# FUNTRAK Times!

### Volume 32

Number 11 FREE

# November 2024 INTERNATIONAL CANARADERIE



FUNTRAK was honored to have our southernmost member, Mark Bean join us for a meeting at Fat Cats at the beginning of October. We also were privileged to have Mike LaCasse join in the fun from the Albany N-Trak group. Along with operating trains everyone enjoyed a delicious meal prepared at the restaurant. FUNTRAK is looking into making this a regularly scheduled event each month where we can gather, eat, discuss business, and, most of all, run trains! If you are out and about, stop in and see us.

#### From the Desk: We

welcome our southernmost member to espouse on his visit to us up here in the hinterlands. Thanks Mark.

#### Brian The Hobo's Fire:

Hello from a temporarily displaced Australian. Yes, I'm in (Coopers) town as I type this, on the last leg of a whirlwind tour of three states.

We (I brought my entire family this time) landed in Philadelphia, on the 21st of September. It PA doesn't happen every time but if there is going to be an issue with it's going my flight, to be at Philly International. Back in 2000, the aeroplane in front hadn't cleared the runway so our pilot had to power up the engines and we had go around for another landing to attempt. This time we couldn't get to the gate. We taxied up but there was no ground crew to guide the plane that last little bit. Then the gate bridge operator had to come from somewhere else in the airport. Then there was an issue with the gate bridge so we all had to sit back down whilst the plane was pushed back to the alternate gate bridge.

After a few days in the Philly area, the family plus my mom and younger sister flew to Boston and then drove out to Cape Cod, MA for a mini vacation. Afterwards, the family split up with my wife and kids heading off to spend time in New York City and then San Francisco before heading back to Australia. I flew back to Philly with my mom and runway sister. Sure enough, the wasn't clear so the engines spooled back up and the plane went around again.

After dumping the family back at their place, I pointed the rental car in the direction of friends, eventually landing at Brian's house.

Collaborating via Skype with a massive time difference presents certain challenges so we tend to be most productive when we're in the same building. We've made excellent progress on a number of projects. I'11 let the details present themselves when the projects complete and are presented to the public.

On Thursday, 3 October, a group of us met and ran a small layout at Fat Cats. Mike LaCasse came up to represent Albany N-Trak which was great as I haven't seen him in a while. It's sounding like Fat Cats might be the location for a monthly meeting for FUNTRAK going forward and why not? The food and company are excellent and you get to interact with a public that would probably never go to an exhibition.

Sunday saw a group of us at Bill McChesney's house running his Lehigh Valley themed HO scale layout. This was a rare opportunity to run а strictly DC controlled layout. It took me a minute or two to wrap my head back around block control but then I was off and running. Bill was font a wonderful host and a of knowledge. I had no idea the the Lehigh Valley went through 50+ paint lifetime of schemes over the the Bill 40 of them railroad. has represented on his layout.

traveled We then to Mike LaCasse's house for a tour of his This first layout. was my opportunity but the others were eager to see the expansion since their last visit.

I'm just a day or two from heading back home as I type this. As always, you're welcome to stop by for a visit any time. See you soon.







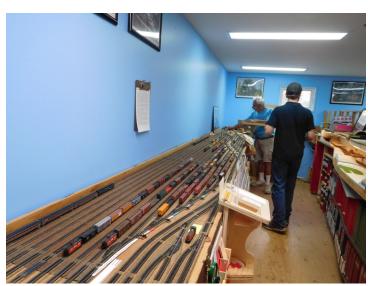
## BILL MCCHESNEY













#### 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Great New York State Model Train Fair

Sponsored by: The Central New York Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society State Fairgrounds, Syracuse, New York Saturday, November 2, 2024 10:00am to 5:00pm Sunday, November 3, 2024 10:00am to 4:00pm Admission: Adult-\$15 Children under 15-FREE

#### Holiday Express Model Railroad Show

presented by Oswego Valley Railroad Association At the Volney Volunteer Fire Barn 3002 State Route 3, Fulton, New York Saturday, November 9, 2024 10:00am to 5:00pm Sunday, November 10, 2024 10:00am to 4:00pm Adults-\$5:00 Children 6-12 \$2:00 under 6 FREE

#### **Albany Train Show**

The Polish Community Center 225 Washington Avenue Extension Albany, New York 12205 Saturday,November 23, 2024 9:00am-3:00pm Admission - \$7.00, Children 0-12 FREE Contact Us: Doug Bafaro (518) 879-6341 dblionel@hotmail.com Jeff Stedge (518) 852-7725 jstedge@nycap.rr.com

#### **Toy & Train Show**

presented by Western New York RailwayHistorical Society Event Center on the Fairgrounds 5820 South Park Avenue Hamburg, New York 14075 Saturday, November 23, 2024 10:00am 5:00pm Sunday, November 24, 2024 10:00am 4:00pm Adults-\$8:00 Children under 12 - FREE

## Schedules

November 2024										
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat				
					1	Syracuse				
Syracuse	e 4	5	6	7	8	Volney				
Volney	11	12	13	14	15	Remsen				
17	18	19	20	21	22	23				
24	25	26	27	28	29	30				

December 2024									
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7			
8	9	10	5	12	13	14			
15	16	17	Fat Cat	s 19	20	21			
22	23	24	25	оснс	оснс	оснс			
29	30	31							

### 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Model Railroad Show

Sponsored by:

Remsen Arts Center Remsen Performing & Visual Arts Center 9627 Main Street Remsen, New York 13428 Saturday, November 16, 2024 10:00am to 3:00pm Admission: FREE (recommended donation \$5.00)

## **MONTHLY QUIZ**

#### How do drones help run the railroad?

#### .etoofolo.

One of the coolest train facts is that the railroad industry uses drones. In order to run a safe railroad, tracks must be in good shape. Drones help by flying over rail yards and around bridges, allowing ground-penetrating radar and track