

HUB Headlight

HUB Division Inc., Northeastern Region, National Model Railroad Association - Volume 23 Number 1, Sept.-Oct. 2006
<http://www.hubdiv.org>

RAILFUN TIMETABLE

NEW TOOLS FOR EASY HANDLAID TURNOUTS

Dick Johannes and Ken Belovaric
8 p.m., Friday, Sept. 15, 2006
Cambridge School of Weston

DCC SOUND SOLUTIONS

Gary Paulino
8 p.m., Friday, Oct. 20, 2006
Cambridge School of Weston

CHINESE STEAM IN 2005

James Van Bokkelen
8 p.m., Friday, Nov. 18, 2006
Cambridge School of Weston

Our track experts will show you some handy new products to take the work and frustration out of hand-laying turnouts. While both have some experience in hand laid track work, they both, while surfing the web, hit upon some useful items to make the job much easier.

They will show how to make turnouts using the turnout tools and jigs available from FastTracks. This is a family of products that revolutionizes hand-laid turnout construction by making it fast and precise. This includes making frogs and switch points, using a turnout form, precut ties, soldering to PC ties to hold everything together in the form, and general tips for using the tools. It will not be possible to do this as a hands-on clinic, since the tools are limited, but they will cover the most import steps with a series of demonstrations. Those of you who did some hand-laid track work with Dick for your dioramas a couple years back will find this a pleasant addition to covering the more complex topic of turnout construction.

Even if you don't do your own hand-laid track please come and join in the fun. It will be our first meeting of a new model railroading season.

Gary, a HUB Division member, is a member of the trackside sales and service team and has an extensive knowledge and experience in the installation of decoders and, in particular, sound chip systems. For several years getting new converts to DCC has been like rolling a stone uphill, but with the addition of sound that is rapidly changing. As model railroaders we have the luxury of many choices for locomotive sound these days in both Analog and Digital. There are even new products available for ambient sounds around the layout.

The presentation will consist of an interactive demonstration of some of the hottest new sound products on the market today. We will take a close look at Digitrax Sound FX, ESU LokSound, Pricom Design Dream Player, Soundtraxx Tsunami, and the QSI Upgrade Chip. Some of the manufacturers have programming capabilities via a PC and software. We will take a look at those options as well.

James has made several trips to China, the last bastion of mainline steam locomotives. Several years ago he regaled us with tales of his 1995 adventure. That Railfun was a delightful evening for all.

He has now offered to update us with photos from his most recent trip in 2005. For those of you who did not catch his talk at the Spring Northeastern Region convention, we'll be giving you a chance to hear and see his talk. Highlights include the JiTong railway of Inner Mongolia and various standard and narrow gauge industrial lines in central China.

So come out to Railfun to hear James' tales of the fire breathing "Iron Horse" that still roams the rails in China, as well as to join in the friendship.

A map to Cambridge School of Weston, where Railfun meetings are held, is provided on page 6.

Shanty Talk

By Rudy Slovocek

It's a hot day in July as I sit down to write but fortunately I'm cool in the shade with a cup of iced Joe in my hand. (If you read the column in January you know it began the same way except with a cup of steaming Joe in a warm shack. Oh how I love these computers. You can take your words, move them around, save them, and do just about any thing these days. It makes the job of writing a whole lot easier)

Speaking of easier these days our first two Railfun nights will be dedicated to the "easier way." The first, featuring **Ken Belovaric** and **Dick Johannes**, describes how to build hand-laid turnouts with a couple of special jigs on the market. I know I've stayed away from the hand laid stuff because of my perception of the work involved with turnouts. But this might be just the ticket to make it a viable option for you and me.

The second Railfun will feature **Gary Paulino**. Gary does a lot of the sound chip installations out of **Joe Derouin's** shop in Attleboro and is quite familiar with all the latest products and gizmos. Not too long ago, there was a lot of dis-assembly, soldering and re-assembly involved, as most locomotives did not come prepared for sound much less even ready for DCC. Everything was a heritage fleet assembly project. Now, it's all plug and play, and many manufacturers have sound already installed in their locomotives.

