

*FUN*TRAK Times!

Volume 33

Number 11

November 2025

FREE

“OP”TOBERFEST



FUNTRAK club member John Fleming made the annual trek to the capital region to attend the model railroad operations event scheduled each year around October. Above is a scene from Doug Dederick's fabulous layout. John made it to three of the scheduled layouts and describes his adventure this month in "From The Desk". Needless to say, he had a wonderful time! More pictures from the layouts John visited are presented on pages three through five. All of these layouts are award winning examples of the creativity, skills, and dedication of their respective owners. *FUNTRAK* looks forward to an invitation to this exciting event each year and wishes to express the club's genuine gratitude for being included as participants in this annual happening. Thank you!

From the Desk:

Hello all! Over the weekend of October 4, I had the privilege of attending "OP"TOBERFEST" weekend in the Capital Region of New York. This wonderful event, arranged by Doug Dederick, James Lauser, John Valachovic, and Kevin Surman, allows modelers interested in the prototypical operations of model railroads to operate on various layouts generously opened by the various hosts. I was able to visit three layouts over the weekend, those being Doug Dederick's, Kevin Surman's, and Bill McChesney's layouts.

The first layout of the weekend was Doug Dederick's beautiful N scale Great Northern layout set in the mountains of Montana. The scenery on this layout is stunning, giving the operator a sense of truly running a train through Marias Pass. Doug has recently expanded the layout, including a new yard and branch line.

The second layout was Kevin Surman's HO scale layout set on the joint Jersey Central and Pennsylvania Railroad line on the northern Jersey coast. This is a double deck layout, allowing a long mainline run. Kevin was saying he plans to change the configuration of his layout, moving the main yard and the

Newark passenger terminal to help with the flow around the layout and avoid bottlenecks.

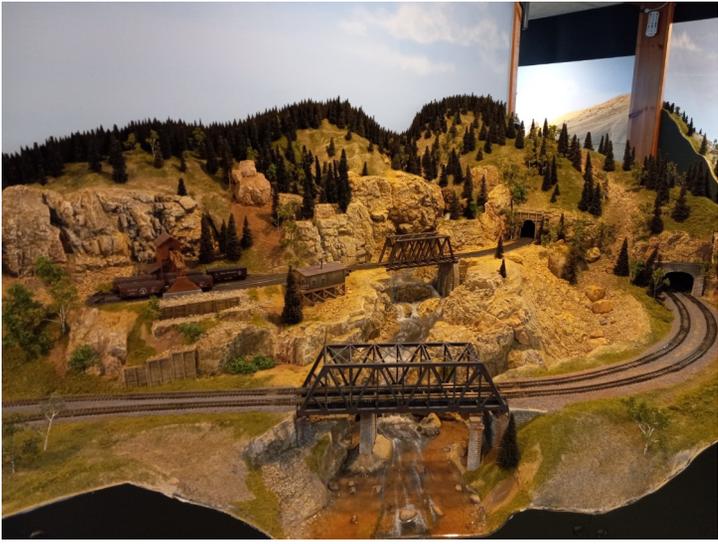
The third layout of the weekend was Bill McChesney's HO scale Lehigh Valley layout. This beautiful layout is powered by conventional DC power packs, which doesn't hinder the operations of multiple trains due to Bill's blocking of the layout and his expert skill at controlling the power from his panel.

One of the biggest take aways I had from the weekend was the lack of pressure from any of the layout hosts. Operating the railroad properly was the aim, but the main goal of the weekend was to have fun running trains. It wasn't a big deal if a train ran late or a car misrouted. Mistakes were inevitable due to the number of operators running on unfamiliar territory. The purpose was to enjoy the experience without getting caught up with being perfect.

That is a good thing to keep in mind throughout all your model railroad adventures. Have fun with your model railroad, no matter what your focus is. Remember rule one of model railroading; it is YOUR railroad!

John

DOUG DEDERICK



KEVIN SURMAN



BILL MCCHESNEY



EVENTS

50th 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 1, 2025 10:00am to 5:00pm

Sunday, November 2, 2025 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 8, 2025 10:00am to 5:00pm

Sunday, November 9, 2025 10:00am to 4:00pm

Adults-\$6:00 Children 6-12 \$3:00 under 6 FREE

Albany Train Show

The Polish Community Center

225 Washington Avenue Extension

Albany, New York 12205

Saturday, November 22, 2025 9:00am-3:00pm

Admission - \$7.00, Children 0-12 FREE

Contact Us: Doug Bafaro (518) 879-6341

dblionel@msn.com

Jeff Stedge (518) 852-7725

jstedge1@gmail.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 22, 2025 10:00am 5:00pm

Sunday, November 23, 2025 10:00am 4:00pm

Adults-\$8:00 Children under 12 - FREE

Schedules

November 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						Syracuse
Syracuse	3	4	5	6	7	Volney
Volney	10	11	12	13	14	Remsen
16	17	18	19	20	21	Albany
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	Mexico
Mexico	8	9	10	11	12	RIT
RIT	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	OCHC	OCHC	24	25	OCHC	OCHC
28	29	30	31			

9th Annual Model

Railroad Show

Sponsored by:

Remsen Arts Center

Remsen Performing & Visual Arts Center

9627 Main Street

Remsen, New York 13428

Saturday, November 15, 2025 10:00am to

3:00pm

Admission: FREE

(recommended donation \$5.00)

MONTHLY QUIZ

Which city's subway system has the most stations in the world?

The Big Apple subway system has the most stations in the world — by a landslide. With 424 stations, New York City has 100 more than the second-place contender, Shanghai. However, the roles reverse when talking about total mileage. The Shanghai Metro comes in first place with nearly 500 miles of rail, whereas New York City is further back in the pack with only 248 miles.