

# Mohegan Pequot Model Railroad



## The News for: September 2005

### M&P Annual Club Picnic

This year the Club Picnic will be held on Saturday September 17 at the home of Jonathon and Erika Harger in East Lyme, Connecticut. The picnic begins at noon. The Club will provide hot dogs, hamburgers and drinks. Club Members are to bring salads, side dishes and desserts. In case it rains on Saturday we will try again on Sunday.

The Club Picnic has always been a very civilized affair, especially now that the Hell's Angels have not been invited back again. This is the chance to bring your family along to show them that model railroading is not just about trains.

Jonathon's Directions to his house.

Get yourself on I-95. Get off at exit 74 Niantic. South bound exit. At the end of the exit ramp take a right (you go under highway) Northbound exit. Turn right at stoplight (#1 for count below) Go through 4 stoplights. You will pass Burger King and Dunkin Doughnuts on Left and mini malls and eventually a pond on your right. After the pond there will be a fork in the road (it is so you can eat the scallop on the sign you will see that says Welcome to Niantic, East Lyme etc.) Veer right so that you do not go through a 5th stoplight.

You are on East Pattagansett Rd. follow this until you are at an intersection with a school on your right (Niantic Center) Go straight through intersection. Follow road till you pass Scotti's fruit farm on right and railroad underpass to left. Veer left to go under underpass and then take right onto Black Point Rd. At end of road - take right

on to Old Black Point Rd. First right will be Wildwood DR.

Go to end of street and our driveway is hidden between white house on right and long brown house...look for our mailbox with a # 19 on it - drive is on the right. Go down this driveway and you are on the Harger homestead! We are the right hand drive. Looks like a dirt road to the right of mailbox 19.

(If you are totally lost call (860) 739-4224)

[hejeharger@myeastern.com](mailto:hejeharger@myeastern.com)

### Building new Modules

Stu Dom has prevailed upon us for yet another round of new modules. If you missed out on the first round or are just plain addicted to building a new module(s) then contact Stu. Members who signed up for the first module-building bonanza, and have not settled up, please do so forthwith. Give Stu your requirements for track, turnouts, and other components so's the Club can make a bulk purchase.

### Extracts: August Meeting Notes

[Only includes information relevant this month or not incorporated in other newsletter articles.]

(Ref. John Waller's August 28 notes.)

### 28<sup>th</sup> at Bill Library

People intending to go to Stamford need to send in an application, obtainable from Secretary or NMRA.org. Security has been assured. Dates are setup Friday Oct 7, operate 8/9, and breakdown on 9.

We expect Thomas to be held the first and second weekends in November, but have not heard yet. Bill P. to check.

**Club Picnic on September 17 at the Harger's in East Lyme!**

We have not heard back whether we have been accepted for the National Meeting in Philadelphia in 2006.

The Club web site has been updated; members are encouraged to send in material, including publications.

The Treasurer prevailed upon our bank to refund their onerous service charges.

### Meetings and Work Sessions

We are back on the two meetings a month schedule. The first meeting will be at 7:30 PM at the house of The Laurence of Southwick in North Stonington, after the Sunday work session on the 11<sup>th</sup>. The second meeting will be held on the 25<sup>th</sup> at the Bill Library in Ledyard at 7:30 P. M

At the work session at Larry's we will be cutting brush so the Club Trailer can get in and out. The meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month may very well be at the Bill Library in Gales Ferry Library because the library in Ledyard traditionally holds their book sale in September. (Gales Ferry has not been confirmed yet. Expect a-mail or phone call.)

Wednesday night work sessions will continue at the house of The Laurence of Southwick in North Stonington, beginning around 7:00 P. M. on Wednesday evenings. Try to get there a little earlier so we can get more done. A lot of work still needs to be done on the new passenger modules and other club modules. Stu is preparing a work plan to identify specific tasks.

### 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.

Prodigal Club Member Returns

### Letters to the Editor

Vent your opinions here!

Com'on, you have one.

### Field Trips

Well the summer has come and almost gone. Jim Delany, our field trip coordinator is still open to scheduling trips for the fall. If you have any suggestions, let him know.

