

# HUB Headlight

HUB Division Inc., Northeastern Region, National Model Railroad Association - www.hubdiv.org  
Volume 35, Number 3, January - February, 2019

---

## RAILFUN TIMETABLE

### Hands-On Clinic: Rolling Stock Tune-Up

By Dick Ball, Mike Tylick, MMR, and Peter Watson, MMR  
8 PM Friday, January 18, 2019, Cambridge School of Weston

This annual tune-up event is just before the HUB Modular Display at the Springfield Show on Saturday, January 26th and Sunday, January 27th, so that we have a trouble-free exhibition. Dick, Mike and Peter will be on hand to demonstrate the proper way to fix dragging coupler pins, re-gauge rolling stock, and top the cars off with a little weathering. There will be an ample supply of weights to make sure your rolling stock meets the NMRA standards. Bring along your rolling stock, tool kits, standard gauges, new wheel sets and a portable post office scale if you have one. We will also explain when and why the modular group uses wheel resistors for our signaling system and they will be for sale at the meeting. An advance homework assignment is recommended by visiting: [www.nmra.org/beginner/knuckle-couplers](http://www.nmra.org/beginner/knuckle-couplers) and [www.nmra.org/car-weight](http://www.nmra.org/car-weight).

---

### Presentation: One STEAMy Week

By Doug Scott  
8 PM Friday, February 15, 2019, Cambridge School of Weston

This multimedia PowerPoint program featuring STEAM LOCOMOTIVES on the Grand Canyon Railway in Arizona, and the Wiscasset, Waterville & Farmington Railway in Alna, Maine. The program will also highlight current Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) traffic along Route 66 between Belen, New Mexico, and Williams, Arizona, plus a quick visit to the South Rim of the Grand Canyon. Doug spent a week traveling in early February 2017 to participate in a Lerro Productions photo charter based in Williams, Arizona, and a Mass Bay RRE trip to Alna, Maine. There are even a few ALCO images.

---

### Presentation: Steam Locomotive Detailing

By Mal Houck  
8 PM Friday, March 15, 2019, Cambridge School of Weston

With slides and some exhibits, Mal will describe his efforts to re-detail, remove / replace details or add omitted details to steam locomotives. This will include non-destructive methods for removing parts held in place with ACC. He will provide examples of detailing plastic (superstructure) engines, not just brass imports. Finally, he will explain the process of detailing to a specific prototype including the sources and methods to do so. Mal will explain his use of equipment catalogs and Simmons Boardman Locomotive Cyclopedias. Mal's Steam Locomotive parts sources include:

- Cal-Scale
- Kemtron - Precision Scale
- PFM (Pacific Fast Mail)
- Cary Locomotive Works
- Wiseman Model Services
- Selley
- Marktis (U.K.)
- Overall / Selective cannibalization of "Basket case" superstructures.

*The map to Cambridge School of Weston appears on Page 10.*

### The Joy of Train Show Volunteering

By Jerry Grochow

I had my first experience as a volunteer running trains at Railfair 2018 in Boxboro. This train show is sponsored by the Nashua Valley Model Railroad Association, at which the HUB Division had an operating module display. Even an hour walking around with throttle in hand is a great volunteer experience – for volunteer and attendees alike.

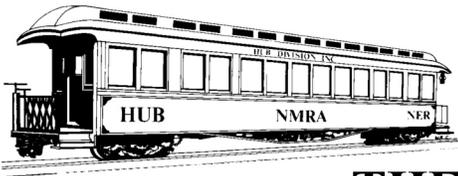
HUB layouts at most shows are rectangular, with a big setup space in the interior. Due to the shape of the exhibit space available, the Boxboro layout was a linear L-shape with turnaround loops at each end. This configuration gave me and some of the other operators an opportunity to walk "outside the rope" and to interact more directly with show attendees. Many of the attendees were parents or grandparents with young children in tow. Some of those children could barely see over the top of the layout and were lifted into often tired arms. Their excited pointing and interested expressions made the parents and grandparents faces light up, too. Give one of those kids an opportunity to push a button on the throttle to ring a loco's bell or sound the horn, and the smiles go from ear-to-ear.

*(Continued on Page 5)*

---

### Also Inside This Issue

- Page 2.....The President's Car
- Page 2.....Golden Spike Photos
- Page 3.....Shanty Talk
- Page 3.....Calendar of Events
- Page 4.....Candidate Bios
- Page 5.....Election Information
- Page 6.....NER 2020 Convention
- Page 7.....Decoder Pro and SPROG
- Page 8.....SpringTRAINing 2019
- Page 9.....Erich's Electronics Notebook
- Page 9.....Apparel order form
- Page 10...Map to Cambridge School of Weston and HUB leadership
- Page 11...Order forms & Announcements



# THE PRESIDENT'S CAR

By James VanBokkelen

**H**ello, members of the HUB Division and readers outside our group. As I write, the sun warms me while frost is creeping deeper into the ground.

As you've heard from the HUB and perhaps from billboards and TV ads, our Winter Wonderland layout is open to the public at the Boston Museum of Science. Along with many other HUB members, I've volunteered to staff the exhibit. We're also going to have a big push to dismantle and store the layout after the exhibit closes on January 6. If you want to get involved, check with David (Shack) Haralambou (vp@hubdiv.org).

This effort has already helped both the HUB and the model railroading hobby; a number of attendees at our NEMTE show mentioned either visiting the layout or seeing the Museum's marketing. I repeat my thanks to Shack, our Vice President, Dick Ball and everyone who's helped with construction, transportation and staffing.

