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President's Message Bob Fallier

The summer doldrums are coming to an end and Train Season begins anew. Welcome to the 2018-2019 season. I hope everyone has had an excellent summer with lots of travel, play, train spotting, beach, mountains, and cars. And... on days like today with rain coming down and not much that you can do outside, that you are tuning up your modules, cleaning wheels, and getting ready for show season.

For me it has been a very busy summer. At a recent car show my little blue Lotus won 1st Place in Class, very much to my surprise! Retirement went right out the window in less than three months and I'm working two jobs. One for a paycheck and one has taken me in a direction I never would have expected even a few months ago. In short, I'm sort of an "ambassador" for an organization called the Mines Advisory Group (MAG) and bottom line... trying to save lives in Laos. It's a story, a legacy of war. Happy to tell you about it later. Suffice it to say I've been talking with my New Hampshire senators, congresswoman, and most recently a meeting last week with Governor Sununu.

Back to the trains:

I've been rebuilding one of my older modules. Unused since 2011, two years ago I had planned to rebuild it and expand my Disney theme. Well that didn't quite work out and now I have many, many dollars in very unique buildings to match the Disney castle, but can't use them. At least not yet. So, the 5-foot "Japanese World Heritage Site" module sat in limbo for a while. Then last fall an idea began to gel: *Where can your imagination take you* is the theme.

It is a Disney expansion of sorts, but wildly different with many unique, and in some respects "crazy" ideas. The list of "things to look for is a page long" and most is just stuff out of parts boxes. There are flying cows, giant mushrooms, and a yellow brick road. You can find a train watching polar bear while another fishes and enjoy his bottle of Coke and the wicked witch watches all from the parapet of her black castle. You could spend all day looking for the hidden "emerald city", the *Star Wars Sky Ride* and *Rocket to the Moon* are ready to fly, and entering from "stage left" is the famous *Main Street Electric Parade*. Or at least part of it. There is

lots of lighting, but nothing close to the lighting and animation on Roland's carnival. One thing I won't do is get anyone humming *Small, small world*. That just would not be fair. About the only things I have not added, at least not yet, are flying monkeys or Dorothy. Unfortunately Captain Hook and his flying ship may not make it onto this module, but I still have some time to reconsider before the Pepperell Siding show.

If that isn't enough, the module can also function as a Red/Blue end loop, which we tried out in our mini-NTrak layout two years ago during the Tour d' Chooch. Naturally all three main tracks feed right through. Getting the thing through doors may be a problem, and feather light like my big station module it is not.

If you missed the annual picnic, well just plan on attending next year. Same place and hopefully the weather will be on our side once again. Three years in a row of sun for our picnic and meeting. Thanks to everyone who brought goodies and Mark Ferracane for manning the grill.

Pepperell Siding: As of this writing I have not heard back from them. I met with their membership committee early in July and they had to make a presentation about us to their membership. What I'm hoping for is a place where we can meet occasionally for clinics and such and have a place to store our trailer. In case you haven't been reading the newsletter since April, we finally purchased a trailer this spring and with it, a place to store the club boxes, yard, and other club specific "stuff". Thank you, George and Jenna Michaels, for allowing us to park it in your driveway for a few months.

What's on tap? Well once again we have a fairly busy show schedule, but sadly we've taken the February museum show off the list. Maybe this will change, maybe not. But once again you should plan on both Greenberg shows, Pepperell Siding (a two day show this year), Hooksett and of course the ever popular Winterfest in January. I'll be looking for some volunteers to help on Saturday after Thanksgiving with Tour d' Chooch, assuming we are doing a point to point mini-NTrak layout again.

A final note: If you are a Hobby Emporium customer and know Ian, please wish him well. He has been seriously ill for several months and could use a prayer or two.

See y'all soon. Bob

T-TRAK Train Show Schedule 2018 & 2019

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

August 19, 2018, Concord Model Railroad Club, Everett Arena, Loudon Road, Concord NH
Show 10:00 am to 3:30 pm

September 28, 2018, Old Colony Model Railroad Club, Taunton Holiday Inn, Taunton MA
Show 10:00 am to 3:30 pm

September 29-30, 2018, Pepperell Siding Model Railroad, Varnum Brook Elem. School, 10 Hollis St., Pepperell MA
Show 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

October 13-14, 2018, Nashua Valley Railroad Assoc. Boxboro Regency Hotel, Boxboro, MA
Show Sat 10:00 am to 5:00 pm Sun 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

October 20, 2018, North Shore Model Railroad Club, American Civic Center, Main St., Wakefield MA
Show 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

October 27-28, 2018, Southshore Model Railroad Club, Bare Cove Park, 19 Fort Hill St., Hingham, MA
Show Sat & Sun 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

November 17-18, 2018, Greenberg's Train and Toy Show, Shriners Auditorium, Wilmington MA
Show Sat & Sun 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

December 1-2, 2018, 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 25-27, 2019, Amherst Railway Society Railroad Hobby Show, Eastern States Exposition Fairgrounds, West Springfield MA
Show Sat 9:00 am to 5:00 pm - Sun 10:00am to 5:00pm

