

*FUN*TRAK Times!

Volume 33

Number 10

October 2025

FREE

CLAYTON



So the annual Thousand Islands Train Show at Clayton begins *FUNTRAK*'s thirty fourth year. This year was no exception to the excitement and fun club members have had over the past years. Although Clayton was not the first show *FUNTRAK* attended, it is one of the premiere shows of the model railroading season. This September showcased three of *FUNTRAK*'s scheduled appearances with Clayton starting things off. This was followed by a show at Massena and finally a small show at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post in Mattydale. Pictures from each of these shows are on pages three through five. October is a rather quiet month with November and December rounding out the year with more shows that *FUNTRAK* will be attending. Then comes the new year and shows at Union Station in Utica followed by various other shows scheduled for the springtime. *FUNTRAK* has a reputation for being one the more intriguing layouts at the shows because the layout is ever changing and new modules enhance the variety of features the public so enjoy. Come to one of the shows and bring the family so you too can enjoy the pleasures of model railroading.

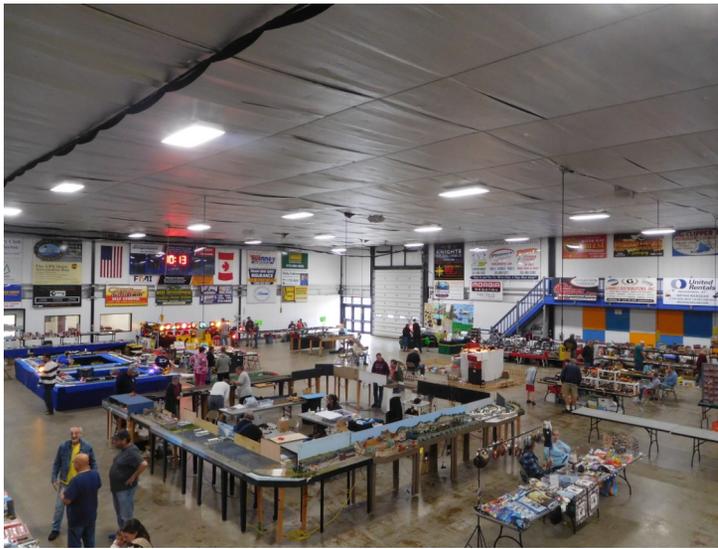
From the Desk:

Columbus Day is rather significant for *FUNTRAK* in that this was when the club was started in 1992. From humble beginnings at this time until today, some traditions have not changed. In the very beginning Brian promised that there would be no dues to join the club. This has remained the accepted fact to this day! The other rule was that there would be no "plywood forests" displayed by *FUNTRAK* at any show the club attended. This rule, too, has been upheld since the beginning. The only "exception" to this rule is the annual PicNik held at Brian's on the first Sunday of August each year. This doesn't really violate the rule because this is not a public show attended by a public audience. What this does allow is for the testing and display of any new modules before they escape to the real world at a show and possibly cause any problems. This philosophy has prevented many issues from occurring at the shows since time is not wasted trying to correct a problem that should have been fixed before attending the show. In the early days before T-trak came along, the larger N-trak modules were usually tested prior to any show and were deemed ready for display. Even

with this procedure there were occasions when things did not always go as planned. With the advent of the T-trak modules basically replacing *FUNTRAK*'s N-trak layouts, the T-trak modules became the main focus of the club's layouts and thus the new approaches to preparing for shows. So far this method has proven to be effective and the club has had very few problems at the shows. Even when things have failed to go along swimmingly, correcting the problem at worst has, on occasion, required possibly removing a module from the layout which is hardly noticeable and not noticed by the public since they would have no idea of the original design for the layout. This contributes to the beauty of this concept since it provides an infinite variety of layout possibilities and quick and simple fixes for problems if they do arise. New concepts, new modules, new ideas, and new designs have made this style of portable displays the trend in modular railroading today and *FUNTRAK* is at the forefront of this movement. Watch for us at the local model railroad shows!

Brian

CLAYTON



MASSENA



MATTYDALE



EVENTS

Schedules

Buffalo Falling Leaves Train Show

Polish Falcons

445 Columbia Ave, Depew, New York 14043

Sunday, October 12, 2025 10am to 3pm

Info: Paul Vester (716) 857-0302

E-Mail feebeelovr@yahoo.com

ADMISSION: Adults \$5.00 5-12- \$2.00

Under 5 – FREE

Toy Train Show

The Knights Event Center

2735 Union Road

Cheektowaga, New York 14221

Sunday, October 26, 2025 9:00am to 2:00pm

ADMISSION: Adults \$5.00

Under 18 – FREE with adult

Call Chuck at:

716-390-8216

Eastern Division

TCA York Train Show

334 Carlisle Ave.

York, PA 17404

Friday, October 24th: 9:00AM - 6:30PM

Saturday, October 25th: 9:00AM -3:00PM

Admission: Adults \$10.00

Information: <https://www.easterntca.com>

FUNTRAK Officers

President: Lorenzo Franchi (315)867-4976

Vice President: Greg Brockway

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

October 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	

November 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						

The Great Scale Model Train Show

Cow Palace

State Fairgrounds

Timonium, Maryland

Saturday, October 25, 2025 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Sunday, October 26, 2025 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Admission: Family, Sat & Sun: \$22 / Sun: \$17

Solo Adult, Sat & Sun: \$12 / Sun: \$10

Kids under 16 free w/paid adult

MONTHLY QUIZ

Which of these titans made his money in railroads?

The era of the "robber barons" changed the United States forever. During the later half of the 19th century, these titans of industry shaped large portions of our nation, but they also hoarded wealth and provoked resistance from a rising labor union movement. Cornelius Vanderbilt made his fortune in railroads and shipping. Among other things, Vanderbilt owned the New York Central Railroad.