RAILFUN Coordinator Andy Reynolds continues to work with BoD member Chuck Norris towards a special RAILFUN on Cape Cod. If any members would like to try out a RAILFUN in their area, let Pete Higgins or me know. We can talk about location, time and topic for any time in 2019.

Our long-time Treasurer, Gerry Covino, has been doing a great job for the HUB, and going above and beyond the duties of his position. In addition, Gerry is the convention Registrar for the Northeastern Region. He wants to cut back on his commitments, so the HUB is now looking for a new Treasurer. This position is responsible for bookkeeping, accounts payable and receivable, and filing our taxes and annual reporting to the Commonwealth. If you're interested, ask a Board Member for the full job description.

Dick Ball has been our Module Coordinator for four years. He's also looking for a replacement. The Module Group's charter doesn't allow the Coordinator to be a Board member, but anyone else interested should talk to me, Dick, Shack or Jeff Gerow. We'll help out with chores like towing the trailer, making the layout plans, working on the modules etc., so the job doesn't have to be as big as it has been for some previous Coordinators.

Four candidates have volunteered for the three Board of Directors seats to be filled at Spring TRAINing on March 16, 2019.

You'll find brief biographies for Mike Dolan, Mal Houck, Andy Reynolds and Peter Watson, as well as Spring TRAINing details later in this *Headlight*. My thanks to all for stepping up.

Moving on to the Northeastern Region, the HUB is starting to organize the NER 2020 convention: We expect to announce details in January, 2019, after the NER Board votes on our proposal. Also, for anyone interested in the NER, be aware that I can designate someone to be the HUB's Director (and make progress toward the 'Association Official' Achievement Program certificate). Let me know.

Personally, my hobby time since I last wrote has been little construction and lots of volunteering. In October, I made what I hope will be my last trip to Thailand for a while, and came home to a lot to do: I saw quite a few HUB members at Tour de Chooch and many others at NEMTE the following week. I even saw a few while operating trolleys at Seashore the week after. But my household will get larger in January, and both my bride-to-be and her son want to get involved in the B&M Eastern Route.

If there's something on your mind about the HUB or its activities, email me at president@hubdiv.org, call me at (603) 394-7832 or catch me at a HUB event.

Until next time, High Green!

## Golden Spike Recipients on the Cape



Bob Blick (left) received his Golden Spike Award from RAILFUN coordinator Andy Reynolds on October 10, 2018. Photo by Doug Scott



Randy Childs (left) receives his Golden Spike Award from RAILFUN Coordinator Andy Reynolds on September 19, 2018. Photo by Doug Scott



Jay Stradal shows off his Golden Spike Award at the Nauset Model Railroad Club on September 21, 2018. Jay is club president. Photo by Doug Scott



**Shanty Talk:  
End of Year**

By Rudy Slovacek

**E**nd-of-year seems to be a very busy time for people as they plan for family gatherings for Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas and New Year's. So it is this year just like last year. Some of you may remember my column from the January-February Headlight in which I related the story of one Dick Talbot, who approached me last year as I was unpacking books for our 2017 Model Train Expo. Dick returned again on Friday during set-up, but missed me as I had gone home early. He did return Saturday morning to tell me how much he enjoyed my column and to say hello. He also discovered the Nimke Rutland Book Vol. III on the Bellows Falls Subdivision that I had placed on the White Elephant Table. It was an extra I had obtained when

Lyle Sorensen, our former editor, divested his interest in the hobby. Dick was very happy to obtain the book, which covered a location and time period very dear to his earlier years. He and his wife run an Antique business in Hanover and he has a train table at our show. I wished him well and moved on, happy to have renewed our acquaintance.

This is also the time when companies wrap up their year-end accounting, and individuals must get their charitable donations out. Don't forget the HUB as we're a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Since the tax laws have changed, I'm not sure what those donations will be worth until I get my new copy of Turbo Tax. Never the less, I plan to give again this year, as I always have in the past.

I'm sorry I won't be at the Christmas Party this year since my wife and I are planning to visit my daughter and the boys down in New York City. While there, we plan to take in the train show that is held in the Botanical Garden. You should all try to see it, especially if you're into Garden Railroading.

As I write this, I realized that I mentioned describing some of the work on my D&H caboose. Rather than go into great detail,

as this is a column and not a how-to article for MR or Craftsman, I'll just mention some of the super-detailing I added. For the caboose interior, I laminated an additional layer of scribed wood facing inward and added a second set of windows glued back-to-back with the original set, sandwiching a layer of clear styrene between them. I used the Microscales Micro Kristal Klear window material as glue since it dries clear and minimizes the sight of ugly glue joints. A set of Suydam bench, table and desk shapes were painted green and used to depict the internal furniture. Piping and brake rigging were added underneath the car and a couple of queen posts were made to string a few truss rods on the outer edges. To make the drip strips on the car roof ends, I used shapes cut from the aluminum tops to Chobani Yogurt cups. It is thicker than aluminum foil for cooking, holds its shape and is easy to work with. I love the material. In fact, when I needed to make canvas covers for some of my open top tanks on my war train, I found it was easily formed and took the drab paint well. I haven't tried it for covered loads but suspect it will probably work out well.

This will be short as I've got to go. Until then enjoy the winter break and see you at Springfield.

