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### President's Message Geof Smith

A special shout out to John Doehring and those who brought modules to the Pepperell show. There weren't many able to participate, which we hope will not be the case at the next show. If we're going to continue as a club, we need *everyone* to do their best to support the show coordinators by bringing modules to display.

In the last newsletter I took some space to suggest we consider what to do with our collections of model railroad "stuff" in the afterlife, in case someone in your family isn't so eager to inherit it. Maybe not the most popular newsletter topic, but one worth considering in the long run.

On a more immediate note, I'm going to go out on a limb and say every one of us has probably amassed a collection of locomotives, rolling stock, and maybe structure kits, track and other stuff we aren't possibly able to use, or our interests and tastes have changed. Ideally, we'd sell it off so we can have the cash to buy something more in line with what our current interests are, right? Can I get an Amen?!

Well, have we got a solution for you!

Starting next month, we'll open a new column in the newsletter we're calling *The Company Store* (OK, we plagiarized the idea from the Northern Virginia Ntrak club). *The Company Store* will be your place to advertise what you might want to sell to a fellow club member. All we ask is that you send a good description of what you're trying to sell, a comment on condition (e.g.: new in box, good, fair, doesn't run, etc.), and the price you'd like to get for it. Be honest with yourself: you're probably not going to get retail, but hey: you weren't going to run it anyway, right? Remember too you're selling to friends: these folks know where to find you if that clunker doesn't run and you said it was new.

### Club Junction Module Rehab by Geof Smith

For years, the club has had a three-foot, corner junction module that has been a very reliable module, but one whose scenery consisted of green paint on plywood and a layer of ground foam that had all but worn off. Carl Mesrobian had been good enough to store it and bring it to shows when needed. When Carl asked for some help to lighten the load of what he brings to shows, I volunteered to take this module home with me. And that's what I did. Then one day I saw the screen saver photo a colleague at work was using of a very dramatic thunderhead building over a very flat farmland, and it got me inspired: why not try to use that picture as why not try to use that picture as a backdrop for the junction module? To keep the module

easier for transportation, we wanted to keep the terrain flat, so what



could be flatter than a farm scene from the Midwest? I was out in Mattoon, Illinois a couple years ago for a wedding, and the terrain out there is about as flat as you'll find anywhere on earth - perfect for a minimalist module scene.

To create the scene on the module, I wanted to create the impression of the plowed field extending from the backdrop up to the farm buildings. To do this, I took corrugated cardboard and peeled off the top layer of the paper to reveal the ridges between the cover sheets. I read subsequent to doing this that if I had wetted the cardboard it might have come off easier, but even where I accidentally ripped off the corrugation, it was still useful as farm fields rarely are uniform and contain bare spots where the crop failed to grow.

Once the top layer was off, I simply painted the cardboard an earth tone and glued it to the module. Then came the tedious part: I glued a piece of multi-colored green yarn along each ridge of the cardboard. If I had been able to find chenille yarn this might look even better, but apparently chenille has fallen out of favor with yarn shops and I wasn't looking to use a high-cost, imported yarn. I glued the yard down with Elmer's wood glue, as it's less liable to lift off if it gets wet.

Once the yarn was down, I then applied a line of white glue (I use Sobo) on each strip of yard, and covered the yarn with Woodland Scenics medium green ground cover. I applied this liberally, but didn't press down on it hard so that it would sit up once the glue dried. I then simply vacuumed off the excess ground cover, and voila! A field of soybean!

I then turned my attention to the backdrop. OfficeMax, it turns out, is a great place to have a poster made. I brought them the friend's screen saver photo, and for \$20 they printed it on waterproof poster paper. I had a one-by-two piece of very flexible scrap styrene, and glued the backdrop photo to the styrene.

The module already had a one-foot plywood backdrop, painted with a simple sky scene that showing a bit of wear. With such a dramatic photo, I wanted it to be bigger, to create a panoramic scene. And so I added two pieces of luan plywood attached to the original backdrop with long hinges. At the end of each wing, I glued and then nailed with track nails a piece of wood that would act to hold the styrene backdrop in a coved position while at a show. The backdrop wings are held in place by two removable long pieces of metal screw rod that fit into holes drilled into the module frame. It is perfect? Not really. If i were to do it again I's probably want a better glue to hold the poster to the styrene, but overall, I'm reason-ably pleased with the effort, and i hope you will be too.

