

# *FUN*TRAK Times!

Volume 33

Number 3

March 2025

FREE

## ***EVE OF CONSTRUCTION***



Winter is not the best time for exhibiting model trains in our area. The weather is usually unpredictable at best and horrible at worst. Since the obstacles of arriving, setting up, displaying, running trains, and tearing down afterwards is more trouble than it is worth oftentimes, *FUNTRAK* club members resort to constructing new modules for better times. Club member Adam Pratts is a perfect example of this activity. Recently he and Jeff Sorenson got together and built Adam's new refinery module pictured here. Adam took a remarkably short time from start to finish for this module. He has some "details" he wants to add, but overall this module is ready for its public debut. So far, this is scheduled to happen in March at Fat Cats in Herkimer. Watch the newsletter for upcoming events to see the date for this wonderful unveiling. More pictures of the construction of this gorgeous module are inside. Other fascinating construction items involve new WiFi control stations and a new sound module for Adam's fire module. Weather is a deterrent but not something that cannot be circumvented allowing members to continue in their modeling projects.

## From the Desk:

This month's cover illustrates the enormous efforts *FUNTRAK* members expend on developing and constructing their new modules. Adam and Jeff collaborated together to build Adam's beautiful new refinery module in mere days. Teamwork really pays off! See the pictures of the evolution and building of this module to the eventual finished product (almost!) on the cover and in the pictures on the next page. Next on the agenda is having a venue to display this new craftsmanship. This will be at Fat Cats in Herkimer early next month. Hopefully some of the other projects that have been in the works will be there for the enjoyment of all also. A new sound unit has been developed to enhance Adam's fire scene. New WiFi control stations have been finished with new features including the ability to control both DCC equipped locomotives as well as conventional DC powered engines with the same control system using personal smart phones and the Engine Driver program. This eliminates the necessity of needing separate power supplies for the two different control systems and simplifies connections to the layout. The Engine Driver program now has a really fancy new feature allowing sound to come from your phone to

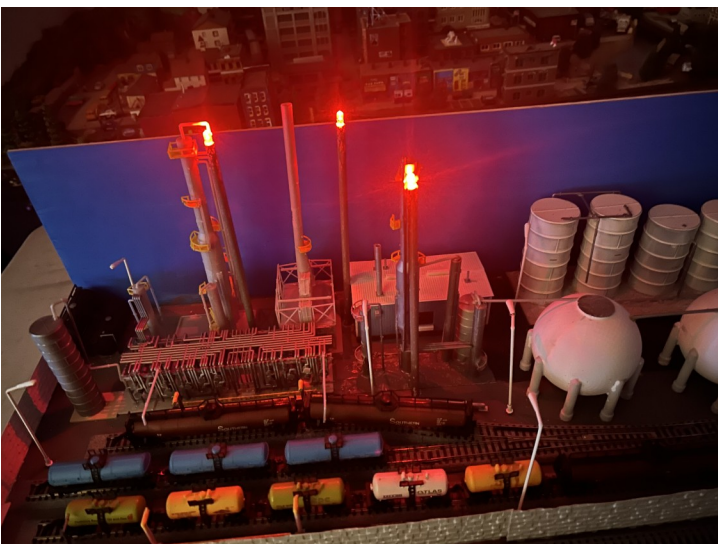
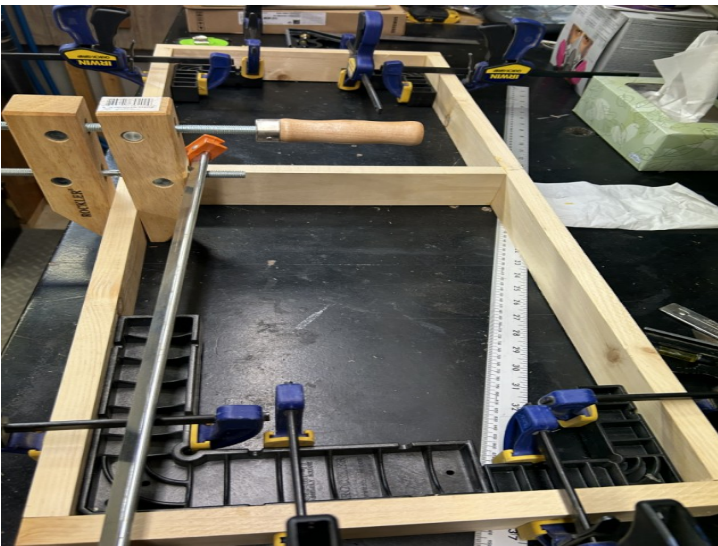
simulate the conventionally controlled locomotives engine sounds. This is a truly elegant feature for a conventional non sound equipped locomotive. Club member John Fleming is working on some new mountain large radius curve modules. These are currently in the design stage but expect to be available for shows later this year. John is also repairing some of the problems encountered with the yard module at the Oneida County History Center show in December. Canadian friend David King helped identify some issues and recommended methods to fix the problems. International relations help everyone. Other events that *FUNTRAK* managed to attend included a visit to Tom Beck's gorgeous HO model railroad. This is a truly grandiose railroad that occupies most of Tom's cellar. *FUNTRAK* was graciously invited to visit and gladly accepted the invitation. A great time was had by everyone and we all hope to visit with Tom again some time for a possible operating session. There are quite a few shows scheduled this month so take the opportunity to come out and join in the fun. See you at the shows.

**Brian**

# TOM BECK



# REFINERY



# EVENTS

## Kingston Model Train and Railroad

### Hobby Show

Murphy Midtown Center

467 Broadway, Kingston, NY

March 23, 2025 @ 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

ADMISSION: Adults: \$8.00 Under 12 \$2.00

Information: (845) 616-0931, or by email at  
kingstonmts@aol.com

## Albany Train Show

Polish Community Center

225 Washington Ave Ext

Albany, NY 12205

Saturday, March 16, 2024 9 am to 3 pm

Admission: Adults \$5.00

Children under 12 – FREE

Information: Doug Bafaro

(518) 879-6341 dblionel@hotmail.com

Jeff Stedge

(518) 852-7725 jstedge@nycap.rr.com

## Spring Ahead Model

### Train Meet

Camillus Fire Department

5801 Newport Road

Camillus, New York 13031

Sunday, March 13, 2025

10:00am to 4:00pm

Admission: Adults \$5.00

Children under 15 – FREE

Information: (315) 451-6551

## Verona Town Historical Association

### Train Show

6600 Germany Road

Durhamville, New York

Saturday, March 8, 2025

11:00am to 4:00pm

Admission: FREE

# Schedules

March 2025

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

April 2025

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			

## Rochester Model Railroad Club

150 South Clinton Avenue

Rochester NY 14604

March 1 & 2, 2025

Saturday: 10 AM - 5 PM

Sunday: 1PM - 5PM

Admission: \$7 (Under 9 FREE with an adult)

info@RocMRRC.com

## Greenberg's Train and Toy Show

The Dome Arena

2695 East Henrietta Road

Henrietta, New York 14467

March 15 & 16, 2025

Saturday: 10AM-4PM Sunday: 1PM-4PM

Admission: \$12 Saturday \$11 Sunday

(Under 12 FREE with an adult)

info@RocMRRC.com

# MONTHLY QUIZ

Completed in 1916, the world's longest single rail system is called what?

Construction began under Tsar Alexander III in 1891 and was finalized in 1916. The scenic route includes famous landmarks such as the Ural Mountains, the Volga River, and Lake Baikal, the largest freshwater lake in the world.