

Mohegan Pequot Model Railroad



The News for: April 2005

Mystic Middle School

The show was cancelled at the last moment due to Snow. The Stonington Superintendent of Schools closed all schools for weekend activities 12/13 March. Ed Bradbury will try to reschedule, but there may not be an opportunity due to school vacation and graduation.

Willimantic

Setup for the show took place Friday evening March 18, with the show on Sunday from 10AM to 3 PM. With the small layout, 20 by 24, setup did not take long. Things ran well for the show, except Robert Applegate complained the “guys” crashed his train twice!

The real complaint is about the size of the layout. At first we were restricted to 20 by 20, but managed to argue for another 4 feet. When the whole show had been set up we saw that we could have added another 20 feet!

The show saw the swansong of Jim and Dan’s yard module, which will now be put to the torch in Jim’s basement¹. A new module set (bigger and better) will rise from the ashes this Spring.

RPI Open House

A field trip is planned for April 30.

¹ Note by JW: When I transported the 8 feet section in my trailer, I noted it shed some wires in the process, which nobody seemed to miss!

CLUB DUE\$\$\$\$\$\$

It’s really late now but you can still pay the Club Secretary, Bob Applegate, (**not** any other officer) at a Club Meeting or send a check to him at the following address:

The Secretary
c/o M-P Model RR Club
23 Hyde Park Drive
Gales Ferry, CT 06335-1941.



Springfield 2005, not in patriotic order!

Meetings and Work Sessions

The weekly work session is on Wednesday evening, beginning around 7:00 PM. There will also be one work session each month on a Sunday. Starting times on the Sunday work session are flexible and will change to fit project needs and deadlines. Sunday work sessions have already started with a vengeance by cleaning up Larry Southwick’s basement and throwing out a lot of old useless stuff. The walls have all been painted and new shelves for modules and boxes have been built and are now in place. There is still more that needs to be done to complete this long overdue cleaning and reorganization.

FIELD TRIP TO RPI APRIL 30.

We still meet on the second and fourth Sundays of the month as usual but the first meeting will now be at Larry Southwick's house after the Sunday work session. The second meeting will still be at the Bill Library in Ledyard. The times are still 7:30 but the meeting time at Larry's house may change to accommodate the dinner hour. Call Larry if you have some free time, and see if it is convenient to come over and work in his basement.



If anyone can name the person in the foreground, he/she will not get a prize. Springfield 2005.



Al Mayo repairing a locomotive seated outside the HO layout boundary. We hoped this would attract some public interest. Springfield 2005.

Club Projects, Reorganization, etc.

What we are trying to do is to invigorate the Club to complete more projects and become more efficient in our normal activity of going to shows. Modules that are not connected to the layout in Larry's basement will now be stored on shelves. Everything will be put in standard size boxes that will

be labeled. Stuff that goes to shows will be in one area of the basement. The standard boxes are easily carried and will stack in a minivan, the trunk or seat of a car or in one of the trailers. We will haul less air and more train stuff this way.

Immediate plans for projects include completion of all aspects of the passenger modules. The transition module needs to be modified to improve access to nearby modules and to increase the radius of curvatures of the approaches to the yards. New four-foot modules need to be built so we can replace the one foot wide modules that show up in too great a number when we go to shows.

In order to be able to always have efficient work sessions we need ready access to tools. Members are requested to bring any excess tools they might have and donate them to the Club. They will be kept permanently in Larry's basement so people don't have to bring their own tools. If you don't want to let the children go then maybe a long-term loan to the Club of a major tool like a belt sander would be more to your liking.

Extracts: March Meeting Notes

[Includes things not mentioned elsewhere.]

The only meeting was on the thirteenth at Larry's, with 17 members attending, as the 27th was Easter Sunday.

Howard's Hobbies was mentioned as a possible giver of a seminar. Dan wants to do more weathering demonstrations in April.

The passenger modules will be erected in the basement at Larry's, to form about half the running layout.

A note about Hartford 2009 should be put in the Newsletter (see JW column).

Stu demonstrated a light-weight module, with aluminum legs. The track is to be laid on foam. There was a discussion about two, three, or four main lines. This should be left to the designer.



Member News

Here is where we actually try to communicate with our fellow Club members and those who might want to join us. Do you need some help with a model railroading problem, have expertise to share or just want to get out in the world more? Then let it be known in the Club newsletter.



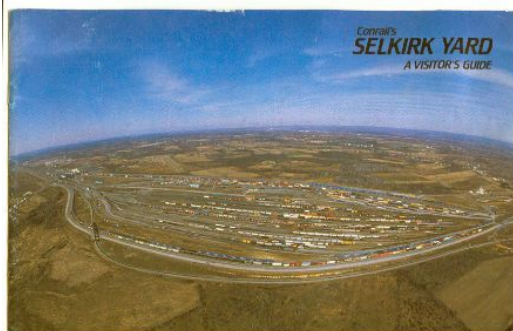
Big Boy McGregor and his latest G-scale acquisition. Springfield 2005.