### John Waller's Column

I read with great interest about the July railfan trip; glad it was such a success. Meanwhile I had my own trip behind vintage steam. The last of the New South Wales Railway steam locomotives were the highly acclaimed 38 Class, 4-6-2 Pacific types designed for passenger service. They were withdrawn in 1970. Number 3801 is the most famous steam locomotive in Australia; it has visited all mainland states, having been fully restored for Australia's bicentennial celebrations in 1988.

My friend and vintage train buff, Graham Lewis, drew my attention to a "Christmas in July" trip on Sunday July 24. I reserved seats for eight of my family, including me.

The journey started at Sydney Central Terminal and climbed to Moss Vale in the Southern Highlands. There we were taken to a Christmas-style luncheon, which was beautifully done. The luncheon venue was in a guest house at Robertson, the site for the making of the movie "Babe".



Grandson Toby and ? just before departing from Sydney

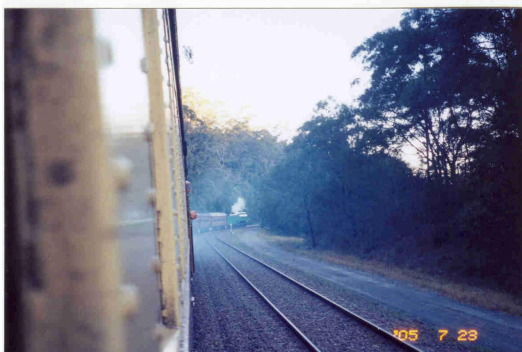
**Club Picnic on September 17 at the Harger's in East Lyme!**



Grandson Luke stands apprehensively on the footplate



Grandson Zachary is curious about what is inside Santa's bell



The joys of vintage cars in being able to stick your head out the window

After luncheon we joined the train again at Robertson. The line (which I had never been on) makes a series of loops as it descends down the steep escarpment to Wollongong on the coast. In places the line is nearly parallel to the coast with great views of the coast and the Tasman Sea beyond.

As can be seen in the last picture, only a wisp of steam can be seen from the locomotive, as it is all braking. Graham points out that a major drawback of steam is there is no dynamic braking, something I don't remember being considered in the steam vs diesel battle.

Locomotive 3801 makes weekly vintage train excursions from Sydney. It is not possible to get out of Sydney by train without some up grades. The old girl works hard, but it would be difficult to tell, sitting back in the cars, that she was not performing as well as she ever did. I found out later that without a major overhaul, 3801 can't keep it up much longer.

*John*

### The President's Corner

Two consecutive articles and a Newsletter! Wow! And on the seventh day he rested.

*Dan*

### Vice President's Niche

I heard on Public Radio that the Washington DC Metro has been taking groups of volunteers through the tunnels so's they will have some idea about what to do in an emergency. A little scary when you think about it; flatten yourself against the tunnel side if a train goes by; there is not much clearance!

Then there is the third rail. At 750 V it is the highest voltage for a third rail that I know of; usually they are around 600 V. The rationale is that at higher voltages the small clearances to the ground will cause too much electricity to leak away, especially when things get covered with dirt as, of course, they will. The penalty of a lower voltage is greater current losses, and some balance must be struck.

**Club Picnic on September 17 at the Harger's in East Lyme!**

But 750 V will zap you very nicely. The group guide showed how you carefully step over the third rail. The guide also said you could stand on the third rail if you were touching nothing which is grounded! Hmmm! Definitely one of those "don't try this at home" things.

*John*

## The Market Place

### Club Member Ads

Advertise (free) here to reach more than seventy model railroaders eagerly waiting to buy your wonderful stuff. (Editor's Note: Let me know when your item sells or when you want to stop running the advertisement.)

### The Club Store

The Club Storekeeper, Larry Southwick, has model railroading supplies such as track, wheels and couplers. Unfortunately the price of "stuff" has increased in the market so be prepared for a price change. We still have Club hats and shirts.

### Commercial Corner

## 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.

### Big Boy Not Big Fella

The 25 Big Boys were built in two groups. The first group, called "class 1", were built starting in 1941. They were numbered 4000-4019. The second group, "class 2", were all built in 1944. They were numbered 4020-4024. Class 1 locomotives ran for ~1,000,000 miles each and Class 2 accumulated ~800,000 miles each plus before they were retired. The sharpest curve the Big Boys could negotiate was a 20 degree curve. In HO scale, this would be a 40 inch radius curve.

