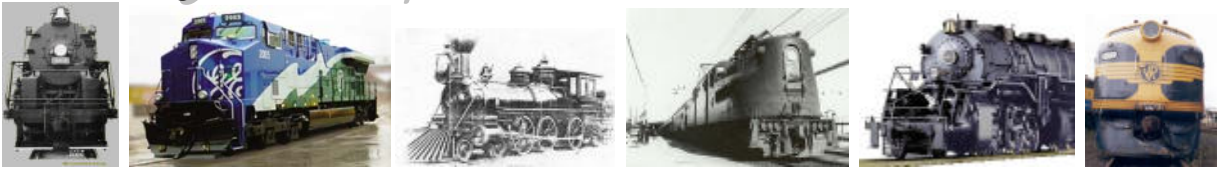


Mohegan Pequot Model Railroad



The News for: February 2007

Springfield 2007 Debriefs

(Notes by John Waller)

It was a huge HO layout. The "U" shape tends to conceal the fact that it is all one layout. When onlookers twig to it: "WOW".

The publicity display was well attended. Thanks to Jim S for choosing more eclectic music than we heard in the Spavins' basement, even a Rossini overture! I appreciate that Jim, as I was within earshot!

There was one really bad train wreck, in all senses of that word, when rolling stock tumbled to the concrete floor. The only thing that did not happen was nothing caught fire. What caused the original derailment may never be known, but it occurred on the lift bridge where there were 2' sections of track with no Plexiglas. I am at fault here, because I had just worked on the lift bridge, but it was an oversight we all must share. Our apologies to Don Counsellor. There might have been a stray car sitting on the track on the right-hand corner (looking out from inside the layout); this is hard to spot because of the scenery.

Breaking down this year took three hours, compared with closer to two hours for last year, with many new modules. Some extra time was taken loading Big Blue very carefully as it all just fits! Again, thanks to Bob McGregor.

(Observations from Jim Spavins Jr.)

I think that this past year was the most productive ever in terms of building new modules and moving down the path towards a large high quality layout. A lot of club members participated in the effort and should be congratulated for a great

show. In addition, a big thank you needs to go out to the N scale and G scale groups as they unloaded Big Blue on Thursday night saving us HO guys about an hour of set up time and a lot of manual labor.

Transition Module Update

After 7 months of work, the transition module is almost complete. The goal was to have the new and improved transition module ready for Springfield. Although some of the wiring is not yet finished, for all essential purposes the module is complete. When the project was started, the desire was to build a module that improved upon the former transition module by increasing the staging entrance curve radius, eliminate double slip turnouts, create a more user friendly panel, and not have any removable pieces during transportation while of course being on budget and including the membership in construction. I think most members can see that we have succeeded in our original goals. The approved budget was \$2,500 for the project and we did also receive \$200 worth of donations. The total cost to the club for the entire project ran to approximately \$2,000. Amazingly the project was completed in a timely manner and was under budget. This couldn't have been done without the help of a lot of members. Here is my list of thank yous to those who donated their time and skill to complete the project and I apologize if I forgot someone: Stu Dom, Dan DeLany, John Waller, Don Counsellor, Bob Applegate, Jim DeLany, Clark Pritchett, Jack Howie, Bill Evans, Nate Gould,

Springfield is over but we still have Club Projects to Do



Although it was warm outside, the building took a long time to warm up!



A rare quiet moment.

Mostly we had as many trains out as we could cope with and were physically running around the inside of the layout.



A train descending the helix on my new module.

Beyond is Stu's module which has been a part of our layouts for ever, it seems. Now it has to give way.

John

Vice President's Niche

Last month I wrote about a chip made by Dallas which is 3 mm square. It is a sample of surface-mounted devices (SMD) intended to be used with wave soldering. I expect if you took your cell phone apart you might find such a device therein.

In assembling printed circuit boards (PCB) one of the most time-consuming processes is inserting component leads and connecting wires through the holes in the board. SMD's "get over" this problem.

The devices are held in a frame before soldering, which is then offered up to the PCB, where the "pins" on each device just touch plated tracks on the board. Then the solder is applied in a "wave". Of course, all this is automated and only worthwhile when making large quantities. I would not be surprised if the rejection rate is quite high.

As I said last month, the soldering of these tiny devices can be done by hand. According to Silicon Chip, these are the tools you need:

- Temperature-controlled soldering iron.
- 0.8 mm (or smaller) micro-chisel soldering iron tip.
- 0.76 mm de-soldering braid ('Solder-Wick size #00).
- 0.5 mm (or smaller) resin-cored solder.
- Needle-nose tweezers.
- Damp sponge for tip cleaning.
- Small stiff brush and alcohol/cleaning solvent.
- Magnifying glass and bright light for inspection.

In addition, SMD's are static sensitive and you need an anti-static wrist strap. Hmmm!

Silicon Chip says nothing about the age of the person trying to solder a SMD!

John

Letters to the Editor

A New Concept

While searching the web a few months back I stumbled upon a new module railroad concept. The idea is T-trak. It was started in 2000 by Lee Fitzgerald of Ntrak fame. The first modules were displayed at the National Train Show in St Louis in 2001. The idea is basically for a table top railroad featuring much smaller modules, more along the size of interconnected dioramas. These are placed on folding tables then connected together. Primarily, these modules have only been built in N scale but theoretical standards exist for other scales.

