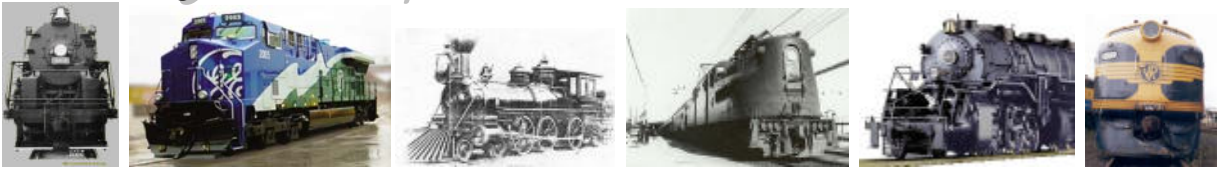


Mohegan Pequot Model Railroad



The News for: November 2006

Train Show Month Preamble

This is the biggest show month in M&P history, three shows and two of them on the same day. We have talked the talk, now is the time to walk the walk. Translation; your Club needs all of the help that it can get!!! We are either going to look like model railroad heroes or goats. Nobody likes goats.

Thomas the Tank Show

Once again it is time for the Thomas the Tank Engine Show/extravaganza in Essex, CT. It will be held on the first two weekends in November, 4/5 and 11/12. M&P will set up an HO layout identical in size and place as last year. No improvements have been made to the facilities this year but there is a difference, there is no M&P Raffle. Instead, we are receiving a stipend of approximately half of what we made on the raffle in the past.

Loading for Essex (and Willimantic) will take place at Larry Southwick's house in North Stonington on Wednesday November 1, starting at 6 PM. Stuff for Essex will go in the blue trailer, towed by Bob MacGregor, and stuff for Willimantic in the red trailer, towed by Jonathon Harger.

Unloading and set up at Essex will be on Thursday, November 2 and Friday as necessary. As usual, lights need to be rigged at Essex. The first Thomas train is scheduled for ~9:00 AM on Saturday but people will be wandering in to the layout well before that. We should be running by Friday night at the latest and operating at 8:00 AM on Saturday at the latest.

There are no definitive dates yet but the HO layout is tentatively scheduled to be set up for the Essex Christmas show.

Windham/Willimantic Show

The show in Willimantic at the Windham High School will be held on Sunday, 5 November. We will have a 24x32 HO layout at the show. We will NOT be able to set up on Friday as before. Set up will be on Sunday morning. We can get into the building at 6:00AM but the consensus is that if we are in by 7:00 AM or even 7:30 we will have plenty of time to get the layout running. The show runs from 10:00 AM until 3:00 PM.

This is a big deal because we are also running at Essex at the Thomas show on the same day. This is our first two-show day. To pull it off we need a lot of help. Check in with Dan about where you will be needed most on Sunday. Elements of the new transition modules will also be tried out at Willimantic so some technical help is mandatory in case we have any problems.

At the end of the show the layout will be put back in the red trailer and stored until it is taken to Westerly, RI. (Next)

Westerly Model Show

This show will be held at the Westerly Armory on Railroad Avenue in Westerly, RI on *Friday and Saturday*. November 17 and 18. There are no dealers at the show, only clubs displaying and holding clinics. M&P clinics to be determined. The Willimantic layout will be set up over Wednesday evening (from 6:00 PM), Thursday

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afternoon (1:00-5:00) and Friday morning (maybe 9:00 or so) with everything working by noon on Friday. More details will be forthcoming in the beginning of November.

Concern About Staffing at Westerly

Gentlemen,

I have been discussing this show offline with a few of you, and there are serious concerns with the club's ability to support the show on Friday. The membership voted to support the show based on the fact that we had enough retirees to support the show. I am worried about this. I don't see us as having the needed manpower on Friday to make this work.

I also don't know of our responsibilities besides exhibiting our layout. There was talk of a clinics at one point, this needs to be clarified. There is also an issue of security, especially if we set up on Wednesday, and aren't going to staff the layout until Friday.

I need to get clarification on the whole setup. I will hopefully have more information after speaking to Henry and/or Jerry Trottier (the show guy), and I will send out an email at that point.

The other thing is accountability. We voted as a group to do this, and a good chunk of the manpower who normally supports our shows will be working, so those that voted to support this need to be there.

