

**President's  
Message**



Ron Wood

**April Thoughts**

Well, as I type this, spring is officially here! It is long overdue after this winter! The Greenberg show is in March this year and that is early. Following that, there is the Hooksett, NH show on April 27<sup>th</sup> which is a Sunday. We will be featuring a point to point layout with the end loops. If anyone has a module with mountain division that they'd like to bring please give me a call as we are allowed close to 32 feet of modules!

Once again, I think doing smaller and different shows are good for Northeast N-Trak because they broaden our audience and grow our potential membership. I think we also need to come up with a "membership wanted" display for use at shows. This needs to be something that gets peoples attention. It should have the club logo and brochures as well as membership applications. Something else I'd like to try would be to rent a table at a show and set up a membership booth. Perhaps we could do this at shows that we don't currently participate in and see if we get any prospects that way. Of course, it would be an experiment and there would be no guarantee that the number of memberships sold were enough to pay for the table. But again, maybe this would be a way to expand our membership. Another idea would be to have a fundraiser. Not quite sure on how to go about that. Any suggestions?

I'd like to have a membership meeting sometime in May if possible. I'd like it to be a brainstorm session on how to better organize the club and increase membership. More information such as a meeting place and date will be in the next newsletter. Let me know your thoughts!

Thanks. Ron.

**New Member "Opportunities"**  
**by Bob Pawlak**

As the membership chairperson for the club, I study the applications for new members as they come in. I then call or e-mail the new member to welcome them to the club and try to find out more about what their plans and objectives in N-scale are. I try to suggest things they might try to do or recommend certain other people for them to talk to depending on their particular needs or interests. I also usually offer to help them in some specific way that seems critical to their progress at the moment. But once I have "broken the ice" with this initial contact, I must admit, I don't do much more to follow up because I assume the new member will take some initiative, begin to come to train shows, ask questions, ask for help, etc. But, experience has shown that for some unknown reason, this does not always happen. Therefore, the purpose of this article is to review those "opportunities" that are available to new (and not so new) members of the club. Hopefully, the new members will thereby be motivated to become more active more quickly and the regular club members will be more sensitive and responsive to the needs of the newer members. The suggestions presented in this "tutorial" reflect the way I perceive the typical activity of our club. If anyone has other ideas, I hope they will please speak up.

**Running Trains at Shows.** Using the sign up sheet to reserve an hour for running your own trains on one of the three mainline tracks is a privilege, especially for new members. First choice for sign up on an empty sheet at the beginning of a show is usually offered by the show coordinator to those who have brought modules, (in order of arrival for set up or most modules brought). Next choice goes to those without modules who have helped with set up. If time slots still remain after that (which is usually the case), those who arrive after set up can reserve a time slot. (Incidentally, everyone who signs up to run trains should also feel responsible to sign up for tower duty.) Time slots for the Red

Line (outside mainline track), Yellow Line (middle), and Blue Line (inside track) are staggered by 20-minute intervals to minimize congestion of trains and people in the yard area at the transition times. Set up your train on an empty track of the yard a few minutes ahead of time so that you are ready to start operation at your scheduled time. Try to be quick and efficient about how you store, transport, and get your train on and off the track. Be sure you are ready to run your train or trains during the complete hour of your scheduled time. Coordinate your activity with the train owner scheduled before and after your scheduled hour on your designated track so that trains are always running for the public to view. Help control the turnouts at the ends of the yard to guide your train out of and back into the yard on the appropriate track. Follow your train for at least the first few times around the loop to be sure everything is operating correctly. Be the first on the scene to fix a derailment or breakaway of your train. Clear your train storage equipment away from the yard area until it is time to pull your train. This makes it easier for others to set up their trains. Do not leave the area of the layout while your train is running. If your train is longer than will fit on one yard track, shorten it to fit on one track as your scheduled time runs out. Do not stop running your train until the next scheduled operator's train is ready to leave the yard.

This article will be continued next month and will cover DCC Operations, Tear Down, Layout Visits, and New Module Construction Assistance.

**Amherst Big "E" Show**  
**February 2004**

Wanted to give everyone an early warning. The dates for the 2004 show have been shifted to February 7 and 8. This has been done so we will not have to compete with the audience for the Super Bowl which has been moved to February 1. Please mark your calendars and if you have made any advance hotel reservations for the 2004 show please be sure to switch them to the correct dates.

**Schedule of Shows for Coming Year**

Date	Set-up	Show Time	Show	Place	Show Coordinator
Mar 29	8am	10am to 5pm	Greenberg Show	Shriners Auditorium, Wilmington, MA	Ernie Poole, 978-658-9563
	30	9am 10am to 4pm			
Apr 27	7am	10am to 4pm	Hooksett Lions Club	Hooksett Memorial School, Hooksett, NH, Rte 3	Ron Wood, 603-889-0741
May 22	7am	9am to 3pm	Children's Hospital	300 Longwood Dr., Boston, MA	Robert Pawlak, 781-862-2485