**HUB Division 2019 Calendar of Events (Subject to Change)**

- Jan 5 (Sat) HUB Holiday Party at the Common Market, Quincy, MA
- Jan 18 (Fri) HUB RAILFUN Meeting, 8 PM, Cambridge School of Weston, Weston, MA
- Jan 19-21 (Sat-Mon) HUB Modular Railroad display at the Wenham Museum, Wenham, MA
- Jan 26-27 (Sat-Sun) HUB Modular Railroad display at the Amherst Railway Society's Railroad Hobby Show, Big-E Fairgrounds, West Springfield, MA
- Feb 1 (Fri) Submissions deadline for the HUB Headlight Mar-Apr issue
- Feb 15 (Fri) HUB RAILFUN Meeting, 8 PM, Cambridge School of Weston, Weston, MA
- Mar 15 (Fri) HUB RAILFUN Meeting, 8 PM, Cambridge School of Weston, Weston, MA
- Mar 16 (Sat) The HUB-sponsored Spring TRAINing show, Worcester State University, Worcester, MA
- Mar 16 (Sat) The HUB Division Annual Meeting and Election – following SpringTRAINing
- Mar 23-24 (Sat-Sun) HUB Modular Railroad display at the Greenberg's Toy & Train Show, Shriner's Auditorium, Wilmington, MA
- Apr 1 (Mon) Submissions deadline for the HUB Headlight May-Jun issue
- Apr 12 (Fri) HUB RAILFUN Meeting, 8 PM, Cambridge School of Weston, Weston, MA
- Apr 28 (Sun) HUB Modular Railroad display at the Lions Club 24th Annual Model Train Show, Hooksett Cawley Middle School, 89 Whitehall Rd., Hooksett, NH
- May 17 (Fri) HUB RAILFUN Meeting, 8 PM, Cambridge School of Weston, Weston, MA
- Jun 21 (Fri) HUB RAILFUN Meeting, 8 PM, Cambridge School of Weston, Weston, MA
- Jul 7-14 (Sun-Sun) 2019 NMRA National Convention, Salt Lake City, UT
- Jul 14 (Sun) HUB Summer Picnic, Waushakum Live Steamers, Holliston, MA

**Remember You do NOT need to have a module to participate in the Module Group activities**

## Candidates for The HUB Division Board of Directors

(Refer to Page 5 for the ballot)

### Mike Dolan

I have been the Recording Secretary for the past two years, and have worked with Pete Watson on Spring TRAINING for the past 2 events. My previous experience will aid me in working in the interest of the HUB Division.

I have been active in the hobby for many years and have served in many positions at the South Shore Model Railroad Club, from a start on the Board of Directors, to Chief Engineer and then to Vice President. I was also involved in their Budget Committee during my time in the club. I am most proud of the time I served as Scenery Committee Chair.

I was involved in the N.E. Free Mo Group for a number of years. Having built four Modules, I decided to construct a basement layout using the four as the basis for the Whitman Southern Railroad. I have since constructed six additional modules that encompass the layout. The layout will include a water-front interchange, an engine facility, city scenes, a coal mine and possible steel mill as I move along.

Just this spring, I earned my Golden Spike Award and am currently working on other AP Certificates.

I would appreciate your vote to elect me to the BOD.

### Malcolm H. Houck

I am again offering my service as a Director. My goal is to ensure some continuity with, and continued excellence of, the programs that the HUB Division has sponsored and produced. Feedback from friends and acquaintances in other NMRA Regions and divisions regularly laud the activism and outputs of the HUB Division. I wish to contribute as I can to continue and improve upon this record.

As I deliberately march towards AP Certificates to qualify as MMR, I am aware of the benefits of this program and the mission of all NMRA members to share accomplishments with others and assist overall in education – be that even as simple as modeling and model building tips and shortcuts. However “t’is with the results of a Board election, that is an effort I shall continue.”

### Andy Reynolds

Thanks again to the many HUB members who voted me onto the board three years ago. I ran on a ticket to bring value and fresh ideas to the HUB Division board of directors. I learned a lot and challenged the board to take a fresh look at the Division and our activities. Being on the board is a privilege, and as such I have made it my vocation to make sure I attend every board meeting, to voice not only my opinion but those of all the members who confide in me to bring their concerns and concepts to the board.

I am also the RAILFUN coordinator, and over the past three years I have attended 97% of our meetings. Behind the scenes, I've worked countless hours in getting you the clinics that make you better modelers with an emphasis in getting your Golden Spike Award or becoming a Master Modeler.

Being on the board, and with the Division's clinics, I have listened to what you want and will continue to put the members first, in an effort to continue to make us a better and thriving organization. I look forward to getting your vote.

### Peter Watson, MMR

I became a “serious” modeler around age 8 or 9, coming by it naturally since my father was a long-time model railroader. I originally modeled in HO. In 1974, I changed to On2 and modeled the Sandy River & Rangeley Lakes. Starting in 1998, I decided to return to HO, and model the New Haven.

Over the years, it has been my pleasure and privilege to have served the HUB Division in several capacities including President, Vice-President, Office Manager, Clerk and AP Chairman. I am also a founding member of the HUB Module Group.

I have served on many HUB Division and NER convention committees, and as Spring TRAINING Chairman for the past 10 years, I have worked to provide the membership with a quality program of well-known clinicians, trade show and banquet.

I am running for the HUB BOD to continue to build on, and strengthen the programs and services the Division provides to its members. I will continue to look for new ways to provide activities and services for our members and to ensure that the HUB Division continues to be one of the NMRA's most active and strongest divisions.

---

### New Members

The HUB Division welcomes the following new members

- Francis "Ski" Roy - Ayer
- Michael Cote - Holliston
- Keith Macomber - Hubbardston
- Paul Krolikowski - Hudson
- Bruce DeGrace - Northborough
- Harley Lank - Weston
- Calvin Corrigan (Student) - Framingham

The HUB Division elections will be held on March 16, 2019 at Worcester State University in Worcester, MA, immediately following Spring TRAINing, and before the banquet.

