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## JANUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER 2

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### President's Message Bob Fallier



From the Presidents Chair... January 13, 2020

2020 Already? A new decade begins!

Back at the ranch where the snow has been cleared from the garden RR three or four times, progress has been made. Not so much outside, but preparations for the spring. I find part of the fun of outdoor railroading is what I can do in miniature. I really enjoy detailing N scale scenes and buildings as many of you have seen on my modules or home layout, but we all know there is a limit. Actually two limitations: space and how your fingers fit into that space. N does have a few drawbacks in that regard, at least for me. G on the other hand lends itself to just about anything you can imagine and then build. I won't go on and bore you with details, but to build a solar panel array for station lighting is fun! Putting up posters and finding the right kind of table or wall lamps for the interior and then making it all work together is actually fun! Fun for everyone other than the poor freight manager whose foot stuck to the step when he stepped on a big glob of gum. Well those things do happen.

Last year at the Amherst show I bought two really nice CMR (custom model railroad) buildings which have sat in their respective boxes for 11 months. Construction was easy, but getting the colors, weathering, and lighting right, well that was a challenge. Final result? Something I really like. No idea where I'm going to use them. At least not yet.

Here we are, less than two weeks away from the Big One... "The Big E", Winterfest 2020 and a lot of changes are happening this year. As you no doubt know by now, the Brooklyn guys have opted to move in with Connecticut in the Mallary Building. That should work out very well for all the guys in that building. More people to keep things rolling and with Chris Oliva's masterpiece the layout should be a hit! That leave a bit more space in the Better Living Center where Northeast NTRAK and MaineTrak have been getting pretty cramped as Brooklyn continued to grow. Sounds like a win-win for everyone.

There have been "management" changes for Winterfest as well. This should not come as news since we've been discussing it since last February. Your new

Chairman is George Michaels and I'm confident that we are in good hands. Jim Nolan has taken on the critical role as Master Awards Procurere, or Chief of Awards, or some other title of distinction. His is by no means an easy task and involves many hours of emails, phone calls, and personal visits. Once again your model and photo entries will be taken in by Jenna Michaels, Diane Fallier, Bob Arcus (?), and Pete Winewski. Please be sure to get your entries to the display table as early as possible on Friday or very first thing Saturday morning. Bob Arcus is taking on the role of Yard Master for the Parade of Trains, go easy on him.

The parade begins at 1 and ends at 2 on Saturday. Better Living Center. Please be considerate of the judges who would rather be either running their own trains or walking the aisles in search of goodies. So, Please be ready on time. That means you are on your designated track and ready to go when the dispatcher calls. And remember – No "out of the box" trains. Please be prepared to show what you have done to make your train special.

Registration Friday night begins at 7. Be there. We will also have the "Mini-Show" again thanks to Jim Nolan. I believe at this writing that he has four or five manufacturers lined up. Raffle items will also be on display during the Mini-Show. Get your extra tickets from Bob Pawlak while they last.

Raffles – I have some nice goodies for you to win. But you have to put your tickets in the bucket to be drawn. Top prize: ScaleTrains Dash-9CW in Norfolk Southern trim. DCC and Sound on board! Several other engines will be available as well as runner packs from Athearn and MicroTrains.

**>>> Reminder:** If Bob Pawlak has not received your completed Registration and your Check you cannot enter any of the contests. If you slip in unregistered and win, you will be disqualified and the award will go to the next in line. We will also have the People's Choice ballots available again this year.

In the Fall...

Contrary to popular belief, it is not too early to talk about the fall schedule, and specifically the HUB Division Westford show in October. As I noted last month, if you read that far, I'm the last person to talk about railroad operations. I enjoy building scenery and filling the insides of buildings with lights and stuff. "Operations" to me is about as foreign as Swahili. I could speak more easily about Ork, if Mork was still alive, than I can converse about operating a model railroad to simulate functional (continued on page 2)

## T-TRAK Train Show Schedule 2019 & 2020

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

**January 25-26, 2020, Amherst Railway Society Railroad Hobby Show**, Eastern States Exposition Fairgrounds, West Springfield MA

Show Sat 9:00am to 5:00pm - Sun 10:00am to 4:00pm

**March 7-8, 2020, Southshore Model Railroad Club**, 19 Fort Hill St., Hingham, MA

Show 9:00 am to 4:00 pm- Sun 10:00am to 4:00pm

**March 28-29, 2020, Greenberg's Train and Toy Show**, Shriners Auditorium, Wilmington MA

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

**April ??, 2020, Connecticut Valley Model Railroad Club**, Kearsarge Region Middle School, 32 Gile Pond Road, North Sutton, NH

Show 9:00 am to 3 pm

(continued from page 1)

transportation of goods and people. Here's the deal... You tell the rest of us what or how and we'll get it done. I'll build another module just for that purpose, but I need some guidance and I do not plan to be the only person building a module with this in mind.

### **Then What?**

That's easy gents. We use the new modules. Instead of running around in the same circles a hundred times a day, lets just put on our engineer hats and conductor hats and logistics manager hats and come up with something. Want to keep it simple? How about a John Allen based "time saver"? How about two of them in something of a point to point on the Blue track. Give priority to a manifest through freight (round and around?) and maybe a scheduled passenger run (round and round again), and then something with a purpose in mind. A to B (C&D) and back again. Run on a schedule? You guys know better than me how to do it, so pony up and lets talk it through BEFORE its too late to build what we need. Red and Yellow remain as they have always been, around and around.

Face it... once your train has done the loop three or four times you're looking for the next adventure. Here's your chance.\

Westford will be a two day show. Let's do it in style.

**Wrapping up...** Please take care of any repairs or scenery pfreshening that needs to be done before Winterfest, myself included. And please give some serious thought to my Layout Operations questions.

We still need another volunteer judge or two for the Parade of Trains. It's only 1 hour out of your shopping day. We could use some help after the banquet doing a little clean up. The more hands the merrier. If you

## 2019-2020 NENtrak SHOW PARTICIPATION SCHEDULE

### Jan 24-26, 2020 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 4:00pm

**Layout Coordinator:** Dan Pawling Jr., 617-244-5261

**Winterfest Chairman:** Bob Fallier - 603-465-3785

### March 28-29, 2020 Great Train Expo, Shriners Auditorium, Wilmington, MA

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 ??, 2020 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 schedule for errors and send up dates to Roland at: [northeastntrak@msn.com](mailto:northeastntrak@msn.com) Thanks for your help.

plan to put up any kind of poster/room sale ad you MUST clear it with the hotel first and you must use low-tack tape, otherwise you could be charged for cleanup. The hotel does not provide tape.

Happy Rails!

Bob

### Some of the Raffle Prizes

