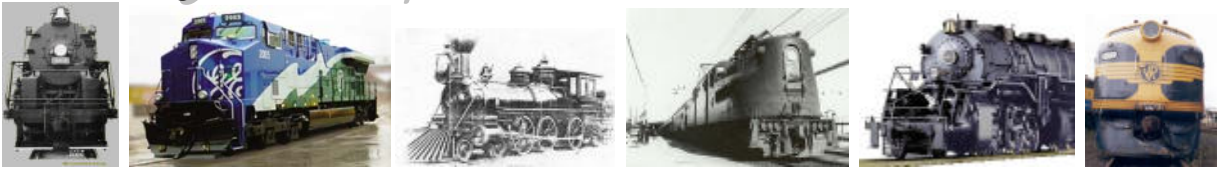


# Mohegan Pequot Model Railroad



## The News for: May 2006

### Willimantic Train Show

The Eastern Connecticut Chapter of the National Railroad Historical Society Train Show was held on Sunday, April 23 at Windham High School. We loaded (crammed and squished might better describe it) the HO modules in the red trailer on Wednesday evening and set them up, partially, on Friday evening before the show. The janitor bounced us out at 8:00 PM before we got done.

Sunday morning was a fine train show day. It rained. The crowd was heavier than expected for an April show. We had a short meeting at the end of the show and packed our tents and went home in the rain. Other than getting wet a good time was had by all.

### Field Trips

The Tripmeister, Jim Delany, has set up not one, but Two field trips in May! The first one, and it is long overdue, will be to the open house (9:00 AM to 5:00 PM) at the Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum in Willimantic on Saturday May the 6<sup>th</sup>. In addition to the trains they plan to have a blacksmithing display and other outdoor activities. There are also grills available for use if we want to bring food. We may go as a group or individually. For those of you who want to carpool we will leave from the commuter parking lot at Exit 82 on I-395 (the usual place) at 8:30 AM on Saturday May 6.

We have a tentative date of Saturday May 20 for a trip to the Danbury Railroad Museum (in Danbury, CT). We will finalize the details at the meeting on May the 7<sup>th</sup>.

### Extracts: April Meeting Notes

(Only information relevant this month or not in newsletter articles. Ref. John Waller's notes.)

All included in other articles.

### NMRA Convention in Worcester

See the Vice President's Niche

### Meetings, Schedule & Work Sessions

In view of Mother's Day and Memorial Day we will meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of May. The first meetings this month will be held on Sunday May 7, at Larry Southwick's house in North Stonington at 5:00 PM after the monthly work session (which begins at 1:00 PM.) The second meeting of May will be held at the Bill Library on Sunday May 21 at 7:30 PM. [We have to check with the library to be sure that evening is available since we haven't been there in a while. The Secretary will get the key, so it won't rain.]

Regular work sessions will be held at Larry's house on Wednesday nights, May 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31 beginning at 7:00 PM.



The yard in Altoona, Pennsylvania

## Movers and Shakers

### 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.

### Bert Beukelaer

Long-time Club Member Bert Beukelaer is once again back in the hospital. He has very serious problems with wounds that are taking an extremely long time to heal. Bert needs all of your support during this trying time. Please visit or call Bert when you can. He will be going to a rehab center again after he leaves the hospital. Barbara Schubler will be providing updates via email in the near future as to where he is going and when, and Bert's phone number and visiting hours. We are all rooting for you **Big Fella**'.

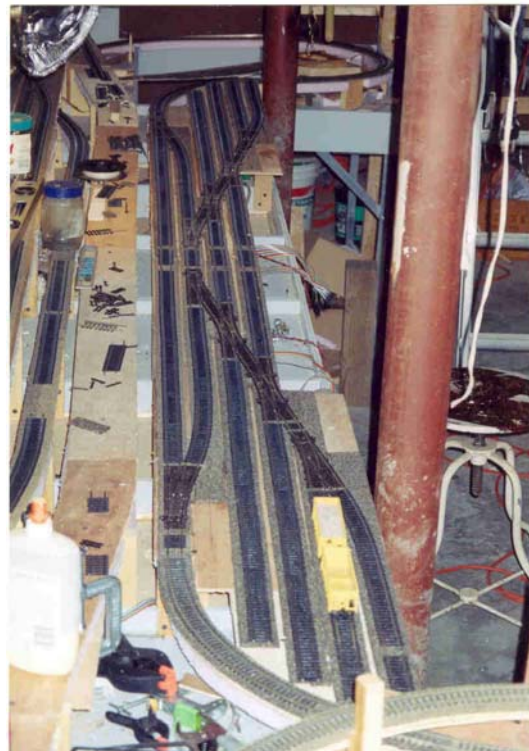


100 Years Old Plus in Augusta, Georgia and Still Going Strong Today.

## John Waller's Column

(Trains and Travel)

