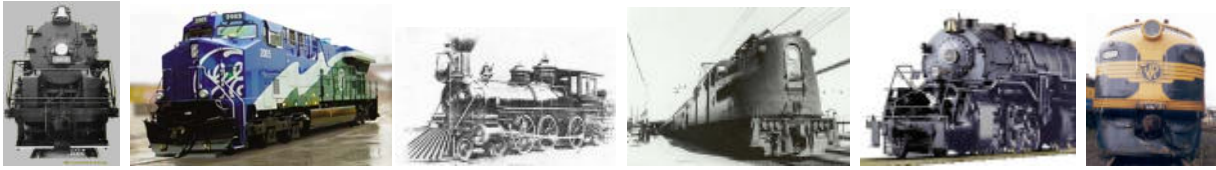


# Mohegan Pequot Model Railroad



## The News for: September, 2007

### ALL Scales M&P Club Picnic

The M&P Club Picnic will be held on Saturday September 8 at Larry Southwick's house at 200 Wyassup Rd. in North Stonington, beginning at noon. The 9<sup>th</sup> of September is the rain date. The Club provides the hotdogs, hamburgers, condiments and drinks. Club Members provide salads, side dishes and desserts. Please give Larry notice (535-2996) on what you plan to bring so we don't end up with all of one thing. Bring your own chair and stick of chewing gum.

Remember, you can actually come to the picnic if you don't model in HO scale! That's right, G, N, O, S, Z Scale Members and even live steam M&P modelers are all encouraged to come to the Club Picnic! See you there!

### Operating Session

Jonathan Harger is still holding operating sessions at his home layout in East Lyme on the second and fourth Mondays of the month at 7:00 PM. Check with Jonathan for directions. Call (860) 739-4224 or [hejeharger@ct.metrocast.net](mailto:hejeharger@ct.metrocast.net)

### Extracts: August Meeting Notes

(from John Waller's notes)

*August 26 at Bill Library in Gales Ferry*

There were 16 members present.

The Prez, Dan Delany, has now moved to South Windsor, CT. Is he creeping away from us? Dan's telephone number remains the same (860 748-7581).

### Calendar

Dan continues to work on this. We see it as an important means of helping draw together the different scales in our club; we should at least should know the calendar for each scale. As it is now, if someone asks an HO person what the N

people are doing, they haven't got a clue! The calendar will be on the web site and in the newsletter.

### Scale Contact People

We need to make known contact people for each scale enquiries from a person thinking about joining the Club. All membership applications should continue to go through the Secretary. See last page of the Newsletter for the tentative Scale contacts.

### Club Tours

A half dozen Club Members made impromptu tours to Palmer, Mass. and Selkirk, NY during August.

### Springfield 2008

This is now 5 months away. Dates are 25-27 January, with all hands on deck Friday 25<sup>th</sup> at 0800 sharp!! We need a Massachusetts Sales License if can get agreement with Amherst to sell things.

### Fall Shows

Thomas is scheduled for 3, 4, 10, and 11 November. As usual, we do not know yet whether we will be invited to set up an HO layout there. Dan will make enquires.

Willimantic is November 4, and we will do that too but it might be tight to do two shows on the same day. We need to be sure we have enough small modules and corners available. Possibly the N scalers or G-Scale would like to set up at Willimantic instead of the HO layout.

### "On Demand" Merchandising

Investigations continue here. Remember, this is at no financial risk to the Club, beyond making up the artwork and setting text.

### "Newsletter Only" Membership

We have set this at \$10. Initially it was decided this should be for ex-members only, although this is not reflected on the application form. It was

**ALL SCALES Club Picnic at Larry Southwick's House in North Stonington on Saturday September 8 at Noon. (Rain Date Sunday)**

agreed to relax this somewhat and treat each application as it comes. For example, any ex-member now living overseas, such as Ross McLean, will have difficulty sending us \$US10. Bank fees are greater than this, and some banks may refuse to process such a small amount.

It was decided that ex-members now living overseas will receive the newsletter electronically, gratis.

### Web Site

Jimmy (Spavins Jr.) continues to seek material for the Web Site. There was some discussion about putting the Newsletter on the Site; it has been done for back issues to January 2006. There are potential worries about copyright violations and accusations of plagiarism. We need to watch this.

We also need to be conscious about not revealing critical personal details of Club members.

Selling Club stuff on the web site is still under review.

