

FUNTRAK Times!

Volume 34

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September 2026

FREE

SWEET AND SIMPLE



FUNTRAK's twenty third annual PicNik was the usual enjoyable success it has become known for each year. Above ***FUNTRAK*** club members Doug Davis and John Fleming enthusiastically assemble the modest layout displayed at this years event. John's usual attention to detail made this small layout a very intriguing setup. It had all the normal layout attributes plus the additional ability to provide a small switching challenge all while having a continuous operation of other trains. This was made possible by using both conventional DC power on part of the layout and DCC on other sections. This allows more than one train to be operated individually on the same tracks without interfering with any other trains on the same tracks. Modern technology has brought model railroading a long way in a very short time and continues to improve the hobby and the experiences it provides.

From the Desk:

The twenty third annual PicNik has come and gone. As usual, all went well. There was some concern that the weather might not cooperate, but that issue was laid to rest as it did not rain on our parade! The Cavemen Car club folks attended the PicNik albeit without bringing the usual cruise-in cars because of the threat of rain. Hopefully, this won't be the case for our next PicNik. Meanwhile, *FUNTRAK* club members set up a small t-trak layout in the garage similar to last years layout. This has proven to be a good thing as it eliminates the necessity for going up and down stairs to the cellar to view and operate the trains. The small layout makes it easy to operate and provides all the necessary requirements to keep the interest of spectators. The trains ran as expected, very well. *FUNTRAK* club member John Fleming designed an especially interesting layout design that incorporated many of the innovations that *FUNTRAK* has come to be known for. Besides the trains, the

youth at the Picnik also enjoyed the available four wheeler rides around the back forty. This has proven to be a popular activity at the PicNiks. Of course, the food was abundant and fabulous as always and everyone got their fill. The variety and availability of just about any PicNik food one could desire was readily available for everyone to satisfy their hunger. The camaraderie that accompanies this event was not forgotten. People sat and discussed all the current affairs and activities that accompany the summer months. From cars to trains and world events, the discussions were interesting and informative. Overall, everyone had a great time as was anticipated. *FUNTRAK* looks forward to next years PicNik with great anticipation and hopes for another wonderful and rewarding time for all the attendees. See you here next year, same Bat time, same Bat channel.

Brian

PICNICK 2026



EVENTS

185th Annual Fonda Fair

21 South Bridge Street
Fonda, New York 12068

Wednesday, September 2, 2026 through

Monday, September 7, 2026

General Admission – \$15.00

Senior Citizen's Day (62 years & Older) —

Wednesday & Friday – \$5.00

Children 6-11 years – \$5.00

Children under 6 years – FREE

Parking – \$5.00

Info: Phone: 518-853-3313

Fax: 518-853-3310

E-mail Address: fondafair2012@yahoo.com

39th Annual Thousand Islands Train Fair

Clayton Arena Route 12

Clayton, New York

Saturday, September 12, 2026: 9 am - 5 pm

Sunday, September 13, 2026 10 am - 4 pm

Admission: Adults \$7

Children under 12 free

Info: Tom at (315) 489-1856

FUNTRAK Officers

President: Lorenzo Franchi (315)867-4976

Vice President: Greg Brockway

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

Schedules

September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	Fonda Fair		3	4
6	<Fonda Fair	8	9	10	11	Clayton
Clayton	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	Massena
Massena	28	29	30			

October 2026

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

17th Annual St Lawrence Valley

Model Train, Toy, &

Collectible Expo

presented by

Norwood Model Railroad Club

Massena Arena

180 Harte Haven Plaza

Massena, New York 13662

Saturday, September 26, 2026 10:00am to 5:00pm

Sunday, September 27, 2026 10:00am to 4:00pm

\$5.00 Per Person,

Age 10 and under FREE

Info: Tom at (315) 267-6945

MONTHLY QUIZ

Which country has the most railway tracks in the world?

The United States has more railway tracks than any other country, stretching some 140,000 miles. A whopping 80% of those tracks are dedicated exclusively to commercial rail. That leaves only about 21,000 miles for passengers, which is far less than in many other developed countries.