



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

May 2016 NEWSLETTER

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President's Message Geof Smith

Hard to believe another year's series of shows is coming to a close! All in all, I think it's been a pretty good year: we've had greater participation in shows, added new members, and seen new modules and upgrades to many existing ones. We've also seen our layouts at shows better prepared to be running trains from the moment the show opens – so a big thanks to everyone who volunteered to be a show coordinator this past year. Your leadership in our club is critical.

Is this as good as it gets? What can we do to improve everyone's experience? At the Annual Meeting we will elect officers and discuss ways to make our experience within the club better. Here are just a few thoughts I've had we might give some thought to:

- Everyone who has a module that is brought to shows add a Velcro strip across the front of your module so it can accept the skirting we use? The skirting adds a neat, finished look to our displays, and also discourages curiosity seekers from rummaging underneath our modules at shows.
- We all make sure we have connecting tracks with rail joiners for every track on our module, so we can ease linking our modules with our neighbors. Sure, the club has some track, but not always enough. If we bring our own, set-up will go that much faster and smoother.
- Volunteering to bring the club boxes to shows? There's no good reason why the boxes always have to go home with the same person after a show. If you're coming to the next show – wherever that will be – and especially if you're not bringing a module, how about helping out with the two club boxes?
- And speaking of the club boxes: let's all take a look at them. Do we need to be carrying everything we do to every show? Can we lighten

The contests at Winterfest seem to be popular. Should we consider adding a few awards to be given at the annual meeting in the future? Maybe something like Best New Module of the Year, or Most Improved Module of the Year?

Is it time to revisit our dues structure? Maybe using this structure to encourage the building of modules by those members who do not have one, or don't bring one to a show? But what about members who no longer have the physical strength or space at home for a module?

What do you think we ought to consider? Come to the meeting and let's talk about it!

The 2016 Annual Meeting will be held at Bob Fallier's home 115 Pine Hill Road, Hollis, NH. For those worried about the drive, Bob is only 10 minutes west of Nashua, NH, off of Route 3. The meeting will be on Saturday, June 18, beginning at 11:30.

See you there!

Editor's Comment by Roland Kelley

It has been another busy year. The June issue will be that last one until the fall. That is because with everyone on vacation it is hard to get articles. Even during our show year articles come in one month and none for the next so it is not easy to fill the Newsletter many months. Would like to thank all of you that have sent in articles to make the Newsletter interesting to the members. Hope in the fall more will contribute to the Newsletter.

You can write articles about your train travels, train watching, model building or just things you want to say about the club and maybe things you would like the club to do. The Newsletter is a way for you to put forth your ideas to make the club better for everyone. We don't have club meeting throughout the year so lets use the Newsletter to put forth your ideas.



2nd Annual Tour in Maine
September 24 and 25, 2016
Free, self-guided, all scales
All new layouts to see in eastern and southwestern Maine

Learn more at www.mainemodelrrtour.com.

Suggest layouts in these areas to put on the Tour!

Eastern Maine representatives:

Geoff Anthony, dahak@roadrunner.com, (207) 479-2920

Brandon Kulik, Brandon_kulik@myfairpoint.net, (207) 649-1712

Bob Bennett, ngbobme@hotmail.com, (207) 660-2220 (c) or 445-4508 (h)

Southwestern Maine (York County & contiguous areas) representatives:

Mike Pedersen, mpederse@maine.rr.com, (207) 676-2639

Peter Amershadian, alcopka@gmail.com, (207) 363-0903

Lou Champagne, lucien.champagne@roadrunner.com, (207) 229-5475

Other contacts are listed on the website

Welcome a New Member

Jeff Koehly
12 Evelyn Street
Hooksett, NH 03106
816-729-2585 Jeff@koehly.net

Years in Hobby: 30+ off and on
Age Group: 48
Security Engineer
Small 4 x 8 work in progress
Finally starting dream to build own layout. Looking
for others who have similar interests. Been collecting
cars/engines for over 30+ years and finally "getting
started".

