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WINTERFEST 2012

Hope to see you all there on January 27 thru 29, 2012. If you don't come you will be missing a great time.



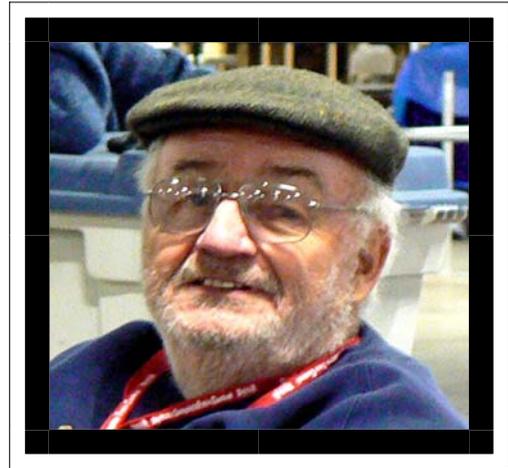
President's Message Mark Ferracane

Well, it is a sad day for our club. We have lost one of our best members. John Dunne passed away on January 8th. John did a lot of behind the scenes for Winterfest. We will miss him. God Bless you!

Any way, look out, get off the tracks. The Winterfest 2012 train is coming down the tracks. The annual Amherst Show is at the end of this month. I have said it before, get your trains in running order and your contest entries ready. This year we will be doing something different. The Coupons you would have gotten for bringing a module are no more. We want long trains running on the layout. So run the long trains. If your Freight Train is over 30 cars or Passenger Train over 10 cars you get a Coupon. There will be prizes awarded on BOTH Saturday and Sunday. We need to have trains Running at ALL TIMES. We are here to show the paying public what we do best. Run Trains! Also, we also have to be aware of our trains. We all need to help out by making sure the trains keep running. Fixing derailed trains and making sure that hands are kept back. I have seen at many shows that the adults are oblivious of what their children are doing. An when you say something to them they take offence. But that is part of dealing with the public at the shows. After Winterfest our next show is Lexington. It is a 2 day show and we get a portion of the money from the admission fee. It helps the club financially. The show has a great attendance. The show is Saturday is from 10-4 and Sunday Noon to 4. It is hard to believe that they get more people on Sunday than Saturday.

Til next month! Mark

The Passing of John Dunne



Bob Pawlak received a call from Alice Burns that John Dunne died on January 8, 2012. He had been fighting cancer for a while now and was not able to beat it. She asked that I spread the word to those in the Northeast Ntrak that knew him. John was an active member and over the years had built many modules. John wanted to give his modules away to members of the club who would care for them properly and bring them to shows. I suggested to Alice that we work that out with the help of Ron Cavanaugh, who knows best what John has and can help decide how best to find good homes for his modules (Zakim Bridge, Big City Scape, Cranberry Bog, etc.). If you are interested please, contact Ron Cavanaugh. I promised to help Ron with this activity in any way I could. John will be greatly missed by everyone.

I got this thank you from Alice Burns for the flowers sent to her by Northeast Ntrak. John Dunne's obituary and the video Alice mentioned can be found at the following web site.
<http://www.ccgfuneralhome.com/funeral-home-bridgewater.asp>

"Hello Bob I am in receipt of the lovely large flower arrangement that was sent from the club. John and I both were avid gardeners and appreciate the beauty in them. I do not know where to put them. They are now in the Dining Room, but may soon go to another room. I will enjoy them very much. If you go onto the Prophet Funeral Home web site. (the Bridgewater location) you will see the obituary plus a wonderful video slide show of John from a young lad. PLEASE look at it as you will truly enjoy it. Again many thanks, Alice"

Please keep John and his loved ones in your prayers.
Bob Pawlak

2011-2012 NENtrak SHOW PARTICIPATION SCHEDULE

Jan 27-29, 2012 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
 Layout Coordinator: Dan Pawling Jr., 617-244-5261
 Winterfest Coordinator: Bob Pawlak - 781-862-2485

Feb 19-20, 2012 National Heritage Museum, Lexington, MA

Set up Sat 7:30am - Show Sat 10am to 5am - Sun 11am to 5pm
 Coordinator: Bob Pawlak - 781-862-2485

March 17-18, 2012 Great Train Expo, Shriners Auditorium, Wilmington, MA

Set up Sat 7:30am - Show Sat 10am to 4pm - Sun 10am to 4pm
 Coordinator: Frank Dignan - 508-866-9660

April 15, 2012 Rochester Community Center, 150 Wakefield St., Rochester, NH

Set-up 8am - Show 10am to 4pm
 Coordinator: Dick Brotherton - 603-767-3449
 Mark Ferracane - 978-587-3669

Show Dates **Subject to Change**...Check Newsletters for Updates. Please check schedule for errors and send up dates to Roland at: northeastntrak@msn.com Thanks for your help.

