FUNTRAK Times!

Volume 34 Number 11

November 2026 FREE

FAT CAT'S



John Fleming conducted our October club meeting at Fat Cat's with the help of various club members. A small layout was set up as usual.

From the Desk:

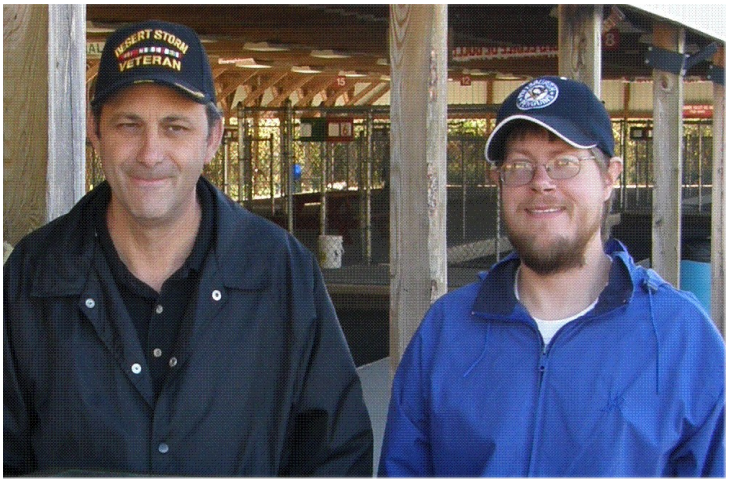
The obvious story this month is the passing of *FUNTRAK*'s beloved President, Lorenzo Franchi. A small tribute and some pictures from the past are included in this issue along with the local obituary. As the old saying goes, "the show must go on". In keeping with tradition, *FUNTRAK* members met at Fat Cat's to discuss the future of the club and its participation in upcoming events. November has traditionally been model railroad month and as such *FUNTRAK* has always avidly participated in numerous events. This year, even without Lorenzo, is no different. The club is scheduled to attend Volney, Syracuse, and the Oneida County History Center between the Christmas and New Year holidays. John Fleming has graciously volunteered to step in and fill Lorenzo's shoes until a regular election can be conducted. The dates for these events this year have become jumbled up because of other commitments by a variety of organizations. Since Syracuse was postponed until the second weekend of the month, Volney filled in the first weekend. This moved Syracuse to the second weekend. The Oneida County History Center dates were established to best accommodate the time available between the holidays. This will get the club through the rest of this year and back on track for Union Station in January of next year. Many of the layouts will probably be changed significantly without Lorenzo's loyal transportation but arrangements and volunteers are stepping up to accommodate the needs of the club. Thank you to everyone for your help. In other news our southernmost member, Mark Bean has been diligently designing numerous styles of bridges not commonly available that *FUNTRAK* will be premiering as they become available. These will be 3D printed designs that are not commercially available but will conform to Kato requirements as well as the standard T-trak specifications. Watch for these new innovative designs as they show up at the events *FUNTRAK* participates in. In closing, we remember Lorenzo fondly for his generosity and kindness to everyone. May he enjoy the train depot in heaven.

Brian

LORENZO



MEMORIES

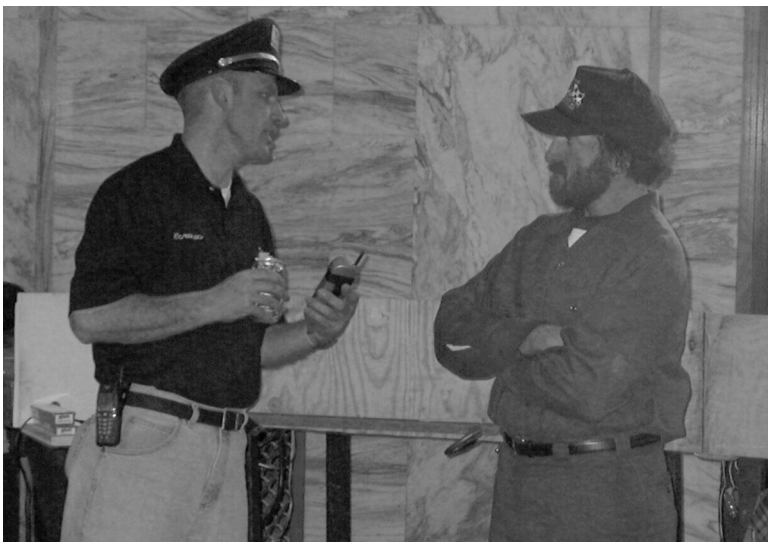












I have included here some pictures of Lorenzo's involvement with a number of FUNTRAK activities the club has participated in over the years since Lorenzo joined in the fall of 1995. Enjoy!

