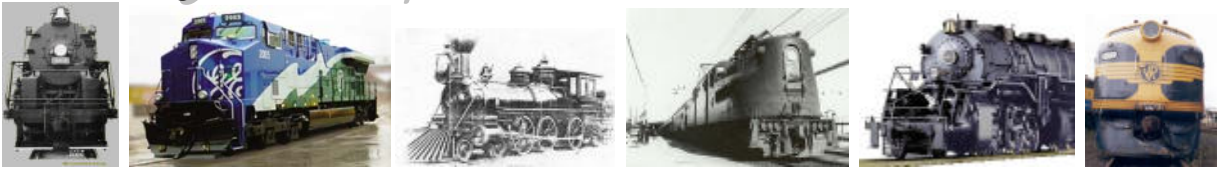


# Mohegan Pequot Model Railroad



## The News for: October 2006

### Webster Show Debrief

It was the first M&P train show of the 2006/2007 season and it went well on Friday for setup, once we found out where to go. We had the address and location of the school, but the show was in a gymnasium on a hill behind, and not visible from, the school. Loading at Larry Southwick's house went well but we forgot the Plexiglas. Stu went and picked up the case and brought it Sunday. Breakdown did not take long and we were out of there by about 4:30.

On Sunday: the sponsors were there by 6 AM, as promised, and things started to hum on our 24' x 32' layout. The gymnasium was quite crowded, but it was hard to tell at first who were vendors and who were paying spectators. Probably anyone with little kids was a spectator. There was the usual small boy who toured the layout and the show for several hours; what happens to them as they get older? Answer next month.

### Windham Show

We are all set for a 24x32 layout at the November 5th show at Windham High School. We will NOT be able to set up on Friday as before. Set up will be on Sunday. We can get into the building at 6AM. The show runs from 10-3 as we had assumed.

### M&P Annual Club Picnic

The Club Picnic was held at the home of Jonathon and Erika Harger in East Lyme, Connecticut on Sunday, September 17. It was a beautiful day and a good time was had by all of those who attended. If you didn't make it, too bad. It really was very nice.

### Transition Module Update

Progress is continuing at a rapid pace. This past month has seen all the benchwork painted. Stu (Dom) has purchased all the necessary electrical components and has started work on the panel which includes drilling all the holes and adding the line work for track. Don (Counsellor) completed installation of the turnout motors. All the feeders on the modules have been dropped and wired together. Materials have been purchased for the beginning of the staging area which should allow progress to continue. Basic scenic forms have also been completed including the addition of culverts and rocks. One item that has slowed progress somewhat has been the availability of one Code 100 Shinohara #8 Right Hand Curved Turnouts. Apparently, these are not in stock anywhere. If any club members can find one, please let me know. This is a critical piece of the module. In addition, all the modules have been moved out of my parents house and over to Larry's. (I think my parents threw a party!) Work will continue on Wednesday nights so feel free to stop by and check out the progress or volunteer to take on a project.

Jim Spavins Jr., Project Manager

### Field Trips

The fall is still a great time for an M&P field trip. Palmer, Mass, Selkirk, NY, Grand Central Terminal, they are all still calling. You can talk to Jim Delany, the field trip coordinator, at 889-4029 with your ideas.

**Time to make those reservations for SPRINGFIELD!**

One more thing, Jim is going to retire this fall so he will be available every day to personally guide members on field trips.

### Extracts: August Meeting Notes

September 10 at Larry's

Bill Evans had sent a message about an invitation to a show at Vernon, CT, October 13, 14, and 15, for the NER of the NMRA<sup>1</sup>. He is waiting for a response. He also reported on the matter of radios. Communications at shows is in need of improvement and we have to make a decision about how to do it.

Amherst table price is now \$100; the view was expressed we cannot rock the boat here by asking for a little financial support since might jeopardize our standing at the show.

(Cheap, greedy @#&\$\*s!! Editor)

### Springfield Preview

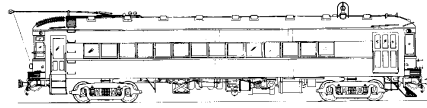
From Jim Hodgdon

Got my paperwork for the 2007 Springfield train show, they noted on the form that it will be my 19th year, time sure has flown by. Table price has risen a bit (\$100 per table), as well as \$8 per vendor badge for each person I bring, plus whatever the parking will cost this year - the form says no hang tags this year, so we will have to wait in line to pay to park. My thought is that this will be the year we see whether the increased admission prices and parking cost will deter the mildly interested Sunday afternoon family groups from coming back to the show. Last year, they would have arrived without knowing about the parking cost. Will they come back this year? I worry that it may turn off some potential newcomers to our hobby.