Malcolm Frazier Visit
by Bob Pawlak

Malcolm Frazier retired from Northeast Ntrak in 1995 and moved to Florida. He donated his "desert scenery" 4' straight (with Mountain Division) module to the club and Ron Cavanaugh inherited it intending to modify it. Malcolm saw from our newsletter, which he says he always follows, that I was missing a Minitrix wheel cleaner. He had one that he no longer used and was willing to give it to me! Malcolm came to Littleton, MA to visit his daughter and her family for Christmas and New Years and stopped by my house to hand off the wheel cleaner. Thanks again Malcolm! Malcolm says he misses the Northeast Ntrak way of doing lots of shows. The club where he is in Florida does almost no shows but is heavily into advanced operating sessions using a permanent layout in a club house and rotating among four home layouts of members. Malcolm looked great and it was a pleasure chatting with him.

Member Renewal
Add to Membership List

Tony Cecere
1105 Saratoga Street
Boston, MA 02128-1225
617-569-2377

Edaville Christmas 2011

These 2 photos were taken by Roland Poore who was down there this year.



China tests 300-mph super high-speed train



BEIJING — China launched a super-rapid test train over the weekend which is capable of travelling 310-miles per hour (500 kilometers per hour), state media said on Monday, as the country moves ahead with its railway ambitions despite serious problems on its high-speed network.

The train, made by a subsidiary of CSR Corp Ltd, China's largest train maker, is designed to resemble an ancient Chinese sword, the official Xinhua news agency reported. It "will provide useful reference for current high-speed railway operations", it quoted train expert Shen Zhiyun as saying.

Feedback by Bob Pawlak

I'm happy to see all of this interchange of ideas, comments, etc. going on. My favorite so far is the following quote from John Doehring: "Moreover, it's clear to me that it's not the ideas that matter, but the *execution* of those ideas - *the doing of things* - that really matters, and makes a difference in the end." January 1 is just about 10 days away and time to make New Years resolutions. I suggest each of us decide on just one meaningful thing that we personally will do that will help Northeast Ntrak. Here are a few simple suggestions for ourselves and others in the club:

Go to the www.Ntrak.org web site and read and review **everything**, and I mean **everything**. History, standards, purpose, what other clubs do, etc. (I don't believe in reinventing the wheel.) Then think about what actions we should take to **conform** to what we are supposed to be as an Ntrak group. Certain things pop out immediately such as the revised wiring standards, using the Blue line to deliver and pick up cars from various industries (when is the last time we did that!), etc. Decide on something that you can do that will **enhance conformance to what Ntrak is supposed to be**.

Volunteer to be the coordinator of a show that we should do but don't do because we don't have a coordinator! Decide to be the coordinator of that show henceforth forever or until someone else desperately wants to do it.

Decide to **finish** that module we have been fiddling with or thinking about or procrastinating about. Set specific goals and deadlines. Ask for help. Get it inspected and start bringing it to shows! If you have a module that doesn't conform to Ntrak standards, has broken track, track ending at the wrong place, legs that wobble, a sky board that is almost falling off, something that habitually causes derailments, does not have a power cord across its length, etc. **fix it!** Pick a deadline for your self.

Decide what activity beyond doing shows (Meeting? Set of clinics? Workshop? Visit a layout?) would be fun to do and then plan, promote, advertise, and "host" the activity. Don't expect someone else to organize the activity. You do it. **Execute an idea as John has said**. While the activity happens, take some pictures. After the activity, write about what happened and send the pictures to Roland so he can print the article in the Newsletter. That way others will see what they missed and maybe participate in the next offering made by someone else.

Enough. I should be busy deciding on my own resolutions. I should remove the beam from my own eye so as to be able to see more clearly to help remove the splinter from my friend's eye.

Bob

National Newsletter Problems by Chuck Tremblay

Many members reported last year that they were no longer receiving the national newsletter. We believe that the issue has finally been resolved.

Some background:

In late 2010 the person who handled memberships for N-Trak relocated and got behind in processing renewals, as well as orders for other N-Trak materials. Early in 2011 they had to resign from the position for personal reasons. When Jim Fitzgerald became aware of the problem in early 2011, all "expired" memberships were extended until March of 2011. This was noted in the July/August national newsletter that was mailed to all members with expiration after 01/01/11, with instructions for correcting individual problems. It is unclear why we did not receive it.

