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President's Message Bob Fallier

Are You Ready for Winterfest - January 25th-27th?

Are you Registered? Better now than later before the price goes up. And the sooner Bob Pawlak has your on-line registration AND your check, the sooner we can get names out to ARS and get your name tags printed.

Want a hotel room? Better reserve now. I hate getting calls in the middle of January when people get me on the phone and whine about not getting a room. I can get you a room, but if you are late I can't promise you'll get it at the NTRAK discounted rate.

Hotel Reservations must be made before December 28, 2018 by calling **800-774-1500** or **413-886-8000**. Please identify yourself as a member of "NTRAK". After Dec. 28th, hotel reservations will be accepted on a space available basis only. Nightly rate: \$109 + taxes. There is ample free parking at the hotel for registered guests. The hotel will be available after 3:00 PM Friday for check-in.

HGI Address: 800 Hall of Fame Ave.,
Springfield, Ma. 01105

Modules: Is your module ready to show? Everything in good working order? Scenery clean and fresh looking. Your module says a lot about the hobby and a lot about NTrak. Even if it has been around for years, a little TLC can go a long way.

Model Contest: I warned you last year to be ready and you let me win first place in not one, but two categories. I'm not a good modeler, but some of you really are. Are you ready for a little show and tell?

A reminder: I hate to say this, but:
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WINTERFEST
JANUARY 25 - 27, 2019
REGISTER NOW

Kato SP Coast Daylight Coupler Options By Ernie Poole

The Southern Pacific Daylight passenger trains were among the finest of the country's name trains from the nineteen twenties, into the nineteen sixties. They started small, got much larger, and then faded away. A relatively short, but colorful and innovative period.

They were originally hauled by Pacific and Mountain type steam locomotives, and later by a series of "GS" 4-8-4 steam locomotives. When the diesels finally arrived in the late fifties, they were PA/B and E7/8/9 type diesels. There were even some FP7's and SDP45's before it ended. Which brings me to the point of the article.

Kato has marketed most all of this equipment in N scale over the years, and the set of ten Daylight passenger cars is current stock. The locomotives and separate add-on articulated chair coaches, are sold out, but found regularly on eBay, etc.

I know that several club members have this equipment, so I thought I would point out the options you have to operate them, just in case you're unaware like I was.
(continued on page 2)



Long shank position, as shipped

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

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 Model Train Show, Crawley Middle School, Hooksett NH

Show 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

2018-2019 NENTRak SHOW PARTICIPATION SCHEDULE

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, Crawley 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 schedule for errors and send up dates to Roland at: northeastntrak@msn.com Thanks for your help.

I found the coupler spacing between coaches to be excessive in the "as shipped, long shank" configuration. It just doesn't look right to me. I read about the kinematic couplers that could be substituted to close up the spacing on straight track, but allow slack in turns. I found that they work as advertised, but are very hard to couple up and use, plus the spacing looked so short as to be unrealistic.



When installing the kinematics, the regular couplers, still in their pockets, must be removed. It was here that I realized there's a third option. The pockets can be snapped onto the truck in two different positions. As shipped they are longer, but can be moved back toward the bolster one notch to shorten up the spacing. It's designed this way, but far as I know, they don't mention it anywhere.

This was the answer for me. I think the overall look is quite good in this position, and they couple and uncouple easily. If you run them at home on

12" radius it won't work, but for Ntrak you should be fine. So compare the pictures to compare. What do you think?



Train Show Report:
by Daniel F Pawling JR
November 3, 2018

The Great Wellesley Train Show was a big success lots of young families came through to see what the train show was all about. The young children were bubbling full of enthusiasm & curiosity. There were a lot of older children 40-75+ that had the same enthusiasm with a lot more subdued energy.

