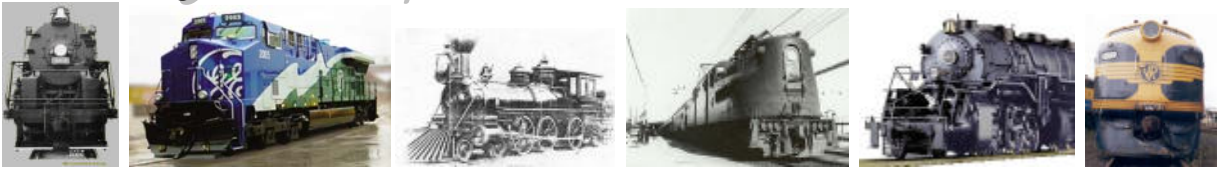


Mohegan Pequot Model Railroad



The News for: August 2006

M&P Railfanning Field Trip

This year the big M&P railfanning trip left from Bob MacGregor's house before 7:00 AM on Wednesday July 12. The traffic was very civil on I-84 as the two vans headed west. The Grizzly Tool Showroom in Muncy, PA was the first destination. Along the way to Ohio there was a stop at the neat Lycoming Valley Railroad Yard in Williamsport, PA. Finally nine tired but enthusiastic people arrived in Fostoria, Ohio at midnight. The next morning the railfanning began in earnest at the double-double diamond by the closed Amtrak Station. Don Counsellor was the official train counter for the trip but his enumeration skills ultimately were overwhelmed by the constant onslaught of train after train after train.

Later Thursday morning Jonathon and Erika Harger came to the Amtrak Station. They were returning from Colorado where they had a very interesting train ride. (Report in the next Newsletter by Jonathon right!) Everybody left for Deshler to watch trains at a different venue and to have a picnic at the park by the tracks. After very nice lunch one of the locals arrived with his PC that had a graphical program that tracked all of the trains in the region. With the tracking program and scanners in hand no train was able to sneak up on the M&P crew even though most were sleeping lunch off. (See Prez's column). Then it was back to the Fostoria area in the afternoon and evening to explore other locations and see more trains.

Friday morning was spent in Fostoria and then the group left for Altoona with a stop at

the Norfolk & Southern Yard in Bellevue, Ohio where they use one engine and two slugs to push cars over the hump. Then it was on to Altoona for some late evening train watching at the bridges. Later that night the M&P Webmaster and Big Al checked in at the hotel to join the crew.

The next morning began in downtown Altoona and then it was off to see the shops and the yard. From there the caravan proceeded to Horseshoe curve. A lot of brush had been cleared so the train watching was pretty good this year. Stu Dom took the group picture with the Pennsy GP-9 as background. Then it was on to Galitzin and Cressin for some train watching and the trek to Harrisburg.

The greatest spectacle at Harrisburg is the Rockville Bridge over the Susquehanna River. At 3,820 Ft. it is the longest stone-arch bridge in the world. For more go to <http://davecathell.tripod.com/rock.html> In addition the group saw other railroad bridges in downtown Harrisburg and the Enola Yard. The final stop was in Marysville, north of Harrisburg where a most unusual self-propelled tie car was moving down the tracks at perhaps 25 MPH.

This year the cost per person for transportation and motel rooms (double occupancy) was less than \$300, sans food and bar bills. And all that other stuff that allegedly happened on the trip, nobody is talking about that.



Monthly Meeting: August 27, 7:30 PM at the Bill Library in Gales Ferry!!

Newest Club Project
Project Manager's Report

The new transition and staging modules have been progressing nicely. All the benchwork was complete at the end of June. Due to various personal and club trips, progress slowed a bit in the month of July. Currently, about half of the modules have been painted. Also, with the second phase of the project approved, orders have been placed for materials. In addition, cork and track have been donated along with some monetary donations in the amount of \$200. More donations would always be welcome to help offset the cost of the modules to the club. Right now, the project cost has been approximately \$1300 of the \$2500 that has been appropriated to date.

Work will continue on the project Wednesday evenings at Larry's. Right now, the main emphasis is to finish painting the remaining modules. Over the next month, the plan is to get track down on the front three modules and to rough in scenery. We will also start making trees and rocks this month so there is plenty of work to be done. If there are any tasks individual members are interested in taking on, feel free to send me an email at jimspav@alum.rpi.edu. There is more than enough work for those who are interested. Just remember that as of August 1, there will only be 176 days until Springfield!