Peter Wisniewski and I were in communications with N-Trak last summer and received an explanation which was published in the September Northeast N-Trak newsletter. There were also instructions for individuals to contact Jim Fitzgerald to have their membership corrected. Unfortunately, most of us, me included, did not follow the instructions. By the way, we owe Pete thanks for initially driving this with N-Trak.

When I submitted the renewal for this year, I again raised the issue. The new person handling membership immediately made all of our expiration dates 03/01/12, unless you had contacted them and it was already later than that. Once our renewal is paid (which was done on 01/09/12) all members will be extended 1 year from their current expiration date.

While we subscribe to the hardcopy newsletter, unfortunately to control costs, they do not print many extra copies. To address this, we have been provided the web addresses to get access to all of last year's newsletters online (below). They will send me whatever copies of these newsletters they have available. Please contact me (tremblay50@comcast.net) if you can't access the issues online and I will send you whatever I can, once I receive them.

Hopefully, this resolves this issue to everyone's satisfaction.

Chuck Tremblay (continued on next page)

(continued from page 3)

Here are the links to the e-newsletter from last year:

The January/February issue is at:

<http://www.ntrak.org/Newsletter/NL-11-01.pdf>

The March/April issue is at:

<http://www.ntrak.org/Newsletter/NL-11-03.pdf>

The May/June issue is at:

<http://www.ntrak.org/Newsletter/NL-11-05.pdf>

The July/August issue is at:

<http://www.ntrak.org/Newsletter/NL-11-07.pdf>

The September/October issue is at:

<http://www.ntrak.org/Newsletter/NL-11-09.pdf>

The November/December issue is at:

<http://www.ntrak.org/Newsletter/NL-11-11.pdf>

The January/February 2012 issue is at:

<http://www.ntrak.org/Newsletter/NL-JF12Clr-Opt.pdf>



Miniatur Wunderland **by Bob Pawlak**

Several of my friends, who know I am a train guy, have sent me the following web address; <http://devour.com/video/miniatur-wunderland/> It shows a video describing an amazing \$4,4 million HO display somewhere in Germany. It has plenty of trains, vehicles, figures, and even airplanes. If you haven't seen this video before, enjoy!



The following pictures were submitted by Dick Benton. They are of the new High Speed train in China.

After looking at these pictures maybe you can understand why the trains in China are so busy. Many trains there get sold out withing days of the tickets going on sale.



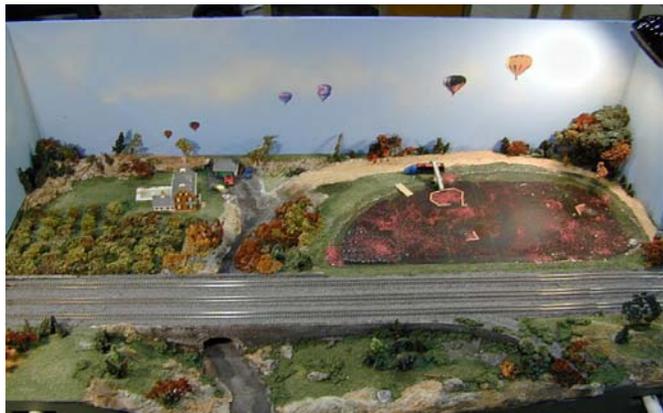
John Dunne



John Dunne, the Prolific N-Trak Module Builder by Bob Pawlak

As a tribute to, and remembrance of, John Dunne who died January 8, 2012, I have tried to gather a few recent pictures of John and some historical pictures of the N-Trak modules that he built. The majority of the pictures shown in this article first appeared in earlier issues of this Newsletter.

John's wish was to donate his modules to N-scale modelers who would adopt them as their own, spruce them up or modify them as necessary for peak appearance, and continue to bring them to train shows for the enjoyment of the general public. Therefore, this article is also intended as a showcase and description of John's modules that are available for adoption. **Anyone interested in adopting one or more of John's modules should contact Ron Cavanaugh** at hanoraspinning@verizon.net or 508-587-1251.



John was a creative and prolific N-Trak module builder producing modules at record speed. I remember how amazed I was when John first appeared at a train show with his **4' straight Cape Cod Cranberry Bog module** just a few months after joining Northeast Ntrak. Wow! I wish all new members could produce their first module that fast. John's first module explained the process of how cranberries were grown, harvested, and transported to market. The module was innovative in that it could be set up in record time because it had long, metal, fold up legs similar to those used on folding tables. This metal-fold-up-legs feature was used by John on all his subsequent modules. The module was also attractive with the cranberry-red color of the floating cranberries being harvested in contrast with a bunch of colorful hot air balloons of diminishing sizes to portray distance while floating across the beautiful deep blue sky above Cape Cod depicted on the sky board of the module. (Picture above)