Certificate of Appreciation

We get a certificate from Greenberg's every time we have done a show for them recently. Below is a copy of one we got on March 19 – 20, 2016. I thought you might like to see it. Bob Pawlak



2014-2015 NENtrak SHOW PARTICIPATION SCHEDULE

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

MaiNe TRACK

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.

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

April 2016, Hooksett Lions Model Train Show, Hooksett NH



A Picture from the past



The T-Trak Layout at Greenberg March 19-20, 2016



Jane Fay the President of the T-Trak Group
behind the layout (left). Above is Fay Chin with
the layout all set-up and waiting for the visitors.

Greenberg Show Wrap Up



The Greenberg show went well - I would like to thank all who helped setup, run trains , and pack up on Sunday. As a first time coordinator, you all made me look like I knew what I was doing! Thanks again. -- Carl"



Putting my new Atlas GP-35's Into Service

by Ernie Poole

I had an idea for a new train to run on my home layout, and a pair of foreign power GP-35's seemed just about right. Actually Rand Hoven had the idea, but I stole it.



The idea is that this pair of Canadian Rail America units will visit at Butte at the far end of my Montana Western branch line. They'll run the branch to the town of Garrison where it meets the main line, then continue on the main to the big yard at Missoula, interchange freight cars, and return to Butte.

To make that happen, I ordered two new units, along with a pair of Digitrax DN163A4 decoders. I bench tested the DC loco's with a 9V battery and they both ran smoothly in my hand. With that done, I was comfortable installing the new decoders.

Atlas locomotives have motor tabs that only contact the PC board with spring tension. The Digitrax boards offer those contact pads as well, but also have slots (proper size holes in the board) to accept the motor tabs for a more reliable connection. I carefully bent the motor contact tabs to go through the slots. I also bent the tips over a bit on top of the board to lock them in place. They can be soldered, but I choose not to do that because of maintenance issues with disassembly. Now there's little worry about intermittent operation. I do love reliability.



I always add a paper insulator to isolate the motor contacts from the frame on Atlas loco's. Then I place the loco on the programming track and make sure it acts properly. The low

power involved there may save you a decoder someday if you messed up the install somehow. Since they looked OK, I changed the addresses to the cab numbers, set up CV's 2,6, and 5 to slow them down a bit, and checked the speed match. They were very close as expected, and some run in time was next.



During the run in, I noticed the bright white led headlight showed right through the top of the plastic body. Not cool! I removed the loco shells and cut a piece of Scotch Blue masking tape to fit snugly inside cab roofs. One coat of flat black paint on the tape, and we're good to go.



Finally, I created an advanced consist and programmed CV 22 to '01' to allow headlight control at the consist address. The units run back to back, and now the proper headlight is automatically always on. It's helpful to operators as a visual clue to direction. Note that these are Digitrax CV numbers. Other brands vary.

With the loco pair now ready to run, I wanted to do some weathering before putting them on the layout. I like the chalks best these days. It's easy, it's quick, it looks good, and it'll wash off if you don't like it. Perfect! Black on the fans, grills and exhaust stack, greys and browns on the pilots, tank, walkways and trucks. Another technique I like is to use red chalk on red paint, blue on blue areas, and so on. It kills that 'out of the box' look and shine.



That's it. It all happened in less than two weeks, and we used it at RailRun.

March and April T-TRAK Displays by Fay Chin

T-TRAK was very busy during March and April. On March 12 & 13, T-TRAK displayed an "L" shape 16' x 11' layout for the South Shore Model Railroad Club. The setup went up very quickly with help from Frank Dignan. The setup took a little over an hour. The completed layout was even moved across the room because a dealer wanted a particular floor location. The relocation was as easily as move three tables by two person. I would like to thank Frank for help setting up the layout and staying to end of the two day show to breakdown. Below are photos of the layout.



