

*FUN*TRAK Times!

Volume 32

Number 11

November 2024

FREE

INTERNATIONAL CAMARADERIE



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, PA on the 21st of September. It doesn't happen every time but if there is going to be an issue with my flight, it's going 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 to go around for another landing 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 sister. Sure enough, the runway 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'll 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 a 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 a wonderful host and a font of knowledge. I had no idea the the Lehigh Valley went through 50+ paint schemes over the lifetime of the railroad. Bill has 40 of them represented on his layout.

We then traveled to Mike LaCasse's house for a tour of his layout. This was my first 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.

Mark

FAT CATS



BILL MCCHESENEY



MIKE LACASSE



EVENTS

49th 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 Railway Historical 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	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 Cats	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	OCHC	OCHC	OCHC
29	30	31				

8th 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?

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 wayside sensors to identify possible track defects.