METHODS OF VOTING

Eligible voters are not always able to make it to the Annual Meeting. In lieu of voting in person at the Annual Meeting, a HUB member may cast one ballot using one of the three (3) following methods:

1. MAIL:

Ballots found in the January-February 2019 issue of the Headlight (below) may be copied or cut out and mailed to the Registrar. The HUB member MUST write his/her Name and Membership Number on the outside of the envelope to certify the ballot enclosed. The ballot must be mailed to:

HUB Division Elections
65 Branch Road
East Bridgewater, MA 02333-1601

Mail ballots must be received by the Registrar no later than March 12, 2019. The Registrar will verify the ballot and record the member as having voted.

2. E-MAIL:

A ballot may be cast by sending an e-mail to elections@hubdiv.org. The e-mail must be sent from the HUB member's official e-mail address that is on file with the HUB Office Manager. It is the responsibility of each HUB member to ensure the HUB Office Manager has his/her correct e-mail address. Only one official e-mail address is allowed per member. You may confirm your official e-mail address by sending an e-mail to the HUB Office Manager at: OfficeManager@hubdiv.org

2. E-MAIL (continued):

A valid e-mail Ballot MUST contain the HUB member's Name and Membership Number in the E-mail Subject Line. All votes must be placed in the body of the E-mail. Place ONLY the names of the Candidates for whom the member is casting votes. The three names can be the candidate names included on the ballot or write-in candidates. Write-in candidates must be members in Good Standing of the NMRA HUB Division.

E-mail ballots must be received by the Registrar no later than March 12, 2019. The Registrar will verify the ballot and record the member as having voted.

3. PROXY:

Any HUB member eligible to vote in the election may designate in writing that another eligible HUB member may cast his/her vote at the Election.

A. The Letter of Proxy MUST contain the HUB member's Name, Membership Number, and handwritten Signature. The Letter of Proxy must also declare the name of the HUB member acting as proxy.

B. The HUB member acting as proxy will present the Letter of Proxy at the Annual Meeting to obtain the eligible member's ballot for voting purposes.

2019 HUB DIVISION BALLOT
(see instructions above)
Board of Directors (3-year terms)
Vote for up to three candidates:
Mike Dolan
Andy Reynolds
Malcolm H. Houck
Peter Watson, MMR
write in:
write in:
write in:

See Page 4 for candidate statements

The Joy of Train Show Volunteering

(Continued from Page 1)

And so do the smiles on the volunteer operators. There is immense pleasure in seeing those young future engineers get what may be their first taste "operating" a model railroad. I know from my own experience with a small home layout that my children, and now my grandchildren,

get great pleasure from working with me on the railroad. A pleasure I obviously share in working with them. [I particularly remember coming down to the train room one evening a long time ago to find that my then 8-year-old son had been working without me during the day - and had populated the layout with his dinosaurs!]

Working as a volunteer operator can have its frustrations, but seeing those smiles on

the faces of perfect strangers, even if only for a few seconds at a time, brings its rewards, too. Consider this a great opportunity that we have all been given to be able to bring joy to others via our shared hobby. And don't forget all the time and effort it takes to set up and tear down those modules - those crews can use your help, too! Consider all this when you're asked whether you want to be a volunteer ... believe me, it will make your day.

## HUB to Host the 2020 NER Regional Convention

By Dave Insley

The next NER Convention is being held this coming September 19th through the 22nd in Liverpool, New York (just outside of Syracuse). This is sure to be a great event as the Central New York Division has some great modelers and fantastic model railroaders. Be sure to save the date and join us in September. More details will be provided in the NER Coupler and on the website, <http://www.empirejunction.org>.

The following year, it is our turn to host a regional convention, and a team has been working over the past several months to identify a location that is suitable for these great events. What is suitable space you ask? Well, we need space for clinics, and display layouts. We need to be in an area where there are several layouts for people to visit and operate. Finally, we need some activities outside of the convention venue, both prototype rail-related and something that will interest the non-rail folks that will hopefully join with their model railroad partners.

The team looked at locations on Cape Cod, Worcester, and Lowell. Evaluating the cost for the space, hotel room costs, and area attractions, the team settled on hosting the convention at the Westford Regency, in the Westford, Massachusetts.

The next big decision was when to hold the convention. Conventions are traditionally in the fall, and fall in New England brings leaf peeping as well as a potential long weekend for many. So, we decided to shift the traditional convention days by one and run it over the Columbus Day / Indigenous Peoples Day holiday, starting Friday October 9, 2020, and running until Monday, October 12, 2020.

Westford is in the heart of the Merrimack Valley, just ten-miles from downtown Lowell. We plan to center the outside activities around the Lowell National Historical Park, including standard tours of the mills and trolley rides in the city. We are also looking at less-known tours of some of the underground canals in the



*Top: Main Entrance of Regency Westford; Upper Right: Clinic Room; Right: Double-bed guest room. Photos from hotel website.*



city. Other groups, such as the Seashore Trolley Museum, the Boston and Maine Railway Historical Society, and the Mass Bay Railroad Enthusiasts, are being contacted so we can leverage some of their resources. We are also not far from Ayer, a busy area for freight traffic with the Worcester branch heading in one direction, and the Stoney Brook branch in the other. Up to 10 freight trains a day pass through in addition to regular commuter rail service. There should be plenty of trains and outside activities to entertain all that come.