Lorenzo A. Franchi

Dec 21, 1960 — Oct 9, 2026

It is with the heaviest of hearts that we announce the untimely passing of Lorenzo Asano Franchi. Born December 21, 1960, Lorenzo was the son of the late Lucia and Nello Franchi of Little Falls, NY. He unexpectedly left this world on October 9, 2026 at the age of 65.

Lorenzo was born and raised in what is known as the Southside of Little Falls. His father unfortunately passed away when he was 8 years old. Lorenzo persevered through those difficulties. He attended, then, graduated from Little Falls High School and went on to Herkimer College, earning an associate's degree.

Lorenzo spent some time working at Beech-Nut in Canajoharie and retired from Excel Distribution Center in Johnstown in 2022.

Between this time Lorenzo enlisted in the United States Army and served in Operation Desert Shield & Desert Storm in 1991.

Lorenzo had a deep love of all things train. He was a current member of the FunTrak Train Club for 20 years. FunTrak (Frankfort United N-Trak) is a modular-style railroad club that welcomes members and visitors of all ages and scales. Its mission is to share the model railroading hobby through public shows, civic activities, and community functions across the Northeast U.S. He also volunteered at the Utica train station.

Lorenzo was the type of person who loved to walk and visit with people. Always smiling and making new friends. He loved to research trains and train stations; building train layouts, proudly displaying his work at various train shows and at the Fonda fair.

He married Julie Slaper in 1988 and they had 3 children together. They are: Sarah Franchi and partner Derik, Zachary Franchi and partner Delaney and Anthony Franchi and wife Maris. His current companion was Margaret (aka Peggy) Young and was with her till he left this world.

Lorenzo had a large family with numerous nephews (Mike, Shawn, Brian, Jeffrey, Dante, Josh, Justin, Lucas, Ethan) and a few nieces (Gina, Shannon and Erin). Lorenzo also had a handful of his children’s friends that although unrelated, became like family, they include Timothy, Michael and James.

Lorenzo’s surviving brother is Sauro Peter. He was predeceased by his siblings, Gianfranco aka Johnny, Sauro (who tragically passed at a young age), Gino, & Anna.

Calling hours will be held on Thursday, October 15, 2026 from 6:00PM - 8:00PM at the Enea Family Funeral Home, 24 West Monroe St., Little Falls, NY (315) 823-2424. Family and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, October 16, 2026, starting at 10:30AM from the chapel of the funeral home and at 11:00AM at Holy Family Parish Church, corner of East Main and John St. Little Falls, NY where his Mass of Christian Burial will be offered. Interment will follow at St. Mary's Cemetery in the Town of Herkimer.

Memorial contributions can be made to Fun Trak Train Club, 708 County Highway 59 Cooperstown, NY 13326.

EVENTS

51st Annual Great New York State Model Train Fair

Sponsored by: The Central New York Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society
State Fairgrounds, Syracuse, New York
Saturday, November 14, 2026 10:00am to 5:00pm
Sunday, November 15, 2026 10:00am to 4:00pm
Admission: Adult-$16 Children under 15-FREE

Holiday Express Model Railroad Show

presented by
Oswego Valley Railroad Association
At the Volney Volunteer Fire Barn
3002 State Route 3, Fulton, New York
Saturday, November 7, 2026 10:00am to 5:00pm
Sunday, November 8, 2026 10:00am to 4:00pm
Adults-$6:00 Children 6-12 $3:00 under 6 FREE

Albany Train Show

The Polish Community Center
225 Washington Avenue Extension
Albany, New York 12205
Saturday,November 21, 2026 9:00am-3:00pm
Admission - $7.00, Children 0-12 FREE
Contact Us: Doug Bafaro (518) 879-6341
dblionel@msn.com
Jeff Stedge (518) 852-7725
jstedge1@gmail.com

Toy & Train Show

presented by
Western New York RailwayHistorical Society
Event Center on the Fairgrounds
5820 South Park Avenue
Hamburg, New York 14075
Saturday, November 21, 2026 10:00am 5:00pm
Sunday, November 22, 2026 10:00am 4:00pm
Adults-$8:00 Children under 12 - FREE

Schedules

November 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	Volney
Volney	9	10	11	12	13	Syracuse
Syracuse	16	17	18	19	20	Remsen
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December 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	OCHC	OCHC	OCHC	OCHC		

10th Annual Model Railroad Show

Sponsored by:
Remsen Arts Center
Remsen Performing & Visual Arts Center
9627 Main Street
Remsen, New York 13428
Saturday, November 21, 2026 10:00am to 3:00pm
Admission: FREE
(recommended donation $5.00)

MONTHLY QUIZ

What was the name of Chessie the Railroad Kitten's "Old Man?"

For Father's Day in 1937, Peake was introduced as Chessie's "Old Man," serving as a father figure to two kittens introduced in 1935. Peake was often portrayed as a soldier during WWII in ads for the Chesapeake & Ohio's passenger trains.