

FUNTRAK Times!

Volume 34

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January 2026

FREE

ONEIDA COUNTY HISTORY CENTER



FUNTRAK provided its annual Holiday layout at the Oneida County History Center on December 23rd and December 26th and December 27th again this year. Club members are actively assembling the popular train display for the anticipated crowds that come to enjoy *FUNTRAK*'s Christmas setups. *FUNTRAK* has been supporting this annual event for over two dozen years now and each year brings new and exciting layouts as well as new crowds to enjoy the displays. *FUNTRAK*'s newest member, Bill Balsamico, above, watches carefully as *FUNTRAK* regular club members assemble this year's layout. Bill was fascinated by the fact that everything is portable, easily assembled, and independently operated on a layout of this moderate size. *FUNTRAK* happily welcomes Bill into our fold and looks forward to his participation and eventual construction of a module to add to *FUNTRAK*'s repertoire of modules. Make sure to watch future newsletters for new and exciting news regarding the club's participation in the many shows around the area. Happy New Year!

From the Desk:

One more for the books. As the year rolls over to the new year, *FUNTRAK* moves on with new members, new modules, new innovations, and new hopes. We happily welcome our newest member, Bill Balsamico, to our ranks and look forward to working with him in our endeavors in the model railroading hobby. Welcome aboard, Bill. Meanwhile, the "regulars" of the club continue to work diligently setting up displays at various venues for the public's enjoyment. Our next stop is the annual Union Station show at the train station in downtown Utica. *FUNTRAK* fully supports this show each year and brings a small but popular layout for everyone to bask in the pleasure of seeing it operate. This year we are privileged to expect our southernmost club member, Mark Bean, to be in attendance. Mark is arriving in time to participate in this show and attend the Big "E" show in Springfield, Massachusetts the

following week. Hopefully the weather will not cause any issues as it did for the show at the Oneida County History Center last month. In spite of the poor weather, *FUNTRAK* managed to maintain the layout for those who were able to make the show. Following the Big "E" show will be the springtime show in Volney for *FUNTRAK*. This laid back show is always a good time for *FUNTRAK*'s members and we anxiously look forward to participating in this great event. After the normal shows have ended, *FUNTRAK* begins its summer regimen of setting up small portable layouts at the cruise-ins around the area. Unfortunately, Dave's Diner is no longer available since Dave sold the business. We will, however, be setting up at Fat Cats in Herkimer much as in the past. Watch the newsletter for times and dates. We look forward to seeing many of you at some of these events. Welcome to the new year!

Brian

ONEIDA COUNTY HISTORY CENTER!



EVENTS

Big 2026 Railroad Hobby Show

Sponsored by

The Amherst Railway Society

Located at The Eastern States Exposition

1305 Memorial Avenue, West Springfield, MA 01089

Saturday, January 24, 2026 9am – 5pm

Sunday, January 26, 2026 10am – 4pm

ADMISSION: Adults - \$20.00 Under 15 – FREE

PARKING - \$5.00

45th Annual Utica Show

Union Station, Main Street

Utica, New York 13502

Sunday, January 18, 2026 9:30am 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 3, 2026

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

Show Coordinator: Adam Pratts

(315)527-0124

Schedules

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

February 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	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

MONTHLY QUIZ

In 1868, the world's first cog railway was built to traverse what?

Cog railways, also called rack railways, were built to climb mountains using a unique toothed rack rail. The Mount Washington Cog Railway in New Hampshire was the first to use this technology. There are currently around 50 rack railways throughout the world. Mount Washington's railway has been renovated and is still open and accepting passengers today. It takes about 70 minutes to travel the three-mile track up the mountain, with an elevation gain of 3,719 feet.