I was shocked again about 5 months later when John came to a show with a second **4' straight module depicting the Brooklyn Bridge** and a wooden trestle bridge supporting the Mountain Division track. Wow! This guy John must be a fantastic builder if he can come up with another winner in just 5 months! Now you can't really foreshorten the authentic Brooklyn Bridge and model all of its detail on a 4' N-Trak module. But if you stand back and ask yourself "What does John's module look like - with that unique green color and those suspension cables." The answer is that it looks like the Brooklyn Bridge! John had a unique talent for using clever modeling methods to depict things that people could recognize as having been seen before in real life. (Picture above)

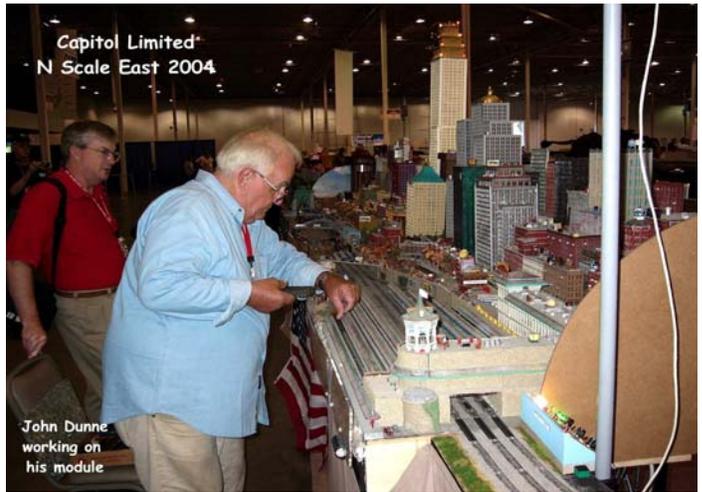


Something else that always amazed me about John is that he was a big fellow, with really big, size XXXXLarge (if there is such a thing), hands! People often complain to me that they could never model in N scale because everything is so small. I have often wondered, how did John work in N-scale with such large strong hands? He was amazing!

Things seemed quiet for a relatively long time while John was actually very busy in his workshop in preparation for the Winterfest 2003 show. At this show John brought a large number of straight and corner modules in a complicated arrangement with a large passenger train station and numerous towering multi-story city buildings which I called his **City Scope Modules**. This huge grouping of modules and buildings was very impressive but was complicated,

difficult to haul, and took forever to set up because of all the separate large pieces of the display. This grouping of modules captured first prize in the Winterfest Module Contest that year. John also gave a clinic at Winterfest that year to describe how he used molds to build the walls of his sky scrapers and produce multiple taxis and other vehicles for his city street scenes. **This group of modules was eventually reworked to become 20 linear feet (5 four-foot modules) of John's permanent home layout.** This group of modules was easier to transport and set up. (Picture prior page and right)

I think John also has one 4' corner and three 3' corners left from the City Scape Module group. Below is another corner module.



John was never as much about operations and running trains as he was interested in using his creativity to build and scenic appealing and timely modules. Three weeks before he died he was still very busy **working on a module that featured some kind of automatic coal car dumping gadget.** Maybe someone will be clever enough to figure out what John had in mind and will be able to adopt and finish this module.

With the help of his friend Ron Cavanaugh, John regularly brought his modules to the full schedule of Northeast Ntrak train shows. John also liked to travel and participate in shows of other Ntrak clubs such as National Ntrak Chantilly, VA show in 2004 and the Brooklyn Ntrak Hangar show which he attended at least three times. His Brooklyn Bridge module won the People's Choice Award at the Hangar Show in 2008. We could always count on John for the surprise of a new module, and for being there regularly, on time, with his modules. John was also very helpful in other ways particularly with Winterfest. For many years he arranged to get the T-shirts, glasses of mugs, and plastic module plaques. He also coordinated the Winterfest layout for several years. John, even when his health began to fail, was a strong and faithful supporter of Northeast Ntrak. For these and numerous other reasons we will very much miss John.



The next big surprise from John was his **12' straight Zakim Bridge module.** Why is it called that? Well, because if you display it anywhere in the Boston area, and ask people what they think it looks like, they will say it looks like the new Zakim Bridge near downtown Boston! Again John was able to capture the look and feel of something people are familiar with. The real Zakim bridge has a lot of camber and carries only automobile traffic. John's bridge is flat and carries only rail traffic. But somehow those things don't matter because it looks like the Zakim Bridge. Zakim Bridge has always been a crowd pleaser at shows. (Picture below)



Ron Cavanaugh & John Dunne at the Brooklyn Hangar show.