

*President - Frank Dignan Vice Pres - Geof Smith  
Treasurer - Robert Pawlak Editor - Roland Kelley*

**Editor - Northeast Ntrak, 41 Easy Street, Lowell, MA 01850-1731, or  
e-mail: [NortheastNtrak@msn.com](mailto:NortheastNtrak@msn.com) Web Site - [www.northeastntrak.org](http://www.northeastntrak.org)**



**President's Message  
Frank Dignan**

Hi everyone the complaint department is closed and I have had enough I am no longer running as your President . I am going back to being an everyday member I will continue to be a show coordinator with some changes only doing one of the Greenberg Shows your choice. I will also do the Hingham show if it remains on the schedule. A couple complaints from the Hooksett show did me in along with others. Problem one the lift bridge there is nothing wrong with it if its setup properly and its not the president job to fix it I should have been checked by the show coordinator. There was also some whining about us doing two lines on the DCC system for the first time . Well suck it up that is the future of the hobby its not 1998 any more get with it . I have been reluctant to do it myself I have a lot of engines that would be to expensive to change over so we will always have one line for straight DC power. We have always had complaints about not enough trains running on the layout not with the DCC there were more trains out there that I have ever seen on that size layout . The only thing I would change is have the DCC on yellow and blue lines so we could do some kind of operation maybe. The next day I went on the old computer and there was a new complaint about having to travel two hours to the annual business meeting get a life I traveled it took me two hours to Hooksett 122 miles each way think about how many miles I do each year doing NTRAK enough of my bitching.

The club boxes have a home for the summer with Peter Mathews I don't think he should have to transport them to next years shows let try to figure out what to do with them . One thing the club can do is only carry what we need to a certain show we don't need to bring two power supplies four sets of throttles. If you need power on your module you will need to carry your own extension cords the power pole conversions should be given to those module owners that need them . The only place we use the barrier rope is Lexington show so leave home the only thing we need is the skirting we have to down size the boxes. All this will work with the use of the DCC system . As all you know by now the annual meeting will be at Larry Lockwood place in Millbury Mass, Roland will post the directions. I will not be in attendance as I am leaving on the 27th of May on

**Reminder**  
**There will be no Newsletter in July or August as your Editor takes the summer off. Next issue will be for September.**

### Annual Business Meeting

Frank had mentioned the annual Meeting at the November show and I told him we could have it at my place. That's Larry Lockwood's place. We talked recently about dates and May 31 seemed to be a good date for people. I guess we normally start the meeting at 12:00. If you plan to bring some food item let me know so we don't have lots of duplicates.

Please let me know if you plan to attend so I can plan accordingly.

My email address is [ljlockwood@verizon.net](mailto:ljlockwood@verizon.net).

As for directions, if you are coming from the east on the Mass pike, get off at exit 10a. Then make two right turns and merge onto Route 146 **South**. In about 1.7 miles take exit 8 off Route 146. Proceed through the first stop sign and make a right turn at the second stop sign. (These signs are only about 100 feet apart) Travel up West Main Street about 0.7 of a mile and turn right on Beach Street (Just after a big white church on the right). Then turn left on Horne Way. The meeting will be at the club house on the left.

For those who live to the north Route 146 flows off of Route 290 at exit 12. It may be about 4.3 miles on Route 146 to exit 8 this way.

I have a layout of Ntrak modules and a few people can run their trains after the meeting if they would like. I can run DCC or DC trains.  
Larry Lockwood

\*\*\*\*\*  
a cross country trip with my Camaro I hope. But let me thank all that made this year a success officers, coordinators and module owners Thank you all . That's it for me see you in the fall 2015-2016 season Frank D

**Tokyo, Japan April 2015  
by Jun Mu**



The steam engine was put here for display in 1972 to commemorate the first train that pulled out from this station (Shimbashi Station) and the 100th Anniversary since the railway was put into use, also to improve and develop the commerce at this area.

