! The show ran from 10am to 6pm.

Day 5 Sunday the 12th:

The show opened at 10am and ran until 5pm. Today I visited a lot of the booths again to see if they had any more freebees. Fox Valley Models had samples of the NEW GEVO Locomotives. This is a modern locomotive and they look GREAT!!! They will have the easiest DCC conversion, just remove the jumper on the board and plug in the decoder. Very Simple. The first run will be with HIGH number boards. The retail for them will be \$119.00, very reasonable. Seeing that most Atlas and Kato are in the \$130 range. Kato will be producing a NYC Prototype Jet Powered RDC. The unit will have a sound system and retail for \$250.



Mike Walker & Dan Pawling Sr



A little accident with some of the ore cars

Members from seven different N-Trak Clubs contributed to the making of the layout.

- Albany N-Trak
- Central Valley N-Trak
- Philadelphia N-Trak
- Valley N-Trak
- Brooklyn N-Trak
- Northeast N-Trak
- Salt City N-Trak

2009-2010 NENtrak Show participation schedule

August 23rd 2009 Concord Model Railroad club, Concord, NH

NE Ntrak is not attending because most members are not able to participate during the summer.
If anyone attends please send short note to Roland about what you saw.

Sept 27th 2009 Old Colony Model Railroad Club, Holiday Inn, Taunton, MA

Info needed (NE Ntrak participation not finalized)

Holiday Inn, 700 Myles Standish Blvd, Taunton, MA
(Exit 9 off I-495 onto Bay St, go south to first right which is Myles Standish)
Set up 7:00am - Show 10am to 3pm
Coordinator: John Dunne - 508-697-7635

October 4th 2009 Pepperell Siding Model Railroad Club Varnum Brook Elementary School, Pepperell, MA

Set up 7:00am - Show 10am to 4pm (Confirm times & Coordinator)
Coordinator: Ron Wood - 603-206-5572

November ?? Bedford Boomers, McKelvie Middle School, Bedford, NH

Set-up 7am - Show 10am to 4pm
Coordinator:
Pending more information :(date)

November ?? Wells, Maine **No information**

November 21&22rd 2009 Great Train Expo, Shriners Auditorium, Wilmington, MA

Set up Sat 7:30am - Show Sat 10am to 4pm - Sun 10am to 4pm
Coordinator: Fay Chin 978-657-7913

December 5th & 6th Hub Division Train Show. Royal Plaza Trade Center, Marlboro, MA

Information Pending

Jan 29th-31st 2010 Winterfest, Springfield, MA Amherst Railway Society - Big Railroad Hobby Show

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: Dan Pawling Jr., 617-244-5261
Winterfest Coordinator: Bob Pawlak - 781-862-2485

Feb 13th & 14th 2010 National Heritage Museum Lexington, MA

Set up Sat 7:30am - Show Sat 10am to 5am - Sun noon to 5pm
Coordinator: Bob Pawlak - 781-862-2485

March ??, 2010 Greenburg Show, Shriners Auditorium, Wilmington, MA

Set up Sat 7:30am - Show Sat 10am to 4pm - Sun 10am to 4pm
Coordinator: Fay Chin 978-657-7913

April ??, 2010 Billerica Train Show (**LINER LAYOUT NEW SHOW**)

Set-up 8am - Show 10am to 40m (Information pending)

April ??, 2010 Hooksett Lions Club, Cawley Middle School, Hooksett, NH

Set-up 8am - Show 10am to 4pm (Information pending)

All Show Dates **Subject to Change**...Check Future Newsletters for Updates as well as **Showing Club's Website** for Exact Date times & info. Please check schedule for errors and send up dates to Roland at northeastntrak@msn.com Thanks for your help.