It is imperative that the retired members of the club support this display. It is essential that those members who voted to support this show a few months back, come through and support the show. We decided as a club to participate in this show based on the fact that the retired members of the club were willing and able to support it. We need commitments from those planning to be there on Friday, either by phone or email, to myself or any of the officers, so that we can be sure we have the manpower to support the show. I don't want to cancel at such a late date,

especially since they have us listed as a main attraction on the Armory's website, but if we don't have the volunteers, we can't do it. Backing out would be embarrassing and potentially damaging to the club, so please take this into consideration and try to make time available if you're not working on Friday Nov. 17.

I am leaning on the retirees here, but remember your ability to support the show was the reason we're doing it. Feel free to contact me with any comments or concerns.
Dan

Transition Module Update

Work is rapidly progressing on the transition module. Dan DeLany has finished roughing in the scenery on the front twelve feet by installing rocks and a road. Stu Dom is hard at work wiring the panel and modules. Cork (very heavy) is being laid on the rear yard modules. There is hope that the module will make its first appearance in Willimantic. There is still a lot to do and less than 90 days until Springfield!!!-

Jim Spavins Jr., Project Manager



Union Pacific at Fostoria, Ohio

Field Trips

Jim Delany, the field trip coordinator is still waiting for your ideas for field trips Call him. at 889-4029.

Club Trip 2007???

November will be very busy! We need many people to come and help at Essex, Westerly and Willimantic!

I had the opportunity a few weeks ago to visit Denver, CO, when I was out there broadcasting some hockey games. Denver is a hotbed of railroad activity so in between games I was able to sneak off to a few places that would be of interest to the fellow ferroquinologist. First stop would be the world's largest train store, Caboose Hobbies. This is a must visit for any model railroad enthusiast. Just to give you an idea of how big it is, they have their own shopping carts!



Jim Spavins Fantasizing at the Caboose

In addition to Caboose Hobbies, I made a stop at the Colorado Railroad Museum in Golden, Colorado. They have a number of pieces of equipment on display as well as an HO layout and library.



Union Station in Denver, Colorado

While I didn't have any time to do any railfanning, it was readily apparent that there would be plenty to see. Besides the large yard in Denver and the mainlines feeding it, there are a number of tourist lines within an easy drive of downtown Denver.

It probably isn't practical to take a club trip to Denver, but I'd highly recommend this trip for anyone in the club. There is more than enough to keep entertained for a few days. -Jim Spavins

Extracts: October Meeting Notes

(October 22, 2006 at Bill Library)

A new potential member, Kirk Terpe of Preston, was welcomed to the meeting. There were only 11 people in attendance, including Kirk, one of the least-attended meetings I have been to at the Library.

The Webster show went well and breakdown time may well have been a record.

Dan will look into the radio issue; it would be best to try them at Essex.

Dan reported that the transition modules are progressing well, with all components at hand. Some retired modules are being cannibalized for parts. A bulk purchase of

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cork, which seems to be re-cycled material, was made. Unfortunately, this cork is much denser than our normal road bed cork, and module weights have gone up. Don't forget your calisthenics guys.

Dan also reported that the passenger station is "nearing completion", whatever that means. He pointed out that the original estimate for scenery was only \$250, but actual scenery costs have been an order of magnitude higher.

He also asserted there are no new [major] Club projects in the pipe line.

Clark suggested that we should have a "sales/Club promotion module". This would be cannibalized from retired parts probably using Art's old 4' module which he has donated to the Club. To be effective it shows the sales module should be staffed continuously. We have a large number of Club cars still in stock.

It was also suggested we have a very small layout, possibly dog bone, to be used strategically for demo, advertising, and publicity.

Spring 2007, post Springfield, shows were mentioned; March at Christ the King Church in Lyme as a possibility.

Springfield Preview

Well it's coming down the track and will be here before you know it. Get those reservations in now.

Meetings, Schedule & Work Sessions

Due to train shows the only day available for a Sunday work session at Larry Southwick's house in North Stonington is November 19. This is tentative so check with an Officer to confirm. The regular meeting will be held on November 26 at the Bill Library in Ledyard at 7:30 PM.

Regular work sessions will be held at Larry Southwick's house on Wednesday nights. November 1 is the loading night for Essex and Willimantic so we need lots of help then. November 15 is the date for unloading at the Westerly Armory. The other Wednesday work sessions may take place at Essex but that is to be determined. We should have one on November 29 at

Larry Southwick's house in North Stonington.