I also noticed that, (at least for the first time in my memory), Bob Buck's name is no longer on the letterhead, there's a new name, John Sacerdote. Anyhow, I guess it's time to get downstairs and start getting things ready for the show, it's sooner than it seems.

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<sup>1</sup> Post-meeting consensus is that we cannot commit to this NER show.



### Meetings, Schedule & Work Sessions

There will be an all-day work session at Larry Southwick's house in North Stonington on Sunday October 8 beginning around 10:00 AM. The regular meeting will be held on October 22 at the Bill Library in Ledyard (The Normal Place) at 7:30 PM

Regular work sessions will be held at Larry Southwick's house on Wednesday nights, October, 4, 11, 18 and 25 beginning at 7:00 PM

## 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

This month I am writing about the virtues of modular layouts.

The NMRA Bulletin *Scale Rails* describes model railroading as the "world's greatest hobby." Which of us would disagree?

There are many hobbyists who concentrate on building fixed layouts. These assuredly give great satisfaction to those who want to model aspects of a particular railroad, display spectacular scenery, run realistic operations to a timetable, or any/all of the above.

This is all very impressive; many pages of *Scale Rails* contain articles and pictures of such layouts. Many NMRA members gain awards for the devotion and effort involved therein. Has anyone ever got an award for modular layouts?

The fixed layout does have limitations, particularly when it comes to viewing by the general public, as the space and access for viewing is often constrained. If the layout is

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being modified, access might be even more limited, or even impossible.

Also, realistic operations are all very well and commendable, but the average John Viewer would find it hard to understand what is happening, especially when accompanied by family members whose interest is of shorter duration.

Flexible modular layouts present a different aspect of our hobby, compared to fixed layouts. The emphasis is on allowing visitors and spectators to get many aspects of our hobby, a snap shot, if you like.

A modular layout can be small, large, or anything in between. The modules can belong to a club, more than one club, or individual members. Fictitious or real railroads can still be modelled, although the trend is towards generic abstractions of the real railroad world.

The emphasis is on allowing the spectators to get a broad cross-section of railroading and how it can be modelled. The modellers themselves have a largely free reign to express aspects of their hobby on individual modules. Some modular layouts are built to form a coherent theme. But others, such as our HO and G scale modules are not constrained to do so.

Beyond complying with some essential, but minimal, mechanical and electrical standards<sup>2</sup>, we have a free reign. The result is the ability to set up layouts with a wide variety of size and shape. You could say we have got it down to a fine art in setting up quickly. There is almost invariably at least one spectator who asks how long it takes us, and is impressed by the answer.

When building a fixed layout in a basement the modeller generally is unconcerned about how much it weighs, or what odd shapes are built. We module aficionados are very concerned with weight, size, and shape. With my new 16 feet module, the time is drawing nigh when I must break apart the sub-modules and put them in my trailer.

I have worked out how to do this, and the process is greatly assisted by the Stu/Jim

light-weight module design. Maybe we need a movie made, something like the *Antiques Road Show* of Public Television, showing, in speed-up mode, modules being unloaded from a variety of vehicles, set up, then the reverse process.

*John*

Editor's Note: We all are very appreciative of the interesting and informative articles that John writes **every** month, but he doesn't have to be the only Club Member who contributes. You, that's right, YOU can write an article for the CLUB Newsletter too. Everyone wants you to share some of that pent up model railroading experience and fun with the rest of us.

### The President's Corner

My speechwriter is falling down on the job. Any volunteers?

*Dan*

### Vice President's Niche

Good news from Plainfield! In the very run-down industrial part of Plainfield, there was a spur off the Providence and Worcester main track. In my short time here (15 years) it always appeared very neglected.

Then, one day, there was a freight car parked thereon. Then I happened to catch a P&W train which backed up into the spur, picking up the car. The train was split in order to do it. Exciting moments indeed. The freight is pulverized glass, I assume being stored for recycling.

