

# HUB Headlight

HUB Division Inc., Northeastern Region, National Model Railroad Association - Volume 24 Number 5, May-Jun. 2008  
<http://www.hubdiv.org>

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## RAILFUN TIMETABLE

### TREES

#### **Building a Diorama, Part 7 of 8**

by Gerald Abegg

8 p.m. May 16, 2008

Cambridge School of Weston

### DETAILS

#### **Building a Diorama, Part 8 of 8**

by Rudy Slovacek

8 p.m. June 20, 2008

Cambridge School of Weston

### EQUIPMENT

#### **MAINTENANCE NIGHT**

by HUB Clinic Crew

8 p.m. September 19, 2008

Cambridge School of Weston

**D**o you need a small forest on your layout or module but you'd rather spend your bucks on rolling stock than commercial trees? If so, then you will enjoy this new method of making trees presented in a clinic at the NMRA Convention in Detroit. You will need some dried weeds to provide the basic armatures. We will supply rope, wire for Pine Trees, glue, paint and various colors of ground foam. With a little practice you can make a tree in about 5 minutes. Your new forest can be deciduous trees in spring, summer or fall foliage or conifers in their ever present green. Some of the work may be done outside because of the need to paint the trees before adding the foliage.

Newcomers will be inspired and the old timers will walk away with another tip or two for their own layouts.

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*A map to Cambridge School of Weston, where Railfun meetings are held, is provided on page 10.*

**O**ur mini-series of clinics for helping modelers develop scenery building skills closes with a section on details. The clinic will focus on adding a few bits of wire, fence posts, telegraph poles, ties (old and new) and signs such as a whistle post, milepost or a flanger sign to perk up a scene. We'll demonstrate how to make that rural tie crossing and even a split rail fence. Other inexpensive details like a rusted rail, a broken coupler, even a rusted freight car truck may be used to complete your scene. Old tires, a rusted muffler or fender might also be found along the highway. We'll supply some of these details but participants are also asked to bring their junk boxes to barter and exchange for other little gems which just make a scene. Don't forget to bring white glue, small paint brushes, a hobby knife and your diorama.

This will be the last of our Railfun meetings until September. Enjoy the summer and see you next fall.

**M**ark Harlow and the "Car Knockers" will put on what has become one of our greatly anticipated, yearly fun rituals where we all get the chance to do those little badly needed maintenance chores before the season begins and to renew old friendships as well as meet new members to boot. It doesn't matter what gauge you model in, if you have equipment that you like to run, it should be routinely checked to make sure it conforms to the standards for continued trouble-free operation. Fix that dragging coupler pin or clean and gauge those car wheels; whatever needs fixing and cleaning.

Bring your rolling stock along with your tool kit and standards gauges. The maintenance crew will review the standards and check-up procedures with you and present a lot of great tips for keeping all your equipment in tip top running shape.

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## HUB DIVISION ELECTION RESULTS

**P**ete Watson reports on the results of the election at Hub Division's Annual Meeting. Bill Barry, Dan Fretz, and Gerry Covino were elected for three years to the Board of Directors. The Board met after the Annual Meeting and elected Dick Johannes to another term as President.

# The Hub Module Group Travels to Germany

By Gerry Covino, Jeff Gerow, and Rudy Slovacek

The Hub Module Group, at the invitation and sponsorship of Modellbahnverband in Deutschland e.V. (MOBA) and Lenz Elektronik, GmbH attended INTERMODELLBAU 2008 in Dortmund, Germany from April 16 through April 20, 2008. This spectacular train and model show featured model construction "on land, in water and in the air," celebrated its 30th Anniversary, and attracted over 120,000 people from Germany and its neighbors, the Netherlands, Belgium, Great Britain, and even further away. Those who attended saw and bought all kinds of model trains, and viewed the newest technologies in model ships,

airplanes, cars, construction, and military models. In addition, they came to see and speak with manufacturer's representatives and to view numerous displays, including the Hub Division's modular layout from the United States.