The next following week on March 19 &20 was the Greenberg show. The T-TRAK display was setup as a linear 24' x 3' layout. The layout was located at the Shriner Auditorium front entrance. I was told by a professional exhibitor, the best location is where the general public see your exhibit first and see your exhibit last as they leave. The Greenberg Train Show has

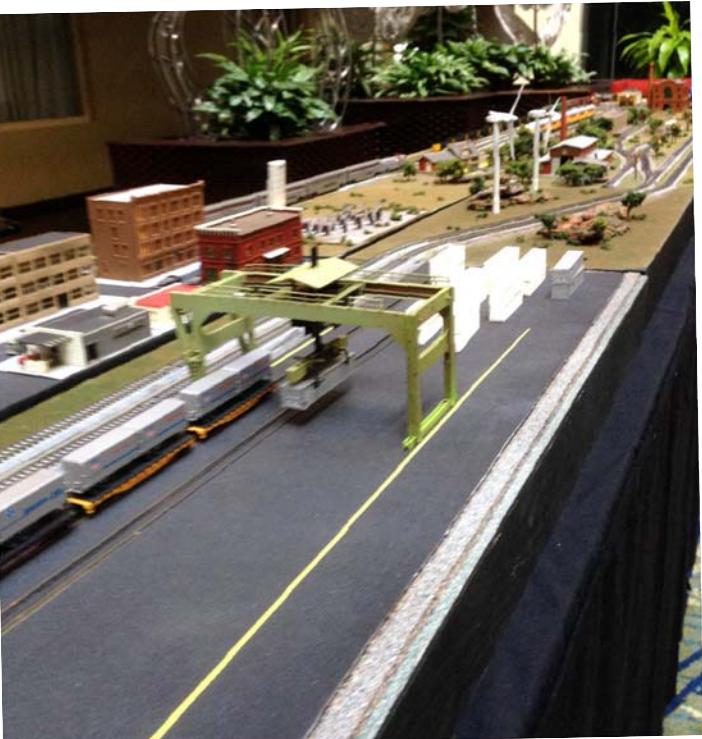
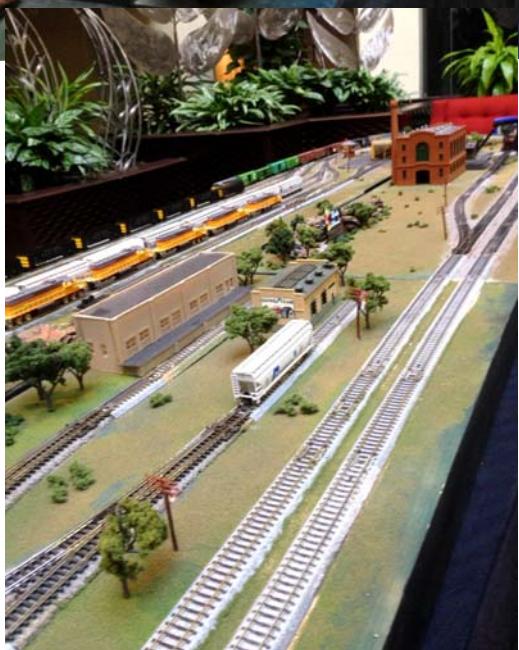
always been a popular show and the public audience was steady. I would like to thanks Brian Mathews for running the display while I was doing the 3D printer workshop. Below are photos of the linear layout.



The next show was for the National Model Railroad Association Spring Training on April 3 at the Embassy Suite Hotel in Waltham. It was snowing and blowing heavily while driving to the show and unpacking the truck. Again, the T-TRAK display was a linear 24' x 3' layout. The T-TRAK Layout was located in the hotel atrium along with the MaiNeTRAK and NMRA layouts. The area was well lite by the natural light and nicely decorated inside the hotel. Since the hotel was fully booked, all their guests had the opportunity to see the layouts. The T-TRAK layout was setup and running before showtime, I had time to go for a buffet breakfast at the hotel. The hotel even came around to take lunch order and delivered. The show went well with a steady flow of people. I would like to thank Stacy Rosen and Frank Dignan for helping to breakdown the T-TRAK layout. Next page are T-TRAK photos from the NMRA Spring Training show.



Herb and Stacy running the layout



Hooksett NH on April 24 will be the last train show before the summer break. The T-TRAK layout will be linear taking an area 32' x' 3'. One good thing, because the past shows and this show are so close together, I do not have to unpack my truck between shows. Enjoy your summer.