### Meetings, Schedule & Work Sessions

There will be one meeting this month. Sunday September 23 at the Bill Library at 7:30 PM. The Sunday all-day working session is at Larry Southwick's, house on the same day beginning at 10:00 AM. Regular work sessions this month will be held at Larry's house on Wednesday nights, September 5, 12, 19 & 26 beginning at 7:00 PM. A work schedule will be drawn up and posted so Members know what to do when they get there.

## 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.

### The President's Corner

The Prez is working on getting some professional calendar software working on the Club Website. The display will be in the form of a monthly planner, not a list of dates as we have

done in the past. Contrary to the mis-information that has been promulgated in the Newsletter, there will be only one Calendar. All M&P event dates (whatever scale) will be highlighted and a point of contact identified. Train shows and other railroad events will be on the Calendar but will not be highlighted if there is no M&P participation.

When the Calendar is working, the Editor will copy that month's calendar and it will appear as a full page at the end of the Newsletter. There will also be another page for the follow-on months. Every M&P Event will be on the Calendar, regardless of scale.

*Dan*

### The VP's Niche

When Thomas the Tank Engine results in us being inundated by small children we note the majority of boys who express enthusiasm about trains, to say nothing about the presence of interested fathers and bored mothers. Girls are more interested in knocking trains off the track! My own feeling is that it is both nature and nurture.

While visiting Simone<sup>1</sup> in Australia I came across a book *Raising Girls* by Gisela Preuschoff<sup>2</sup>. Chapter 1 of the book is titled: *Why girls are different*.

To quote parts of this chapter:

"In the first weeks of pregnancy, male and female embryos are identical, because they have the basic structures of both male and female sexual organs.

In the sixth week of pregnancy, the male Y chromosome gives the command to form male gonads; the X chromosome of the baby girl induces ovary development from the twelfth week. During the course of the pregnancy, ovaries and glands excrete sex hormones, which are involved in the formation of physical characteristics and also influence future behaviour.

The hormones are androgens for males and estrogen (including testosterone) and progesterone for females dominating, respectively, although we all have some of each.

Male and female embryo brains start to develop differently. The most debated difference concerns the band of nerve cells connecting the right and

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<sup>1</sup> See this month's column.

<sup>2</sup> ISBN 1 876451 59 9

**ALL SCALES Club Picnic at Larry Southwick's House in North Stonington on Saturday September 8 at Noon. (Rain Date Sunday)**

left cerebral hemispheres. This bridge is larger in the female brain and girls use both hemispheres simultaneously while boys use only one at a time.”

I believe the above explains why women can “multiplex” better than men. Having given one of the “nature” parts of the difference, there is little doubt that our society results in “nurture” differences. The fraction of women CEO’s is still low compared to men; women are paid less on average.

Think also of the catalogues which arrive unwanted in your mailbox. A high proportion of these are aimed at women buyers. The old joke goes: “women are full of bias! Yes, ‘buy us this, buy us that’!”

*John*

Editor’s Note: The John is treading in the dangerous territory of equality of the sexes. Isn’t it also true that women don’t have a sense of humor about this?

### John Waller’s Column

The signal is red<sup>3</sup> now but soon trains will run on the new Mandurah commuter railway, south from Perth Central Business District.

My son Rob and family drove down the freeway seen here on the approaches to the Narrows Bridge over the Swan River. The railway runs down the centre of the freeway for most of its length.



Some Perth people grumble that the money should be spent on more roads. But the history of other railways in the centre of freeways is people flock to them, train sizes need to be increased, and platforms lengthened. One incentive is to see the train zipping by in slow peak-hour traffic on the freeway.

Note the beautiful mid-winter day in the picture!



Rob and Fiona with Simone, age 3, standing on Mt. Frankland which juts out of the rain forest some 3 to 4 hours drive south of Perth. This is timber country and there were logging railways through here, with one preserved as a tourist railway.

Mt. Frankland is a huge granite rock. In the background the ocean may be dimly seen; the view is to the south. Once Australia was joined to Antarctica at the coast here, with spectacular granite structures remaining.

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<sup>3</sup> Red often seems to be the bottom light on three-aspect railway signals, as opposed to road traffic signals. Why?? I use this convention so as to emphasise the difference in rules between road and rail signals.

**ALL SCALES Club Picnic at Larry Southwick’s House in North Stonington on Saturday September 8 at Noon. (Rain Date Sunday)**

Now Antarctica is some 6000 km away. In between is the “roaring forties<sup>4</sup>”, more properly called the Sub-Antarctic Zone. Here the ocean extends right around the earth, from Australia to south of New Zealand, to Cape Horn, to the Cape of Good Hope.