The Surviving Eight Big Boys are:

**4004:** Holliday Park, Cheyenne, WY

**4005:** Forney Transportation Museum, Denver, CO

**4006:** Museum of Transportation, St. Louis, MO

**4012:** Steamtown National Historic Site, Scranton, PA

**4014:** Los Angeles County Fairplex, Pomona, CA

**4017:** National Railroad Museum, Green Bay, WI

**4018:** Age of Steam Railroad Museum, Dallas, TX

**4023:** Durham Western Heritage Museum, Omaha, NE

<http://www.steamlocomotive.com/bigboy/#survivors>

### Picture(s) of the Month

Yeah, you send them in.

## World Wide Web

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

### MPRR WEBSITE Contributions

*This article by Jim Spavins Jr. was in last month's newsletter but is worth repeating.*

Over the last few weeks I have been upgrading the website to allow us to add more information about our club. I have reorganized and added to the site a number of new sections that I hope members will contribute to. The purpose of the website is that it is a place to learn about the club and for members to share information to each other. I have added or am in the process of adding new sections that I would like to see contributions for. These include members areas that will feature personal projects, how to articles, and layouts. All I need is pictures and a write up. I'd prefer jpegs and Word documents but just send what you have over to me and I will get it up onto the site. If you haven't looked at the site in a while, go check it out. I will add more as time permits over the next few weeks so keep checking back. Send your contributions to me at [jimspav@alum.rpi.edu](mailto:jimspav@alum.rpi.edu).

In addition, for those of you that have your own modules, I have pages set up so that each module can be featured. I am adding

**Club Picnic on September 17 at the Harger's in East Lyme!**

photo galleries so the number of photos is not limited. Even if the module is still under construction, send over pictures and what your plans are for the module. Then, as you add to the module, send over more pictures so we can all see the progress you are making.

Finally, I would like to add to the history section of the layout. If anyone has pictures from club shows past, old newsletters, newspaper articles, or show flyers, I'd be interested in scanning them and putting them up on the website. Since our club has been around for over 20 years, it will be interesting to see where we have been and where we are heading. If you have access to a scanner I'd prefer electronic versions but if you want to snail mail something for me to scan, you can call me at 860-460-6494 and we can work something out.-Jim Spavins

## Model Railroad Calendar

### This Month in 2005

**September 7, 14, 21, & 28 2005: North Stonington, CT.** Work sessions at The Laurence of Southwick's house at 7:00 P.M.

**September 11, 2005: Ledyard, CT.** Work session at The Laurence of Southwick's house around noon. The first Club meeting of the month will be held at 7:30 PM.

**September 17, 2005: East Lyme, CT.** The Club Picnic will be held on Saturday at the Harger's house. The rain date is on Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup>.

**September 25, 2005: Ledyard, CT.** The only meeting of the month will be held at 7:30 PM at the Bill Library.

### Next Month and Beyond

**November 5-6 & 12-13, 2005: Essex, CT.** These are the weekends for the Thomas the Tank Engine Show where we hold a raffle each weekend.

Ron Pothier's 2005 list of train shows is available from him at [repth@snet.net](mailto:repth@snet.net).

### **The Lighter Side**

Favorite Quotes (part 2)

If every objection must be overcome before starting, nothing will ever get done.

All I need is enough room to lay my hat and few good friends.

It's not that the world has too many fools; it's simply that lightning is not properly distributed.

Forgive thy enemies, but remember their names, and don't forget them until they're hanged.

I wish I had the whole human race in Noah's ark, and an auger.

Some people cause happiness wherever they go, others whenever they leave.

Always admit your mistakes. This confuses those in authority and gives you an opportunity to commit more.

Lead me not into temptation. I can find my own way.

Revolution: An abrupt change in the form of misgovernment.

from church bulletins.

"The sermon this morning is about Jesus walking on water. The evening sermon is about searching for Jesus."

"Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help."

"Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered."

"Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM; please use the back door."

"Pot-luck supper at 6 PM; prayers and medication to follow."

## 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.

### 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](mailto: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**

**Club Picnic on September 17 at the Harger's in East Lyme!**

<http://www.mpr.org>

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](mailto:rpeiffer@charter.net)

**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](mailto:modlrrnews@aol.com), or snail-mail them to 23 Beacon Hill Dr. Waterford, CT 06385.

**Club Picnic on September 17 at the Harger's in East Lyme!**