New Members

None this month.

Letters to the Editor

Vent your opinions here!



Field Trips

RPI layout tour on Saturday April 30, 2005. (Age restrictions might apply to visitors to the layout.). Tentatively plan to leave @ 7 AM as it takes 3 hours to drive to the RPI campus in Troy, NY. This will give us time to stop at Selkirk Yard before

visiting the RPI layout. The Rensselaer Station will not be part of the trip because security is tighter at the station these days and we cannot gain access to the platforms.

John Waller's Column

. The requirements for setting up a National Convention of the NMRA are very demanding indeed. Scale Rails February 2005, the NMRA Bulletin, gives details for the 2005 convention in Cincinnati. I give here just a few of the key points.

I just wonder how Hartford will match up to the claims of Cincinnati which, according to Scale Rails, is billed "as one of the top 10 model railroad cities in the USA." There are over 100 layouts to see, including 75 in the Greater Cincinnati area, and the rest in neighboring cities.

Of course, a "neighboring city" in Ohio could be a city in an adjacent state to Hartford.

The table shows the breakdown, by scale, of 77 local layouts slated for tours.

<u>Scale</u>	<u>Number</u>
G	6
Gn3	1
HO	48
HO/HOn3	5
HOn30	1
N	10
O	3
OO	1
O/On3	1
Sn2	1

Again, how does Hartford measure up to this impressive list? There are scheduled tours to all of these layouts over 6 days with, typically, 3 tours to each layout.

In addition to the above there are layouts at Dayton (8), Indianapolis (5), Danville (4), Columbus (6), and Louisville (6).

All the G-scale layouts, bar one, are garden railroads. It is difficult to categorize the other scales. But N-scalers might like to note Larry Bonhaus' layout, which occupies 800 sq. ft. in the ballroom of a 1890's home. There is 1460 ft. of track, 235 turnouts, and 115+ buildings. The theme is Pennsylvania Railroad Middle Division. It is described as possibly the largest N-scale home layout in the USA.

None of the HO layouts were as big as our largest layout, assuming the quoted area is that defined by the perimeter of the layout. If the quoted area refers to just bench work, then there are some very big layouts indeed! All layouts have a defined theme.

The NMRA negotiates with local hotels for blocks of rooms for the convention, seeking the lowest rates available and signing a contract for those rooms. That is, the NMRA will have to pay for any such rooms not taken by convention attendees.

There are three hotels so contracted with in Cincinnati, Millennium Hotel, Four Points Sheraton, and Hilton Netherland Plaza. I would have thought more than just three hotels would be needed.

The actual convention items are:

- Banquet.
- National train show.
- Auction.
- NMRA store.
- Contests.
- Clinics.
- Modelling with the masters workshops.
- Junior clinic program.
- Prototype tours.
- Special Interest Groups.
- Non-rail program.

The following is an excerpt from the Nutmeg Flyer of January 2005.

"It is apparent to us that no single Division of the NMRA within 50 miles of Hartford can reach the required 150 volunteers required.

And thus, 30 members from different divisions within 80-100 miles of Hartford met....

Several committees are now forming along the lines of the national convention handbook outline.

One member, who is a lawyer, has suggested that a Not for Profit Corporation be formed for the 2009 convention activities and that this entity enter into a contract with National."

For more information look at the NER convention web site:
[http://pages.cthome.net/kenmay/NERHOME .HTML](http://pages.cthome.net/kenmay/NERHOME.HTML).

We need to get our act together.

John

The President's Corner

Dan contributed notes for the Willimantic show.

Vice President's Niche

The table at the end of this Newsletter shows registered Club members at the time of writing (although we do hope some more dues come through). The numbers are down a bit, but at least we have picked up some new members (italicized) compared with the 2003 list, and maybe the average age of members might actually have decreased. Of course, it would be rude to ask for applicants to put their age on the form!

The Technical Section

Contributions are welcome. You can write about anything from prototypes and history to model railroads, scenery, electrical, bench

work, model building and more are all of interest to the club members.

Picture(s) of the Month

~~Keep~~ Start 'em coming.

World Wide Web

YOU send in your favorite railroad related websites and they will be published here so everybody can access them.

Glen Siter sends this link to the Central New England Railway:

<http://www.angelfire.com/ct/tdowd/arizona/cnzt/index.html> .