The northern boundary is the Sub-Tropical Convergence and the southern boundary the Antarctic Convergence. A convergence is where the temperature at the surface of the sea changes more rapidly with latitude than elsewhere.

*John*

## Letters to the Editor

Enquiring minds want to know!

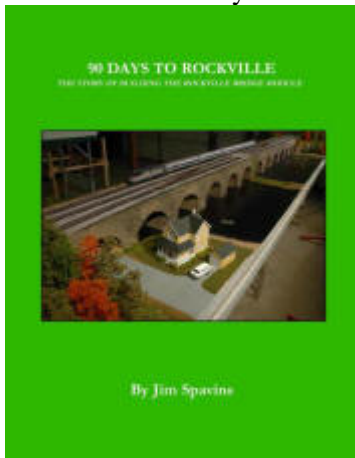
## The Market Place

### Club Member Ads

Advertise (free) here to reach more than fifty 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.)

## Signature Series Railroad

*The Newest Book from Signature Series Railroad:*  
90 Days to Rockville - Follow along with the construction of an HO scale module based on the renowned Rockville Bridge over the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania. Learn how the module was constructed in less than 90 days!



<sup>4</sup> Where wind speeds are 20 knots or greater for two-thirds of the time.

*Also Available:* Module Design Templates, 90 Days to Rockville Slideshow

*Titles Coming Soon:* Modular Railroading 101, Module Design Ideas I, The Prairie Peddler

To purchase your own copies, visit [www.signatureseriesrailroad.com](http://www.signatureseriesrailroad.com)!

### The Club Store

Inventory is nearly complete. Please buy from the Club store if you need “stuff”. A list of “stuff” will be published in the Newsletter this fall.

### Commercial Corner

Nothing here

## The Technical Section

Some good stuff coming this Fall from John Armstrong's book on prototype railroads.

## World Wide Web

Jim Spavins still needs your pictures and other inputs for the Club web page.

## The Life Section

Post your correspondence with Pete Barrington here. Please forward any emails or other contact with Pete while he is in Iraq. He would certainly like to hear from Members of M&P. Pete's email is [lordtracker@yahoo.com](mailto:lordtracker@yahoo.com).

### Greetings From Wisconsin

Well, technically, Illinois. After a 1,200 mile trek to Madison, WI, the first order of business after moving into the new apartment was a trip to Rochelle, IL. For those of you who don't know Rochelle, it is a town in north central Illinois where the BNSF mainline crosses the UP

**ALL SCALES Club Picnic at Larry Southwick's House in North Stonington on Saturday September 8 at Noon. (Rain Date Sunday)**



mainline at grade. Both of these lines are major routes out of Chicago so traffic is plentiful. The City of Rochelle has developed a railfan park at the site of the diamond complete with parking, a gift shop, a covered viewing platform, and most importantly restrooms. My first visit was on a very rainy Saturday. Over about 4 hours, 18 trains rolled through the diamond. While the rain dampened some picture opportunities, it still proved to be a good spot.

Since I wasn't satisfied with the weather on my first trip, I made a second visit on the Friday before Labor Day weekend which was a perfect day for railfanning. I lost count of the number of trains. If you would like to see photos from either trip, visit my website at [www.signatureseriesrailroad.com](http://www.signatureseriesrailroad.com).

If you ever have the opportunity to visit Rochelle, I'd highly recommend it. For those who have been to Fostoria, it is very comparable if not better. See everyone in January.-Jim Spavins

## Railroad Calendar

There is going to be a change in the Calendar in the near future. The official M&P Calendar will be kept on the website ([www.mpr.org](http://www.mpr.org)) It will be expanded to include all of the known future M&P activities like train shows that will have M&P layouts, the Club Picnic, field trips meetings and the like. It will look forward as far as possible so we can plan our future activities better. The next month calendar will be copied from the website into the newsletter.

The Calendar will also include all other activities that Club Members might be interested in like train shows in the region, prototype railroad operations or museum activities. Here we will depend heavily upon Ron Pothier's train show list and members sending in information like rail-fan days and so forth.

## This Month in 2007

**ALL SCALES Club Picnic at Larry Southwick's House in North Stonington on Saturday September 8 at Noon. (Rain Date Sunday)**

**September 5, 12, 19 & 26, North Stonington CT.** Work sessions Wednesday nights at Larry Southwick's house starting at 7:00 PM.

**September 23, Sunday; North Stonington, CT** All-day work session by consensus at Larry Southwick's house. Doors open at 10:00 AM, starting whenever.