However, the bread and butter of any regional convention are the layouts and the clinics. Clinics should be no issue as we have plenty of folks in the HUB Division and around the NER that can put on clinics ranging from 3-D Printing, to the latest in Layout Command Control. How about layouts? We have that too, featuring a couple of large clubs that are an easy drive along Interstate 495 or down Route 3 and Interstate 93. This area is home to Rail Run and Tour de Chooch, so finding some quality layouts should be a snap.

### We Need Your Help

While we think we have the makings of a great convention, there are still many details to iron out to make sure we put on a great event for all of the convention attendees. We could use some help. The first thing we need are people to help with the roles on the convention planning team. This is a great way to get behind the scenes of a convention, and will also earn you points toward your Volunteer Achievement Certificate.

Do you have a layout that you are willing to open up to the attendees or are willing to host an operating session? We could use you! Do you know someone else that has a layout that would be interesting to the convention attendees? Let us know about them. The more, the merrier!

We will also need volunteers to help throughout the convention, from help at the registration desk to tour guides on the trips we will be planning in the coming months. So, do you want to get behind the scenes in planning a fantastic model railroad convention? Reach out to anyone on the HUB Board of Directors or send an email to [info@hubdiv.org](mailto:info@hubdiv.org) and let us know how you want to help. It will be a lot of fun!



*A trolley of the Lowell National Historical Park in front of the Boott Cotton Mill  
Photo: Wikipedia commons*

## Using DecoderPro and SPROG to Program Decoders

By John Russo

### DecoderPro

DecoderPro is a program within the JMRI software package. It is a spreadsheet-like tool that facilitates Decoder Programming. Once the decoder manufacturer and model number are entered, DecoderPro sets up pages for each group of configuration variables specific to that decoder. The JMRI software is a free download. It runs on a PC, MAC or Unix.

### SPROG

The SPROG is the Command Station Hardware that interfaces between the computer and the track. I purchased a SPROG II v3 with a 3A (Amp) supply. I have it connected to a 3ft section of track. I am only using it to program decoders in Service Mode.

### The Problem

The SPROG was able to program all of my decoders. However, it could not read the newer Tsunami 2 decoders from SoundTraxx. The SPROG uses a fixed detection point of about 180mA to detect the difference between the idle current of the decoder in service mode and the decoder acknowledgement current pulse. The combination of idle current and acknowledgement current for the Tsunami 2 decoder is only about 100mA to 125mA. This is in compliance with the DCC specification. It is not enough to get detected by the SPROG. My solution was to increase the idle current by placing a resistor across the track to push the Tsunami2 acknowledgement pulse above the 180mA. A 100 ohm 5 watt resistor across the tracks increases the idle current about 100mA. The increase in idle current plus the 100mA the Tsunami2 uses for the acknowledgement pulse was enough to make it work.

Below is the background on the issue. This solution is specific for the version of SPROG and the 3A power supply that was supplied with it. The SPROG sets the acknowledgement pulse detection point. The supply sets the track voltage. The

track voltage and the resistor set the increase in idle current.

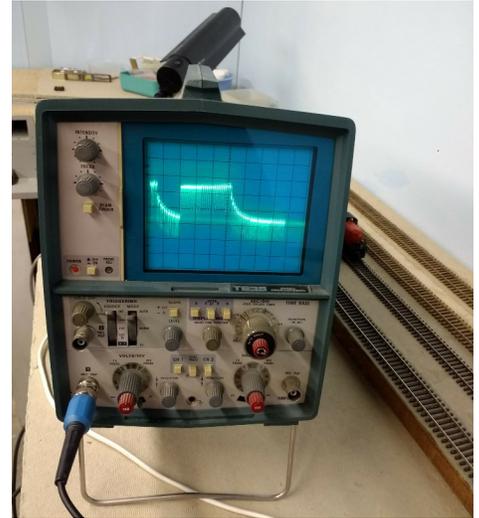
### DCC Specification

We talk about reading configuration variables from the decoder, but the process is better described as verification of configuration data. The DCC specification calls the process "Decoder Acknowledgment Mechanism." The Command Station sends a verify instruction with the CV address and the expected data. The Command station can verify an entire byte, eight bits, or individual bits within a CV byte. If the byte or bit presently in the addressed CV agrees with the data sent in the same instruction, the decoder acknowledges with a pulse of load current that the command station can detect.

The DCC specification S 9.2.3 describes the increase in load current as at least 60mA for 6ms. The specification also describes a fault current as 250mA for greater than 100ms. Except when the decoder is sourcing the acknowledgement current pulse, the decoder should not draw more than 100mA. All of these specifications apply in Service Mode.

### Decoders

I used an oscilloscope and a current sense resistor to measure the decoder acknowledgement current pulse from all of my decoders. The decoders that the SPROG could read all had acknowledgement current pulses of greater than 700mA. All but one of these decoders used the motor



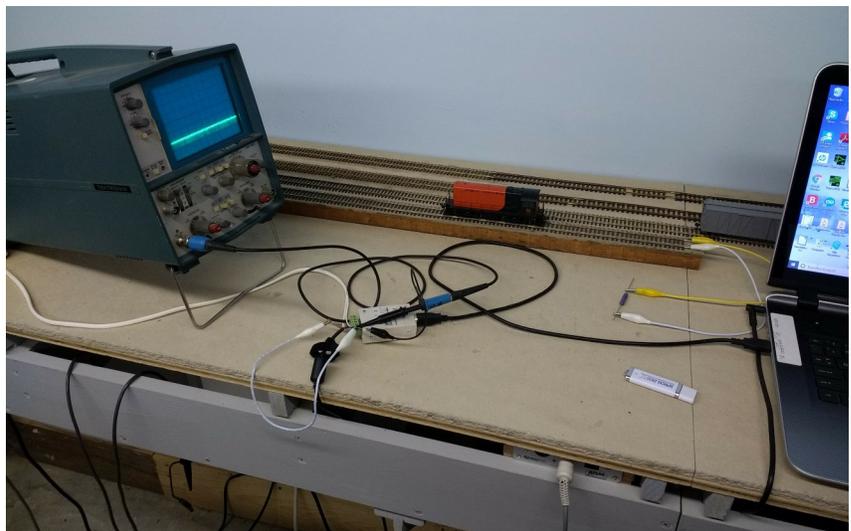
*Oscilloscope reading a 200ma current pulse.*