Jim Spavins, Civil Engineer;
Fuss & O'Neill, Inc.
146 Hartford Road, Manchester, CT 06040
(860) 646-2469 x5530

Field Trips

Jim Delany is probably exhausted from the trip to Ohio and Pennsylvania but he is still the field trip coordinator and will not rest until all of your trip needs are met. Call Jim at 889-4029 with your ideas.

Extracts: July Meeting Notes

(Ref. Bob Applegate's formal notes.)

Meeting called to order @ 7:40 PM

Reports were read and accepted.

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OLD BUSINESS

Westerly Armory – A call for demo's (trees, etc.). Ron Pothier believes Cheshire is on the 19th, not Willimantic, which may be Nov 5th.

Aristocraft throttles to be removed from the HO control panel. G-Scalers get first dibs.

Transition module painting is ongoing (4 done). Donations of track and roadbed.

Bert's Legacy – Clark called – schedule a viewing. Barbara to remove Bert's modules from Larry's. Tom Beukelaer. spoke – The trains have been boxed up and shipped to Florida. When inventory is done we will get copies. Buildings are available for viewing the next four days.

Club Trip – The "steak" was very good, but the steak knives didn't work! Mount Delany was also sighted. Next year's trip is likely to "Go South Young Man"!

NEW BUSINESS

Next meeting will be August 27th @ the Gales Ferry library. Trip pictures to be shown.

Reminder: Webster MA show on Sept. 24

Meetings, Schedule & Work Sessions

The meeting this month will be at the Bill Library in **Gales Ferry** on August 27th, the fourth Sunday of the month. The meeting **has been moved** from Ledyard because of the yearly book sale.

Regular work sessions will be held at Larry Southwick's house on Wednesday nights, August, 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 beginning at 7:00 PM. On Sunday August 13th, an all-day work session is scheduled beginning at 10:00 A.M.



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.



John Waller's Column

I visited the Thrifty Sixty operations at the Worcester Holiday Inn on Saturday June 3. As you recall I had visited the Inn on April 19 with a view to finding a location to set up a layout.

It transpired the only location offered was in the lobby, which we eventually declined. I went on Saturday because that was expected to be a busy day at the NER Convention. I had visions of wall-to-wall people passing through the lobby.

This did not occur. In fact the NER Convention was not the only party using the Inn; there was a political rally as well. I went in the forenoon and the only evidence of railroad activity were some empty rooms with labels and a room of static displays.

The static displays were very good; the 20 or so were being judged while I was there. I spent some time examining them. One display was G scale, using HO-scale track for narrow gauge. There were also some impressive photographs on display.

I now believe that setting up a display in the lobby would not have been worth the effort, especially as we had to provide 24/7 security. This did not occur at Stamford, where we did have a room for our layout, that was quite close to the hub of things. Rooms were used at Worcester but they were tucked away out of sight.

The effort some people had put into building the static display reminded me how diverse the hobby of model railroading really is, the world's greatest hobby. Therefore, I remain quite satisfied with the niche I have found for myself therein, and have no intention of switching to building static displays.

All the above leads to what we will do for Hartford 2009, now only 3 years away. Maybe trying to arrange for space for a layout at the convention center is not the way to go? At Worcester, we started to negotiate well in advance, and ended up with a non-event.

Most of the events probably don't take place at the center anyway. There will undoubtedly be many layouts on the list for visitors to view, but away from the center. So, do we rent the Young Building at Springfield and set up all the layouts we have??

John

The President's Corner

Photo taken by Dan's Uncle Stu



MT. Delany sighted at Deshler, Ohio

Dan

Vice President's Niche

Anyone expressing interest in learning about microcontrollers can rest assured that no great knowledge of electronics is required to do so.

Perhaps candidates learned about basic electronics in the military, for example, but never kept it up because the complexity of electronics exploded.

Indeed, the complexity grew so great that integrated circuits, spawned by the space race, came onto the scene. The technology crammed more and more transistors onto a single chip.

Microprocessors became common by about 1980, another leap in performance, with programmable integrated circuits. Some are one-shot devices, with the program burnt in never to be changed. Others with UV erasable program EPROM's soon appeared which were much more flexible, and allowed for experimentation with a single chip.