The Hub Division represented both the United States and the National Model Railroad Association at this prestigious international train show. This event turned out to be an extraordinary experience for those members who were able to attend. Representing the group led by **Jeff Gerow** were **Mark Harlow, Rudy Slovacek, Jerry McDonald, Gerald Abegg, Stan Ames, Debbie Ames, Bill**

**Goldthwait, James VanBokkelen, Bill Roach, Matt Roach, Gerry Covino** and, from Division 4 - Ohio, **Larry Madson**.

The preparation started with Jeff locating enough modules to complete a layout almost the size of the Hub's biggest annual stateside layout--the one in Springfield, MA in January. All the Hub's yards and corners were pressed into service, as well as multiple modules from Mark, Rudy, and Larry in addition to personal modules contributed by those members on the trip. To fill out the 40-foot square layout, modules were contributed by members who could not attend the event: **Jim Harter** and **Sue Zukowski**,





**Ken Belovarac, Ron Noret, and Mike Clements.**

The size of the layout was greatly appreciated by our invitational sponsors and enjoyed by the many show visitors.

The participants enjoyed talking with the show attendees and answering their multitude of questions, such as "Do American railways really run double-stack trains?" and "Do they really operate such long trains?" One visitor, clearly enjoying watching the 50th double-stack of containers pass by, looks up and asks, in his very best, but seldom used, English, "Is that REAL? ... Do they really have ...." His words faded as he looked from my nodding head back to the train.

Jerry McDonald particularly liked to call out "All aboard!" after a station stop with his passenger train. The children listening to him had no idea what that was about, they were familiar only with the whistles.

Needless to say, those who viewed our modular layout in operation were quite impressed.

One of the funniest questions we were asked was where the layout was going next on tour. Show attendees were astonished to learn that we came to Germany with all the equipment just to display at this show. They were also amazed to find that the diamond crossing is a standard American railroading fixture which really exists. There is little need for track crossings by different owned railroads in the state-run systems found in most European countries.

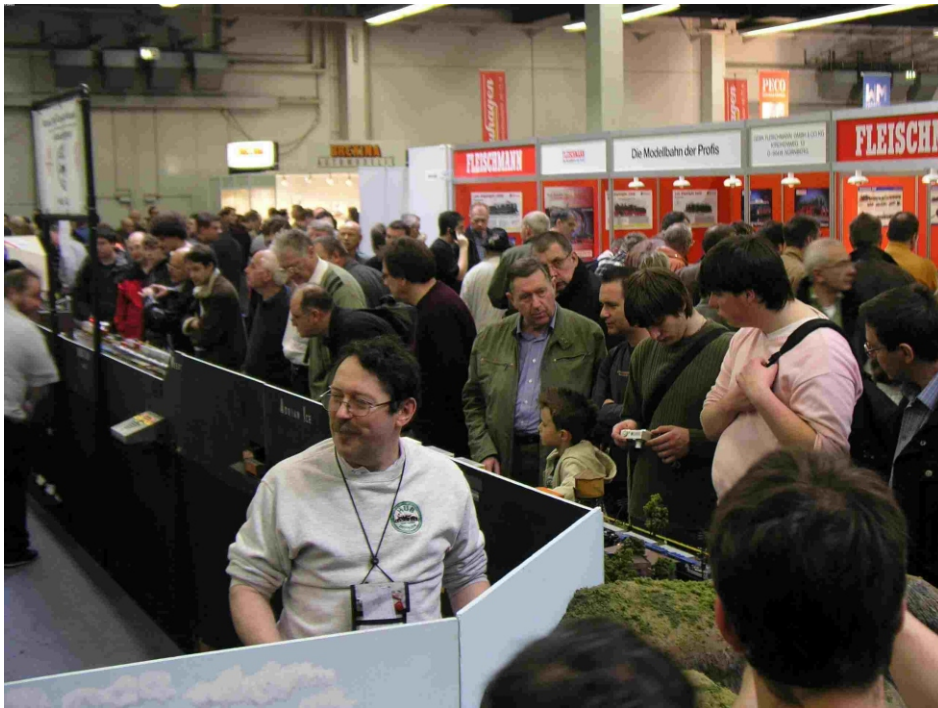
As in our Springfield show, visitors tended to congregate around the diamond and were



fascinated by our use of an actual ball signal system to govern train movements across the diamond.