**Model: C11 292**  
**Weight: 66.05 tons**  
**Made in: 1945**



**A picture from the past at Greenberg Show**

**Hooksett NH show review**

**By Ron Wood**

Well the last show of the 2014-2015 season is in the books. The Hooksett NH show was held Sunday April 26th and ran from 10-3. Despite the shorter hours attendance was good at least up until early afternoon. Our main layout was 24' by 18' with a junction corner and another 17 feet of OneTrak modules including Frank Dignan's One Trak reverse loop. We did have trains running by 9:30am but not without some issues which were resolved. First, we were using the club bridge module. I will admit that I had never co-ordinated a show using that module before. Basically what we did was setup the layout first and then the last piece we clamped together was the club bridge. Unfortunately by not checking to make sure the layout was square, we had some issues lining up the tracks properly and derailments were frequent. I did learn a valuable lesson: start the layout with the bridge module as piece #1 . Been doing this for over 20 years and am still learning something new! Thanks to Bob Fallier, Carl Meserobian and everyone else who helped "straighten things out" regarding the bridge. Second thing we did at this show was to have both the red and blue lines run with DCC. That left yellow as the only DC line. It was proposed to me to have it that way at this show and I just thought that it was what everyone wanted. I did hear some complaints from folks saying there was a "backup" on the yellow line for folks to run DC. I guess we need to have an honest discussion at the annual meeting regarding our operating practices. I dont really care one way or the other and I realize that not everyone will be happy or satisfied but we should be able to reach some common ground.

Lastly, we will be adding first aid kits to the club boxes after George Michaels managed to slice open his finger with an x-acto knife while working on connector tracks. Ice, paper towels and good old duct tape saved the day but going forward it only makes sense to have first aid kits available in the club boxes.

I want to thank all the members who attended with modules and those who came to help setup and take down the layout. Members Frank Dignan, Bob Fallier, Carl Meserobian, Steve Cappers, George Michaels, Jeff and Russell Putnam, Doug Lawson, Mark Ferracane, Bob Pawlak, Ron Wood attended with modules. Thanks go out to Dick Brotherton and Peter and Brian Mathews who helped with setup and takedown. Apologies to anyone I missed. Thank you.

## To Northeast NTrak....

The NVNTrak newsletter that Roland shared with us in early April was a bit of an eye opener. Nicely done with 12 pages of good reading. Judging from our own mailing list you would think that we would have plenty of material to share in our own monthly newsletter, myself included. So my thanks to those who share their pictures, stories, or techie bits and thanks to Roland for putting it together each month.

Does anyone have pictures from Winterfest that we can put on the web site? Ken Harstine took some great pictures of the TTrak layout, and some really detailed pictures of my station module, but I haven't seen much else. If you've got 'em, please share them, and maybe a story to go along with them. For the rest of us.... well, 'nuff said.

Speaking of Winterfest... thanks again to everyone who was able to attend, and my special thanks to the guys and ladies who helped set up and keep things rolling throughout the weekend. There were a couple of "downers" like the last minute cancellation of the Parade of Trains, no pictures of modules to go with the awards, and at least three of us were ill after the banquet. Geof Smith.... no excuses next year.... You will be there!!! If you haven't worked with the awards committee you have no idea the amount of time and effort it takes. Those folks do some serious work, and as NTrak grows, their job doesn't get any easier.

So the call is out... Volunteers needed for 2016. If you don't volunteer, you may get "volunteered" by your's truly.

On the plus side it was really great to see everyone there on Friday getting most of the layouts together and then running before the doors opened on Saturday. Having Three layouts in three locations is a big plus for N Scale and for N/TTrak. Thanks to John Bingel and Valley NTrak for their addition and of course Fay Chin, Dave Ferrari, and all the guys who pulled together the T-Trak layout. Thanks to Carl Mesrobian for rebuilding the model display case. It can now be "knocked down" into reasonably portable/storable sections. You may not have noticed, but we had a lot more curtains available this year. Dan Pawling Jr. took care of that for us.

Here's another tid-bit... some of those awards and table prizes were from individual contributors and are very much appreciated. The manufacturers really came through this year, albiet at the last minute. I spend most of December sending out emails and making phone calls to around 100 different suppliers and manufacturers. The first two weeks of January is frantic with numerous daily calls

to anyone who hadn't previously responded. Then comes Saturday at Winterfest and for me it's a full day hiking from one end to the next, to the next picking up goodies. A lot of the manufacturers don't want to ship stuff to us in advance, so it means pick up at the show, then back to the hotel, sort it all out and decide what prize goes with what award. It's not until we get to the banquet that I know who won an award.