I worked with many microprocessors in that era, and found it a most enjoyable occupation. The UV EPROM could not last forever as the leading technique. Flash memories appeared in the 1990s, so the program memory could be downloaded, and electrically erased to be used over and over.

These chips are called "microcontrollers". I have never seen a definition of distinctions between microcontrollers and microprocessors. The latter required external supporting chips such as data memory, A/D converters, clocks, and so on.

The microcontroller is nearly always self contained. The ones I am using now have built in hardware for such things as synchronous/asynchronous data exchange, A/D converters, and pulse-width modulation.

Unless someone wishing to upgrade from early forms of electronics wants to design microcontrollers, for example, it is possible to skip over decades of explosive development, and go straight to programming microcontrollers. The interface electronics applied to these devices are very elementary indeed.

It is essential to remember that a microcontroller is a general purpose computer, just as much as your Macintosh or Windows PC.



Graham Lewis sent me this picture from Australia. It shows vintage Pacific 3801 on the Bethungra Spiral, New South Wales. I intend to draw on this scene when decorating the spiral on my new module.

John

Letters to the Editor

Well?

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. We still have Club hats and shirts. All Club Members are encouraged to buy stuff from the Club Store. Larry will be taking inventory soon and the store will be restocked to reflect the latest needs, wants and desires of Club Members.

<http://www.mpr.org>

Restocking of course means a financial outlay for the Club so please put in realistic orders. Make your purchases in a timely fashion so we can get the money back into the Club Treasury. We have a lot of money tied up in stuff and it is for your convenience.

Commercial Corner

Nothing this month.

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.

World Wide Web

Please send in interesting railroad related links that you have found.

Here is a website that plays rock songs from the late fifties (from Ron Pothier)
<http://www.bobforrest.com/JukeBox.htm>
This can improve your modelrailroading.

Website Update

The website over the past few months has seen a lot of additions. The biggest addition has been the newsletter archive. Many thanks to Glenn Siter for scanning and "pdfing" numerous old newsletters for the newsletter archive. Also a big thanks to Clark Pritchett and John Waller for letting me rummage through their old paper copies to give to Glenn to scan. Also to Jack Howie who sent me a number of electronic newsletters. In addition, a number of other new postings have been added such as a story on the club trip and photo galleries from various members who want on the trip. Several new module pages in the HO section have been added along with updates to the club show archive. I am still looking for more contributions to the member sections, especially to the member projects page. If you have anything that you would like to

contribute, send me an email at jimspav@alum.rpi.edu.

Some of the pictures from the Club trip have been downloaded to the website
For Stu's Pics go to;
<http://www.mpr.org/MPRR%20Website/Whats%20Happening/Club%20Trips/Club%20Trip%202006/Fostoria%20Trip%20Photos-Stu.htm>

and for Clark's Pics go to;
<http://www.mpr.org/MPRR%20Website/Whats%20Happening/Club%20Trips/Club%20Trip%202006/Fostoria%20Trip%20Photos-Clark.htm>

The Life Section

Hotel Room Keys

(from Stu Dom)

You know how when you check out of a hotel that uses the credit-card-type room key, the clerk often will ask if you have your key(s) to turn in...or there is a box or slot on the Reception counter in which to put them? It's good for the hotel because they save money by re-using those cards. But, it's not good for you, as revealed below. From the California Bureau of Investigation: "Southern California law enforcement professionals assigned to detect new threats to personal security issues recently discovered what type of information is embedded in the credit card type hotel room keys used throughout the industry. Folks you may want to think about this the next time you travel. I'm going to take the plastic key card and destroy it myself.

Although room keys differ from hotel to hotel, a key obtained from a well known hotel chain that was being used for a regional Identity Theft Presentation was found to contain the following information:

- A. Customers (your) name
- B. Customers partial home address
- C. Hotel room number
- D. Check in date and check out date
- E. Customer's (your) credit card number and expiration date!

When you turn them in to the front desk your personal information is there for any

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employee to access by simply scanning the card in the hotel scanner. An employee can take a hand full of cards home and using a scanning device, access the information onto a laptop computer and go shopping at your expense. Simply put, hotels do not erase the information on these cards until an employee re-issues the card to the next hotel guest. At that time, the new guest's information is electronically "overwritten" on the card and the previous guest's information is erased in the overwriting process. But until the card is rewritten for the next guest, it usually is kept in a drawer at the front desk with YOUR INFORMATION ON IT!!!!