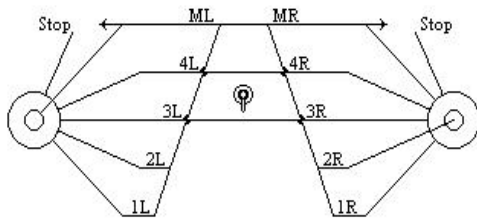
The photo shows the yard area on my new module, which also serves as a staging area. There are six tracks shown in the photo. The two on the left form the main line lower passing loop. The main line is a single track, with two-way working and two passing loops: one as in the photo and the other as part of the zigzag (not shown here).



The yard is symmetrical about the center of the module with ladders converging near the center. The section of the passing loop nearer to the yard is also the head-out and head-in interface.

A major constraint of the whole layout is that trains must be set up in the yard to traverse the main line either clockwise or counter-clockwise. I toyed with various methods of turning trains around, from a gigantic turntable to loops and triangles, but all were too complicated and space consuming.

The yard is shown diagrammatically in the figure, which will be the template for turnout control. There are eighteen turnout motors on the layout as a whole, of which four work the zigzag, two the passing loop, with the rest as shown in the figure; only one part of the passing loop is shown.



The labels on the figure denote “1L” is track 1 left, “1R” track 1 right, and so on. The turnouts near the labels 2L, ML, MR, and 2R are simple turnouts. The turnouts near the labels 3L, 4L, 4R, and 3R are double slip.

The circles at each end of the figure represent rotary switches. These will be used to set up a path through and in/out of the yard. For example, the switch positions as shown connect ML to 2R. This would be used to allow a train on the main line, travelling counter-clockwise, to head in to track 2R. It would also be used to allow a clockwise train to head out from 2R.

Heading out and in will be part of the automatic block control and interlocking system for the main line<sup>1</sup>. As with my present demo, safe movements in the yard are the user’s responsibility.

For some internal movements in the yard there are short and long paths. For example, movement between 1L and 1R can go via 3L/3R (short) or 4L/4R (long). The symbol in the middle of the figure is a toggle switch to allow the user to select the desired path.

A typical movement requires a truth table to be set up. For example, to set up the short path between 1L and 1R the turnouts en route are set to: S, U, U, U, U, S. For the long path between 1L and 2R: S, D, U, U, U, U, U, U, D, C. Where “D” and “U”

denote “down” and “up”, respectively, for double-slip blades, and “C” and “S” denote “curved” and “straight”, respectively, for simple turnouts.

No movement requires all of the turnouts to be set to a particular position; some will be in the “don’t care” category, and can be left where they were.

The processor I am now using, the PIC 18F452, has an extended instruction set and supports tables, so is ideally suited to this application.

A total of seven binary bits is required to designate all possible paths. Each rotary switch<sup>2</sup> has five positions, three bits each, plus one for the toggle switch. The additional positions on the rotary switches, labelled “stop” in the figure will make all trains in the yard stop.

The microcontrollers also control the turnouts themselves and operate the dwarf signals at each turnout. The latter operation is also quite complex, especially for double-slip turnouts.

The following pictures were taken in Amsterdam, the Venice of NE Europe



City of bikes and trams

<sup>1</sup> Whose complexity I have yet to fully explore.

<sup>2</sup> The rotary switches are of the binary coded decimal (BCD) type.



Commuter bikes parked at Central Station



Guess who preferred flowers to trains!

*John*



The only hills in Amsterdam are the bridges over the 200-odd canals



House boat on a canal

### The President's Corner

Was I supposed to write a column this month? I'm sure that I already did that. You know I was just dictating it to Jim at work the other day and it was a good one. It's all his fault.

*Dan*

### Vice President's Niche

#### REPORT ON A VISIT TO HOLIDAY INN WORCESTER, MA, 2006APR19

The Inn is the site of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention of the Northeastern Region of the National Model Railroad Association. The Convention is being called the "Thrifty Sixty", and will run from June 1 to June 4. The address of the Inn is 500 Lincoln Street, phone 508 543 2146. The Inn will change its name to the Worcester Hotel and Conference Complex on June 1!!

