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President's Message Bob Fallier

From the President's Chair, Late April 2021.

Happy Spring everyone!

April Zoom call - thanks again to Jim Nolan for setting that up. The monthly zoom call is always a great opportunity for everyone to catch up on each other's news and events.

The Layout Videos some of you have done are a great addition to our zoom calls. If you can, please pre-record your video. Check it for dark scenes or bouncy parts that distract from your video. It really is great to see what everyone has been working on, whether new or old and layout tours often give the rest of us an idea that we hadn't thought about before.

2021 Module Plaques should be in the mail. If you volunteered to be part of the NTRAK layout at the Springfield show or were part of the TTRAK virtual show, then you should receive a plaque. I had about 16 people willing to be part of the NTRAK layout and I think Fay had ten as part of TTRAK. Cost rounded up to \$10 is a fair price. If you have not already mailed your check, then you need to get that to Fay. Any donations above that would very gladly be accepted by Bob Pawlak for the general fund and expenses.

Dues are due. Please send your check for \$25 to Bob Pawlak. Just do it so Bob doesn't need to nag you about it later.

First on the Schedule: Work Day. May 15 at the trailer location in Amesbury. Please plan to attend. Modules need a tune up? Wiring needs some help? Power Poles yet to be added? We always have a good time, so please plan to attend.

Annual Picnic and Business Meeting - Tentatively scheduled for June 12th at my house. This is a week before Father's Day, so no excuses. Jim Nolan will provide burgers which he has promised are the best you can get. You are welcome to bring your own food if you prefer. By then everyone should have been vaccinated and for the most part we will be outside. The garden RR has grown since the last picnic and you are welcome to play. I may have a couple of engines running on batteries and radio control by then which will add to the flexibility and fun. At a minimum we should be able to run three or four trains at a time. We will have the usual agenda, elect board members, discuss expenses and dues, and most importantly the show schedule and attendance.

Showtimes: Confirmed show in Westford, Ma, Columbus Day weekend. This is a two day show with a focus on Operations. We will set up a little differently, using DC on the red track and DCC on Yellow and Blue. This will allow us some track to track switching which we normally don't do. It should be fun! Details to follow when I have them.

Annual Dues are Due by Bob Pawlak

The anniversary date for when almost everyone in Northeast Ntrak needs to update their annual membership with NTrak, Inc., now called NRail, is July 1. Annual renewal dues to NRail have increased from \$5 to \$10. Therefore, \$10 of your dues paid to Northeast Ntrak will go to NRail on or about June 15 as one large check. During one of the recent zoom meetings the annual dues for Northeast Ntrak have been raised to \$25 and are due by the drop dead date of June 15, 2021. The last Membership List dated March 17, 2020, in the last column of the second page with the heading "Date_Exp" shows the date you are paid up until. Most people are paid up until June 30, 2021. The only exceptions are Frank Dignan and Dan Pawling who are paid up until July 1, 2022. Honorary members do not pay Northeast Ntrak dues and are on their own to pay annual Nrail dues.

Therefore, everyone else, please send your check for \$25 payable to *Northeast Ntrak* to Bob Pawlak, 18 Burroughs Road, Lexington, MA, 02420-1908. Some people will be wanting to send me a donation for the Winterfest 2021 plaque. You can send one check to cover both dues and plaque donation. Please do not procrastinate. Please do not force me to send numerous reminders. Please send your dues well before the drop dead date of June 15, 2021. The penalty structure for late payment of dues will appear in the next newsletter.

Pending is the Concord show in August. Ron Wood is keeping watch on that for any updates. It also looks like the November Greenberg show (Frank D.?) will be open and we may want to be part of the Marlborough show in December again.

No decision on the Tour d' Chooch yet, but I suspect most people will be willing to participate again. Masks may be required at some layouts as well as limits on the number of people inside. TBD. If the Tour does happen, my doors will be open.

Looking into 2022 is of course Springfield in January. I'll be looking for volunteers to help with planning and operations. Jim Nolan will once again manage the "gift giving" from the manufacturers, Jim Pyle will help with the Parade of Trains. We will need people to register model and photo entries, judges for the parade, a DCC Guru, photographer (Pete W.?) and face it, sooner rather than later we need a new Chairman. I've been in the seat for 10 years and I think by now I've earned some time off (besides the covid time off).

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Northeast T-TRAK 2021/2022 Show Schedule

Northeast T-TRAK anticipant the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will permit train shows to go on by the late quarter of 2021. I also anticipant we and the general pubic have been vaccinated. I am sure there are people who refused to get vaccinated, therefore we will still practice social distancing and possibly masking. I have submitted several layout proposals to the show host with minimal distance from the wall and corner so we can control our distance from the public attendees.

Below is the tentative Northeast T-TRAK 2021/2022 show schedule.

Oct 2 & 3, 2021

NVRRRA RailFair 2021, Boxboro, Ma

Oct 8-11, 2021

NMRA NER Mill City Convention, Westford, MA

Nov 20 & 21, 2021

Greenberg Train Show, Shriner Auditorium, Wilmington, MA

Dec 4 & 5, 2021

NMRA Hub Div, Marlboro, MA

Jan 30 & 31, 2022

ARS Railroad Hobby Show, West Springfield

Mar ??, 2022

Greenberg Train Show, Shiner Auditorium, Wilmington, MA

Contact Fay Chin at ntrak@gmail.com if you wish to Participate. Hope to see you at the shows.

Power Pole Crimping Tool

by Bob Pawlak

I borrowed the power pole crimping tool about two months ago and have finished using it. Jim Nolan was kind enough to ship it to me from the club box in the trailer when I asked for its whereabouts. If anyone has need of it currently, I will be happy to see that you get it promptly. But otherwise, I plan to hang on to it until I can cross paths with the club boxes in the trailer.



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Nothing else on the books for 2022 yet... but that will change as the year moves along.

The monthly NRAIL was interesting and you should all attend. It has been a Zoom meeting at 4pm and usually broken into 4 segments. Of greatest interest to me in the April meeting was an introduction to JMRI which was very nicely done. Lowell Smith presented his latest and greatest and the NRAIL YouTube library is growing. If you have not yet attended one of the NRAIL meetings then you should really make a point of joining the next one. An hour well spent! If you have not received notices/emails about the Zoom dates and time, please contact Bruce Alcock.

Last month I talked about all the modules that were taking space in my train room and very much in the way. The best place to keep them safe is under my layout so Diane and I moved about 50 "large scale" RR car boxes up to the attic and I took a load of "stuff" to the recycling center. After 5 years, I finally removed the electronics and power distribution boards for my "Digital Block Control" system, having replaced that with Digitrax in 2016. Now I have 5 modules under plus the 6 footer Dammtor Station module in place in my layout, and Disney standing on end and mostly out of the way. I have my room back again!!!

Repeat....

Dues Due. \$25 Send your check to Bob Pawlak

On my list of Winterfest volunteers: Jim Pyle, Alex Dagget, George Micheals, Matt Thibodeau, Claus Schlund, Ken Harstine, Jim Nolan, Bob Pawlak, Steve Cappers, John Doehring, Jeff & Russell Putnam, Ron Wood. If I missed you on this list, please let me know.

Happy Rails! Bob

