



President's Corner

Spring is coming – I think! Today, those of us in the Northeast, especially those in The Western New York region was hit with an ice storm that brought everyone to their knees. To pass the time while staying home and off the icy roads, my mind turns to thinking about running trains. My local club has a store in a local mall that is being provided to us by the mall management. We have a decent size layout in the window with a push button for visitors to push when we are not there. When we are there we have a simple dual loop track that is battery operated sitting on the floor (children can get their noses right up to the trains!). There is also a switching layout 3 foot wide and about 20 feet long that can have one or two members switching cars and engines around. Lots of activity to engage in and a great opportunity to meet with the public and educate them on Garden Scale trains. But it is not as good as running trains outdoors with nature providing the scenery. And most garden layouts have some type of a water feature to enhance the experience.

Thinking of these backyard layouts brings to mind the upcoming Bird In Hand 45th Convention activity. This convention is going to have the largest water feature I have ever seen in any garden layout! If you have not been there, they have a large pond on the property with a small gazebo to set in and look out over the pond and any wildlife that might be there at any time. Teya Caple-Woods, chairwoman for the committee that is putting down 1,184 feet of track and one long bridge around his pond. None of us have a backyard large enough for this size water feature. Put your battery powered engine on the track, a consist behind it, and off you go. If it works out, two of the clinics this year will be about train control, and what better place to demonstrate performance of any of these controls on the market than this layout

Registrations are coming in and the events are filling up. If you have not yet sent in your registration, please do quickly so that the convention committee can properly plan the events. And don't forget the other events planned, both at the hotel and the visit to local. Bring a model you have worked on for the model contest. Think about the Trivia contest. And don't forget to bring an engine or flyer to race with. [Please see the Drag Race Rules on the web.](#)

The club is working on plans for the 46th convention and will have more data available at the convention. But, the club is in urgent need of a volunteer to pick up the planning and implementation of the 47th Convention and hopefully the same person moving on with additional conventions. If you have any experience in running a model show, arranging for hotels for guest, etc., please consider filling this important position. If interested, please contact myself or any board member at any time, but sooner rather than later.

In the meantime, spring is coming (honestly) and that backyard layout will once again be available to run those trains on, sharing them with family and friends. Wistfully blowing that horn bring back memories of trains in the night when we were young and dreamed of being a train engineer, or at least traveling on the train.

Charles Bartel, BTO Club President