M&PMRR Officers & Functionaries

The President Dan DeLany 860 748-7581

Vice President John Waller 564-3114

Treasurer Don Counsellor 739-6381

Secretary Robert Applegate 464-2118

Webmaster **Jim Spavins** spavij@rpi.edu

Storekeeper **Larry Southwick** 535-2996

Field Trips **Jim DeLany** 889-4029

Newsletter Editor **Clark Pritchett** 444-1884

Newsletter Mailing, Meeting Speakers and Bulk Purchases **Bill Evans** 267-9482

New Passenger Modules, Name Tags and Show Layouts **Stu Dom** 536-7637

Real Prototype Railroading Information

Richard Peiffer rpeiffer@charter.net

Model Railroad Calendar

This Month in 2005

(Input needed)

Next Month and Beyond

(Input needed)

Ron Pothier's 2005 list of train shows is available from him at repth@snet.net.

The Lighter Side

Why Computers Sometimes Crash! by Dr. Seuss.

(Read this to yourself aloud - it's great!)

If a packet hits a pocket on a socket on a port, and the bus is interrupted as a very last resort, and the access of the memory makes your floppy disk abort, then the socket packet pocket has an error to report.

If your cursor finds a menu item followed by a dash, and the double-clicking icon puts your window in the trash, and your data is corrupted cause the index doesn't hash, then your situation's hopeless and your system's gonna crash!

If the label on the cable on the table at your house, says the network is connected to the button on your mouse, but your packets want to tunnel to another protocol, that's repeatedly rejected by the printer down the hall.

And your screen is all distorted by the side effects of gauss, so your icons in the window are as wavy as a souse; then you may as well reboot and go out with a bang, 'cuz sure as I'm a poet, the sucker's gonna hang.

When the copy on your floppy's getting sloppy in the disk, and the macro code instructions is causing unnecessary risk, then you'll have to flash the memory and you'll want to RAM your ROM, and then quickly turn off the computer and be sure to tell your Mom!

Well, that certainly clears things up for me. How about you?

Thank you, Bill Gates, for bringing all this into our lives

Club Administration

In this new standard section we will **eventually** have the things that we all need to know so the Club functions more smoothly.

Membership, New and Renewals

Membership applications, how much, how to submit them, etc. (to be developed by the Club Secretary).

Location for Permanent Layout

What members should do/can say to the owner etc. if they find a location that may be used for a permanent layout for the Club. (to be developed by the Club President)

Club Website

What members should do if they have something for the Club Website. (to be developed by the Club Webmaster)

Submitting Newsletter Items

Send items to be published by E-mailing them to Clark at: modlrrnews@aol.com, or snail-mail them to 23 Beacon Hill Dr. Waterford, CT 06385.

Club Members Roster

(Area code 860 unless given otherwise)
Robert Applegate has the complete list, although the email address column is somewhat sparsely populated. Please send your email address to Robert at rapplegate@snet.net if you are not sure he already has it.

Jack	Howie	464-6807
Ron Wolf	Jackson	625-4778
Robert	Larson	440-2581
Robert	Lee	440-2581
Jim	Lemerlin	445-1082
Jim	Lenart	203-238-2498
Thomas	Lewis	464-8352
Jan	Luth	848-3401
Robert	MacGregor	859-1536
John	MacLeod	464-1339
Alfred	Mayo	204-0552
Bob	Murphy	399-7503
Mark	OConnell	367-9067
Bill	Paradis	434-7040
Sidney	Petrie	535-1221
Ron	Pothier	203-481-8748
Clark	Pritchett	444-1884
Timothy	Reed	535-3050
Carl	Roberts	388-2565
Paul	Robillard	892-0018
Newell	Sage	526-5762
Wolf	Schubler	447-9023
Glenn	Siter	873-9791
James	Skeffington	
Alan	Smith	
Larry	Southwick	535-2996
Jim	Spavins	535-3524
Bill	Stamm	873-1120
Jim	Steele	742-6212
Peter	Sulinski	342-0749
Jeffrey	Turner	443-5802
John	Waller	564-3114
Jim	Weitlauf	536-1513
Jonathan	Willetts	347-2296
Bob	Wood	669-1152
Alan	Wrobel	739-1899
Wayne	Yancey	

<u>First name</u>	<u>Last name</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
William	Abt	536-0775
David	Alley	
Sandy	Alonzo	526-2312
Robert	Applegate	464-2118
William	Badgett	882-8631
Peter	Barrington	857-3738
Bert	Beukelaer	536-8057
Edward	Bradbury	535-4355
Marc	Campbell	739-3965
Douglas	Cassie	388-9011
Don	Counsellor	739-6381
Henry	Curtis	443-5953
Dan	Delany	643-9303
Jim	Delany	889-4029
Stuart	Dom	536-7637
Michael	Duda	
William	Evans III	267-9482
Art	Ferguson	767-7138
Robert	Gustafson	434-5083
Harold	Hansen	442-5498
Jonathan	Harger	739-4224
George	Harran	443-0707
Les	Hazler	886-7380
James	Hodgdon Jr.	848-3939