I had been in contact with members of the Thrifty Sixty to express our interest in having a layout there, and they invited me to join them for a meeting at the Inn.

I met with Jack Alexander, Mike Tylick, Sue Zukowski, Bill Goldthwait, and Dick Towle (Convention Chairman) from the NER and with Betty Wallen and Jenny-Lynn Fontaine from the Inn. The NER people confirmed with the Inn arrangements already arrived at from previous meetings, ironed out some uncertainties, and inspected rooms (which information was very useful to me) before turning to our requirements.

It transpired that the only space available for us is in the lobby. This is an excellent location in terms of visibility, as everyone visiting will pass by the layout. But there are two drawbacks:

- The layout size is constrained to 16 feet by 20 feet, largely by four large pillars 26" by 26" in cross section.
- Security would be entirely our responsibility; nothing can be locked up; we would be "on watch" 24/7.

The small layout size is partially offset by the large mirror on the wall opposite the entrance, which would make the layout appear to be much bigger than it is when people first walk in. Power is available on one or more of the pillars.

The NER and the Inn had no objection to us collecting donations. Rooms at the Inn are nearly all reserved at this stage; NER claims their block booking gives the cheapest rates.

I have given Stu a sketch of the lobby, and he will consider possible layouts. I recommend we take advantage of this opportunity, but limit our presence to Saturday and Sunday June 3/4, when most of the visitors are expected.

Dan will be asking the N scalers if they are interested. (A much more suitable fit. 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.)

### The Club Store

The Club Storekeeper, Larry Southwick, has model railroading supplies such as track, roadbed, wheels and couplers as well as a whole new slug of electrical parts. Unfortunately the price of "stuff" has increased in the market so be prepared for a


price change. We still have Club hats and shirts.

All Club Members are encouraged to buy stuff from the Club Store. We have a lot of money tied up in stuff and it is for the convenience of Club Members.



The Royal Hudson in British Columbia.

### Commercial Corner

	<b>TACDAB, LLC</b> Authorized Broadway Limited Dealer Barbara 860-447-9023 <a href="mailto:schubb@myeastern.com">schubb@myeastern.com</a>
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Hello Train Buff's,

**TACDAB** again is letting you know that I have most of all your needs and wants for your hobbies.

PORTMAN HOBBIES, PRECISION CRAFT HOBBIES, HOBBYTYME, TONY'S TRAINS, AMERICAN HOBBY DISTRIBUTOR, BROADWAY-LIMITED, HOBBY STORES DISTRIBUTING, and a few others.

Whatever your needs, please let me know.

Since **TACDAB** is one of the few remaining hobby dealers in southeastern Connecticut, WHY NOT SHOP WITH TACDAB! You will be glad you did.

Barbara

TACDAB [schubb@myeastern.com](mailto:schubb@myeastern.com)  
860-447-9023 H; 860-460-4900 C

## 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.

### Trespassing on Railroad Tracks

According to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), trespassing has led to more than 3,000 deaths nationwide since 2000 on the nation's 233,000 miles of train tracks. Until 1997, most train fatalities resulted from vehicle-train collisions at railroad crossings. But crossing deaths fell by more than 50 percent between 1981, when there were 728, and last year, when there were 355, according to Operation Lifesaver. At the same time, the number of deaths involving trespassers - people who are illegally on railroad property and rights of way - has increased. In the 1970s and 1980s, the number of trespassing fatalities ranged from about 380 to 450 each year. But in the past 15 years, the annual number usually has exceeded 500, according to FRA statistics.

One possible reason that trespassing has become more problematic is the growing popularity of ATVs and snowmobiles. Others suggest that development pressures have pushed residential and commercial development along railroad lines, thus exposing more people to train tracks and giving rise to more trespassing. Adding to the problem is that trains are quieter than ever. With welded tracks, the telltale "clickety-clack" is mostly a thing of the past. Also, people accustomed to slow-moving trains are sometimes surprised when a fast one comes along.

So far railfans have not been identified as a problem but with corporations like Union Pacific worrying about royalties from their logo on models, can the potential liability of an over exuberant railfan be far from their mind? Remember, railfanning can be fun but trains are bigger, faster, harder and much more unforgiving than you are.

(Excerpts from a Jim Hodgdon email)

## World Wide Web

And your greatest links are???

## The Life Section

### The Dangerous Brown Recluse Spider

It's Spring (finally) and people will be doing yard work and spring cleaning. You may encounter the most dangerous spider that we have here in the USA, the Brown Recluse. They like the darkness and tend to live in storage sheds or attics or other areas that might not be frequented by people or light. They like dark spaces & woodpiles. They also like cool areas in the attic and shoes and boots in the back of closets.

