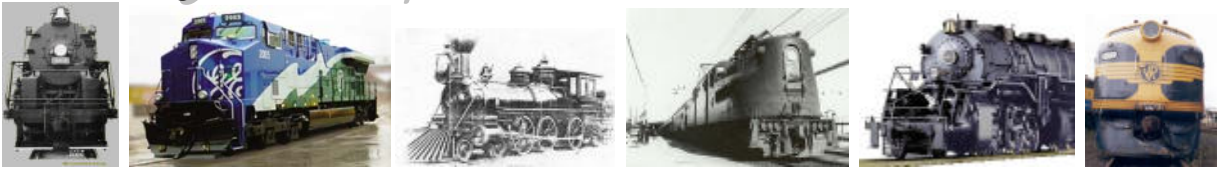


Mohegan Pequot Model Railroad



The News for: February 2006

Springfield 2006

The Amherst Model Railroad Club Show <http://www.amherstrail.org/show/show.htm> at the "Big E" in West Springfield, MA will be held on January 28 and 29, 2006. Show times are 9:00 to 5:00 on Saturday and 10:00 to 5:00 on Sunday. Friday January 27 is the setup day. Loading will take place on Wednesday night at Larry's starting 6 PM, unless the weather forecast deems it prudent to load on Tuesday instead. We have two trailers to load. Unloading will commence Friday, 8 AM. Anyone bringing their own module(s) are urged to have them available at that time too.

Stu Dom needs your module requirements immediately. Layouts are likely to be the same as last year for all scales. We should bring barriers, in case they are not supplied. Dan will organize two-way radios for dispatchers on the HO layout, and try to distribute running of member's trains equitably.

As usual, what better day to be sick from work than Friday the 27th. We need all the help that we can get to set up the HO and G scale layouts. Anyone who can help with G Scale on Thursday should contact Bob McGregor. The N scale and On3 layouts actually set themselves up. You might want to come and watch it happen.

Passes will be available Friday. Passes for Saturday will be available at the "Will Call Booth" at door 7 of the Better Living Center, or in an envelope in the red trailer, lock combination 276. It is to the Club's advantage to "consume" all the passes made available to us, or else we might get fewer

next year. Car parking passes will be available at the gate, but the exact arrangements still seem to be uncertain.

Loading will be on Sunday after the show and unloading will take place at Larry's on the following Wednesday at 7 PM.

Extracts: December Meeting Notes

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

(Ref. John Waller's January notes.)

8th and 22nd at Bill Library

Essex is happy with what the Club did at the Thomas Show and afterwards for their Christmas train. (Not so cold this year)

We want to support the NER Convention June 4 at Worcester, with a layout. John Waller has made contact and is awaiting a response.

We need a new Club roster.

The date for the Willimantic Show is April 23.

More stuff can now go on the web site. Dan said some interest is being shown from outside Club membership in the website. Keep up contributions. A "swap" section could be considered.

Lightweight Design Documented

Stu Dom has written a monumental 24 page epoch on the design evolution and specifications for the new lightweight modules that Club Members built in June this year. He also discusses the passenger module design as well. You can get an autographed copy from Stu if you don't have a computer. Otherwise he will email it to you if your internet service provider will allow an attachment that large.

Amherst Show at the Big E in West Springfield, MA. January 28 & 29.

Meetings, Schedule & Work Sessions

Things are a little fuzzy here but we should be going back to two meetings a month in February. The first meeting will be on February 12 at 7:30 PM Larry Southwick's house in North Stonington. (after a Sunday work session but this has not been officially scheduled). The second meeting will be held on February 26 at the Bill Library in Ledyard, starting at 7:30 PM Wednesday evening work sessions will be at Larry Southwick's house in North Stonington, on February 8, 15 and 22 starting around 7:00 P. M. February 1 is our unloading night.

Field Trips

Rumor has it that visits to home layouts are planned, but when?

Movers and Shakers

Member News

Here is where we 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.

Bert Beukelaer Update

Bert Beukelaer is reported as doing well. Unfortunately he won't be joining us at Springfield. He is in the Avalon Health Care Center, 186 Jerry Brown Road, Stonington, CT in room number 57. The direct phone number for his room is 860-572-5630.

John Waller's Column

It is hard to believe that it is now six months since that marathon effort to build new light-weight modules, orchestrated by Stu Dom and Jim Spavins. Stu has now written up his reasoning behind the design.