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 continuing to write about modular layouts.

In *Scale Rails* for October the NMRA President Mike Brestel describes his vision. He writes about the "... broad-shouldered hobby of model railroading". Not broad enough to cater properly for modular layouts?

And again: "*Scale Rails* content won't be limited to [what goes on at conventions]..." and "...the need for a more 'technical' magazine....".

What about my article on automatic block control, which was accepted for publication over three years ago, but has never appeared in print? Maybe the pictures are not pretty enough. I signed over the rights for this article to what end?

If *Scale Rails* wants to get more technical there is a great amount of scope for the whole gamut of modular layouts.

All the techniques that have evolved at our Club over 25-odd years came to fruition with the current module build. From computer aided design, to manufacture of large numbers of special parts, keeping an inventory of so many parts, labeling them, and the effort to coordinate many people to put everything together.

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If that is not technology directly applicable to model railroading, and worth describing in *Scale Rails* then I will eat my hat!

I can assert that without that technology I would have found building my current module much harder. I believe my module breaks new grounds in the modular field from innovative microcontroller applications to scope for depicting scenes.

Throughout the design and building, still far from complete, I have drawn on all the experience of the Club, including my own.

As I said last month, what I have built is about to be put to the test.

In this phase, there are many things which need to be taken care of, as we all know. With a layout in a basement, the operator might mislay a vital part, but can rest assured it is most likely still in the basement.

Not so when we pack everything into cars, trucks, and trailers and take them to another state. We need to be sure we have everything, and know the penalty of slipping up!

I conclude by again noting the interest that is attracted when we are setting up a layout, from a plan to setting the layout to work, and then the astonishment often expressed at what we have done.

John

The President's Corner

Recently we've been trying to rid ourselves of the old, rusty and rickety collection of stools and chairs the M&P has accumulated over the past decade or 2. Although the club doesn't plan to go out and purchase any replacements at this point, members are encouraged to bring their own chairs or stools to displays. The tall, "director's chair" seems to be the best way to go, since it's comfortable and tall enough to let you see the layout.

Most of the N-Guagers have these chairs, and have been using them for years.

Jim Spavins forwarded me the following link, which is where he purchased his chair...<http://www.homedecorators.com/detail.php?parentid=0887900&search=chair>

They also fold up, which makes transportation easier. I plan on getting two, one each for dad and I.

You need to purchase the canvas seats and backs for the chairs separately (See the link below). I highly recommend bright M&P Red for the color, but its completely up to you....

http://www.homedecorators.com/P/Canvas_Seat_and_Back/

Truly unprecedented, there's more!!!

Ah, the end of summer. A sad time for most people, but a happy time for me, because it's not the end of summer, but the start of fall, and the start of train show season. I always enjoy getting ready for upcoming shows, but this year is more exciting than in the past. Many of our club projects are nearing completion. We're also starting to see more and more member's personal modules make their way into the show circuit. There has been a strong emphasis placed on personal modules over the past year and a half, and I'm pleased to see that much progress is being made.

We have a full club show schedule planned, including a first for the club: Supporting TWO shows on the same day. That's right, we are planning on supporting both the Thomas Show at Essex and the CT Eastern RR Museum Show in Willimantic, which both fall on Nov. 5th. I was truly excited to see, that not only do we have the necessary modules and equipment to support both shows, but we have the enthusiasm and desire to do both shows. Our resources may be stretched a little thin that day, but I am thrilled that we are doing both shows. On a side note, thanks to Jonathan Harger for proposing that we support both shows, while most (me included) assumed we'd just shoes one over the other.

SO take out your trains, dust 'em off, give 'em a good servicing, and get ready for a busy fall show season.

In addition to a busy show schedule, there is still plenty of work to be done at our weekly work sessions at Larry's. A lot of work was accomplished this summer, so if you haven't been over to Larry's, swing by

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and check things out. Amazingly, the passenger station is nearing completion. We have resolved all of the electrical issues concerning the panel and throttles, and the fixes are underway. We have also rounded the final corner on the scenery and structures front, with close to 250 HO scale people painted, and virtually all areas scened and structures installed and painted. Even the Lazy SOB responsible for the Passenger station building, (ME!!) has stepped up gotten the building done. What's left is mostly details, as well as some clean-up of specific areas. We are looking for donations of HO scale people, as well as vehicles for the roads, as well as help installing the station platforms and attaching all the aforementioned HO figures.