February 16-17, 2019, Greenberg's Train and Toy Show, Swansea Mall, Swansea, MA
Show Sat & Sun 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

March 10-11, 2019, Southshore, 19 Fort Hill St., Hingham, MA
Show 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

March 16-17, 2019, Greenberg's Train and Toy Show, Shriners Auditorium, Wilmington MA
Show Sat & Sun 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

April 21, 2019, Hooksett Lions Club Model Train Show, Crawley Middle School, Hooksett NH
Show 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

2017-2018 NENTRAK SHOW PARTICIPATION SCHEDULE

September 29-30 2018 Pepperell Siding Show, Varnum Brook Elementary School, Pepperell, MA

Set-up: 7:00am - 9:00am
Show Sat 9:00am to 4:00pm Sun 10:00am to 4:00pm
Coordinator: **John Doehring - 978-433-6337**

October 27-28, 2018 Southshore Model Railroad Club, Bare Cove Park, 19 Fort Hill St, Hingham, MA

Set-up:
Show Sat & Sun 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Coordinator: **Frank Dignan - 508-866-9660**

November 17-18, 2018 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 1-2, 2018 - NMRA HUB Division Model Train Show, Best Western Royal Plaza Trade Center, Marlborough, MA

Coordinator: Rob Selberg (MaiNetrak)

Jan 25-27, 2019 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**

March 16-17, 2019 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 21, 2019 Hooksett Lions Club, Cawley Middle School, Hooksett, NH

Set-up: 8:00am - Show 10:00am to 4:00pm
Coordinator: **Russell Putnam - 603-835-6952**

Show Dates **Subject to Change**...Check Newsletters for Updates. Please check



Pictures from the past.



Train Trip by Mike Boucher

In Late April, I went on a bit of a road trip. I went Boston-Brampton, ON-Horseshoe Curve-Rockville Bridge-Steamtown in Scranton-Boston.

Brampton was for the "Great British Train Show". <http://www.rmweb.co.uk/brampton-on-visit/> This is a "once every 2 years" show, and it is strictly for British prototype models of all scales, no US/Canada nor Continental European allowed! Interestingly enough, this year no N scale layouts were on exhibit, and there was virtually no N scale for sale at the vendors, so my wallet was temporarily spared. I've been told that usually there are N scale layouts, but this year there were none offered for exhibit.

The only things of N scale interest were on the Rapido exhibit. They had a few demonstration pieces of the upcoming "Turbo Train" and their Pendolino train. I spent some time talking with Jason from Rapido, and he's pretty excited about the Turbo. Looks like a great little model, and the quality is what you would expect from Rapido.



At the show, I did see an OO layout which was smaller than an N-Trak module. The entire layout is 43" x 8". Beautiful work, built by Phil Parker of BRM magazine, and brought over from the UK to be raffled off at the shows. (I didn't win)



While up on Brampton, I went into Toronto for Saturday late afternoon. I wanted to see the old CN roundhouse which is preserved downtown and the exhibits around it, see Toronto's Union Station, and go up the CN tower.

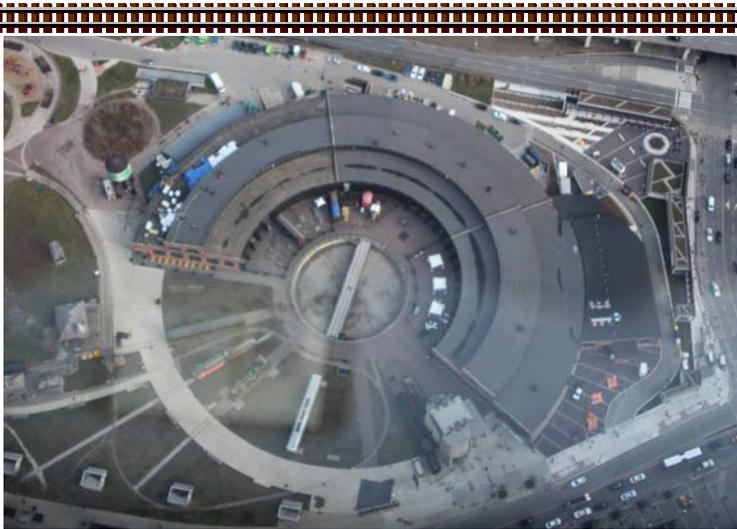
The roundhouse area has several preserved locomotives, rolling stock, and buildings. Here's a few.



Saw a VIA genesis unit in the special 40th anniversary paint scheme, pulling a westbound out of the station.