The bottom line is: Keep the cards, take them home with you, or destroy them. NEVER leave them behind in the room or room wastebasket, and NEVER turn them in to the front desk when you check out of a room. They will not charge you for the card (it's illegal) and you'll be sure you are not leaving a lot of valuable personal information on it that could be easily lifted off with any simple scanning device card reader. For the same reason, if you arrive at the airport and discover you still have the card key in your pocket, do not toss it in an airport trash basket. Take it home and destroy it by cutting it up, especially through the electronic information strip! Information courtesy of: Pasadena Police Department

Stroke Symptoms and Care Revisited

(from Wolf Schubler.)

Here is a slightly different version of the article on stroke (blood vessel bursting in the brain) recognition.

A neurologist says that if he can get to a stroke victim within 3 hours he can totally reverse the effects of a stroke...totally. He said the trick was getting a stroke recognized, diagnosed, and then getting the patient medically cared for within 3 hours, which is tough.

RECOGNIZING A STROKE

Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster. The stroke victim may suffer severe brain damage when

people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke. Now doctors say a bystander can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions: Remember the "3" steps, **STR**

S-Ask the individual to SMILE.
T- Ask the person to TALK, to SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE(Coherently) (e.g. It is sunny out today).

R - Ask him or her to RAISE BOTH ARMS
If the person has trouble with any one of these simple tasks call for help immediately, describe the symptoms to the dispatcher and get the person to a doctor immediately.

Another 'sign' of a stroke is the twisted tongue. Ask the person to 'stick' out their tongue. If the tongue is 'crooked', if it goes to one side or the other, that is also an indication of a stroke.

Model Railroad Calendar

This Month in 2006

August 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30 2006, North Stonington, CT. Work sessions at Larry Southwick's house starting at 7:00 PM.

August 13, 2006, North Stonington, CT. "All-day" work sessions at Larry Southwick's house beginning at 10:00 AM.

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

August 27, 2006; Gales Ferry, CT - Monthly meeting held on Sunday at the Bill Library **Gales Ferry!** beginning at 7:30 PM.

Next Month and Beyond

September 24, Webster Mass., M&P HO layout at train show. Details coming soon.

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

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November 4/5 & 11/12, 2006 Essex, CT

Thomas the Tank Show. M&P HO layout.

November 11, 2006 North Haven, CT

NHRHTA Train Show -9 AM - 3:30 PM,
North Haven, CT. Holiday Inn

November 17 & 18, 2006 Westerly, RI,

Model Show at the Westerly Armory on
Railroad Avenue. M&P HO layout on
display. M&P also conducts clinics.

November 19, 2006; Cheshire, CT -

Cheshire Band Train Show, Cheshire High
School, 10 AM - 3 PM.

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.

The Lighter Side

Lessons in Logic

If your father is a poor man, it is your fate
but, if your father-in-law is a poor man, it's
your stupidity.

I was born intelligent -education ruined me.
Practice makes perfect.....But nobody's
perfect.....so why practice?

If it's true that we are here to help others,
then what exactly are the others here for?
Since light travels faster than sound,
people appear bright until you hear them
speak.

How come "abbreviated" is such a long
word?

Money is not everything. There's
Mastercard & Visa.

One should love animals. They are so
tasty.

Behind every successful man, there is a
woman. And behind every unsuccessful
man, there are two.

Every man should marry. After all,
happiness is not the only thing in
life.

The wise never marry and when they
marry they become otherwise.

Success is a relative term. It brings so
many relatives.

Never put off the work till tomorrow
what you can put off today.

"Your future depends on your dreams"
so go to sleep.

There should be a better way to start a day
Than waking up every morning.

"Hard work never killed anybody"
But why take the risk.

"Work fascinates me". I can look at it for
hours.

God made relatives; Thank God we can
choose our friends.

The more you learn, the more you know,
the more you know, the more you forget,
the more you forget, the less you know,
so.. why learn?

A bus station is where a bus stops.
A train station is where a train stops.
On my desk, I have a work station....
what more can I say.....

Club Administration

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

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

Webmaster **Jim Spavins**

jimspav@alum.rpi.edu

Real Prototype Railroading Information

Richard Peiffer rpeiffer@charter.net

Prototype Questions Dave at

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