Work is also progressing rapidly on the new transition module. Work will begin on the yard itself at Larry's by Mid-September, so if you like to lay track, or if you'd like to learn and practice laying track and switches, come on over. Work on the panel and other electrical aspects of the module will be taking place too, so if that's your thing, or if you'd like to learn about it, come on over. The goal is to have both the transition and the passenger station COMPLETE for this years Springfield Show.

I do have an ulterior motive for pushing so had to get the club stuff done. One of the things I feel most important with the club is the inclusion of members personal modules in club displays. Once these two major club projects are complete, I'd like to focus our work sessions on helping each other with our personal modules, as well as get back to running trains and having some night at Larry's where we just run trains. One of the greatest benefits of the club is the incredible pool of model railroad talent contained within the membership. The more we use this base of knowledge and experience, the more enjoyable the hobby will be. So, now that summer vacation is over, get ready for an action packed fall show schedule. See you all at Larry's.

Dan

Vice President's Niche

I am giving my Shays one more chance. They are Spectrum HO 3-truck Shays. At the convention at Stamford, I heard someone, not a Club member, extolling the virtues of the product. But the virtues were confined to the appearance of the locos, in terms of how accurately the features of the prototype are reproduced.

I am sure appearance is a worthy virtue, but we modular layout buffs want things to run. The layout of the prototype Shay was designed to give good performance on rough track and have good adhesion (all wheels are driven).

When first received, the Spectrum Shay runs nicely, but the rot sets in far too soon for my liking. It starts to derail where no other loco, steam or diesel, derails.

The drive shaft, of course, while looking good, is the cause of the trouble, I believe. There are several constant-velocity (CV) joints in the shaft, to allow the loco to negotiate curves. On one of my Shays, one of the CV's was broken on delivery. I made my own out of plastic tubing, and it has worked for a while.

So I tried replacing the CV's on the other Shay with plastic tubing. It was no good. I have returned this Shay to Bachmann, who gives a life-time warranty, in the form of a modest fee and shipping costs to be paid by the customer.

I am waiting on the outcome.

There is no doubt the Shay, when running on a layout, attracts attention. So I am considering adopting a policy of running them very sparsely. They could never be used on the Club main tracks anyway, as they are far too slow.

For my new layout I had been thinking of a theme where Shay-like locos are on show. But now I am not so sure.

John

Letters to the Editor

Just you wait. They're coming.

November will be very busy! We need many people to come and help at Essex, Westerly and Willimantic!

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. Last Chance! Please contact me at jimspav@alum.rpi.edu or 860-460-6494.

The Club Store

The Club Store, has model railroading stuff but we don't know exactly what until we have a **long overdue inventory**. The store will be restocked to reflect the latest needs, wants and desires of Club Members so let Larry Southwick know what you intend to buy.

Restocking of course means a financial outlay for the Club so please put in realistic orders. All Club Members are encouraged to buy stuff from the Club Store. 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

Key \$Retail/\$MyPrice (+Tax)

I have Proto 1000 in stock. RS11 New York, New Haven & Hartford #1405, 1407 & 1412. \$99.99/\$69.99

Also a few Atlas Classics RS3, New Haven. \$99.99/ \$69.99

Atlas Master Locomotive Series GP-38 High Nose. RAILaMERICA #3869.

Branchline Yardmater Series. HO AAR 40' Boxcar. NH #31457, plus a few other numbers \$10.98/\$7.39.

Broadway-Limited On30's in stock, including the hard to find Bumble Bee Scheme.

Also, track and other items.

NCE POWERCAB 2 Amp System so you can run DC and DCC. \$179.99/\$129.99

Want to let everyone know that I now have Precision Craft Models N scale in stock. These are engines with sounds and all the action.

#600 NYC E7A #4000, Powered with Sound/DC/DCC \$239.99/\$179.99

#601 NYC E7A #4007, Powered with Sound/DC/DCC \$239.99/\$179.99.

#635 B&O E7A #64, Powered with Sound/DC/DCC \$239.99/\$179.99

#629 PRR E7A Tuscan Red #5841, Powered with Sound/DC/DCC \$239.99/\$179.99

#659 PRR E7A Tuscan Red #5840, Powered with Sound/DC/DCC \$229.99/\$172.99.

I can get anything anyone wants in N Scale, any manufacturer. With my normal 20% (or more) discount.