As a group, we also express our thanks for the efforts of **Stan and Debbie Ames** to secure the financial sponsorships mentioned above as well as from Bachmann USA and Model Railroader Magazine. These monetary contributions allowed the group to travel overseas without any expense to the Hub Division. The grants also provided the Module Group the opportunity to purchase racks that will live in the trailer, something the Hub Division Board has previously deferred several times due to other program needs. Also through the generosity of our sponsors, the module group's electronic equipment was upgraded (to EU as well as UL standards),





again without the use of division funds. So, in addition to having a very successful trip and promoting the hobby from an American perspective, we have also enhanced our future module group operations here at home.

Those who were unable to attend Intermodellbau 2008 may consider making a similar Module Group trip overseas in the future, should the opportunity present itself. Back in 2000, when a much smaller display went to the Netherlands, most members at that time thought it was a once-in-a-lifetime event. Nobody thought we would get a second invitation to travel overseas. Yet, at the end of this show, the leaders from MOBA and Lenz suggested that an invitation might be forthcoming again in about five years, since having the American display at



their show directly increased their attendance figures. As a matter of fact, their previous high attendance figure was 100,000 people. They indicated to us that their surge in attendance was a direct result of the Hub's presence with an American layout at the show.

Judging from the spectators standing three-deep at times to view a sixty-car coal train pulled by double headed steam with sound and a rear-end pusher, not just one but five days in a row, we know there are plenty of model train enthusiasts in Europe who are interested in American railroading.

Congratulations to everyone who helped make this event a positive experience.

One final note: all the equipment arrived safely in Germany with only minor and easily repairable tree damage on a couple of modules. It appears the laws of physics work even on scale trees, and who says there is no such thing as a micro-tornado?



*Photographs of the Hub Division's layout and viewers at the Dortmund, Germany Intermodellbau 2008 show were provided by Jeff Gerow.*





## PRESIDENT'S CAR

**W**ell, another year is coming to a conclusion and what a year it was! We had major gains across all of our major events including the New England Model Train Expo, our Holiday Banquet, our Railfun nights and Modular events.

Growth is one thing but some of our numbers are really encouraging. The Holiday Banquet grew by 35%. The New England Model Train Expo grew by 20% and not even in the area we see as the real opportunity for growth. The modular group took first place at the NMRA convention last summer and is just now returning from a major invited event in Dortmund, Germany.

It probably should be a charmed year. After all, it's our 50th anniversary. Fifty years ago, in 1958, Dwight D. Eisenhower was President. The U.S. launched our first artificial satellite, Explorer I. Arnold Palmer won his first Masters. The dreaded NY Yankees came back from being down 3-1 to defeat the Milwaukee Braves in the World Series. The hula-hoop was introduced. Top songs included "Purple People Eater" and "At the Hop." And, of course, at the top of the list the HUB Division was formed.

Today, George W. Bush is President. Apple launched the iPhone, Tiger Woods wins everything, the Red Sox swept the World Series (twice in this century), I've no clue what the hot songs are but the HUB Division is 50 years old.

We celebrated this well at our Spring Training event at the Milford Sheraton on April 12th. Great kudos to all who helped make this happen including **Peter Watson**, **Gerry Covino**, **Manny Escobar**, **Jeff Gerow** and **Ken Belovarac**. The show was a great success. We had

standing room only in most of the clinics. The double length clinic held by Art Fahie had a very diverse group of people. Tony Koester and Bill Schaumberg, major figures from both Model Railroader and Model Railroad Craftsman, both did clinics and Tony helped keynote the evening banquet. Our history was updated by Ken Belovarac and made available at the Banquet.

As always, we held our annual elections after this event. At one point I was worried that the treasurer's report from our tireless treasure, Gerry Covino, had morphed into a filibuster but when it was all over was **Dan Fretz**, current HUB Division Webmaster, Gerry Covino, current Treasurer, and **Bill Barry**, current NMRA Regional representative were elected to the Board of Directors. Two current directors, **Sue Zukowski** and **Mike Clements**, who served us well will be leaving the Board but not the Division.