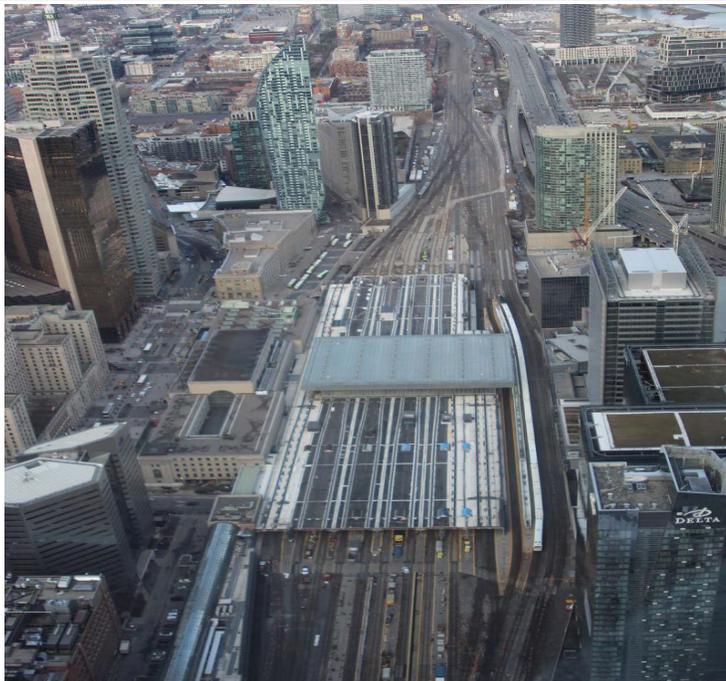
Went up the CN tower, here's a few views from 1100 feet up.



Note the cars themselves. Yes, those are solar panels on each car. I was pretty confused when I saw them, so I googled this train. I figured it was just a normal "unit train", but no, this was a lot more...

These cars are made to dump the ballast remotely, controlled by Herzog employees via computer, riding in the locomotives. Each car has a GPS device and a computer controlled system to control how far to open the hopper bays. The solar panels are to maintain the charge on the batteries which provide power to that equipment. The crew can program each car to dump its load at a specific location, determined by the GPS. This puts the ballast exactly where its needed. The ballast can be reliably dumped at speeds in the 10-12 mph range (usually), but they claim it can be done at much higher speeds.

And, as a bonus, this train had a couple of pushers. I had never seen pusher units being used.



After leaving Toronto, I drove south, 1/2 way on Sunday Night, the rest of the way on Monday morning. I needed to check "visit Horseshoe Curve" off my bucket list.

One of the first upgrade trains I saw turned out to be very interesting.



Few more photos from the curve.



After spending about 4 hours at Horseshoe curve, I went to Gallitzin to catch trsins at the 2 track westbound bore.



And then went down to altoona to see the Railroaders History Museum and Juniata shops. Outside Juniata, I found the 4 F units NS uses to power their Office Car specials.



Next day, I spent the morning at another iconic PRR location, the Rockville Bridge over the Susquehanna river. About 120 years old, and only 3800 feet long with over 40 stone arches. Magnificent structure. With luck on my side, the first Westbound I saw had the Lehigh Valley "Heritage Unit" leading the train.



Quite a trip. 5 days, 1550+ miles, and about 1100 photos taken on my camera. I'm looking forward to going to both Brampton and Horseshoe Curve again.

No Museum Show in 2019
By Bob Pawlak

After our annual meeting, I wrote to the Museum Show Coordinator to lock in the date of the show. Following is a copy of the reply email I received.

Dear Bob—
 Many thanks for your note, I appreciate it. I am sorry to write with disappointing news. I am afraid the Museum will not be able to do the train show in 2019. Bruce Work, the Museum's director, took a look at our expenses and income from the event and found that we, in spite of the generous work and dedication of you and all the train club members, we are not covering our costs. Again, I am sorry to disappoint you, Fay and Ken and all the others who have made this event happen for so many years. If you have any questions, please get in touch. With many thanks for all of your work with all the past train shows,
 Hilary

The HUB Division HO Model Railroad Club has been doing a Museum Show in mid-December before Christmas each year since well before we began to do so. I don't know whether they will continue to do so or not. What would Christmas be without trains?

The first Museum Show that Northeast Ntrak did was on December 28-29, 2002, the weekend between Christmas and New Year's day. After another year, we realized that eventually the holidays would occur on a weekend so we moved the show to the weekend prior to Presidents Day (third Monday of February), the beginning of February school vacation week in Lexington. We did a total of 15 Museum Shows. Another one was planned but canceled due to a predicted blizzard.

New Member

John Reidy
 Bedford, MA 01921
 JPR44ii@gmail.com

He is retired and has been in the hobby for 25 years. Has a 36" x 80" home layout and was formerly in a T-Trak club in Georgia.

A Second Life for NTRAK Modules by Alex Daggett

Here are some pictures of the old NTRAK layout and some new/old modules that I have gotten from Fay Chin recently. I am working on replacing track, scenery, buildings, plus adding some single cross-overs between main line tracks for switching trains back and forth and up and down. I plan to have 3 or 4 modules available to bring to shows this fall and winter. Many thanks to Fay and everyone who contributed blood, sweat, and tears to realize this wonderful layout and show it for so many years.



Fay Chin still has some of his Ntrak modules that are looking for owners. If you are interested contact him.

I have had 6 trains running at a time on here. The Yard will make it even more fun for staging and switching industry and operating freight and passenger at one time. Next? The Engine facility ... somewhere.