

President - Bob Fallier Vice Pres - George Michaels
Treasurer - Robert Pawlak Editor - Roland Kelley
Winterfest Chairman - Bob Fallier

Editor - Northeast Ntrak, 41 Easy Street, Lowell, MA 01850-1731, or
e-mail: NortheastNtrak@msn.com Web Site - www.northeastntrak.org



President's Message Bob Fallier

Happy Spring everyone! Ready for the Greenberg show this month or April show in Hooksette? No? Me either. Time flies. A year since the world stopped turning. I'll skip the politics and simply say I hope Biden knows what he's gotten himself into. What a mess!

Ok, moving on. We have a new member - Adam Burns from Littleton, Ma. Welcome to Northeast NTRAK!

March Zoom call - thanks again to Jim Nolan for setting that up. On the Zoom call we decided to move forward with the Module Plaques for those who offered to attend the Springfield show and for our Mini-Show guests: Eric Smith, Lowell Smith, Bobby Allard, and Michael Groves. It was nice to see my great-nephew Xavrian on the call. Many of you have already met him at Greenberg shows and he would like to join us on a more regular basis. We had a video tour of Larry's modular layout, Jim's new modular yard with R-Y-B interchange tracks, and Jim Pyle showed off his animation work and all new, all modular layout in his basement. Great work everyone!

Hmmm? What else? It has been a quiet month indeed.

Last month I wrote about a new module that I built, a simple four footer. The problem I have with modules at home is that if I sent them up, I can only run point to point. My "Imagination" module had an end loop from Red back to Blue, but that's the extent of my loop. Until now.

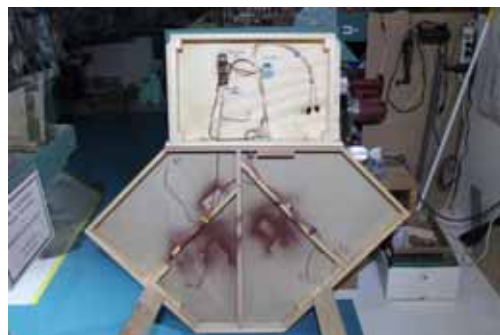
Never sitting still. I had a quick and dirty end loop that I built in about 3 hours for the Tour d' Chooch a couple of years ago. Just a piece of homasote with some track on it and some of that was too tight for any decent size engine. When not in use it just sits on end, sort of out of the way. Hmmm? What if? I pulled out my large NTRAK planning book and looked for end loops. Well I really don't have much space and I didn't want to run out and buy more plywood or homasote. So I scrounged for what I had on hand.

Finding a piece of plywood about 18x30 inches, I wondered if I could tack that onto one end of the existing loop and have something large enough to actually be of some value. Well, yes. I pulled all the old track and found the best side to use. The piece I'm starting with is sort of a truncated or flattened diamond shape. Various testing and fitting and I decided where to add the extension. Left or Right end?

Why not both? Either way it is going to stick out so I decided to put the three tracks down the centerline so that it could be clamped at either end of a module. Red-Blue is a simple loop

with gaps and feeds. Yellow is a true reversing loop. DC or DCC? Why not both? I took three Double Pole, Double Throw toggles and a Digitrax AR-1 DCC auto-reversing unit and wired it so that if running DC, we could park a train, flip the Yellow DC polarity, flip the toggle and run back out. If running on DCC, the first toggle would be set to the DCC position, the AR-1 would handle the reverse switching, and the output of either the AR-1 or DC reverse switch would feed into the third toggle switch and then to the track. Works just fine. It's big enough, why not add a couple of short sidings? Scenery - no. It will just stand up along a wall and any scenery sticking out will get damaged. But Xavrian was here. So we did some base undercoat painting, painted the frame black, and then went to town on grass and a few shrubs. No Trees! Trees will get knocked off. Unless trees are planted in a "rock" that can just be plopped in the middle. Sure. That works!

No sense in sitting back watching TV when I can make something useful from something impractical? The new loop is still a little tight, but I tested it and it works without derailments. On a short loop to loop layout there is very little chance of running either a long train or long cars, so it should work fine and still be small enough to put out of the way.



Standing on end the way it will be stored. Semi-finished.

End stage. The "rocks and trees" are just sitting on top, remove for storage.



You just never know...I had an email from Ray at Trains on Tracks on Friday last week telling me of a couple who might want to see my layouts. So I wrote them a quick Hi, told them I'm home any time, and gave them my phone and address. Well... they live four houses away! Imagine that! They came over Friday evening and then my wife and I had dinner with them Friday night. Joy is really into model trains and is very excited about getting a layout in the works.... G Scale. But you never know. When you can't do much outside, maybe I can talk them into building a couple of modules for inside

Annual Picnic anyone? I'd be happy to host again.

Dues will be coming soon. \$25 Send your check to Bob Pawlak

For those who offered to attend Winterfest 2021, Module Plaques will be available for you. Cost is about \$8.00 (a larger donation would be greatly appreciated). On my list of 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.

And finally - I bit the big bullet and bought one of my favorite German engines... in G scale. Picked it up today. Happy Rails!

The Models:
PIKO G scale and MiniTriX N scale



Remember the old days?



The DB E-103 Heavy Passenger Express, built between 1966 & 1973, delivered over 10,000hp. 149 were built and the last in regular service was in 2003.

New Member

Adam Burns
Vocational School Shop Teacher
Age group 49
Member of Boston and Maine Railroad Historical Society
He has just started an end cap T-Trak module, with double tracks.