Please be careful. Spider bites are dangerous and can have permanent and highly negative consequences. The affected skin actually dies on his body. A person can even die from its bite. It's summertime and cleanup is going on. Be careful where you put your hands.



**The Brown Recluse Spider**

## Model Railroad Calendar

### This Month in 2006

**May 6, 2006; Willimantic, CT** – M&P first field trip of the year to the open house of the Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum. If you want to carpool be at the commuter parking lot at Exit 82 on I-395 by 8:30 AM.

**May 7, 2006 – Shelton, CT.** New Train Show to benefit Boy Scouts Crew 33. 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Old Shelton Intermediate School on Perry Hill Rd. I-95 south to Bridgeport, take Rt 8/25 Exit. Go about 2 miles to Rt 8/25 split, take Rt 8 north (right 2 lanes). Exit 13 from Rt-8. Take a left, then at the light a right onto Bridgeport Ave., go about 1/2 mile take a left onto Perry Hill Rd. and the show will be about 1/4 mi on the left. For info; call Barry Howard at 203-732-5346 or email; him at BJHRR@AOL.COM

**May 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31 North Stonington, CT.** Work sessions at Larry Southwick's house beginning around 7:00 PM.

**May 7, 2006; North Stonington, CT –** Work session beginning at ~1:00 PM and meeting at 5:00 PM at Larry Southwick's house.

**May 20, 2006; Danbury, CT –** M&P second field trip of the year to the Danbury Railroad Museum. Details to be worked out at the first Club meeting in May.

### Next Month and Beyond

**June 1-4, 2006 Worcester, MA.** NMRA-NER, Hub Division Spring Convention — Holiday Inn, 500 Lincoln St. Thrifty Sixty

**July 2/8, 2006 Independence Junction, PA** Mid-Eastern Region, National Model Railroad Association National Convention – at Pennsylvania Convention Center

**July 12-16, 2006 Points West,** The annual M&P train-watching trip to points yet to be determined.

**August 20, 2006, New Haven, CT.** Train Show 9 AM to 3 PM,– New Haven City-Wide Field House; Contact: John or Robin Vanacore (203) 629-1083

[www.AFSTrains.com](http://www.AFSTrains.com)

**October 8, 2006, Orange, CT** Derby & New Haven Model R/R Club Train Show 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM, High Plains Community Center. Contact: Number (203) 932-0185 or (203) 795-9644

**October 20/22 ,2006 Parsippany,** NJ Fall Convention –, TBA

**November 11, 2006 North Haven, CT** NHRHTA Train Show –9 AM – 3:30 PM, North Haven, CT. Holiday Inn

**November 19, 2006; Cheshire, CT - Cheshire Band Train Show, Cheshire High School , 10 – 3**

**December 2/3/, 2006, Marlborough, MA** Train Show 10 AM – 4 PM, - Royal Plaza Hotel, NMRA-NER, Hub Division. For Info: 781-862-0388 or 508-528-8587

**January 27/28, 2007 West Springfield, MA** Big Railroad Hobby Show, Sat. 9 AM-5 PM, Sun. 10AM-5 PM, Amherst Railway Society, Eastern States Exposition Grounds

Ron Pothier's 2006 list of train shows is available from him at [repth@snet.net](mailto:repth@snet.net).

### **The Lighter Side Where to Relocate**

As we all know, sometimes we come face to face with the fact that it may be time to relocate. The big question is: to where? Here are some tips.

*You can live in Phoenix, Arizona where.....*

1. You are willing to park 3 blocks away because you found shade.
2. You've experienced condensation on your butt from the hot water in the toilet bowl.
3. You can drive for 4 hours in one direction and never leave town.
4. You have over 100 recipes for Mexican food.
5. You know that "dry heat" is comparable to what hits you in the face when you open your oven door.
6. The 4 seasons are: tolerable, hot, really hot, and ARE YOU KIDDING ME??!!

*You can Live in California where...*

1. You make over \$250,000 and you still can't afford to buy a house.
2. The fastest part of your commute is going down your driveway.
3. You know how to eat an artichoke.
4. You drive your rented Mercedes to your neighborhood block party.
5. When someone asks you how far something is, you tell them how long it will take to get there rather than how many miles away it is.