I can also get anything anyone wants in any scale wether it's locomotives, structures, scenery, Etc. You name it and I can get it if it's in stock. I am now a dealer for Canadian Model Trains. You can check out their site (www.modeltrains.com.) This company has quite a variety of road names and items.

Give me a call, you can never tell. I may have exactly what you are looking for.

Barbara

860-447-9023 Home / 860-460-4900 Cell

My email will be changing from schubb@myeastern.com to schubb@ct.metrocast.net

World Wide Web

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

I was browsing the web this past week and I came across a website for a company that builds modules. You can check them out at www.centennialmodules.com. They offer a number of different products. They are even located right here in southeastern Connecticut and offer tours. Maybe this is something we should check out.

November will be very busy! We need many people to come and help at Essex, Westerly and Willimantic!

Jim Spavins

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.

Jim Hodgdon found this on the Web.

I thought someone might get something out of this. I found these photos and text over at www.railroad-line.com forum, pretty amazing work.

Over in the ground cover 101 questions were asked about making stumps. Here is how these were done; Both started out as balsa blocks. The stump was carved roundish, but not too round. Grain was carved onto the outside. Then taking an ice pick style tool I jabbed at the center (caution don't stab yourself) after repeated stabs the core starts to disintegrate. Keep going until the look you like is achieved.

Then the stump was glued to the base and roots were added with Elmer's wood filler -- the stuff in the tube. Just squeeze it on to shape and then you can play with it. Grain can be added once dry. I then painted the whole thing brown, dry brushed highlights and shadows last step was to blend it into the ground and add the greenery.



The fallen log is basically the same with the roots added. I carved the tapering base into it and the beginnings of the roots. I also left the bottom flat to help with the "settled in" look. The basic roots are just wire covered with the wood filler. The craggy root ball is Spanish moss (I think) look in the dried flower section.



The Life Section

There is no time for life this month, too many train shows.

November will be very busy! We need many people to come and help at Essex, Westerly and Willimantic!

Model Railroad Calendar

This Busy Month in 2006

November. 1, 2006; North Stonington, CT

Loading TWO trailers, one for the Thomas Show at Essex and the other for the Eastern, CT RR Museum show at Willimantic.

November. 2/3, 2006; Essex, CT Unloading Thursday evening and setting up for the Thomas Show. Friday if necessary.

November 4/5 & 11/12, 2006 Essex, CT Thomas the Tank Show. the first two weekends of the month. M&P HO layout.

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

Info: Joe Sokol joseph_sokol@msn.com

November 11, 2006 North Haven, CT NHRHTA Train Show 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM, North Haven, CT. Holiday Inn (I-91)

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. For more info call Jerry Trottier 401-447-8549.

November 19 2006, North Stonington, CT. Possible Sunday Work Session at Larry's.

November 19, 2006; Cheshire, CT - Cheshire Band Train Show, Cheshire High School, 10 AM – 3 PM. (203) 265-7527

November. 25, 2006; Ledyard, CT Meeting at the Bill Library starting at 7:30PM.

November 29 2006, North Stonington, CT. Work session at Larry Southwick's house starting at 7:00 PM.

Next Month and Beyond

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

Bush and the Iranian Ambassador

The Iranian Ambassador to the UN had just finished giving a speech and walked out into the lobby where he met President Bush.

They shook hands and as they walked the Iranian said, "You know, I have just one question about what I have seen in America."

President Bush said, "Well, anything I can do to help you, I will."

The Iranian whispered, "My son watches this show 'Star Trek' and in it there's Chekhov who is Russian, Scotty who is Scottish, and Sulu who is Chinese, but no Arabs or Persians. My son is very upset and doesn't understand why there aren't any Iranians on Star Trek."

President Bush laughed, leaned toward the Iranian ambassador, and whispered back, "it's because it takes place in the future."

Club Administration

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Vice President John Waller 564-3114

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Secretary Robert Applegate 464-2118

Storekeeper Larry Southwick 535-2996

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Bulk Purchases Bill Evans 267-9482

New Passenger Modules, Name Tags and

Show Layouts Stu Dom 536-7637

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Real Prototype Railroading Information

Richard Peiffer rpeiffer@charter.net

Prototype Questions Dave at

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

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<http://www.mpr.org>



What a Load! (Horseshoe Curve, 2004)

November will be very busy! We need many people to come and help at Essex, Westerly and Willimantic!