

*FUN*TRAK Times!

Volume 33

Number 12

December 2025

FREE

SYRACUSE



***FUNTRAK* club members gathered together for this group picture to show off the club's new vests. These were a huge hit with both the club members and the general public. The bright orange trim on the black vest made the outfit really stand out. The club logo let everyone know who we were and proudly presented our layout display for folks to admire. Lorenzo's efforts at procuring these vests really paid off! Thanks Lorenzo.**

From the Desk:

The holiday season is upon us! Thanksgiving has come and gone with Christmas on the horizon followed by the new year. Of course, the weather is always a factor as to how much joy we are allowed. A minimum of shoveling is always appreciated, but everyone makes an effort to enjoy the holidays regardless of the weather. *FUNTRAK* supports the holidays each year by setting up a train display at the Oneida County History Center in uptown Utica. This has been a tradition now for over twenty five years! The day that Christmas actually falls on dictates the display days *FUNTRAK* is able to support. We leave Christmas eve and day out to allow families to celebrate their own activities. We do make an attempt to have our trains displayed both before and after these particular days. This year we will be showing our trains for the public on the Tuesday before and the Friday and Saturday after the Christmas eve and day dates. This has always been a crowd pleasing event for both children and adults alike. The little folks are fascinated by the moving small trains while the larger folks are intrigued by the detail in the displays and the realism they present. *FUNTRAK* is glad to be able to provide some joy for all over the holidays by presenting these wonderful displays and looks forward

to this annual, activity. If you want to have a little joy in your life over this Christmas holiday, come over to the show and enjoy the trains with us! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

After Christmas and New Year the model railroad shows continue with Union Station in Utica coming up in the middle of January. *FUNTRAK* fully supports this show each year by bringing a small T-trak display for folks to enjoy. After this is the big train show at the Big E in Springfield, Massachusetts at the end of the month. This is one of the largest train shows in the country taking up four huge buildings of trains and supporting equipment. If you need something from the model railroad world, this would be a good place to look. If it is available, it most likely will be here. This year *FUNTRAK's* southernmost club member, Mark Bean is scheduled to be here to attend this grand event. Mark is making the long journey from Australia to visit and do some rail fanning while he is here. We are anxiously awaiting his arrival and look forward to his contributions to the hobby. Mark has always been an avid supporter of *FUNTRAK* and the model railroad hobby and his expertise is always welcome. Until next month, keep on training. **Brian**

REMSEN



GREAT NEW YORK STATE



MODEL TRAIN FAIR



HOLIDAY



EXPRESS



EVENTS

Oneida County History Center

Sponsored by:

FUNTRAK Model Railroad Club

1608 Genesee Street

Utica, New York 13501

Tuesday, December 23, 2025 and

Friday, December 26, 2025 and

Saturday, December 27, 2025

10:00am to 4:00pm

Information: (315) 735-3642

RIT Model Railroad Club

Tiger Tracks

RIT Gordon Field House, Rochester, New York 14623

Saturday, December 13, 2025 10:00am to 4:00pm

Sunday, December 14, 2025 10:00am to 4:00pm

Adults-\$10.00 Seniors-\$8.00 under 12 FREE

Information: (585) 475-4121

Christmas in Mexico

Sponsored by:

Mexico Chamber of Commerce and the

Oswego Valley Railroad Association

Village Court

3245 East Main Street

Mexico, New York 13114

Saturday, December 6, 2025 10:00am to 4:00pm

FREE

Information:

<https://allevents.in/mexico/200021743053902>

FUNTRAK Officers

President: Lorenzo Franchi (315)867-4976

Vice President: Greg Brockway

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

Schedules

December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	Mexico
7	8	9	10	11	12	RIT
RIT	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	OCHC	24	25	OCHC	OCHC
28	29	30	31			

January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Union Station	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Great Train Extravaganza 2025

Empire State Plaza Convention Center

279 Madison Ave

Sunday, December 7, 2025

10:00am to 4:00pm

Adults-\$10:00 under 12 FREE

Information: (518) 528-5453

<https://www.gtealbany.com/>

MONTHLY QUIZ

What were Incentive Per Diem boxcars?

To address a shortage of boxcars, the ICC changed its per diem rules for new boxcars in 1970. New boxcars would have a higher per diem cost but would be exempt from existing rules regarding handling of empty equipment. Many shortlines, backed by financiers, would take advantage of the program, producing nearly 40,000 boxcars during the 1970s.