The day after the Spring Training, most of the Modular Group donned their *lederhosen* and headed for Germany. We owe special thanks for this event to a HUB member that history should remember well, **Stan Ames**. Let's not forget the key role Stan played in making DCC happen and yes, he's a HUB Division member. The following Friday, those of us who stayed home had a small, eclectic and very relaxed Railfun which included much better than average coffee thanks to Manny Escobar. We covered all sorts of things but the new Floquil rail weathering pens were a definite crowd pleaser.

Lastly, I need to highlight one aspect of the Spring Banquet. Several awards, in fact coveted awards, were given out. The Spate award went to **Dick Towle**. But at a 50 year anniversary you need a 50 year award. That award, in the form

of an engraved Adlake lantern, was given to my current Vice-President and Master Model Railroader, **Jack Alexander** for fifty consecutive years serving on the Board of the HUB Division. In 1958, you would no doubt use some very formal language to express the quiet competence that Jack exudes. But its 2008, so I guess I go with "I love you man!"

Keep'em rollin'  
Dick Johannes



*NER President Ken May presents Dick Johannes a certificate honoring Hub Division's 50th Anniversary.*



*Ken May presents the Spate Award to Hub Division member Dick Towle.*



*Jack Alexander receives an award honoring 50 years of continuous Hub membership from Dick Johannes and NMRA Director Tony Koester.*

## TAKEDOWN

By Dan Fretz

The model railroading hobby has many facets, including layout design, carpentry, electrical, painting, scenery, operations and others, all covered in great depth by the numerous online and paperbound resources that we have at our fingertips. We love to exchange tips and new ideas, all geared toward producing an ever more accurate and beautiful model. But I recently participated for the first time in a little-discussed, somewhat uncomfortable (to me) part of the hobby--the disassembly of a large permanent layout.

I'm not talking about the common activity of taking apart a "large" sectional track layout, built on, say, a 4x8 piece of plywood, and putting it back into boxes, only to be pulled out again and used at a later date. We all did that many times as kids. Nor am I talking about a "permanent" layout that was built primarily for practice, knowing that it would be torn apart within a year or two to build "the big one." No, this was the experience of taking down what *had been* that "big one" for its builder; of seeing a power saw cutting through scenery that was painstakingly made perhaps decades before. Ouch.

What happened was that an older gentleman contacted the Hub Division about "disposing" (his word) of his layout, a beautiful empire of 8x20 or so feet, in which his (now grown) children never developed an interest. After some discussion, he decided to donate the

entire thing to the Hub; all we had to do was dismantle it and carry it away. So three of us volunteered to help and headed over to his place on a sunny Saturday this past fall. Armed with a power screwdriver, rail nippers, a small pry bar and a power saw, it took only four hours from start to finish to completely remove what had taken this man 20 or so years to build. We carefully packed the rolling stock and engines and uprooted each individual tree that had been painstakingly made and planted, probably hundreds of them. Piece-by-piece, building-by-building, it came down, filling a line of empty boxes.

Interestingly, this gentleman helped and watched the entire time. I don't know how he had the stomach for that, especially once the saw came out and we started cutting it apart. I would have run for the hills. But he seemed quite willing to be rid of it. He told us that building the layout had been what kept him "sane" during his years in the workforce. At one point that day, his wife told me pretty much the same thing; that he'd come home from work and head right to the basement to work on it. We're all motivated in this hobby for assorted reasons, but I guess in his case his interest was driven by the need to relax after work. Once in retirement, that need went away along with his interest in model railroading. That's a shame, because he did great work.

Fortunately, he went to the trouble of finding his layout a new lease on life, instead of simply hauling it to the curb for the trash collector. That tells me that he

probably cared about it a lot more than he showed. We took it down with as much care as possible, and carefully cut it up so as to not damage a single turnout. Now it's at least possible that some portions could be converted into modules, or it could even be reassembled and repaired in its entirety. This ending is probably as happy as it could be, since all too often such layouts *do* simply get destroyed and discarded. As we finished loading the last of the boxes into the back of one guy's truck, the man shook his head and quietly commented, almost to his self I think, "Imagine that. My life's project packed into those boxes."

