



President - Geof Smith Vice Pres - Bob Fallier
Treasurer - Robert Pawlak Editor - Roland Kelley



President's Message Geof Smith

Last month I invited comments on what we could do to increase participation in module building and display, and in general make it more enjoyable for more members to participate in shows. I want to thank everyone who took me up on this offer, and I welcome anyone to still reach out to me for a conversation. You can email me at gesmith@cswg.com, send me a letter to Geof Smith, 24 Chestnut Hill Rd., Dublin, NH 03444, or call me during the day at (603) 354-7516.

Here are some of the comments and ideas I heard:

- The call for more participation isn't new! Several past presidents of the club all told me they too tried to encourage more participation. One proposed that we allow new members at least one full season of participation while they learned about modular railroading, module construction, etc., but after that, we expect a module to be built.
- "It's a modular group, so build a damn module. It's what we do!" was the general theme of several comments.
- We need to have operators stay with their trains! Several members are less than happy to run an expensive train around the layout when a "distracted driver" allows their train to plow into the back or their derailed equipment to foul another line. For those operating very long trains, you may need to hire a brakeman for your shift to keep an eye on the back of the train if it's too long to be seen from where you are.
- If you're standing near the DC power station, be ready to act as the tower operator. If someone calls out, "Hold yellow!" then help them out and cut the power. We're all here to run trains!
- Some members no longer have the woodworking tools to build modules.

As more comments are made, I'll be sure to share the ideas offered.

Februday 2016 NEWSLETTER

Editor - Northeast Ntrak, 41 Easy Street, Lowell, MA 01850-1731, or
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- The idea of a one year "grace period" to build a module is intriguing, but I don't think we can force anyone to do so. For those (like me) whose woodworking skills disallow a straight cut, or a lack of tools, maybe some of our more talented woodworking members will consider building module kits for sale on a cost-plus basis (after all, the kit builder is entitled to be paid for their time and investment in tools if they want). We have one member willing to do that for others. For those who really don't want to have a module of their own, so long as you're contributing to the club in other ways (helping set up or break down, for instance), no problem; but for those who just want to run their train on someone else's modules maybe we need to start charging a higher amount for dues for your "trackage rights."
- I agree that folks who set up trains to run and then don't stay with them are a hazard to the rest of those on the layout. So can we all agree not to walk away and focus on what we're doing out there? A prototype engineer, if he/she survived the crash, would be fired; if you want to do something other than run a train then pull into the yard and pick your train off the layout. There's no shame in that!
- As more and more operators convert their equipment to DCC, the day of assigned tower operators is probably over. But how about we all help each other if we're standing near the DC throttles? Keep an ear open. Or maybe DC operators should station themselves inside the layout so they can access the power throttle if no one is standing near it; while DCC operators, with their hand-held throttles, should be walking around the perimeter?

Finally, let's face it: we're not getting any younger, and some of us just don't have the upper body strength to heft a module to and from a show. If you're facing that situation, please know we still love to see you when you can come. And if your module is sitting in a basement collecting dust, think about passing it along to someone looking to build a module of their own. Maybe we can create a *Call Board* column for this newsletter where members can post what they have they'd like to sell or pass along, and who to contact if you're looking for a module or help with a particular question. (continued page 2)

T-TRAK Train Show Schedule - 2015 & 2016

If you wish to be part of the T-Trak layout contact Fay Chin
Show Coorinator at e-mail faywchin@gmail.com

January 30-31, 2016, Amherst Railway Society Railroad Hobby Show, West Springfield MA

February 2016, American Heritage Museum, Lexington MA

March 2016, Greenberg's Train and Toy Show, Wilmington MA

April 2016, NMRA Spring Training, Taunton MA

April 2016, Hooksett Lions Model Train Show, Hooksett NH

MaiNe TRACK

Jan 29-31, 2016 Winterfest at the Big E (details depending on Layout coordinators needs)

Apr 23, 2016 Mount Ararat High School, 73 Eagles Way, Topsham, ME Set-up 8am Layout 12x20 ft.

***For the 2 Maine shows contact us ahead of time as we try to meet for breakfast. Times and locations of that may change.

Name Badges

I am still going to have name badges made up for new members . Anyone who has lost there will have to pay 8.00 dollars to the club for replacement. If you need one please let me know. Phone: 508-866-9660 or digsx90245@gmail.com

Thank you Frank D

Change of email address for John Consigli

want you all to know that my email address has changed to: Jobest1@verizon.net.

Reminder: Dues are due. Please send check to Bob Pawlak, 18 Burroughs Road, Lexington, MA 02420-1908

2015-2016 NENtrak SHOW PARTICIPATION SCHEDULE

Jan 29-31, 2016 Winterfest, Springfield, MA Amherst Railway Society - Big Railroad Hobby Show

Big "E" Exposition Center, West Springfield, MA

Set-up: Fri noon to 5:00pm & Sat 7:00am to 9:00am

Show Sat 9:00am to 5:00pm - Sun 10:00am to 5:00pm

Layout Coordinator: Dan Pawlak Jr., 617-244-5261

Winterfest Chairman: Bob Fallier - 603-465-3785

Feb 13-14, 2016 National Heritage Museum, Lexington, MA

Set-up: Fri 1:00pm - 4:30pm & Sat 7:30am to 10:00am

Show Sat 10:00am to 4:30pm - Sun noon to 4:00pm

Coordinator: Bob Pawlak - 781-862-2485

March 19-20, 2016 Great Train Expo, Shriners Auditorium, Wilmington, MA

Set-up: Fri 1:00pm to 5:00 pm - Sat 7:30am

Show Sat 10:00am to 4:00pm - Sun 10:00am to 4:00pm

Coordinator: Carl Mesrobian - 978-578-5374

April 24, 2016 Hooksett Lions Club, Cawley Middle School, Hooksett, NH

Set-up: 8:00am - Show 10:00am to 4:00pm

Coordinator: Geof Smith - 603-762-1874

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.