While on that subject: A big thanks to N-Scale Enthusiast and Kara B. at Walthers for providing lots of goodies. And a hearty thanks to everyone who donated, so don't make me beat you for not supporting them in exchange for their generosity. We had several "new comers" this year like Bluford Shops and Evan Designs (LEDs, software, special lighting kits). You received a list of corporate donors in your registration package, hopefully you put it on your refrigerator door. It's a good place to write down your birthday wish list. If you're on their web sites, mention that you received one of their products at Winterfest and be sure to mention NTRAK! The more they hear from us, the more they support us.

Just two last notes from the Chairman: I've already found a guest speaker for 2016 and I think you'll really enjoy his presentation. Register early and don't miss the banquet and our mystery guest! And a friendly reminder that I'm always open to your comments, suggestions, and criticisms about Winterfest. While you're writing your articles for the newsletter, throw in your comments about Winterfest and any other shows that come to mind.

Happy Rails,  
Bob Fallier

## Picture from the past. Hooksett Apr 25, 2004



(l to r) 1st Row Mark Ferracane, Dan Pawling Jr., 2nd Row Ron Wood, John Dunne, Dennis Yip, Ron Cavanaugh, Charlie Brotherton, 3rd Row Bob Pawlak, Doug Lawson.

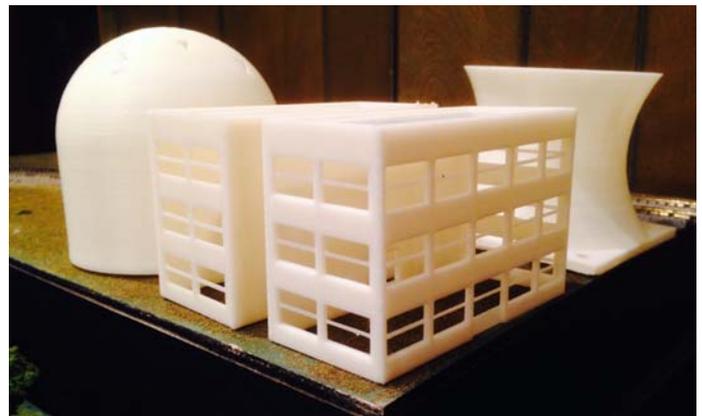
## Printing 3D Models By Fay Chin

Now modelers have the ability to design and build their models using a 3D printer. The 3D printing concept is not new. It has been available around the 1980s. It recently has become reasonable priced for public consumers. There are many types of 3D printers from the industrial and commercial 3D printers to the low end consumer entry level. I will not cover all the different printers in this article, but to point out what is available to the consumers. The basic 3D printing concept is applying thin layers (approx 0.001") of plastic polymer such as acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS) or polylactic acid (PLA) to build the 3D object. Think of it like a hot glue gun. After the completion of the first layer, the platform lowers for the second layer. Over a period of time, the object is constructed. The price range for 3D printers can start from home built for couple hundred dollars from plans to couple thousand dollars commercially available printers. There are many 3D printers to choose from Staples to computer Microcenters. A 3D software program is needed if you wish to design your own objects. There are many 3D programs available to choose. I used a free download program called Sketchup to create the 3D objects. It is the easiest program I found and with lots of tutorials on Youtube. When the 3D object is finished, the file is stored on the computer as a STL (stereolithography) file. Commercial printers usually include a printer driver for your computer, which slices the STL file for printing. There is a large community on the Internet such as Thingiverse.com for free STL files.



After much investigation on which 3D printer that met my needs, I decided on the Devinci 1.0 AIO XYZ printer. The printer is about a size of a small oven. I have included a photo above. The all in one (AIO) printer included the ability to scan an object and print. The scanning feature is not available on most printers.

There have been many times when I wanted to build a model, but it was not commercially available or out of production. As an example, I wanted to build a nuclear power plant with a reactor containment and a cooling tower. I decided to build it with the 3D printer. To give the printer a good workout, I printed a power plant cooling tower in a concave cylindrical shape. To save on material, the tower was built hollow. The construction took about 10 hours to build. I have included a photo of the built model. I then decided to build a nuclear reactor spherical shape containment and the power plant buildings. This took another 10 hours. I have attached a photo of the completed project for my TTRAK module.



Think of all the fun and possibilities. I hope this has inspired you on 3D printing. If you have any questions, you can contact me at:  
faywchin@gmail.com.