Like I said, this was my first time dismantling a large layout, so I surely gave it more thought than the other guys. I think that our benefactor did a great thing here, in making the result of his years of work available for others in the hobby to enjoy. We should all take his lead. As you spend hours, days, years and maybe even decades painstakingly building and detailing your railroading empire, also plan for how you'll preserve your investment of time and money once you've lost interest, or worse. If your children or other relatives share your interest, great! Make sure they'll keep it. If not, what about having it go to friends or clubs? Make your wishes known. Maybe even state its disposition in your Will. After all, other than major items like your home and vehicles, you probably own few other things for which you've spent more money than your model railroad. Think about it!

## HUB Division Upcoming Events

Fri., May 16

**RAILFUN** - 8:00 PM - Cambridge School of Weston

Fri., June 20

**RAILFUN** - 8:00 PM - Cambridge School of Weston

Sat., June 21

**DINNER TRAIN** - Cape Cod Central Railroad

Sun., Aug. 10

**HUB COOKOUT** Peter & Ginny Watson's Briar Patch Farm, Bridgewater

Fri., Sept. 19

**RAILFUN** - 8:00 PM - Cambridge School of Weston



# HUB Division NER-NMRA

## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Boxcar

### *Limited Run*



### 50TH ANNIVERSARY FREIGHT CAR

Two car kits being offered, both are fifty-foot model kits

PRICE PER KIT:     \$15.00 to HUB MEMBERS    \$20.00 to NON-HUB MEMBERS

Boxcar #1     Transition Era, roof walks - #HUBX 1958  
Boxcar #2     Modern Era - #HUBX 2008

Available for ordering. Limited supplies, act now. Check the website ([www.hubdiv.org](http://www.hubdiv.org)) for ordering information or contact Manuel Escobar, P.O. Box 302, Norwood, MA 02062-0302.

HUB Division promotes and supports the model railroad hobby, through activities and education

## 12th Annual HUB Division Cookout

By Pete Watson

It's time to start planning to attend the Annual HUB Division Cookout again. This annual event is a time to kick back, relax and enjoy a pleasant afternoon of socializing with model railroading friends.

For those of you who have not been to any of the previous cookouts, they are a summertime get together for HUB members and it is always a

good time. No meeting, no business, no motions, just a time to visit with friends with a shared interest and to make new friends.

Date Sunday August 10, 2008  
Time 2:00 PM.

We'll provide the hamburgers, hot dogs, corn, salad and soda. If you have yen for steak or lobster, etc., you are welcome to bring your own. There's plenty of room for kids to

run and play without bothering the grownups so feel free to bring them.

Please let me know if you are planning to attend and how many are coming with you so that we can plan adequately. (Space is somewhat limited so I have to hold it to about 40 people).

We have scheduled a rain date for August 17. If the weather doesn't look good, check with the HUB Web site for postponement or call me.

You can call me at 508-378-3582 or E-mail me [pawsrll@comcast.net](mailto:pawsrll@comcast.net). Check the HUB Web site for map & directions





# Hub Division - NMRA-NER and Cape Cod Central Railroad invite you **All Aboard!**



**Join us for an elegant dinner train excursion**  
**Hub Division is celebrating its 50th Anniversary**



**C**apture the Romance of a By-Gone Era as you dine on a nostalgic three hour journey. Soft music and fresh flowers enhance your award-winning, five course gourmet meal, freshly prepared on board. The ultimate "dining excellence" you'll enjoy climate comfort as you experience the ever-changing scenery. The dinner train crosses the famous Cape Cod Canal railroad bridge into the quaint village of Buzzards Bay.

As the HUB celebrates its 50th Year Anniversary for the purpose to promote and support the model railroad hobby, through activities and education. We invite you to step

aboard and see the beauty, experience the rhythm, and ride the rails!

Saturday, June 21, 2008

Dinner Train Departs at 6:30 PM from Hyannis Station.

#### Elegant Dinner Train Menu\*

Dinner includes: Hors d'oeuvres, Cape Cod Central Seafood Chowder, Tossed Salad, Chef's Choice of Potato, Rice, or Pasta, Fresh seasonal Vegetable, Coffee and Tea with Dessert.