## T-TRAK Train Show Schedule - 2016 & 2017

If you wish to be part of the T-Trak layout contact Fay Chin Show Coordinator at e-mail [faywchin@gmail.com](mailto:faywchin@gmail.com)

**October 29-30, 2016, Southshore Model Railroad Club,** 19 Fort Hill St., Hingham, MA  
 Show Sat & Sun 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

**November 5, 2016, Wellesley Community Train Show,** 219 Washington St., Wellesley, Ma  
 Show 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

**November 6, 2016, Metro South Train Show,** Temple Beth, 671 North Main St., Randolph, MA  
 Show 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

**November 19-20, 2016, Greenberg's Train and Toy Show,** Shriners Auditorium, Wilmington MA  
 Show Sat & Sun 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

**December 3-4, 2016, NMRA HUB Div Model Train Show,** Best Western Royal Plaza Trade Center, Marlboro, MA  
 Show Sat & Sun 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

**January 28-29, 2017, Amherst Railway Society Railroad Hobby Show,** Eastern States Exposition Fairgrounds, West Springfield MA  
 Show Sat 9:00am to 5:00pm - Sun 10:00am to 5:00pm

**February 11-12, 2017, American Heritage Museum,** 33 Marrett Rd., Lexington MA  
 Show Sat 10:00am to 4:30pm - Sun noon to 4:00pm

**March 11-12, 2017, Southshore,** 19 Fort Hill St., Hingham, MA  
 Show

**March 18-19, 2017, Greenberg's Train and Toy Show,** Shriners Auditorium, Wilmington MA  
 Show Sat & Sun 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

**April 2017, NMRA Spring Training,** TBD

**April 23, 2017, Hooksett Lions Model Train Show,** Crawley Middle School, Hooksett NH  
 Show 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

## 2016-2017 NENtrak SHOW PARTICIPATION SCHEDULE

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

**Set-up:** Fri 1:00pm - 5:00pm - Sat 7:30am  
 Show Sat 10:00am to 4:00pm - Sun 10:00am to 4:00pm  
**Coordinator:** Frank Dignan - 508-866-9660

### December 3-4, 2016 - NMRA HUB Division Model Train Show, Best Western Royal Plaza Trade Center, Marlborough, MA

Coordinator: Rob Selberg (MaiNetrak) 207-272-0390

### Jan 28-29, 2017 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 Pawling Jr., 617-244-5261  
**Winterfest Chairman:** Bob Fallier - 603-465-3785

### Feb 11-12, 2017 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 18-19, 2017 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:** Frank Dignan - 508-866-9660

### April 23, 2017 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](mailto:northeastntrak@msn.com) Thanks for your help.

## MaiNe TRACK

**Nov. 7, 2015,** Auburn Middle School, 38 Falcon Dr., Auburn, ME Set-up 8am Layout 8x16 ft.

**Dec 4-6, 2015** Hub Division Model Train Expo, 181 Boston Post Rod, Marlborough, MA Set-up Friday 3pm 12x24 ft layout to include 16 ft of Northeast NTRAK straight modules (see Hub Division web site for Hotel info and discounts).

**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.

## Winterfest Participants

*While recently traveling on the Mass Turnpike, we noticed electronic signs alerting travelers that the Mass Turnpike is going cash-less at the end of this month.*

*The signs indicate the end of cash toll booths and urging travelers to use the EZ Pass payment method.*

*I would suggest that the Winterfest 2017 information letter include this information to assist potential Winterfest participants who may be using the Mass Turnpike.*