From the moment Soundtraxx introduced its DIR 220, that's "Diesel Infra Red" throttle, I had to have one. It uses digitized sounds fed to the track at sound frequencies on top of the analog DC voltage used



to run the trains. The sound component was filtered though a capacitor set to a speaker in the locomotive. Not being content with a weak sound for use in large noisy shows, I passed the signal to a 100 watt stereo amp and literally had all the people looking over their shoulders to see where a real locomotive was about to enter the hall! When one of those second generation turbo equipped EMD's was run up to notch eight as it slowly pulled a heavy train out of the yard, what a show it made and what a crowd we drew. When I switched to DCC, my hobby world became eerily quiet again, that is until Soundtraxx introduced their first decoders. Then I was "in heaven" again. My latest installation of a Lok-Sound unit in a Kato GE AC4400 CW was by far the "easiest" for me made possible by the locomotive and sound chip manufacturers.

Nowadays with DCC, every model railroader can be his own

engineer sitting atop 1500 HP in a local switcher or even 6000 HP in one of the new GE's and blowing his horn for each grade crossing. I also tend to give a yank on the horn or whistle chord when a young child waves from trackside. I know they always did for me and it was a nice human touch. That was in the days before town ordinances silenced the warning sounds for crossings but that is another story...

So before the summer is over, find your own slice of the cool shade in your basement or train room and listen to the sounds of railroading, model railroading that is.

***Next Page:** Ken Kirkwood's 1930's era HO model railroad displays his humor as well as his modeling skill. Ken has published photos in Walther's Catalog and various magazines. Our Editor visited his Yucaipa, California layout this summer. Perhaps more photos of his layout will be forthcoming Photo by Ken Kirkwood.*

The Model RR Bug

By Chip Stevens

It All Began...

On the Christmas morning that I found the Lionel 2-6-2 on an oval of track under the Christmas tree?

When the train was put away at season's end because it took up too much room?

When I first saw HO gauge?

When my college roommate preached endlessly about the L&N?

When I rode home from Louisville, KY on the C&O's George Washington?

Who knows?

But the bug bit very deep and the toxin didn't go away. I spent money on cures (kits, trips, books and

magazines) to no avail. I lived in a New England Cape Cod style house with a field stone basement for 27 years and never got further than some kit building.

Then lightning struck. My ever-patient wife and I sold our Cape home 18 months ago and bought a huge basement with a condo built on top of it. I went through the house design process and the furnishing visits having staked my claim to the poured concrete walled, level concrete floored space to kill for. I could run the B&O from Cumberland, MD through the whole eastern seaboard, including Bound Brook, NJ where my wife grew up, in this first class location. Ah, I'm a happy man!

"You plan to take HOW MUCH of the basement?" "What about storage?" "I get which part?"

(Guess who.)

After 18 months, the house is only lacking drapes at a few windows. The cedar closet in the basement is ALMOST finished and the floor of the storage area has been tiled. I have contacted a magician to shrink the rest of the "stuff" that might encroach on my domain. I've learned how to use e-Bay for shopping, but haven't figured out how to "snipe" yet. Now, if I could just find some kindred B&O spirits in southeastern Massachusetts, I'd be on my way.

Chip Stevens is planning to model the B&O, Reading and Jersey Central on a free-lanced layout. Comments, suggestions, and help can be sent to him directly at cjvettelover@yahoo.com. Gripes and fault finding will be ignored.



Treasurer's Report

Gerald Covino, Treasurer

We did continue again this year to spend slightly more money than we secured through our fund raising efforts. The negative cash flow is due in part to not reaching our revenue goal from our major fundraising event, the December show, and the need to go forward with obtaining equipment needed to support our Modular Railroad. This year, the board decided not to defer all the planned expenses as was done in the preceding year, limiting equipment acquisitions to only essential components required for the groups operations. The Board continues its emphasis on maintaining a strong financial position to insure the continued ability of the Division to deliver successful programs in the future.