as a load to generate the current pulse. All of my Tsunami 2 decoders have current pulses of 100mA. Since the specification for the acknowledgement pulse is a minimum of 60mA, all of the decoders including the Tsunami 2 decoders meet the specification. The idle current of all the decoders in Service Mode was less than 50mA.

### Additional Information

If you have an engine with a large keep-alive circuit, like the Tsunami Current keeper, you need to allow time for the capacitance to charge. Before reading the engine, turn the power on from the main menu of DecoderPro and give it a minute to charge.

Please let me know if you have any questions at: [john.L.russo@verizon.net](mailto:john.L.russo@verizon.net).



*My SPROG setup with oscilloscope on the left, sprog in the middle and my computer on the right.*

**HUB Division  
Spring TRAINING  
Saturday March 16, 2019  
Worcester State  
University  
486 Chandler St.  
Worcester, MA 01602**

By Peter Watson, MMR

This year the HUB Division's Annual Spring TRAINING show is headed west. We will be taking our spring show to Worcester State University. The show will be located in the May Street Auditorium, which is located at the intersection of Chandler Street (Route 122) and May Street.

As usual, we will have a full schedule of clinics presented by some of the area's top modelers. We are working on the clinic program and have a number of well-known area modelers already confirmed including David "Shack" Haralambou, Dan Fretz, Rudy Slovacek, Andy Reynolds, and Ray Barry. Others have been contacted and will be added to the list as we confirm them (the

**SPRING TRAINING Banquet Reservation Form**

Worcester State University, March 16, 2019

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate number of meals:

\_\_\_\_\_ Marinated Beef Tips

\_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Piccata

Includes Garden Salad, Rice Pilaf, Vegetable Du Jour, Rolls & Butter, Dessert, and Coffee or Tea.

Make check for \$36.00 per person payable to the HUB Division, Inc.

Return this form with payment to the address below before March 7, 2019.

HUB Div. Spring TRAINING  
65 Branch Road  
E. Bridgewater, MA 02333

program can be accessed on the HUB Division website (see link below).

Our featured clinician this year is Joe Fugate, Editor and Publisher of Model Railroad Hobbyist Magazine. He will be doing a clinic titled "Run Like a Dream." In this clinic, Joe will discuss his experiences in getting his layout, the Siskiyou Lines, to run as flawlessly as possible. He will cover how to tweak the trackwork, rolling stock and locomotives to get the best operation possible.

An early list of clinic descriptions is included below, but the full list of all clinics and descriptions will be posted to the web site and updated as more clinics are added. (<http://www.hubdiv.org/springshow/index.htm>)

This will be an entertaining and informative day, so mark Saturday, March 16, 2019, on your calendar. We all look forward to seeing you there and keep checking the web site for updates.

**Spring TRAINING Clinic Program**

**Operations On A Shoestring**

By: Rudy Slovacek

Lately we've seen in the model press a recent uptick in signaling articles, including a highly prototypical operating signal system on the HUB division modular layout. While these and some nicely detailed modules make for more realistic operating conditions let's not forget the purpose of a railroad, prototype or model. It's the movement of passengers and freight from point A to point B. This clinic will show how to create a number of train orders and car waybills from inexpensive available materials for use in modular layouts or stationary home layouts. The key here is something easy that can be used even when the layout design is constantly changing. These materials were first used on the HUB layout when I was the superintendent many years ago, and are currently used by the Coastal Mountain

Railroad. If you're thinking of trying an operating session, or are frustrated with some of the more complicated systems at some home layouts you've visited, why don't you come and see a simple and fun way to increase your enjoyment of model railroading?

**All Aboard! Behind the scenes at the Museum of Science Train Exhibit**

By: David Haralambou

Join me as I talk about the partnership between the Museum of Science (MoS) and HUB Division. You will learn how we went from contract signing to opening day in less than 60 days. Topics covered will include the novel construction method used, scenery tips and techniques, forced perspective, track maintenance, equipment maintenance and a unique time-lapse of the construc-

tion. There will even be a ride along video!

**Choosing a Railroad, Era & Location to Model**

By: Dan Fretz

With hundreds of railroads over the past 150+ years, covering the entire country with hundreds of thousands of miles of track serving almost every industry imaginable, the choices of what to model are overwhelming. If you want to base your railroad on a prototype but don't know where to start, this clinic provides ideas on how you might narrow down those choices to a specific railroad, era and location to model. The author provides examples from his own experience, having started with only casual knowledge of prototype railroads.

*(Continued on Page 9)*

## Spring TRAINing Clinic Program (Continued from Page 8)

### Pitfalls and Techniques in Modeling for Contests & the Achievement Program

By: Andy Reynolds

A contestant at several conventions, Andy Reynolds will demonstrate techniques in creating award-winning structures, as well as mistakes learned along the way. We'll see various structures that have received awards at conventions, ones that have come up short, and ones still waiting to be judged. While becoming a better modeler is the main goal of the seminar, we'll discuss going for the prize at a convention or simply scoring points outside of a convention towards the goal of getting one's AP Award on a trail to achieving the MMR - Master Modeler Railroader.