*I further suspect a word of advice would go a long way. Thanks*

*John Becker / Rochester NY*

## Pepperell Show Wrap up by Bob Fallier



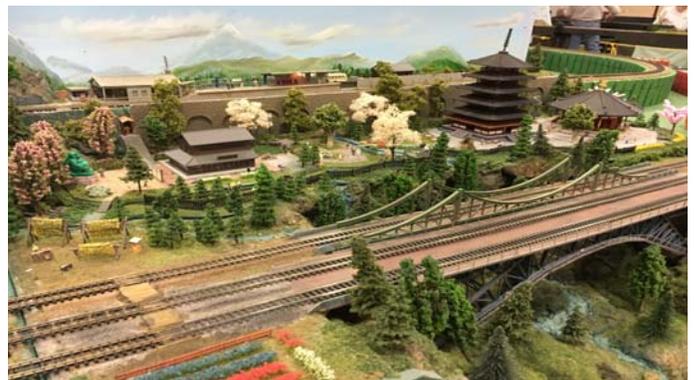
The Pepperell Siding show on October 2<sup>nd</sup> was a good kick off for the 2016-2017 Model Railroading season. Saturday we started before noon with George and Carl busily unloading and waiting for the rest of us to show. Bob F. dropped off a few boxes and then he and Carl made another trip to pick up Bob's four modules. By two o'clock we had the yard and two sides complete, using two 4 foot corners (Bob & Jim) and two three foot corners (George & Larry), plus almost 20' of continuous Mountain Division thanks to Jim Pyle and Bob.



Carl lugged the yard and bridge plus his four footer with the trolley line and busses. The Putnams and Mark F brought four footers. But we needed another four footer for the other end of the smallish layout and



George Michaels saved the day, bringing his on Sunday morning. Two new members, Mark and Jeff, were there for both days and pitched in from start to finish. They also went home with an open frame and set of legs that former NTrak member Rick Corky had donated a few weeks prior.



By show time on Sunday we ready to play with DCC on red & blue and DC on yellow. With only a few of us at the show, there was plenty of time for everyone to run their trains. At 15' x 23' overall, train lengths of 10 or so cars was perfect. The only downside is that we could have used at least two more modules. Not shown on the layout plan are George's four foot military themed module, and Bob's 3 foot Japanese module

Thanks to everyone who was there to help start another season. Happy Rails,



## 2016 Kansas City N Scale Enthusiast Convention by George Michaels

I attended my first NSE convention this past July. It was a lot more interesting than I expected it to be. The extent of modular layouts, vendor displays and retailers was all beyond what I thought I would see. The auction was entertaining and the banquet was well managed.

The N-Trak layout was equivalent in quality to our Winterfest show with modules from a range of different clubs. I made a 3 minute tour layout video and posted it on Youtube here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0xbBdP1dKqs>. The quality of module construction was on par with our club and entire sections showed a cohesive theme which is an interesting change from the variety of settings in our club. Many of the scenery designs had a distinct Southwest feel to them.

The auction was humorous and well run. The interesting element was that many of the older items sold for less than they have in the past and many new limited edition releases were going for quite high values. For example, this new release from Trainworx



<http://www.trovestar.com/generic/index.php?Collection=4&Paint%20Scheme=Bicentennial&Brand=trainworx> was auctioning for \$190 only a few weeks after it had been released which is almost 100% over retail! Older Micro-Trains items seemed to be selling for a 50% discount to current retail.

I enjoyed a dinner on the Kansas Belle dinner train. It was an hour-plus bus ride from the hotel to a depot in the middle of nowhere. The train then ran from the middle of nowhere to somewhere East of the middle of nowhere. The total ride was a couple of hours. Fortunately the air-conditioning was functioning in my car, the "Rose Creek".



This was not true for all the cars and Kansas in June is not very cool. The food was good and the conversation with other N Scale folks was quite enlightening. This was good because there was not much of anything to see out the windows. I think I am spoiled from riding the Northeast Corridor along the New England coast. My expectations are just a bit high I guess.

There was a fantastic array of vendors selling items from all the manufacturers but with a distinct emphasis on Micro-Trains. I was able to consistently find sub-\$10 new-old-stock items for my collection of "runner" cars. This was vastly superior than paying even deep discounted prices for new releases. If you like to run long unit trains at NTrak events, this convention is a feast!



Lastly, the banquet is a treat. The raffle goes on forever, but it is worth it if you buy \$20 worth of tickets because the odds are pretty good you win something in addition to the banquet car. This years banquet car is a Micro-Train single dome tank car: <http://www.trovestar.com/generic/zoom.php?id=113610> featuring promotional material for Gates Barbeque, a local restaurant chain. I met some more great folks at the dinner and enjoyed the conversations immensely.

I enjoyed it enough I hope to go to next year's show in Pittsburgh.