

*FUN*TRAK Times!

Volume 34

Number 7

July 2026

FREE

SUMMER CRUISE-INS



FUNTRAK club members gather at the first cruise-in of the year for ***FUNTRAK***. Besides the trains ***FUNTRAK*** brings, the local car aficionados bring in the cruise-in vehicles for everyone to appreciate and discuss. ***FUNTRAK***'s trains also elicit much appreciation and discussion, especially among the smaller, younger crowd who love to point out all the details of the miniature world presented to them. Come out and enjoy the show!

From the Desk:

Friend. What is a friend? That depends on the context and usage of the term. Most of us consider a friend as someone who is there when we need help. But there are other "friends" that we have that we rarely think about. In model railroading, some of our best friends are the tools that we use. Again, context is important. What task are we attempting to accomplish? If we are building a wooden or plastic structure, an exacto knife is most likely our best friend. If we are doing electrical work, a soldering iron, a pair of wire cutters, or a meter might be our best friend. How about if we are in the design stage of a layout. The computer program that allows us to calculate what we need to construct the layout might be our best friend in this case. What about when we are at a show and we need something quick and simple to do somethings as mundane as separating two modules. The lowly screwdriver comes in very handy as our friend to help us in this instance.

The poor screwdriver gets used for many things it was never originally intended for. Very often the "proper tool for the proper job" is not available so we rely on one of our "friends" to help us out. As with our human friends, our tools will be much nicer to us if we treat them with respect. Using a tool for something other than its original intent can be a slippery slope. However, if treated gently and with respect, our tool friends can be very helpful when we most need it. The better you take care of your tools, the longer they will last and serve you in the times of need. As with any other friend, if you abuse them they will not be your friend for very long. Misusing tools can not only be unfriendly, it can be dangerous. So remember, if you want to keep tools your friend, treat them like you would any other friend, with respect and care. If you do this, your friendly tools will always be there when you need them the most.

Brian

FAT CATS

TRAINS



CARS



EVENTS

Train Show and Craft Fair Extravaganza

TOY TRAIN MEET

Hosted by: Holland Patent Hose Co.

HP Fireman's Pavilion

10 Depot St, Holland Patent, New York

Saturday, July 11, 2026

Sunday, July 12, 2026

10:00am to 4:00pm

ADMISSION: Adults - \$5.00 5-12-\$3.00

Under 5 - FREE

Information: (315) 865-8200

hphcevents1907@gmail.com

LOTS 47TH ANNUAL CONVENTION & BUFFALO-NIAGARA "ALL SCALES"

MODEL TRAIN SHOW

Buffalo Marriott Niagara

1340 Millersport Hwy, Amherst, NY 14221

Saturday, July 11, 2026

9:00am - 2:30pm

ADMISSION: \$8.00 per person

Under 12: FREE

(DONATIONS APPRECIATED)

Information: lotstrainshow@gmail.com

PS&N RAILROAD MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE

Allegany County Fair

Allegany County Fairgrounds

15 North Street, Angelica, NY

Sunday, July 20-25, 2026

12:00pm - 8:00pm

ADMISSION: FREE WITH REGULAR FAIR

ADMISSION

(DONATIONS APPRECIATED)

Information: John M. Muchler (607)566-9598

Schedules

July 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
	5	6	7	8	9	10
Holland Patent	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	Fat Cats	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
PicNik	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	Fat Cats	27	28	29
30	31					

MIDDLETOWN RAILROAD DAY

Mulberry House Senior Center

62 West Main Street, Middletown, NY

Sunday, July 26, 2026

10:00am - 3:00pm

ADMISSION: FREE

(DONATIONS APPRECIATED)

Information:

RonVassallo@OntarioExpress.org

MONTHLY QUIZ

What was the name of the first
American steam locomotive?

Built in 1829, Tom Thumb was the United States' first steam-powered locomotive. Before this technology, rail companies used horses to pull passenger and freight trains. According to legend, Tom Thumb entered a race with a horse-drawn carriage and was far ahead until the blower belt fell off, causing it to "run out of steam." Still, its performance impressed the railroad directors into committing to steam engines.

**Plan for the 22nd PicNik
August 2, 2026**