#### Choice of Entrée:\*

Beef, Chicken, Seafood, and Vegetarian Entrée.

Bar Beverage and Gratuities are additional and will be paid onboard the train.

\*The menu has not been finalized and may vary without notice.

For Reservations and Information contact:

Manuel Escobar  
781.718.5693 cell

781.762.9858 home

spd@msn.com e-mail

Fare: \$70.00 / person

Fare includes five-course gourmet meals, three hour ride.

Reservation required prior to May, 30, 2008

Full Bar Service available onboard  
Appropriate attire required. No jeans or shorts.



Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ spaces on the Dinner Train Excursion.

\$70.00 per person (Price includes tax & gratuity)

Enclosed is amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the following:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail\* \_\_\_\_\_

Make check to HUB Division, Inc. and mail it Manuel Escobar, P.O. Box 302, Norwood, MA 02062-0302  
Reservations and payment must be received no later than May 30, 2008.

\*E-mail to be use for directions, updating menu and confirmation only!

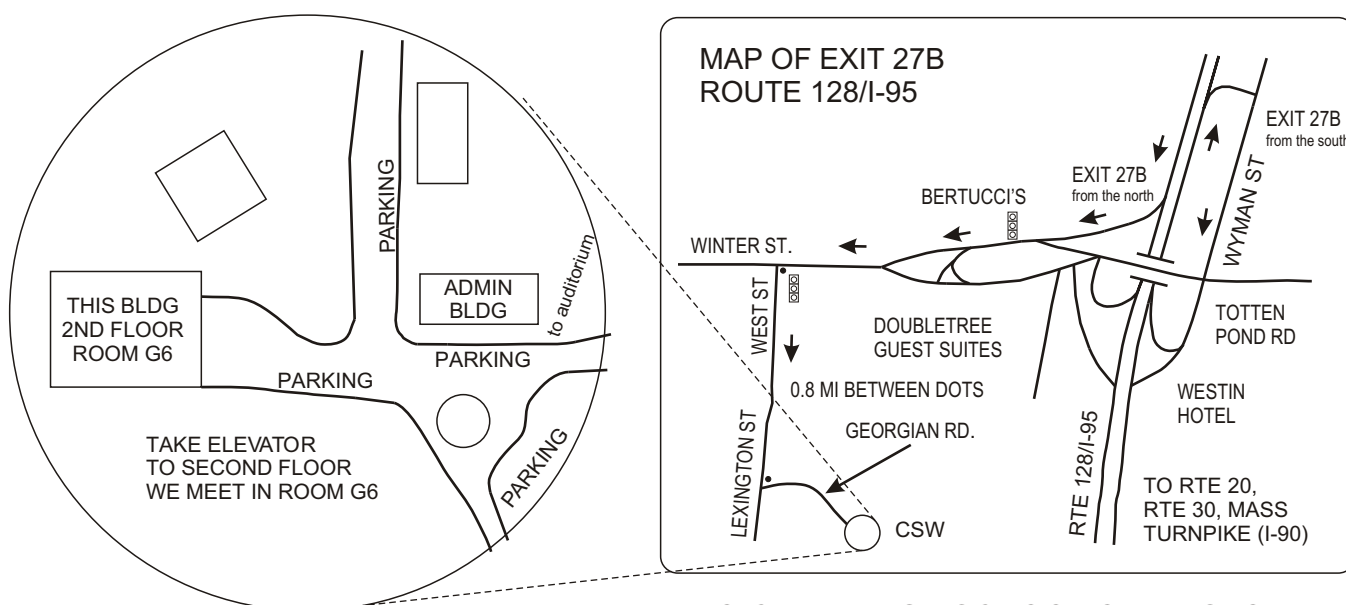
## HUB Headlight

### Volume 24, Number 5, May-June, 2008

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## MAP TO RAILFUN MEETINGS



MAP TO CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL OF WESTON



## 11 oz weight @\$30      Size:\_\_\_\_      Quantity:\_\_\_\_

**IF YOU REQUEST  
MAILING  
PROVIDE YOUR**