### Run Like a Dream

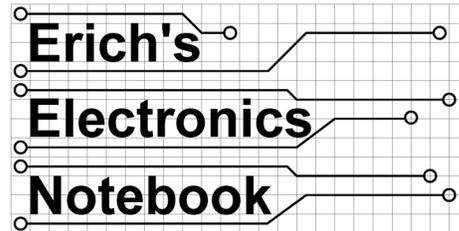
By: Joe Fugate

In this clinic Joe will discuss his experiences in getting his layout, the Siskiyou Lines, to run as flawlessly as possible. He will cover how to tweak the trackwork, rolling stock and locomotives to get the best operation possible

*Please refer to the HUB website (www.hubdiv.org/springshow/index.htm) for updates and the clinic schedule as they become available.*



## Support Your Division!



By Erich Whitney

Starting in the next issue of the *Headlight*, I will be using my expertise as an Electrical Engineer to provide answers to questions you may have about any of the aspects of modeling that are electrical in nature. To start things off, I'll present a new HUB module accessory DC power supply that provides some handy features for running your signals and other accessories while giving you quick and easy feedback in case something goes wrong.

My approach to the column will be to provide enough useful information for you to achieve success on your own, and the key to this is for you to send me your questions so I can collect and answer them. The only stupid question is the one you don't ask. Please gather up your questions and send them to me via email: [erich@hbeng.com](mailto:erich@hbeng.com).

## HUB Division Apparel Order Form

Short Sleeve Polo Shirt, T-Shirt & Sweatshirt Available Sizes S M L XL 2XL 3XL

Short Sleeve Polo Shirts - Sport Grey color with HUB Division Logo - **\$30.00 each**

Size: \_\_\_\_\_ Quantity: \_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Circle ONE Men's Women's Pocket No Pocket  
 Name on Shirt \_\_\_\_\_

Sweatshirt - Sport Grey color with HUB Division Logo

7.8oz Weight **\$25.00 each** Size: \_\_\_\_\_ Quantity: \_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 9.3oz Weight **\$30.00 each** Size: \_\_\_\_\_ Quantity: \_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name on Shirt \_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirts - Sport Grey color with HUB Division Logo - **\$20.00 each**

Size: \_\_\_\_\_ Quantity: \_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Circle ONE Pocket No Pocket  
 Name on Shirt \_\_\_\_\_

Long Sleeve Button Down Shirt - Dark Grey color with HUB Division Logo

Small to XL **\$35.00 each** Size: \_\_\_\_\_ Quantity: \_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 2XL to 5XL **\$40.00 each** Size: \_\_\_\_\_ Quantity: \_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Circle ONE Men's Pocket No Pocket Women's (No Pocket Only)  
 Name on Shirt \_\_\_\_\_

— (If you wish to have it mailed to you, add \$8.50) — Shipping \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Check (Payable to The HUB Division, Inc.) Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone or email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to:**

**Gerald Covino, Treasurer**  
**The HUB Division, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 672**  
**Hollis, NH 03049-0672**

Orders must be received by Oct. 1 or Feb. 1. You will be contacted if there are any questions with your order and you will be notified when your order arrives. People may pick up their orders at RAILFUN meetings or shows to avoid the additional mailing costs. **If you request mailing, please provide your mailing address.**

*To purchase using your credit card, email your order to [Treasurer@hubdiv.org](mailto:Treasurer@hubdiv.org) and an electronic invoice will be sent to you.*

## HUB Headlight

Volume 35, Number 3  
January - February, 2019

**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.

**Editor** Bill Barry - Editor@hubdiv.org

**Chief Grammarian** - Jay Stradal

### HUB Division Board of Directors

**President** James VanBokkelen - President@hubdiv.org  
(603) 394-7832

**Vice President** David "Shack" Haralambou - VP@hubdiv.org

John Doehring - HUBboard6@hubdiv.org

**Donations Chairman** Dan Fretz - Donations@hubdiv.org

**Membership Chairman** Peter Higgins -  
Membership.chairman@hubdiv.org

Russ Norris - HUBboard9@hubdiv.org

**RAILFUN Coordinator** Andy Reynolds -  
Railfun.coordinator@hubdiv.org

Mike Tylick - HUBboard8@hubdiv.org

**Office Manager** Pete Watson - Officemanager@hubdiv.org  
65 Branch Road, East Bridgewater, MA 02333-1601

### Other HUB Division Leadership

**Treasurer** Gerry Covino - Treasurer@hubdiv.org

**Secretary** Mike Dolan - Secretary@hubdiv.org

**Module Coordinator** Dick Ball - ModCoordinator@hubdiv.org  
(508) 429-1467 (leave message)

**Webmaster** Dave Insley - Webmaster@hubdiv.org

**Librarian** Ken Belovarac - Librarian@hubdiv.org

**Model Train Expo Show Director**

Bill Harley - NEMTE.Director@hubdiv.org

**Model Train Expo Business Manager**

Mark Harlow - NEMTE@hubdiv.org

**Public Relations Director** Barbara Hoblit -  
PRDirector@hubdiv.org

**NMRA North Eastern Region - Eastern At Large Director**

Barbara Hoblit - MA.NERdirector@hubdiv.org

**NMRA Achievement Program Chairman**

Peter Watson, MMR - HUB.AP.Chair@hubdiv.org

**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, LLC, Burlington, MA

## Directions to RAILFUN Meetings

RAILFUN is usually held at the Cambridge School of Weston (CSW) in Classroom G6 on the second floor of the George Cohan Building. The school is located at 45 Georgian Road, Weston, MA 02493.

