

# *FUN*TRAK Times!

Volume 32

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FREE

## *Pratts' hollow*



Not to be confused with the small hamlet in New York, the above t-trak layout belongs to *FUNTRAK* club member Adam Pratts. Club members gathered together at Fat Cats in Herkimer on a Wednesday afternoon meet to display and run trains. Originally, the idea was to set up everything outdoors, but mother nature disagreed. With thunderstorms, rain and lightning, everyone decided that being indoors was a much better idea. Fortunately, Fat Cats owner, Felix, agreed to allow us to set up the trains in the back room. The result was the magnificent display shown in this picture. Other minor glitches kept the club from operating exactly as planned, but overall, these problems were overcome and trains ran to the anticipated expectations of the public. Thanks to everyone for their support and help in making this a wonderful experience!

# From the Desk:

And so it begins. The model railroad "season", that is! Most model railroad shows stop near the end of spring and start up again at the beginning of fall. **FUNTRAK** has been dealing with this situation over the years by holding meetings throughout the quiet summer months at various car cruise-ins where the members set up small layouts for the public to peruse and enjoy in the hopes of attracting possible new members and additions to the model railroading hobby itself. To this end, **FUNTRAK** has been relatively successful. The club has added numerous new members in just the past two years thanks to this effort and the clubs welcoming spirit. Along with new members comes new ideas, concepts and modules to support these new additions. The annual **PicNik** in August is used as a testing base for the upcoming display season. Here, new modules that may not be acceptable for public display yet are showcased to test the operability and concepts used with these new modules. This is the only time "plywood forests" are allowed in **FUNTRAK** setups. All club modules presented to the public have at least a minimum amount of scenery on them. Comments are often heard about how realistic the layouts look and how well the trains run. This is due to the efforts of club members and the attention to detail expended in constructing these miniature kingdoms. Many times people talk about the unusual features shown on these modules and are amazed at the amount of time and effort required to achieve these wonderful results. The first

official show for **FUNTRAK** begins with the Fonda Fair. This week long activity allows **FUNTRAK** to prepare for the current upcoming shows that occur between September and May of the following year. Many new modules constructed by members such as Adam Pratts are being presented for the first time this year. Lorenzo Franchi has decorated his own personal passenger train to run on the club's layouts this season. Brand new this year, but not quite yet ready for prime time, are the club's mountain inside corners. These are specialty modules that allow a mountain layout to form an "L" shaped layout. This decreases the linear distance required by bending the layout around a corner and extending it in a different direction. Thanks to Jeff Sorenson for his expert carpentry in building these two modules. His exceptional skills make these superb modules and **FUNTRAK** looks forward to having them finished enough to include them in a future layout. Other new items in the works include 3D printed modules with externally adjusted legs. These modules have an adjustment feature that allows leveling the module using installed adjustable lags that can be accessed from the exterior of the module without interfering with the scenery on the top of the module. Another item that is not quite ready for prime time but is on the front burner. Come to the shows scheduled this model railroading season and watch for **FUNTRAK**'s newest innovations. We look forward to seeing you there!

**Brian**

# PICNIC



# FAT CATS



# EVENTS

# Schedules

## 183<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fonda Fair

21 South Bridge Street  
Fonda, New York 12068

Wednesday, August 28, 2024 through  
Monday, September 2, 2024

General Admission – \$12.00

Senior Citizen's Day (62 years & Older) —

Wednesday & Friday – \$5.00

Children 6-11 years – \$2.00

Children under 6 years – FREE

Parking – \$5.00

Info: Phone: 518-853-3313

Fax: 518-853-3310

E-mail Address: [fondafair2012@yahoo.com](mailto:fondafair2012@yahoo.com)

## 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Thousand Islands Train Fair

Clayton Arena Route 12  
Clayton, New York

Saturday, September 7, 2024: 9 am - 5 pm

Sunday, September 8, 2024 10 am - 4 pm

Admission: Adults \$7

Children under 12 free

Info: Tom at (315) 489-1856

## September 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>Fonda Fair</b>	3	4	5	6	<b>Clayton</b>
<b>Clayton</b>	9	10	11	12	13	14
	15	16	17	18	19	20
<b>Massena</b>	23	24	25	26	27	28
	29	30				

## October 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
8	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

## 15th Annual St Lawrence Valley

### Model Train, Toy, &

### Collectible Expo

presented by

Norwood Model Railroad Club

Massena Arena

180 Harte Haven Plaza

Massena, New York 13662

Saturday, September 21, 2024 10:00am to 5:00pm

Sunday, September 22, 2024 10:00am to 4:00pm

\$5.00 Per Person,

Age 10 and under FREE

### FUNTRAK Officers

President: Lorenzo Franchi (315)867-4976

Vice President: Greg Brockway

Treasurer: Brian F. King (315)292-7066

## MONTHLY QUIZ

Who was the first sitting U.S.

President to ride a train?

Trains have a rich history in United States politics — among other things, they helped 19th-century candidates crisscross the nation and have frequently been the site of stump speeches. But it wasn't until 1833 that a President first rode on one of these so-called "Iron Horses." Andrew Jackson rode a Baltimore & Ohio Railroad train on a pleasure trip from Washington, D.C. up to Baltimore.