On the plus side, our major fundraising project, "New England Model Train EXPO," note the new name, continued to perform better than the year previous, even with the SNOWstorm on Sunday. That storm unfortunately, may have been the

reason for not reaching our financial goal. The Board continues to believe that we are on track for building attendance as witnessed by the fact that we did increase both dealers and patrons again this year. In finding new avenues for promoting the show we have been fortunate to find within our membership a professional marketing director of a major local corporation who has agreed to work to get our show better known in the greater New England area, hence the show's name change. We continued to attract new members through our promotional membership efforts; this program continues to be a success. And finally, our Railfun meetings continue offering successful programs to our membership as witnessed by the constant high-level turnout and positive feedback. Our module group continues to be front and center in our educational efforts along with clinics offered at our December Show and the program offered by the division at the NER 60th Anniversary Convention held in Worcester, which our division hosted.

So as we move into the new fiscal year, please remember that we rely upon your support to make the programs a success. Our major fundraising project requires your assistance. Please remember, this event will provide the funds needed to carry on our mission. Our show is the principle source of revenue. We do need you as members to assist working at the show to make the event a financial success. Please don't be bashful, volunteer at least an hour, there are many jobs that require help. Contact Mark Harlow, our President, and offer your time. Your participation will provide you the opportunity to attend the Show, admission free.

Financial Report Year Ended June 30, 2005

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Revenue All Sources | \$ 27,646.00 |
| Expenses | <u>28,116.00</u> |
| Change in Cash Position | <u>-\$ 470.00</u> |

Year-end Account Balances

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Checkbook | \$ 682.00 |
| Unrestricted Savings Account | 5,081.00 |
| Restricted Life Accounts | 10,157.00 |
| USPS Permit Account | <u>4.00</u> |
| Total Funds Available | <u>\$ 15,924.00</u> |

"THRIFTY SIXTY" HUB DIVISION HOSTS NER SPRING CONVENTION JUNE 1-4, 2006, WORCESTER, MA

Presented here and on the next page are some photos taken by Peter Watson at the NER Spring Conference, held in at the Holiday Inn in Worcester on June 1-4. The convention featured operating sessions, clinics, prototype railroad tours and awards ceremonies. The HUB Division hosted the convention and the success of the convention was largely due to the tremendous planning effort and the great turnout by our members, who volunteered for duty. HUB Division can be proud of its contributions.





HUB Division Upcoming Events

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Fri. Sept. 16, 2006 | RAILFUN - 8:00 PM - Cambridge School of Weston |
| Mon. Oct 16, 2006 | DEADLINE for submissions to Nov.-Dec. HUB Headlight |
| Fri. Oct 20, 2006 | RAILFUN - 8:00 PM - Cambridge School of Weston |
| October 2006 | HUB Modular RR Display - Children's Hospital of Boston (details to be announced) |
| Oct 20-22, 2006 | NER Fall Convention - Parsippany, NJ |
| Fri. Nov 17, 2006 | RAILFUN - 8:00 PM - Cambridge School of Weston |
| Nov. 18-19, 2006 | HUB Modular RR Display - Great Train Expo, Shriner's Auditorium, Wilmington, MA |
| Dec. 2-3, 2006 | HUB FALL SHOW - New England Model Train Expo, Marlborough, MA |
| Dec 9-10, 2006 | HUB Model RR Display - National Heritage Museum, Lexington, MA |
| Mon. Dec. 11, 2006 | DEADLINE for submissions to Jan.-Feb. HUB Headlight |
| Sat. Jan 6, 2007 | HUB Holiday Party - Common Market Restaurant, Quincy, MA |
| Fri. Jan 19, 2007 | RAILFUN - 8:00 PM - Cambridge School of Weston |
| Jan 27-28, 2007 | HUB Model RR Display - Amherst Railway Society's Railroad Hobby Show, Eastern States Exposition Grounds, West Springfield, MA |
| Mon. Feb 5, 2007 | DEADLINE for submissions to Mar.-Apr. HUB Headlight |
| Fri. Feb 16, 2007 | RAILFUN - 8:00 PM - Cambridge School of Weston |
| Fri. Mar 16, 2007 | RAILFUN - 8:00 PM - Cambridge School of Weston |
| Sat. Apr. 7, 2007 | HUB SPRING SHOW - SPRING Training - Woburn, MA |
| Mon. Apr. 16, 2007 | DEADLINE for Submissions to May-June HUB Headlight |
| Fri. Apr. 20, 2007 | RAILFUN - 8:00 PM - Cambridge School of Weston |

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HUB Headlight, published by the HUB Division Inc., Northeastern Region, National Model Railroad Association, is issued in January, March, May, September and November. Contributions may be sent by email to the Editor or by mail to the Office Manager.