New Module at Winterfest by James Pyle

Hi. I recently joined the club, and am busy working on my first module. It will be included at Winterfest. It is based on East Glacier Park Montana where we visited last fall. I included a picture of the work so far.

I am eagerly awaiting participating in my first show.
Jim



(continued page 1) Finally, we're on the way to Springfield in a very few days. I want to wish everyone participating (and it looks like we have a record number registered!) a great show. See you there!

Miniatur Wunderland, Hamburg and Environs

by Kenneth Harstine

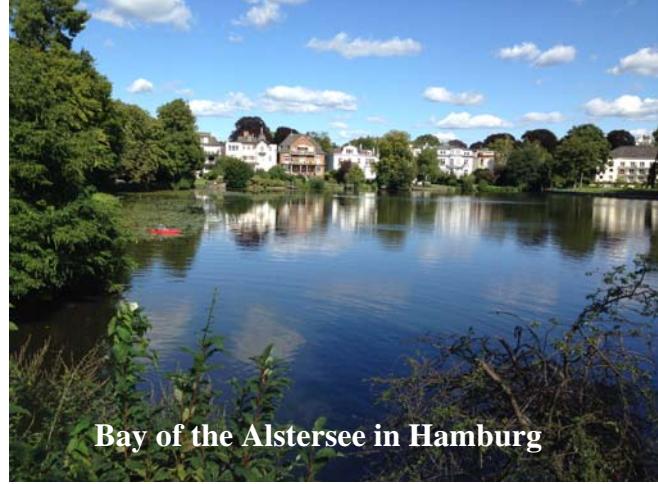


In September we celebrated my 60th by going to Hamburg Germany. Our primary reason was to revisit Miniatur Wunderland. We visited Miniatur Wunderland on two separate days.

The first day we did the standard visit. Since it was a week day we only have to wait about ten minutes. They have a nice cafe where you can kill time before they let you proceed. They like to regulate the flow of people. Of course there are still bottlenecks. The airport is astounding and was packed since people did not quickly move on. Planes were arriving and departing according the flight screens that were displayed for us. They did have miniature flight screens at the airport as well. You can look up videos on Youtube. Miniatur Wunderland consists a a number of model railroads depicting various regions.

They currently show the following regions: Hamburg area, Central Germnay, Bavaria, Switzerland, Austria, USA, and Scandinavia. Italy was being built. The have run out of room in the current building so they have plans to build a bridge across a canal to an adjacent building. A additional treat were several diorama series. One showed the progressing of development of a typical German village from its earliest organization to the present with a separate diorama for each era. Another showed an area of Berlin from just before the war to just after the walls came down. It is a little emotional to look at this series. Another set of dioramas was dedicated to each of the major German political parties. The parties were allowed asked to provide a picture of the Germany they would create if they had there way. This was also very interesting. There were actually two sets that were maybe ten years apart so you could see the evolution of the party thought as well.

On the second day we went on line and reserved and English behind the scenes tour. They do this so that they can get all the English speakers together. As it turned out the other party did not show so Sandy and I had a



Depicts a hypothetical village in Germany from ancient to modern times

personal tour. This tour is restricted because of tight spaces and mobility challenges. This was very interesting. There are things behind the scenes that were originally put in by the modelers for their fellow employees. They had originally not contemplated having the behind the scenes tour. There are some R rated scenes on this tour.



Boats navigating real water in the Scandinavian section of Miniatur Wunderland.



A road race in the Swiss Alps section of Miniatur Wunderland. If you look closely you can see Herbie the Love Bug next to the sheep.



Airport in the Bavarian section of Miniatur Wunderland.

On both days both my wife and I were completely captivated. Our tour guide on the second day said that many times the wives want to spend more time than their husbands. There are thousands of mini-scenes to be discovered that have nothing to do with trains.



the modules showing a specific location in Berlin. This one shows the location immediately after the war

For our stay we booked lodging through Air BnB. This was both affordable but also let us meet real Germans and get their advice on things to see. As a result we toured the Planten un Blumen park and also went back to see the water fountain music and light show in the evening. Hamburg is Germany's major port and as such is in a lowland delta area. There are canals throughout the city and the Astersee a lake. We rented a canoe and explored some of the canals.

A waitress recommended we visit the city of Schwerin in the neighboring state of Mecklenburg/Pomerania. It had not been bombed in the war and so had many very old buildings including a grand fantasy castle that was completed in the 19th century. Schwerin had also been behind the iron curtain.

We had a grand time exploring, riding trains and metros. We highly recommend it.



Castle in Schwerin

Winterfest 2016

Ntrak Better Living Center Layout

The Big E opens at 11:00AM Please arrive as close to 12:00PM as possible so your modules can be clamped, wires connected & connector tracks installed before 5:00PM

