

# *FUNTRAK* Times!

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FREE

## **VISITING "THE CAVE"**



The "Cavemen" of the newly formed car club gather with the model railroad folks from *FUNTRAK* at The Cave in Schuyler for an outing featuring a barbeque along with model trains. This joint venture allowed everyone to enjoy a great meal as well as great conversation. The "little" trains running in the background fascinated the car folks while the classic cars on display next door at Dave's Diner mesmerized the model railroad people. All in all, everyone benefited from this meeting as many ideas and proposals for the advancement of both groups were presented. Future joint meetings were brought up for discussion as well as more cook outs. These meetings will augment the model railroad season in the summer when this particular activity wanes. The more the merrier! *FUNTRAK* looks forward to participating in these marvelous activities.

## From the Desk:

Summer has officially arrived and along with it some of the warmest and coolest temperatures we have seen in a long time. First, we have a week of hot weather, then a few days of cool weather and finally back to the heat. As long as the weather isn't a torrential downpour, *FUNTRAK* sets up a small layout at some of the local cruise-ins. This affords club members the opportunity to get together on a regular basis and discuss model railroading topics as well as any other activities going on. Fresh air and small easily managed layouts make for a relaxed atmosphere where everyone is laid back and happy. Such was the case in the beginning of June when *FUNTRAK* was graced with the presence of our Canadian neighbor, David King. David came down to visit for a few days and brought some new and exciting items to the club. Among these is a newly developed WiFi DCC command station that allows folks to control their DCC equipped trains with their smart phones! David designed and built a beautiful enclosure for this unit that *FUNTRAK* copied and used at the gathering *FUNTRAK* had with

the members of The Cave car club. Everyone was impressed with how well this worked and how easy it was to use. This system is extremely easy to set up and allows members to have their own individual throttle with minimum expense as there is no necessity to have a separate commercial throttle. For *FUNTRAK's* small layouts this has proven to be an ideal addition to the inventory of control methods. *FUNTRAK* is scheduling meetings at Fat Cats for July but Dave's Diner has been sold and continuation of the Tuesday cruise-ins is up in the air. For now, Fat Cats is the only cruise-in *FUNTRAK* is scheduled to attend. Future setups will be announced in the newsletter. The next regularly scheduled event is the PicNik on August fourth. Following that, *FUNTRAK* expects to go to the Fonda Fair, Clayton the weekend after Labor Day, Massena in September at the end of the month, Syracuse and Volney in November, the Oneida County History Center in December, and Union Station in Utica in January. Any other events not mentioned here will be addressed as they come up and announced in the newsletter, so stay tuned!

**Brian**



# THE CAVE



# FAT CAT'S





# EVENTS

Central New York Division  
Northeastern Region, NMRA, Inc.

## Summer Picnic

sponsored by

**Drew James**

4762 Lynnville Way  
Clay, NY

July 20, 2024 4:00pm

Information: [cnymra@gmail.com](mailto:cnymra@gmail.com)

FUNTRAK has scheduled a meeting at Fat Cat's on Wednesday, July 17<sup>th</sup> starting at 5:00pm, weather permitting. There will be more meetings being tentatively scheduled later at Brian's in preparation for the upcoming PicNik.

**Plan for the 21st PicNik  
August 4, 2024**

## PicNik Directions

Take Route 5S to the Mohawk exit. This is Columbia Street/Route 28. Follow this up Vickerman Hill for approximately 11.4 miles where Routes 28 and 20 intersect. Continue straight across this intersection for 0.8 miles. At the end of this route, turn right. Follow this scenic road for 10 miles to Oaksville. Turn right onto Bissell Road. Go 3 miles to the end of the road and turn left. This is County Route 59. The driveway to the PicNik is 0.4 mile on the right immediately after the 13 ton bridge sign. You made it!

## FUNTRAK Officers

President: Lorenzo Franchi (315)867-4976

Vice President: Greg Brockway

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

# Schedules

July 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	Dave's	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	Fat Cats	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

August 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	Fat Cats	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

# More Events

Layout setups at Dave's Diner and Fat Cats are contingent upon the weather and are scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday nights respectively. Call to confirm dates.

## MONTHLY QUIZ

How do railroads help reduce congestion on U.S. highways?

Because rail cars can hold three to four truckloads of freight, just one train can take more than 300 trucks off the road. Think about what happens when you multiply that number by a year's worth of shipments – that's a lot of trucks! The result is reduced congestion on already overcrowded highways, less wear and tear on bridges and roadways, and a lessened burden on the taxpayers who pay to maintain them.