Regrettably I have not got far enough with my new module to bring it to Springfield. I am aiming for next year, when I hope to have phase 1 completed.

Phase 1 concentrates on getting all the track work into place, that is reasonably

advanced now. It also means all the 18 turnouts will be operating, so I can demonstrate movement through the DCC controller, but without block control.

The turnout package will be self-contained. It will have its own set of microcontrollers which will communicate via an I²C bus, to reduce the number of wires required. This whole package operates with as few interconnections as possible to the main block control system.

The aim is to satisfy the software design principle of loose coupling and information hiding. This means the main block system, which will control 8 out of the 18 turnouts, simply sends a message to the turnout package, in an 8-bit word, to specify the turnout positions required.

The turnout package then goes and does its stuff to execute the message contents. The block system does not, and need not, know how the turnout package operates. But to check that it has done it right, the turnout package sends back another 8-word which specifies the status of each of the 8 turnouts.

In phase 2 the block system will use the turnout position information to permit safe train movement. This is done in my present demo layout, where a train, for example, having requested approval to head out, does not get approval until the head-out turnout is in the right position.

In my present demo, the block control is intimately mixed in with turnout control, since there are only two turnouts. With nearly ten times this number, that arrangement just will not do.

The remaining 10 turnouts are in the staging area or yard. These will be controlled through toggle switches, which the "yard master" will operate. As in any yard, there is no block control, but a set of "visual flight rules" which must be obeyed. Only the head out and head in procedures are under system control. The yard master will have a good bird's-eye view of the staging area.

All staging-area turnouts will have dwarf signals to indicate position. Those of us who went to Selkirk last April will have observed that turnout signals flash for 30 minutes (?)

before an actual change in position is made. I intend to duplicate this, although 30 minutes might be a little excessive!

As an aside; I have 18 Tortoise motors for the 18 turnouts. I have a very thin baseboard, 1/4" plywood, and thought the wire which comes with the Tortoise would work. But it is not stiff enough. Then George told me he takes the spring out of the turnouts so's he can use the standard wire.

Then Stu kindly gave me a sample of the wire used on the passenger station turnouts, 0.047" diameter, and it works fine.

John

The President's Corner

##%*&^(^/~!!##&%%\$@+## Column

Dan



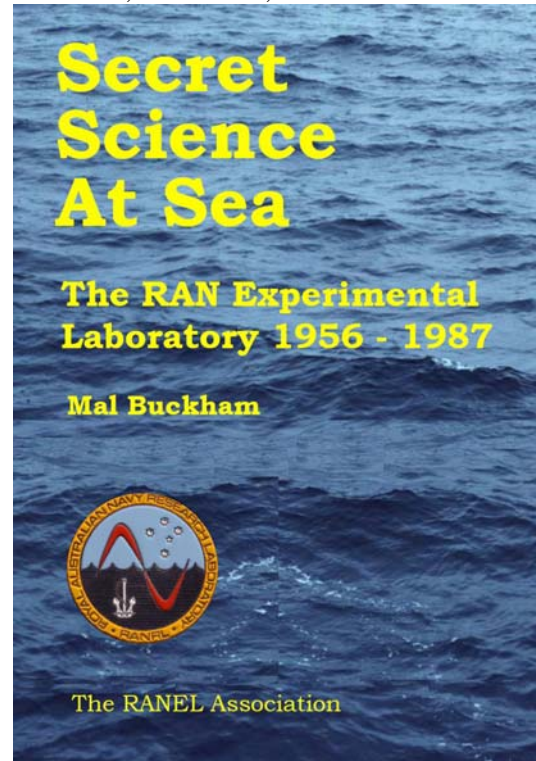
Vice President's Niche

I have just spent many months editing material, including my own, for an account of the lab I worked at in Sydney before I came to this country. There are three editors, and much of the communication was by email. One of the other editors lives in Canberra, and another Broulee, a town on the NSW coast about 5 hours drive south of Sydney.

The account has been 10 years in the making, during which three of the authors have passed on. I strongly recommend that some sort of account/history of the Club be undertaken before it is too late.

The picture below shows the front cover of the book, put together by the 12-year-old

granddaughter of the editor in Canberra. Mal Buckham, of Broulee, is the chief editor.



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.)

Blowout Sale!!!

Jim Spavins finally cleaned out his train room at his parent's house and is having a blow out sale of items. Below find a list of items for sale. All prices negotiable. Contact jimspav@alum.rpi.edu with any questions for items. This sale does not last long.

