



FEBRUARY 2024

NETCA NEWS

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

Greetings fellow NETCA members. Before I get to this issue's theme, I hope that everyone had a great holiday

season! In addition to holiday parties and visiting friends and relatives, Michelle and I spent a day at the Boston Museum of Science.

We enjoyed the "Trains at Science Park" exhibits and had the opportunity to speak with Peter Higgins, one of the creators and builders of the layouts. One interesting fact is that except for the trains, everything had to be built with theater quality, flame resistant materials, including the paint!

We also enjoyed the movie "Train Time" in the Mugar Omni Theater. Very interesting and exciting story of a real-life engine and crew on the BNSF Railroad.

If you didn't get to see the Museum of Science trains this year, we highly recommend it for next year.

As for the quote from Bob Dylan, our hobby is truly changing. Contrary to opinions recently expressed by some of our members, it is not dead! The O and S gauge toy train hobby is changing. While we are still competing with Sports and Video Games, young people today are buying trains. But they want what they see in real life. And they want the latest in high tech. And in my opinion, for those in the hobby that cannot afford the latest high tech they are looking at used engines with TMCC Cab1 and Proto 1.0 and 2.0 at a lower cost.

While I was at York last October, I spoke to the folks from several large toy train retailers and several *You-Tubers* that have large numbers of followers. They are saying that young people are interested in trains, and they are buying the latest in realism and technology.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Here's a quote from Bob Buehler, of *Bob's Trains 4U*:

"The model train hobby today is dominated by two manufacturers - Lionel & MTH Trains - who compete on who can create the next engine or train feature everyone wants."

The new generation coming into the hobby loves these features, like whistle steam, blow down steam and disappearing coal load in the tender. Since most people under the age of 50 have a cell phone, running their trains on their phone is a requirement."

My business in train sales is dominated by folks wanting fantasy engines and cars and trains that do more than the model trains of years ago."

If you would like to see and hear more about our changing hobby, search on YouTube for *RBP Trains*, *Chris' Trains and Things*, *Sean's Train Depot*, or *Eric's Trains*. It will be interesting and enlightening.

I am happy to report that our Holiday meet in November was a positive change from September. Thank you for your e-mails, phone calls and even post cards with your comments and suggestions. Member attendance tripled to about 75-80 members, not counting vendors. Non-Member attendance more than doubled to about 75 plus additional family members. Thank you to all that made this meet a resounding success!

And last but not least, don't forget that the 2024 National Convention will be held in Lancaster Pennsylvania. We hope that you will make the trip and join me, Michelle and other NETCA members as we enjoy the tours, visit our National Toy Train Museum and Library, and attend the Banquet on Saturday night. See you at the Meet on March 17.

Best Regards and HAVE FUN!

Ed Barulli

PRESENTATION TO SCOUT TROOP 77, HUDSON, MA.



On Thursday evening October 12, NETCA President Ed Barulli visited the Scout Troop 77 Court of Honor in Hudson, MA, presenting them with a “Certificate of Appreciation” for their help and support at our NETCA meets held in Hudson. Along with the certificate, NETCA donated

\$150 to be used for camping equipment and supplies.

For several years the Scouts and Scouters of Troop 77 have been arriving at our meets at 6AM to help set up the tables and chairs. They also unload the rental tables from the Robinson’s Hardware trailer and assist any members that need help bringing in their items for sale or setting up their displays. Around 2PM they start to break down and put away the tables and chairs, help members bring items to their cars, load the trailer, and clean the hall.

NETCA truly appreciates their help, and the Scouts learn a valuable lesson in community service. It’s a win-win for everyone.

NETCA EMAILS

Thanks to all who receive and read our emails. We aim to inform while being respectful to your inbox, so we limit these to two per month, and usually send no more than ten per year.



If you do not receive emails and would like to; please sign up at the bottom of any of our web site pages, netca.org

If you have signed up and still not receiving emails, please make sure that web@netca.org is listed as a trusted address in your email program.

If you no longer wish to receive emails, please click the “unsubscribe” link that is on the bottom of every email. *(Note that you will need to unsubscribe from TCA national separately, which can also be done when you pay your dues.)*

Please **do not mark as spam**, as that may hinder us from delivering emails to those who want them.