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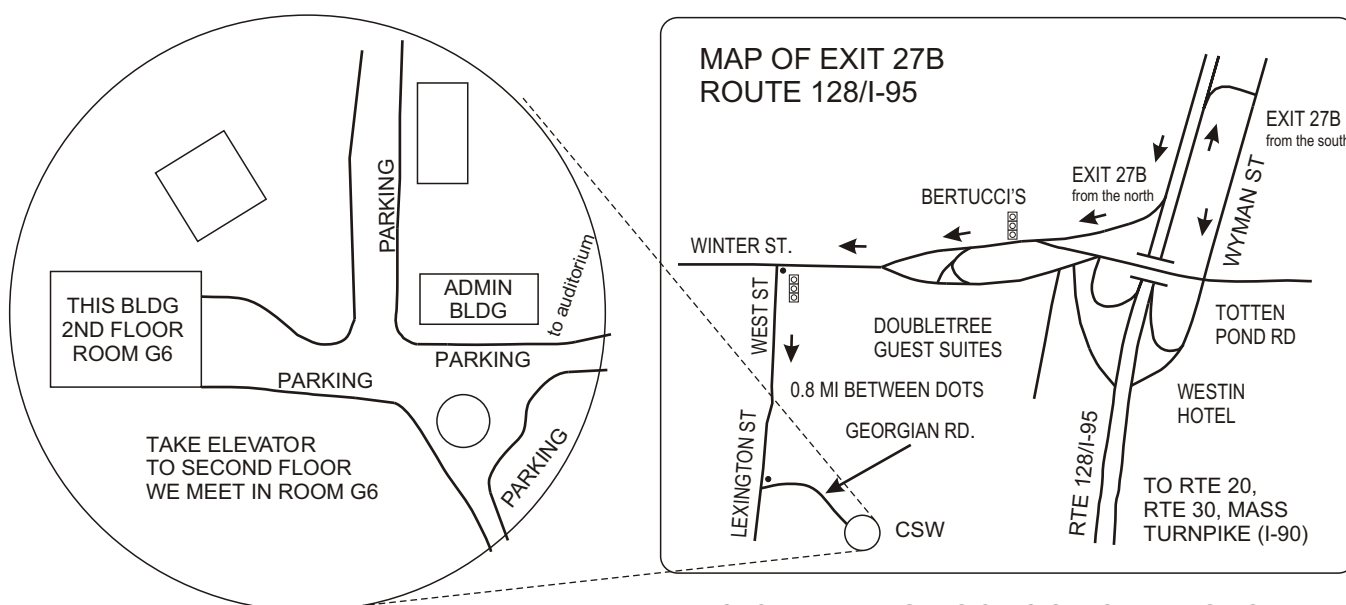
Harvey Humphrey

Membership: National Model Railroad Association Members residing within the boundaries of the HUB Division: zip codes 01400 through 02699. (Barnstable, Dukes, Essex, Franklin, Middlesex, Nantucket, Norfolk, Plymouth, Suffolk, and Worcester counties of Massachusetts.)

Headlight Printers

Versatile Printing Services, Inc.
Burlington, MA

MAP TO RAILFUN MEETINGS



MAP TO CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL OF WESTON

Anyone who is interested in joining the Module Group may contact Jim Harter and arrange to help set up and tear down of the modular layout during shows and events. Then you can bring your HO trains, whether DC or (preferably) DCC, and obtain a time slot to run them on the layout during the event. Individuals who wish to purchase a module kit (instructions, wood and hardware included--you add track and scenery) should contact Mark Harlow. The Module Group is a tremendous opportunity for modelers build eye-catching modules and to operate their trains on a large layout, regardless of how much space they have available for trains where they live.