The club members that showed up with modules & to help set up did a great job pulling all the pieces together as a group effort. As far as set up and break down this was the best show that I have coordinated in many years. We had only 2 1/2 hours to set up and we got it all done & everyone worked like a fine-tuned machine. The layout was on the small size a rectangle 23' x 11' with an extra 8' in length for the coal end loop module for a total of 31'. Trains were running when the doors open at 10:00. That gave us the rest of the day to have fun running trains, fine tune the track work & get our rolling stock running well. There are some awesome consists that the club members are running. These train consists will be stiff competition for the parade of trains at Winterfest 2019. There were some new modules in the show that would be great to have in the NE Ntrak loop at Winterfest 2019

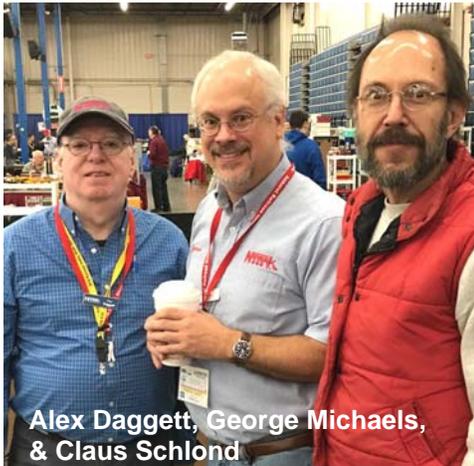
George Michaels is back in the saddle again after having back surgery wasn't able to lift but he was able to get the DCC up and Running with minimal problems. He did a lot of bending I am hoping the show didn't set him back to much. Thanks, George for coming it means a lot to the club to have you there.

Alex Daggett towed the trailer from Georges house on Friday & left it at the community center overnight & moved the trailer to the door in the morning. He also helped unload, setup, take down & then drove the trailer to Dan Pawling's to leave the trailer for some adjustments. The trailer will be there for two weeks until the Greenberg show. Thanks, Alex much appreciated help everybody should remember to thank him when you see him at the Greenberg Show.

The Club members who helped make the show go for all the rest of us: The Helpers Were: George Michaels, Mark Ferracane, Jim Nolan. The Conductors Crew that brought modules: Bob Fallier 8' Straight, Alex Daggett 3' corner left in his car used George's module instead, Claus Schlund 4' Straight module, Jim Pyle 4' straight 4' corner, Dan Pawling (show coordinator) 4' straight & 6' x 4' End Loop. Thanks to all for making this fun for everyone!!!!



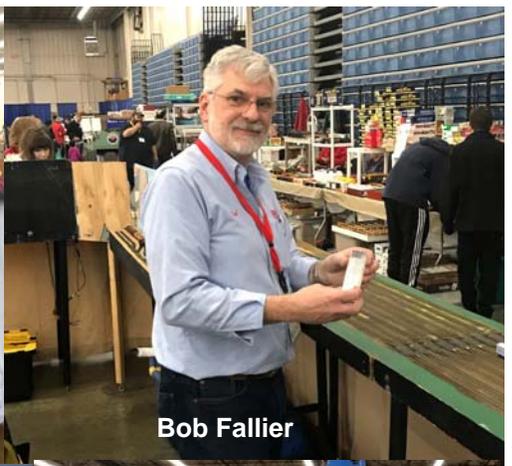
Pictures from Greenberg Show in November 2018 by Jim Nolan



**Alex Daggett, George Michaels,
& Claus Schlond**



**Bob Pawlak, Andrew Lum &
Ron Wood**



Bob Fallier



Carl Mesrobian and his son David



Dan Pawling



Dave Stewart



Jim Pyle



John Lauzon



Roland Kelley



Frank Dignan



Mark Ferracane



The Mad Scientists

No Completed Registration – No Contest Entry. Period. **Completed Registration** means Bob Pawlak has received your payment in full – In advance, not at the show, or “check is in the mail”. That means no registration package, no MTL or TroveStar car, and no dinner ticket. (yes that is word for word from last month)

Did you purchase extra auction tickets? I did!

