

*FUN*TRAK Times!

Volume 34

Number 4

April 2026

FREE

DURHAMVILLE



The weather has not been very accommodating for *FUNTRAK* when it comes to attending this popular train show. With snow, cold, and miserable driving conditions, *FUNTRAK* still managed to set up a fascinating layout at this event that included two new fabulous modules. Club members Bill Balsamico premiered his new triple decker module which included a subway line under the main lines. Adam Pratts displayed his new refinery themed module. Both of these modules support *FUNTRAK*'s commitment to creativity and innovation in our hobby. See more pictures of this fun event inside!

From the Desk:

Springtime appears to be construction time for model railroaders as again this year *FUNTRAK* members are on a building spree. Last issue we premiered Bill Balsamico's new module along with Adam Pratt's newest creation. This month club member Andrew Lolliman is diligently working on his newest creation with help from Adam. We are looking forward to seeing this module in one of our future displays. With over 150 modules of all types, *FUNTRAK* truly can create a myriad of unusual layout designs to attract and keep observers attention. Other modules in the works are designs representing some of the current car cruise-ins around the area. Lorenzo is making a huge turntable module with his son, Zachary, that will handle a Big Boy locomotive and be automated for guiding the tracks and locomotives to where they need to go. Along with this a 3D printed "set" of bridges are being designed and built to allow for the extra depth of the turntable module. This project is another multiple country effort as Mark from Australia is working with Brian to develop this multiple piece assembly. This will allow for different length bridge assemblies as well as accommodating the wider modules placed opposite them. Many of these new modules will be included in the upcoming shows *FUNTRAK* is scheduled to attend. The next regular show for *FUNTRAK* is set for Amsterdam on Sunday,

April 12th followed by Volney on the first weekend of May. It may be possible that some of these modules will be ready for these shows. If not, *FUNTRAK* schedules impromptu meetings at Fat Cats and some of the local car cruise-ins where newer modules get an opportunity for the general public to see them for the first time. Either way, the new modules provide variety, interest, and opportunity for members to display their craftsmanship to their fellow club members and the public. If you are looking for a new adventure and want to meet some of the nicest people around, come on out to one of the local shows and talk with any club member. The children are especially fascinated by the "little" trains and how well they operate. Model railroading is not only fun, it is highly educational as well, as socially acceptable and encouraging. *FUNTRAK* will be looking for you at these shows!



Figure 1: Andrew's new module under construction.

Brian

DURHAMVILLE



FAT CATS



EVENTS

The 12th Annual “Rails Along the Mohawk” Spring Model Train Show

Sunday, April 12, 2026

Riverfront Center

Main Street-

Amsterdam, NY 12010

10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Admission: Adults \$6.00 Under 12 FREE

Information: Debi at (518) 461-5180

info@ahts.org

Spring Into Summer

April 12th, 2026

Knights Of Columbus

755 Erie Ave

North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Public Hours 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Chairman Bob Kleinmann

716-440-3156

E-Mail bobscustoms2@verizon.net

Admission: Members: \$4.00

Non-Members \$5.00, Youth (5-12) \$2.00

Age 4 and Under FREE

Model Train Show

presented by

Nassau County Executive

Bruce Blakeman

Levittown Hall

201 Levittown Parkway

Hicksville, New York 11801

Sunday, April 12, 2026

11:00am to 4:00pm

Admission: Adults \$7.00

Children under 12 - \$4.00

under 5 - FREE

Show coordinator

Trainville Hobby Depot

Www.trainville.com

Phone: (516) 433-4444

Schedules

April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Amsterdam	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	Volney
Volney	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	29	30
31						

MONTHLY QUIZ

The world's fastest steam locomotive is named after what bird?

On July 3, 1938, the 4468 Mallard became the first steam locomotive ever built when it reached speeds of 126 miles per hour — a record that stands to this day. The train's designer, Nigel Gresley, had speed in mind when he made the Mallard and wrapped the train in a stunning art deco exterior to make an even bigger splash. Today, the Mallard is a permanent fixture at the National Railway Museum in York, England.

FUNTRAK Officers

President: Lorenzo Franchi (315)867-4976

Vice President: Greg Brockway

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