But the climax came more recently still. A turnout has been inserted into the spur, to feed another spur to a brand-new shed just being built. I don't know what the freight is here, but I am all agog waiting to find out.

This could be the first new turnout to be installed in Plainfield for 100 years. Most of that time has been spent removing turnouts.

*John*

### Letters to the Editor

You have been warned! Next month this section won't be a pretty place.

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<sup>2</sup> Rigidly enforced by the module police?

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## 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.)

**Two - 4' x 32" modules For Sale:** These were constructed as part of the most recent module building session in June. They feature the new light-weight module construction techniques. They have covers with approximately 6" of clearance. The cost is \$155 plus a negotiable donation to the transition module fund. I will only split up the pair if both can be sold at the same time. Please contact me at [jimspav@alum.rpi.edu](mailto:jimspav@alum.rpi.edu) or 860-460-6494.

### 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.

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.

## The Life Section

### **Heart Attack**

**(From Wolf Schubler)**

LET'S SAY IT'S 6.15 PM AND YOU'RE DRIVING HOME (ALONE OF COURSE) AFTER AN UNUSUALLY HARD DAY ON THE JOB. YOU'RE REALLY TIRED, AND FRUSTRATED, STRESSED AND UPSET. SUDDENLY YOU START EXPERIENCING SEVERE PAIN IN YOUR CHEST THAT STARTS TO RADIATE OUT INTO YOUR ARM AND UP INTO YOUR JAW. YOU ARE ONLY FIVE MILES FROM THE HOSPITAL NEAREST YOUR HOME. UNFORTUNATELY YOU DON'T KNOW IF YOU'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE IT THAT FAR. YOU HAVE BEEN TRAINED IN CPR, BUT THE GUY THAT CONDUCTED THE COURSE DID NOT TELL YOU HOW TO PERFORM IT ON YOURSELF OR HOW TO SURVIVE A HEART ATTACK WHEN YOU ARE ALONE?

SINCE MANY PEOPLE ARE ALONE WHEN THEY SUFFER A HEART ATTACK, WITHOUT HELP, THE PERSON WHOSE HEART IS BEATING IMPROPERLY AND WHO BEGINS TO FEEL FAINT, HAS ONLY ABOUT 10 SECONDS LEFT BEFORE LOSING CONSCIOUS.

### ANSWER:

DO NOT PANIC, BUT START COUGHING REPEATEDLY AND VERY VIGOROUSLY. A DEEP BREATH SHOULD BE TAKEN BEFORE EACH COUGH, THE COUGH MUST BE DEEP AND PROLONGED, AS WHEN PRODUCING SPUTUM FROM DEEP INSIDE THE CHEST. A BREATH AND A COUGH MUST BE REPEATED ABOUT EVERY TWO SECONDS WITHOUT LET-UP UNTIL HELP ARRIVES, OR UNTIL THE HEART IS FELT TO BE BEATING NORMALLY AGAIN.

DEEP BREATHS GET **OXYGEN** INTO THE LUNGS AND COUGHING MOVEMENTS SQUEEZE THE HEART AND KEEP THE BLOOD **CIRCULATING**. THE SQUEEZING PRESSURE ON THE HEART ALSO HELPS IT REGAIN NORMAL RHYTHM. IN THIS WAY, HEART ATTACK VICTIMS CAN GET TO A HOSPITAL

**Time to make those reservations for SPRINGFIELD!**

TELL AS MANY OTHER PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE ABOUT THIS. IT COULD SAVE THEIR LIVES !!! DON'T EVER THINK THAT YOU ARE NOT PRONE TO HEART ATTACK AS YOUR AGE IS LESS THAN 25 OR 30. NOWADAYS DUE TO THE CHANGE IN THE LIFE STYLE, HEARTATTACK IS FOUND AMONG PEOPLE OF ALL AGE GROUPS.

## Model Railroad Calendar

### This Month in 2006

**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 10, 2006; North Stonington, CT** All-day work session on Sunday at Larry Southwick's house starting 10:00ish.