NETCA CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Your Club needs your help. We are looking for NETCA members to share their energy and love of the hobby by participating in any of these activities:

- **NETCA Ambassadors** - promoting NETCA at public train shows; *Greenberg, HUB Division*, etc.
- **Meet Committee Members** - various assignments ranging from planning to day-of management. **For example:** Exploring alternate venues for meets to determine if they fit our requirements. Manning the admission table. Conduct raffles. Etc.
- **Kids Club Coordinator and Committee Members** - help us build a following of young train enthusiasts to insure the continuation of our great organization **For example:** Maintain and provide handouts for kids attending the meets and shows. Conduct the “Scavenger Hunt” and award prizes. Ensure that kids applications are complete and are forwarded to TCA.

We’ll be flexible with people’s desired level of time commitment as well as properly apply of individual’s skills. Please contact Ed Barulli f you can help NETCA in any way – by text or phone at 978-815-7952 or by email to etbarulli@comcast.net. Thank you.



Sunday MARCH 17, 2024, 10am–2pm
(9am entry for NETCA Members)
Hudson-Concord Elks, 99 Park St. Hudson, MA 01749

- **60+ Dealer Tables of Trains**
- **Public welcome! \$5**
Free for children under 12 and NETCA members
- **Free Door Prizes – NETCA Bucks!**
- **Kids Club Scavenger Hunt with prizes!**
- **Free Coloring Books!**

Visit netca.org/meets for details, directions and updates for all NETCA meets

8–11am



11:30–1pm



UPDATED DEALER TABLE RESERVATION PROCESS

Reservations can be made with Paper Forms, Online, or a Combination of Both.

- A) Mail only.** Make check payable to **NETCA** and mail with completed form below to; Dennis Ingalls, 220 Dean Street, Norton, MA 02766.
- B) Online + Mail.** You can submit the digital order form online at netca.org/meets. After completing online order please mail a check (see address A)
- C) Online + PayPal.** You can submit the digital order form online at netca.org/meets then pay via PayPal

NO ENTRY BEFORE 9AM EXCEPT FOR TABLE HOLDERS/HELPERS, dealer helpers please check-in with the meet coordinator. **Dealers must keep their tables open until 2pm**

NETCA DEALER TABLE ORDER FORM • 9am-2pm, March 17, 2024; **Set up 7:30am**

6’ TABLES: @ \$25 x _____ [# of tables] = \$ _____

Enclose your check **payable to NETCA** , Mail to; Dennis Ingalls, 220 Dean Street, Norton, MA 02766.

Name: _____ TCA # _____

☐ I WILL HAVE HELPERS WITH ME. # _____

Location Requests: _____

Phone: _____ email _____



1st Prize Winner
MTH Big Boy Engine
Joe Kaiser
TCA #96-44036



2nd Prize Winner
Lionel S Gauge PA AA Set
Manny Silveira
TCA #88-27769

NETCA 405 East Street
Weymouth, Massachusetts 02189



IN THIS NEWSLETTER...

- **The NETCA March 17 Meet & Dealer Table Reservations**
- **President's Message**
- **Raffle Winners Announced!**
- **Call for Volunteers AND MORE!**

HIGHLIGHTS OF OTHER UPCOMING TOY TRAIN SHOWS AND EVENTS

March 23-24, 2024

Greenberg Train and Toy Show
Shriners Auditorium, 99 Fordham Rd.
Wilmington, MA 01887.
Hours: 10am-4pm. For details
visit trainshow.com

April 6, 2024

**Great Northern New England
Chapter (NoNEC) Train Show**
Dover Lodge of Elks, 282 Durham Rd.
Dover NH 03820. Hours: 10am-3pm.
Contact Ed Martin,
efminter@aol.com for details or
call 603-362-4300

April 13, 2024

**North Shore Model Railroad
Club Flea Market**,
Clarion Hotel, 700 Myles Standish
Blvd, Taunton, MA 02780.
Hours 10am-2pm.
For details visit nsmrc.org/flea

April 27-28, 2024

**Northeast Large Scale
Train Show**,
Eastern States Exposition,
1305 Memorial Ave.,
West Springfield, MA 01089.
For details visit nelsts.org

Updates and the full **New England Train Show List**, put together by Sam Carr, is always available on your website. To download this month's list, visit netca.org/meets

**NOW
SHIPPING.**



NETCA PUFFIN BOX CAR Genuine Lionel 6464-Style \$89 plus \$12 shipping

Send payment to Dennis Ingalls, 220 Dean St.
Norton, MA 02766. To order using PayPal
visit netca.org/puffin