*You can Live in New York City where...*

1. You say "the city" and expect everyone to know you mean Manhattan.
2. You can get into a four-hour argument about how to get from Columbus Circle to Battery Park, but can't find Wisconsin on a map.
3. You think Central Park is "nature,"
4. You believe that being able to swear at people in their own language makes you multi-lingual.
5. You've worn out a car horn.
6. You think eye contact is an act of aggression.

*You can Live in Maine where...*

1. You only have four spices: salt, pepper, ketchup, and Tabasco.
2. Halloween costumes fit over parkas.
3. You have more than one recipe for moose.
4. Sexy lingerie is anything flannel with less than eight buttons.
5. The four seasons are: winter, still winter, almost winter, and construction.

*You can Live in the Deep South where...*

1. You can rent a movie and buy bait in the same store.
2. "y'all" is singular and "all y'all" is plural.
3. "He needed killin' " is a valid defense.
5. Everyone has two first names: Billy Bob, Jimmy Bob, Mary Sue, Betty Jean, Mary Beth, etc.

*You can live in Colorado where...*

1. You carry your \$3,000 mountain bike atop your \$500 car.
2. You tell your husband to pick up Granola on his way home and he stops at the day care center.
3. A pass does not involve a football or dating.
4. The top of your head is bald, but you still have a pony tail.

*You can live in the Midwest where...*

1. You've never met any celebrities, but the mayor knows your name.
2. Your idea of a traffic jam is ten cars waiting to pass a tractor.
3. You have had to switch from "heat" to "A/C" on the same day.
4. You end sentences with a preposition: "Where's my coat at?"
5. When asked how your trip was to any

exotic place, you say, "It was different!"

*AND You can live in Florida where..*

1. You eat dinner at 3:15 in the afternoon.
2. All purchases include a coupon of some kind -- even houses and cars.
3. Everyone can recommend an excellent dermatologist.
4. Road construction never ends anywhere in the state.
5. Cars in front of you are often driven by headless people.
6. The 4 seasons are: tolerable, hot, really hot, and snowbirds.



## Club Administration

M&PMRR Officers & Functionaries

<b>The President</b>	<b>Dan DeLany</b>	860 748-7581
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>John Waller</b>	564-3114
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Don Counsellor</b>	739-6381
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Robert Applegate</b>	464-2118
Storekeeper	<b>Larry Southwick</b>	535-2996
Field Trips	<b>Jim DeLany</b>	889-4029
Newsletter Editor	<b>Clark Pritchett</b>	444-1884
Newsletter Mailing, Meeting Speakers and Bulk Purchases	<b>Bill Evans</b>	267-9482
New Passenger Modules, Name Tags and Show Layouts	<b>Stu Dom</b>	536-7637
Webmaster	<b>Jim Spavins</b>	

[jimspav@alum.rpi.edu](mailto:jimspav@alum.rpi.edu)

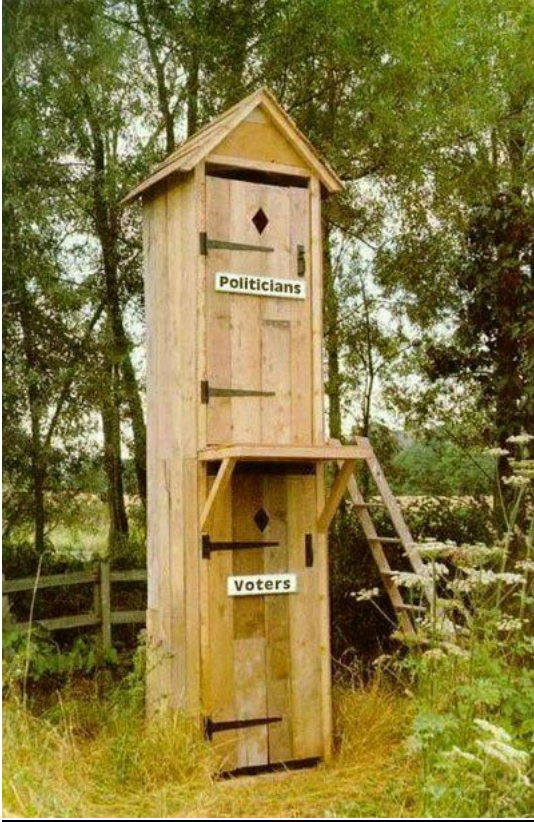
Real Prototype Railroading Information

Richard Peiffer [rpeiffer@charter.net](mailto:rpeiffer@charter.net)

Prototype Questions Dave at

<http://www.davesrailpage.com/>

<http://www.mpr.org>



RR Museum Field Trips: Willimantic May 6, Danbury May 20