HO Items

Atlas U23B Chessie System #2314 - \$50
Atlas U23B Chessie System #2306 - \$50
Athearn ready to Roll Chessie System Wide Vision Caboose - \$10
3 Red Caboose PFE Refrigerator Car Kits - Undec - \$5 ea
Athearn Genesis CN SD70I #5607 kit - \$40

Amherst Show at the Big E in West Springfield, MA. January 28 & 29.

Atheam Genesis CN SD75I #5642 kit - \$40
Atheam Wide Vision Caboose kit CN #79713 - \$5
Kadee 40' PS-1 Standard Boxcar – undec painted brown - \$10
2 C&BT Shops 1944 AAR 40' Boxcar – undec painted brown - \$5 ea
Atheam GP35 Housatonic #3604 - \$20
Atheam Housatonic Wide Vision Caboose #654 assembled - \$8
Tinchy Train Group 53'6" SOO Line Flat Car kit -\$5
Tinchy Train Group 33' Scale wheels (non-operating) 96 sets - \$5
Atlas RS11 New York Central #8011 weathered - \$60
Atheam AMD103 Amtrak #52 kit powered - \$25
Atheam GEU30C Norfolk Southern #8000 powered kit -\$25
Accurail – Interstate USRA 55-ton hopper kit - \$5
Accurail – 40' PS-1 Boxcar Data only oxide red kit -\$5
Walthers Mills Bros. Lumber Wholsaler structure kit - \$10
Walthers Midstate Marble Products structure kit - \$10

N-Scale Items

7 Roundhouse assembled modern 50' boxcars – various roads - \$5 ea
1 Roundhouse assembled 50' ADM tank car - \$5

Other Items

MRC Soundmaster 210 with speaker stockcar - \$25
Module



This is an HO 8' module built to club standards in two 2'x4' sections. It was designed around the switching game "The Switchman's Sharpener." Scenery is essentially complete. Includes buildings and backdrops. Features oak plexiglass and backdrop holders along with powered switches. Comes panel and harness ready. Legs sold separately. Asking \$175.

The Club Store

No significant changes since the last dozen reports. See Larry Southwick if you need stuff.

Commercial Corner

(from Barbara Schubler)

Hello to all fellow model railroad buffs.

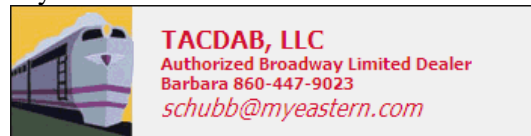
I am here to tell you that not only is TACDAB a dealer for BROADWAY-LIMITED IMPORTS. I also deal with TONY'S TRAINS, AMERICAN HOBBY DISTRIBUTORS, and PORTMAN HOBBIES And for those of you looking to purchase BACHMAN, BRANCH LINE, LIFE-LIKE or ATLAS...I am also a dealer for HOBBY STORES DISTRIBUTING.

So if anyone out there in the hobby fanatic world needs to desperately order anything to make your hobby (or yourself) happy. TACDAB is the place to go.

TACDAB can be reached by calling Barbara at 860-447-9023 or cell phone 860-460-4900 and the email is schubb@myeastern.com

Spread the word.... ONE OF THE ONLY REMAINING MODEL TRAIN HOBBY PLACES LEFT IN SOUTH EASTERN CONNECTICUT is TACDAB. *YOU'LL BE PLEASE WITH THE DISCOUNT YOU RECEIVE.*

REMEMBER... THE PLACE TO FILL YOUR MODEL TRAIN "WISH LIST" or anyone else is TACDAB!



Last Run

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.

Letters to the Editor

Vent your opinions here!
Com'on, you have one.

World Wide Web

Jim Spavins is still waiting for your stuff.
(Welcome to the world of high expectations and low delivery) <http://www.mpr.org>

The Life Section

Here are some of the US statistics for the Year 1905 : (100 Years Ago)

The average life expectancy in the US was 47 years.

Only 14 percent of the homes in the US had a bathtub. Most women only washed their hair once a month, and used borax or egg yolks for shampoo.

Only 8 percent of the homes had a telephone. A three-minute call from Denver to New York City cost eleven dollars.

There were only 8,000 cars in the US, and only 144 miles of paved roads. The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph.

Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee and were each more heavily populated than California. With a mere 1.4 million people, California was only the 21st most populous state in the Union. The population of Las Vegas, Nevada, was only 30!!!

Sugar cost four cents a pound. Eggs were fourteen cents a dozen. Coffee was fifteen cents a pound. The average wage in the US was 22 cents per hour. The average US worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year. A competent accountant could expect to earn \$2000 per year, A dentist \$2,500 per year, A veterinarian between \$1,500 and

\$4,000 per year, and A mechanical engineer about \$5,000 per year.

The five leading causes of death in the US were: 1.Pneumonia and influenza, 2. Tuberculosis 3. Diarrhea 4. Heart disease and 5. Stroke. More than 95 percent of all births in the US took place at home. Ninety percent of all US doctors had no college education. Instead, they attended so-called medical schools, many of which were condemned in the press and by the government as "substandard."

Marijuana, heroin, and morphine were all available over the counter at the local corner drugstores. Back then pharmacist said, "Heroin clears the complexion, gives buoyancy to the mind, regulates the stomach and bowels, and is, in fact, a perfect guardian of health." (Shocking!)

The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower! Canada passed a law that prohibited poor people from entering into their country for any reason.

The American flag only had 45 stars. Arizona, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Hawaii, and Alaska hadn't been admitted to the Union yet.

Crossword puzzles, canned beer, and ice tea hadn't been invented yet. There was no Mother's Day or Father's Day. Two out of every 10 US adults couldn't read or write. Only 6 percent of all Americans had graduated from high school.

Eighteen percent of households in the US had at least one full-time servant or domestic help.

There were about 230 reported murders in the entire US

And I forwarded this from someone else without typing it myself, and sent it to you in a matter of seconds!

Try to imagine what it may be like in another 100 years.

It staggers the mind.

(received from Art Ferguson)



Model Railroad Calendar

This Month in 2006

February 12, 2006; Ledvard, CT. First meeting of the month. Held at Larry Southwick's house (?) starting at 7:30

February 1, 2006 Stonington, CT. Unload modules from Springfield at Larry Southwick's house beginning around 6:00 PM.

February 8, 15, & 22 North Stonington, CT. Work sessions at Larry Southwick's house beginning around 7:00 PM.

February 26, 2006; Ledvard, CT. Second meeting of the month. Held at the Bill Library starting at 7:30

Next Month and Beyond

April 23, 2006; Willimantic, CT. Train show at the Windham High School

Ron Pothier's 2006 list of train shows is available from him at repth@snet.net.

The Lighter Side ZEN SARCASM

1. Do not walk behind me, for I may not lead. Do not walk ahead of me, for I may not follow. Do not walk beside me either. Just pretty much leave me the hell alone.
2. The journey of a thousand miles begins with a broken fan belt and leaky tire.
3. It's always darkest before dawn. So if you're going to steal your neighbor's newspaper, that's the time to do it.
4. Don't be irreplaceable. If you can't be replaced, you can't be promoted.
5. Always remember that you're unique. Just like everyone else.
6. Never test the depth of the water with both feet.
7. If you think nobody cares if you're alive, try missing a couple of car payments.
8. Before you criticize someone, you should walk a mile in their shoes. That way, when you criticize them, you're a mile away and you have their shoes.
9. If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you.
10. Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach him how to fish, and he will sit

in a boat and drink beer all day.

11. If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.

12. If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything.

13. Some days you're the bug; some days you're the windshield.

14. Everyone seems normal until you get to know them.

15. The quickest way to double your money is to fold it in half and put it back in your pocket.

16. A closed mouth gathers no foot.

17. Duct tape is like 'The Force'. It has a light side and a dark side, and it holds the universe together.

18. There are two theories to arguing with women. Neither one works.

19. Generally speaking, you aren't learning much when your lips are moving.

20. Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.

21. Never miss a good chance to shut up.

22. Never, under any circumstances, take a sleeping pill and a laxative on the same night

Club Administration

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The President Dan DeLany 860 748-7581

Vice President John Waller 564-3114

Treasurer Don Counsellor 739-6381

Secretary Robert Applegate 464-2118

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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

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Submitting Newsletter Items

Send items to be published by E-mailing them to Clark at: modlrnews@aol.com, or

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<http://www.mpr.org>

snail-mail them to 23 Beacon Hill Dr.
Waterford, CT 06385.



Amherst Show at the Big E in West Springfield, MA. January 28 & 29.