

WE WISH HIM GOOD LUCK.

The word is that Frank Dignan is moving to Virginia. Northeast Ntrak will miss Frank. He was very active and never missed a train show with his modules. I know I am not alone in wishing you the best and know that the Northern Virginia Club will be gaining a great new member. It will be hard to fill the hole in the club created by your loss. Hope to see you Frank at the Chantilly, VA show.



Test Weight Car by Roland Kelley

This picture was taken at the Danbury Railway Museum on September 13, 2003. The car is from the Pennsylvania Railroad. This car was used to calibrate the scales the railroads used. They had a set weight to them and were used periodically to check and standardize the scales. Although small in size this car weight in at 30,000 lbs. This would make a great scratch building project.

RUSTY RAIL CONDITIONS by Dan Pawling, Sr.

SESSION OPERATOR!!!

DISPATCHERS!!! I know that your tracks are the cleanest, but here is a rule that you can adapt and invoke from time to time to further enliven operating sessions.

The following rule applies to the Fall River, Fitchburg and New Bedford CSX Subdivisions:

"RUSTY RAIL CONDITIONS: When rusty rail conditions exist, trains and engines must approach all crossings equipped with automatic warning devices prepared to stop unless it is known that auto matic warning devices have been operating properly for a minimum of 20 seconds prior to occupying the crossing..." Info from J. Moldover. "CSX Transportation, Eastern New York and New England Routes, Timetable # 1, Effective 6/1/2002." Pages 40, 43 and 67.

SURPRISES AT THE HOFSTRA GREENBERG SHOW story & photos by Dan Pawling, Sr.



Getting to Hofstra University for the Fall Greenberg Show by public transportation might have been the first surprise - I changed my mode of travel seven times to get in the door. This is normal for that trip! Given the surprises found, however, it was worth the journey!

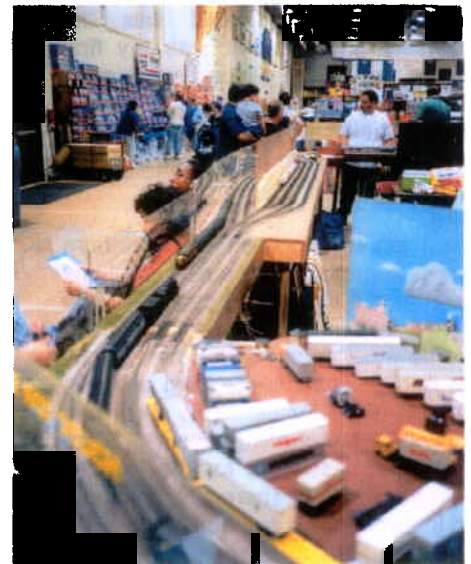
The first surprise was included in the Long Island NTrak layout, which itself was extensive: a large square with two peninsulas each with a loop track at their ends. The surprise was a brand new, experimental, hinged lift bridge, which I understand is a Bob Gatland project. This was the first time the bridge was being used under train show conditions. Compared with the heavy-duty bridge we have used at several Winterfests, this is a lightweight, innovative, attractively designed structure. It seemed to perform perfectly both during the lift for passage of humans and the re-latch for smooth running of trains. This is a promising development and I hope that further testing will prove its value for NTrak.



Long Island HO HOtrack Club. Note interior for 8 track staging yard with outer tracks forming loop for continuous mainline running.

Two more surprises, as shown in the photos, were at the Long Island "HO Trak Club's square layout. Inside the square was a 7-track yard. The yard tracks converge into two leads that cross over and join mainline tracks. The surprise for me was a mainline track running along the outside of the yard, around a loop at the far end and returning along the other side of the yard to the regular modules of the square. The outer yard tracks connect with the peripheral mainline. I thought this an interesting way to add scale running miles to a layout.

Another surprise at this layout was the 4-



Long Island's HO "HOtrack". Note the 4 track staging yard behind the sky board, with connections to two mainline tracks at either end of the yard.

track run-through yard behind the a sky-board. Each pair of yard tracks connects to a mainline track at either end. In addition to having made-up trains on standby, other possibilities include use as out-of-sight passing tracks, or opposite direction running with DCC..

Fourth and fifth surprises: near the HO layout, were a table and chair at which I sat for a snack and the chance to see some young folk enjoying railroad operations. The memory of their continuing high interest on all sides of that layout may well be the most enduring of all of the day's surprises.



Long Island Ntrak Web Site:

<http://groups.msn.com/LongislandNtrak>