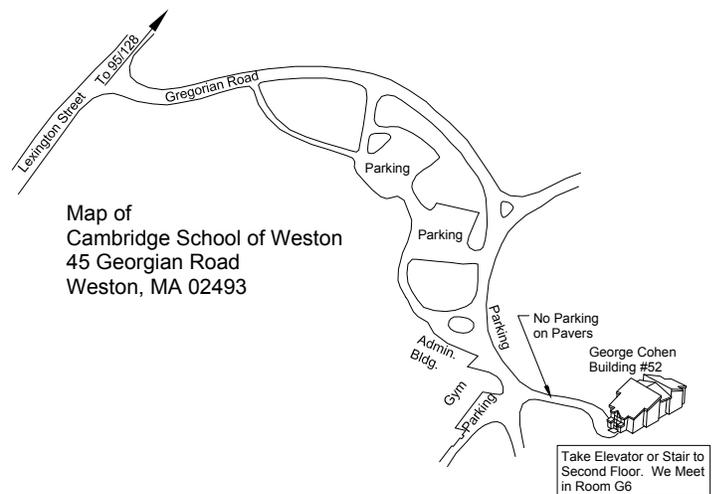
From Route 128 / Interstate 95:

From the North, take Exit 27B towards Winter Street.

From the South, take Exit 27A-B for Third Avenue toward Totten Pond Road/Waltham. Take Exit 27B towards "Winter Street" Bear right onto Wyman Street and continue to the traffic light. Take a right onto Winter Street at the light.

Continue on Winter Street to the second traffic light. Turn left on West Street, which becomes Lexington Street as you cross the Weston town line. At the crest of a small hill is Georgian Road and the CSW school sign; turn left on Georgian Road into the CSW campus.

Follow Georgian Road. There is a parking lot on your right, or you can park along the left side of the road and down the hill by the gymnasium. Please do not park on the stone pavers leading to the Cohen Building. See detail map below.



### RAILFUN Weather / School Closure Note:

**If the school is closed, we will NOT have RAILFUN that evening.** School closings are broadcast over the radio at **WRKO 680AM** and **WBZ 1030AM**, and on **TV Channels 4, 5 and 7**. The Cambridge School of Weston recording is at **781-642-8600**. Check the radio or TV stations early on **the morning of RAILFUN!** You can also check [www.hubdiv.org](http://www.hubdiv.org) and we plan to post notices on **Facebook** and **Twitter**.

### Submissions Wanted

The *Headlight* is always accepting photos and articles relating to model and prototype railroading. Articles about model building or home layouts would be much appreciated. Earn credit towards your Author AP certificate. Please email editor@hubdiv.org.

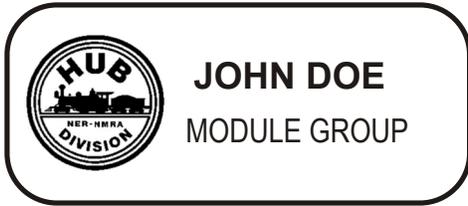


# HUB Division Nametag, *Headlight* Subscription and Donation Forms

Make checks payable to:  
"The HUB Division, Inc."

Mail to: **Gerald Covino, Treasurer**  
**The HUB Division, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 672**  
**Hollis, NH 03049-0672**

*To pay using your credit card, email*  
*Treasurer@hubdiv.org and an*  
*electronic invoice will be sent to you.*



## HUB Division Name Tags

Badge with magnetic holders and first line of printing is \$16.75, plus \$3.00 S&H. Each additional line is another \$2.00. You may have up to three lines on your name tag.

Cost: \_\_\$16.75 (1 line) \_\_\$18.75 (2 lines) \_\_\$20.75 (3 lines)

First Line																				
2nd Line																				
3rd Line																				

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

## HUB Division *Headlight* Subscription Form

I enclose \$7.00 for a subscription to the HUB Headlight for 2019

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

## Make a Donation to the HUB Division, Inc.

*It Takes All of Us Working Together!*

\$25.00     \$50.00     \$100.00     Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ YES, I am happy to support The HUB Division, Inc. to foster railroading through displays, modeling and educational opportunities to members and the public at large. I show support with the enclosed gift.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

## HUB Division Module Kits

The HUB Division offers to its members a complete packaged module kit for \$155. The kit has everything you need, including all pre-cut lumber, hardware, a complete wiring harness for the DCC and inter-module connections, a panel-jack and wire, and even the roadbed and track! A module is the perfect solution if you do not have the space for a full-size layout or just want to experiment or learn new techniques without committing the time and money to a larger setup. Please contact Mark Harlow at [modulekits@hubdiv.org](mailto:modulekits@hubdiv.org) with additional questions and to order the module kits.



## Seacoast Division Activities

### Derry Model Railroad Fun Night

January 11, 2019

Topic "Resin Casting"

February 8, 2019

Topic "Make-and-take, Part 1: Milk Shed base and scenery"

March 8, 2019

Topic "Make-and-take, Part 2: Milk Shed building the shed (the milk shed will be a wood laser cut kit)"

Meetings are Friday nights at 7 PM in the Marion Gerrish Community Center, 39 West Broadway, Derry, NH.

Visit [www.seacoastnmra.org](http://www.seacoastnmra.org) for more info.

## Beach Special on the B&M Eastern Route



*The Westbound "Beach Special," powered by B&M E-7 3811, accelerates under the High Street overpass in Newburyport, Massachusetts. In moments it will rattle the windows of the busy Hytron warehouse on the left.*  
*Photo by James VanBokkelen*