Speaking of Dinner. You may have noted a *price decrease for the banquet*, and a subsequent increase in the overall registration fee. We have to pay for the hall and equipment rentals for two nights. Those who don’t join us for dinner but come later for the awards really were not contributing their fair share to the overall cost of Winterfest to Northeast NTrak. So to make it fair and equitable to everyone, we have raised the registration fee a little, but given those who attend the dinner a price break. Hopefully we’ll break even this year.

Awards: Things may get a little thin this year. We are doing everything we can to make sure we have enough to cover all the first place winners. You are all aware of the problems that some of our favorite manufacturers have had this year, and it directly impacts what they can afford to donate to us (and every other NTrak or similar organization through the year). If I’ve got goodies to give away, I’ll do my best to give you everything I can. As of this writing (Dec 17th) I’m still making follow up calls to our supporters.

Mini-Show: Good things there. Right now I have six, possibly seven and maybe even eight vendors coming on Friday night for an exclusive showing just for you! As we did last year, the Mini-Show will happen during registration on Friday night.

Did I mention dinner? I’m very pleased to tell you that Eric Smith from Micro-Trains will be our guest speaker. If you don’t attend the banquet, you may not get in to listen to Eric or be part of the awards presentations. No ticket, no entry.

A couple or repeats from last month:

No entry of a model, photo, or Parade of Trains will be permitted without a completed registration. No exceptions.

Guests – if you want to give up your own track time, that’s fine. Make sure you aren’t making it difficult for someone else to run. That especially applies to the Yellow DC track. We print schedules. Please use them.

Anyone under 16 must have a parent or guardian present (within earshot) at all times. That includes guests from Youth in Model RR and others. **Repeat - MUST have a parent present.**

Please don’t fry the Boosters. Keep in mind the total load on DCC boosters. Too many engines and/or lighted coaches and Poof! We don’t and should not have 10 amp boosters. Just like your larger home layouts, map out power districts so you don’t blow any of the club boosters. Please bring your own Digitrax throttle if you have one. Your name should be clearly marked on it. Once again we have “lost” our NENT throttles and have had to replace them. They were there one day, gone the next. If you have one of ours, please bring it back. We promise not to shoot, hang, or dismember you for the first offence. Second time might be a different story.

If you want to use a club throttle, you will need to sign it out and sign it back in. Fair warning: we may hold your driver license hostage. Not kidding here. We can’t afford to keep replacing them.

General Schedule Notes:

Friday: 7:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. – Set-up. (buildings open until 10 p.m.)

Friday: 2-4 p.m. Model and Photo entries accepted. (completed registration required)

Friday: 7-9 p.m. Member registration at the Hilton Garden Inn

Friday: 7:30-9 p.m. Manufacture's Mini-Show – Hilton Garden Inn, ground floor.

Saturday: Early – finalize set up. **Building open at 6:30 a.m., doors open to the public at 9:00.**

Saturday: 1-2 p.m. Parade of Trains – Better Living Center. *Judges needed for 1 hour to help.* Jim Pyle and John Becker will be the Grand Marshall and Gatekeeper. Get on the schedule early and be ready to depart on time. One hour without shopping won't hurt you, so please let Jim or John know in advance that you will help out. No judges, no parade.

Saturday: 2 p.m. Voting Ends. All member and public ballots must be submitted and boxes will be collected.

Saturday: 6:30-7 Happy Hour – Hilton Garden Inn.

7-8 Dinner - Black Tie optional. (or green tie, blue tie, no tie)

8:30 Key note presentation by Eric Smith of Micro-Trains!

9:00 Awards followed by Raffles. Doing it a little differently this year. Improved over last year.

If you show up 8:30 you may not get in the door.

Sunday – No sleeping late. Get up and go play. Please don't ask what ARS is giving us. I won't know any sooner than you do. **Buildings open at 7:00 a.m., public from 10:00-5:00.**

Coming soon to a Springfield near you. See you there!

Happy Rails,

Bob Fallier

603-465-3785

bfallier@Email.com