**September 23, Ledyard, CT** M&P Club Meeting at the Bill Library at 7:30 PM.

### **Next Month and Beyond**

**September 23, Ledyard, CT** M&P Club Meeting at the

**Ron Pothier's** 2007/2008 list of train shows is being assembled now. Contact Ron at [repth@snet.net](mailto:repth@snet.net) for the latest information.

### **The Lighter/Heavier Side** **Home Remedies**

1. If you are choking on an ice cube, simply pour a cup of boiling water down your throat. Presto! The blockage will instantly remove itself.
2. Avoid cutting yourself slicing vegetables by getting someone else to hold while you chop.
3. Avoid arguments with your wife about lifting the toilet seat by using the sink.
4. For high blood pressure sufferers: simply cut yourself and bleed for a few minutes, thus reducing the pressure in your veins. Remember to use a timer.
5. A mouse-trap, placed on top of your alarm clock will prevent you from rolling over and going back to sleep after you hit the snooze button.
6. If you have a bad cough, take a large dose of laxatives, after which you will be afraid to cough.
7. You only need two tools in life - WD-40 and Duct Tape. If it doesn't move and should, use the WD-40. If it shouldn't move and does, use the duct tape. (Three, a hammer for everything else.)
8. Remember: Everyone seems normal until you get to know them.

Daily Thought: Some people are like Slinkies, not really good for anything but they bring a smile to your face when pushed down the stairs.

### **2008 Democrat National Convention Agenda;** **Denver, Colorado (Just Released)**

7:00 PM Opening flag burning

7:15 PM Pledge of Allegiance to the U.N. in Spanish  
7:20 PM Ted Kennedy proposes a toast  
7:25 PM Nonreligious prayer and worship with Jessie Jackson and Al Sharpton  
7:45 PM Ceremonial tree hugging  
7:55 PM Ted Kennedy proposes a toast  
8:00 PM How I Invented the Internet - Al Gore  
8:15 PM Gay Wedding - Barney Frank presiding  
8:35 PM Ted Kennedy proposes a toast  
8:40 PM Our Troops are War Criminals - John Kerry  
9:00 PM Saddam Memorial Rally - Cindy Sheehan and Susan Sarandon  
11:00 PM Ted Kennedy proposes a toast  
11:05 PM Collection for the Osama Bin Laden kidney transplant fund-Barbara Streisand  
11:15 PM Free the Freedom Fighters from Guantanamo Bay - Sean Penn  
11:30 PM Oval Office Affairs - William Jefferson Clinton  
11:45 PM Ted Kennedy proposes a toast  
11:50 PM How George Bush Brought Down the World Trade Tower - Howard Dean & Rosie O'Donnell  
12:15 AM "Truth in Broadcasting Award" - Presented to Dan Rather by Michael Moore  
12:25 AM Ted Kennedy proposes a toast  
12:30 AM Satellite address by Mahmoud Ahmadinejad  
12:45 AM Nomination of Hillary Rodham Clinton by Nancy Pelosi  
12:50 AM Speech and toast by Hugo Chavez to the departure of "the great satan", 'W' Bush  
12:50 AM Hillary proposes a toast to our 89 million new Democratic Mexican voters  
1:00 AM Ted Kennedy proposes a toast to the extinction of the Republican party.  
1:05 AM Coronation of Hillary Rodham Clinton  
1:30 AM Ted Kennedy proposes a toast  
1:35 AM Bill Clinton asks Ted to drive Hillary home

### **Club Administration**

M&PMRR Officers & Functionaries  
**The President Dan DeLany** 860 748-7581  
**Vice President John Waller** 564-3114

**ALL SCALES Club Picnic at Larry Southwick's House in North Stonington on Saturday September 8 at Noon. (Rain Date Sunday)**

<http://www.mpr.org>

<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	<b>Clark Pritchett</b>	444-1884
Newsletter Mailing and		
Meeting Speakers	<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>	
	<a href="mailto:jimspav@alum.rpi.edu">jimspav@alum.rpi.edu</a>	

Prototype Questions

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

**Proposed Club Scale Contacts**

G - Bob MacGregor, O – Jim Weitlauf, S – Dave Alley, HO – Dan Delany, TT – Future, Z – TBD, N – Sandy Alonzo, Live Steam – Jim Weitlauf



**ALL SCALES Club Picnic at Larry Southwick's House in North Stonington on Saturday September 8 at Noon. (Rain Date Sunday)**