**October 4, 11, 18, & 25 2006, North Stonington, CT.** Work sessions at Larry Southwick's house starting at 7:00 PM.

**October 24, 2006; Ledyard, CT** Meeting at the Bill Library starting at 7:30PM.

**October 20/22, 2006 Parsippany, NJ** Fall Convention –, TBA  
Vernon, CT, October 13, 14, and 15

### Next Month and Beyond

**November 4/5 & 11/12, 2006 Essex, CT** Thomas the Tank Show. M&P HO layout.

**November 5, 2006 Willimantic, CT** CT Eastern RR Museum Show in Willimantic.

**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](mailto:repth@snet.net).

### The Lighter Side

#### **Man Improvement Lessons**

Classes for men at the learning center for adults - registration must be completed by Oct 5th. Due to the complexity and difficulty level of their contents, class size will be limited to 8 participants maximum.  
**Class 1: How to Fill Up the Ice Cube Trays.** Step by Step, with Slide Presentation. Meets 4 weeks, Monday and Wednesday for 2 hours beginning at 7:00 PM.

**Class 2: The Toilet Paper Roll. Does it Change Itself?** Round Table Discussion. Meets 2 weeks, Saturday 12:00 for 2 hours.

**Class 3: Fundamental Differences Between the Laundry Hamper and Floor.** Pictures and Explanatory Graphics. Meets Saturdays at 2:00 PM for 3 weeks

**Class 4: After Dinner Dishes. Can They Levitate and Fly Into the Kitchen Sink?** Examples on Video. Meets 4 weeks, Tuesday and Thursday for 2 hours beginning at 7:00 PM

**Class 5: Learning How to Find Things** – Starting with looking in the right places instead of turning the house upside down while screaming.

**Class 6: Health Watch** - Bringing her flowers is not harmful to your health. Graphics and Audio Tapes. Three nights; Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 7:00 PM for 2 hours.

**Class 7: Real Men ask for Directions When Lost.** Real Life Testimonials. Tuesdays at 6:00 PM, location to be determined.

**Class 8: Is it genetically impossible to sit quietly while she parallel parks?** Driving Simulations. 4 weeks, Saturday's noon, 2 hours.

**Class 9: How to be the Ideal Shopping Companion.** Relaxation Exercises, Meditation and Breathing Techniques. Meets 4 weeks, Tuesday and Thursday for 2 hours beginning at 7:00 PM

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**Class 10: How to Fight Cerebral Atrophy**  
-Remembering Birthdays, Anniversaries and Other Important Dates and Calling When You're Going to be Late Cerebral Shock Therapy Sessions and Full Lobotomies Offered. Three nights; Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 7:00 PM for 2 hours.

**Class 11: The Stove/Oven - What it is and How it is Used.** Live Demonstration. Tuesdays at 6:00 PM, location to be determined.

Upon completion of any of the above courses, diplomas will be issued to the survivors.

WHEELBARROW BET!

The strong young man at the construction site was bragging that he could outdo anyone in a feat of strength. He made a special case of making fun of one of the older workmen.

After several minutes, the older worker had had enough. "Why don't you put your money where your mouth is," he said. "I will bet a week's wages that I can haul something in a wheelbarrow over to that outbuilding that you won't be able to wheel back."

"You're on, old man," the braggart replied. "Let's see what you got."

The old man reached out and grabbed the wheelbarrow by the handles. Then, nodding to the young man, he said, "All right, dumb ass! Get in."

From John Waller

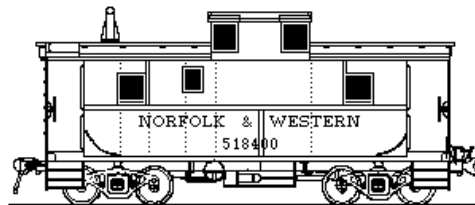
I recently went to Tulsa (OK) with my wife Rae to visit my brother Michael and his wife Diana. From remarks I have received at home, it seems people think Tulsa is a wild-west town, with dusty streets, hosses hooked up to the rail at the saloon, and a gunfight every other day at noon.

Not a bit of it; Tulsa is a modern city. Once the oil capital of the world, anyone that owned an oil well built a mansion on one of the hills in Tulsa. My brother took us on a tour; the mansions make Newport look like a collection of shacks.

Michael and Diana live in an estate. The corporate body looks after all the yards. The gardeners are Mexican, and a knowledge of

Spanish is a must if they need to be given instructions.

But Michael loves yard work and spends much time outside. Not long after they had moved in, a neighbor expressed surprise to Diana that she employed her own gardener. "How much do you pay him?" "Oh, I don't pay him anything but I allow him to sleep with me!"



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**

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Real Prototype Railroad Information

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Prototype Questions Dave at

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

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