

FUNTRAK Times!

Volume 33

Number 1

January 2025

FREE

ONEIDA COUNTY HISTORY CENTER



FUNTRAK provided its annual Holiday layout at the Oneida County History Center from December 26th through December 28th again this year. This display regularly draws large crowds of railroad fans of all ages and is eagerly anticipated each year. Spectators from eight to eighty and everywhere in between come out to admire *FUNTRAK* members efforts at creating scenes on these tiny modules that fascinate folks with the imaginative ideas presented in miniature. The bird's eye view above shows the layout for this year 9n the new "L" shaped mountain design. The new shape allows for longer trains on the mountain line and more interest than the traditional oval. Powering two line with conventional DC power and two other lines with digital command control makes it possible to run multiple trains at the same time. With this arrangement there is almost always a train to follow somewhere on the line. This keeps the small children occupied as they walk around the layout following their train as it traverses the miniature world. Best of all, this show is free! If you missed this year's show, plan for next Decvember and bring the family.

From the Desk:

Welcome to 2025! *FUNTRAK* has officially finished its annual shows for the previous year and is now moving on to the new year. First up is Union Station in Utica on January 19th. This annual event is a one day affair with a relatively small layout. We have been asked to supply a little larger layout this year, and naturally, we were happy to accommodate this wish. *FUNTRAK* now has over 140 modules available for just about any occasion and size requested, so making a larger, or smaller, layout is not much of a problem. There is a new show in the works for February and there will be more information forthcoming next month. *FUNTRAK* is looking forward to engaging in this new show as it is in a new time slot for the shows *FUNTRAK* typically attends. There is a meeting scheduled at Fat Cats for March and following in April will be the Oswego Valley Railroad Association show in Volney. May and the summer months slow down a little and then we return to the usual model railroading season with shows scheduled throughout the fall and winter months. The layouts for this year promise to be very exciting as there are many new modules being constructed as well as older ones being updated. These modules are incorporating many new features that were not

available in times gone by. For example, Adam Pratts is working on some sound effects for his fire module that should attract attention at the upcoming shows. Animation of any kind adds interest to a module and gets many people thinking and asking questions about how these features are designed and made. Many of the newer items being used on the newly built modules are being done with 3D printing. This process allows for products that are not otherwise commercially available. The "temporary" bridge with supports used on the Rome station module to make it compatible with the mountain line is another example of 3D printed products that enhance the layout. More new technology that aids our modeling include the use of the newest microprocessors to provide programs to operate various kinds of hardware and control sounds, lights, and movements of the features on the modules. *FUNTRAK* has taken advantage of many of these newer technologies and incorporated them into numerous modules. Our club remains on the leading edge of innovation and will continue with this in the future. If any of this interests you, contact any club member and they will be happy to help you. Until next month, happy model railroading!

Brian

FAT CATS



OCHC



EVENTS

Big 2024 Railroad Hobby Show

Sponsored by

The Amherst Railway Society

Located at The Eastern States Exposition

1305 Memorial Avenue, West Springfield, MA 01089

Saturday, January 25, 2025

9am – 5pm

Sunday, January 26, 2025

10am – 4pm

ADMISSION: Adults - \$18.00 Under 15 – FREE

PARKING - \$5.00

44th Annual Utica Show

Union Station, Main Street

Utica, New York 13502

Sunday, January 19, 2025 10:00am to 3:00pm

Admission: Adults \$5 Children 5-12 \$2 Under 5-FREE

Information: Adam Brunet (315) 725-2889

E-Mail: CNYTTCS@YAHOO.COM

The Great Holiday Train Show

New Castle Historical Society

Horace Greeley House

100 King Street

Chappaqua, NY 10514

Saturday, January 4, 2025

1:30pm to 4:00pm

Admission: Members \$11.49

Non-Members \$16.74

Children Ages 2-8 \$9.39

FUNTRAK Officers

President: Lorenzo Franchi (315)867-4976

Vice President: Greg Brockway

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

Schedules

January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
UNION STATION	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	



Oneida County History Center
December 2014

MONTHLY QUIZ

How much freight do railroads haul annually?

In a typical year, freight railroads haul about 1.7 billion tons of raw materials and finished goods. Improved rail car designs are making it possible for trains to ship more product.