I think this concept might be a good opportunity for the club. A desire has been expressed by some that we get a table to promote our club at shows we would not normally bring our regular modular layouts to. This system could allow a small layout to be brought to those types of events so we can show off what we do. It would create less stress on typical module transportation needs and allow us to expand our range outside of southern New England. It would still allow members who want to build personal modules an opportunity to display at these small events. For more information on the concept, visit the official site at www.ttrak.org or Google "T-trak." There are a number of clubs already building layouts.

As a side thought, there have been some people interested in building a single track branchline for the HO layout. Maybe some modifications to the T-trak concept could allow this to be used for both purposes.-

Jim Spavins, Jr

Above and Beyond the Call

The Club owes a very big debt of gratitude to our model railroading savant, Jim Spavins Jr., for all of the work that he has put in this past year. His major accomplishments include; being a major force in building over 100 new personal modules for Club

Members, detailing his own new modules, especially the beautiful rendition of the Rockville Bridge in Harrisburg, PA., leading the project to build the new transition module, putting in the back wall on the new passenger modules, making the M&P website into one of the best in model railroading, being a frequent contributor to the Newsletter and recording the Club history for present and future Members. We couldn't have done any of this without you Jim. (Editor)

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

Complete inventory of "stuff" to be done after the Springfield show. That's now.

Commercial Corner

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

The website was picked as the Webmaster's Choice for this month by the NMRA. You can see it at www.nmra.org.

I had the opportunity to talk to Jan Luth back in December and he graciously shared much of his history of the club with me. He also has been keeping a record of the club's history including newspaper clippings and pictures. These have been scanned and added to the website for all to see and benefit from. I also compiled a history narrative of the club. This is a work in progress and I would enjoy getting more

Springfield is over but we still have Club Projects to Do

input from other members. Also, Bob Applegate shared some of the history artifacts that were passed to him as secretary. These have been scanned and placed on the website as well.-Jim Spavins

The Life Section

No life last month; We were at Springfield!

Railroad Calendar

This Busy Month in 2007

February 3/4, Hartford, CT. Greenberg Great Train Expo Connecticut Expo Center, 10 AM – 4 PM,

February 3/4, Timonium, MD Great Scale Model Train Show 9 AM – 4 PM Maryland State Fairgrounds, I-83, Exit 17E, Contact Howard Zane

February 7, 14, 21 & 28, North Stonington CT. Work sessions at Larry Southwick's house starting at 7:00

February 11, 2007, Old Saybrook, CT – Club meeting and operating session, at Bob Murphy's house at 2:00 PM. Directions to Bob's house at end of Newsletter.

February 11, 2007, Wallingford, CT – Zandri's Stillwood Inn 9AM – 3PM, Classic Shows. Contact: Lud Spinelli (203) 926-1327

February 25, Ledyard, CT Meeting at the Bill Library starting at 7:30PM.

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

Next Month and Beyond

March 4, 2007, Cheshire, CT. Cheshire High School 10 AM 3 PM for Cheshire Band Association Contact: Thomas J. Kotulaki, 54 Old Lane Rd, Wallingford, Ct. 06492 (203) 265-7527

March (TBA) 2007 Fairfield, CT. Station Stop Train Show –Ludlowe Middle School 10 AM-4 PM, Housatonic R/R Club, Contact: (203) 255-3795 Friday 7-10 PM or www.housatonicmr.org

March 18, 2007, Warwick, RI NMRA-NER, Model Railroad Show West Warwick

Civic Center – Little Rhody Division Show 10 AM-3.30 PM

March 24/25, Wilmington, MA Greenberg Great Train Expo –Shriners Auditorium, 10 AM – 4 PM, Greenburg Shows

March 25, 2007 Hingham, MA. South Shore Country Club & Open House 10 AM-4 PM, Bare Cove Park, Building 51

April 15, 2007, Shelton, CT Old Shelton Intermediate School Perry Hill Road 10 AM-3 PM, Barry Howard (Hobbies) at (203) 732-7346

April 22, 2006, Willimantic, CT – Eastern Connecticut Chapter NRHS Windham High School 10 AM-3 PM. Contact Joe Sokol at 1170 Hartford TPK #E-51 Vernon, CT 06066-4537

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

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/>

Directions to Bob Murphy's House

(From Groton/New London)

Going South on I-95 Take EXIT 65 (the CT-153 exit) toward WESTBROOK. Turn RIGHT onto ESSEX RD / CT-153 and go 1.5 miles. Turn RIGHT onto MONAHAN RD and in 0.1 miles it becomes Schoolhouse Rd. Go 0.7 miles on Schoolhouse Rd. to Bob's house at 249 Schoolhouse Rd.

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The Lighter/Heavier Side

Murphy's Other Laws

1. Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
2. A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.
3. He who laughs last, thinks slowest.
4. A day without sunshine is like, well, night.
5. Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.
6. Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don't.
7. Nothing is foolproof to a sufficiently talented fool.
8. The 50-50-90 rule: Anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong.
9. It is said that if you line up all the cars in the world end-to-end, someone would be stupid enough to try to pass them.
10. If the shoe fits, get another one just like it.
11. The things that come to those that wait may be the things left by those who got there first.
12. Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish, and he will sit in a boat all day drinking beer.
13. Flashlight: A case for holding dead batteries.
14. The shin bone is a device for finding furniture.
15. When you go into court, you are putting yourself in the hands of twelve people who weren't smart enough to get out of jury duty.

