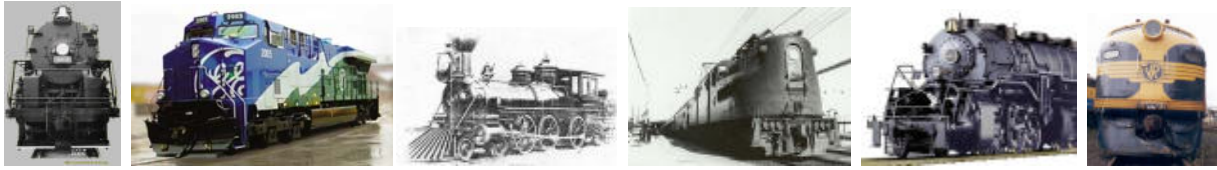


# Mohegan Pequot Model Railroad



## The News for: October, 2007

### M&P Club Picnic

The M&P Club Picnic was held on Saturday, September 8, at Larry Southwick's house in North Stonington. A good time was had by all as the big picture (Stu Dom) below shows.



**2007 M&P Picnic in North Stonington**

### 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 and to see if there are any changes. Call (860) 739-4224 or [hejeharger@ct.metrocast.net](mailto:hejeharger@ct.metrocast.net)

### Extracts: September Meeting Notes

(from John Waller's notes)

#### September 23 outside the Bill Library

There were 15 members present.

Thomas the Tank Show in Essex, CT. As usual we have not heard from the Thomas people, but we assume the dates are 3, 4, 10, 11 November.

Dan will call to find out more.

Willimantic Show This is on 4 November. Dan will talk to Members in G, N and S scales to determine if they would like to set up a layout.

Springfield 2008 Jim Delany received a contract and said that we have essentially the same space and locations for the layouts as last year.

Future Shows A schedule for Fall 2007 and Winter 2008 has now been received from Ron Pothier. There was been no contact from the Westerly Armory about setting up a layout at their show again this year.

The Friendship School (TFS) Show at Christmas TFS in Waterford (next to the High School) wants us to set up a layout in their lobby. They have agreed to between XMAS and New Years when school is not in session. If students (3-5) come, they will be brought by their parents who hopefully will supervise them. We will establish the hours/days that we can support.

Impromptu Rail Fan Trips Check with Bob McGregor.

See how much shorter the meeting is when we are in the Library car park!!

### Meetings, Schedule & Work Sessions

There will be two meetings this month and they will both be at the Bill Library in Ledyard, CT starting at 7:30 PM. They are on October 14 (after the Sunday work session) and October 28 The Sunday all-day working session is at Larry Southwick's, house on the 14th beginning at 10:00 AM. Regular work sessions this month will be held at Larry's house on Wednesday nights, October 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 beginning at 7:00 PM. A work schedule will be drawn up and posted so Members know what to do when they get there. Thomas loading, subject to change, will be done on one the last Wednesday. (Many hands guys.)

**It's Train Show Season Again. Essex & Willimantic in November**

## 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

*Dan*

#### The VP's Niche

We use LEDs because of their low cost, efficiency, and reliability. They are everywhere on our control panels and in signal lights. I have never had an LED fail except when its ratings have been exceeded.

High-power LEDs are now commonly used in road traffic signals. The red, yellow, and green lights are now clusters of LEDs.

But Stu and I have both observed a strange thing. We see blank patches now on traffic signal clusters, and it is mainly (exclusively?) in green signals. It is not a single LED which appears to have failed, but three or four in a group.

LEDs are a current device, that is, there is a specified maximum current. They should never be operated from a fixed voltage without some means of limiting the current. We usually use a resistor in series with the LED.

This is fine for the small LEDs we use as indicators and signals in HO scale. But not so for high-powered LEDs, where a resistor would need to dissipate too much heat, hence negating the efficiency attribute of the LED.

For high powers a switching regulator chip is used, specially designed for the purpose. It is designed to output a specified current. Usually some three or four LEDs are connected in series across the regulator output.

Thus, if either the regulator fails, or an LED fails to open circuit, all in that circuit will extinguish. I believe this is why one sees patches of dark in the traffic signal cluster.

We don't have any explanation of why these failures are occurring.

### WANTED

I am looking for volunteers to learn about microcontroller technology.

Microcontrollers are everywhere and we use them in DCC controllers without needing to know what they do or how they do it.

I have used microcontrollers now from the turn of the Century. It was one thing to use them in my own modules, but now I am branching out and the installation of smart turnout control on the new Dan and Jim module is proceeding well. Last Wednesday night I had all eight turnouts on the main ladder working correctly. The dwarf signal installation is next.

It is not difficult to learn the technology. There is very little by way of old-fashioned hard-wired electronics, which is why microcontrollers are used; all the complicated logic is in the software. I have plenty of documentation for people to study, and am quite willing to give tutorials.

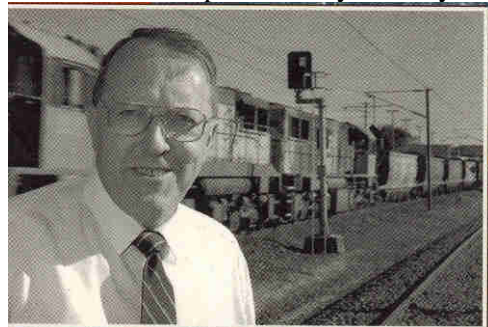
A few people have expressed interest, but the time to step up to the plate is now.

[john.waller@snet.net](mailto:john.waller@snet.net)

*John*

### John Waller's Column

Vale Ian Macfarlane passed away recently.



**Vale Ian Macfarlane**

I have referenced some of Ian's material in this column here. My friend in Melbourne, Graham Lewis, told me about his death.

Ian was a Member of Engineers Australia and a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport. He was a graduate of the Peter Nichol Russell School of Engineering at the University of Sydney.

He had practised as a railway engineer for most of his professional life, focusing on interdisciplinary and safety aspects, including working with a court and a prosecutor after fatal railway experts.

He has written three books on railway safety which are named: *Brakes*, *Block Safeworking*, and *Interlocking and Train Protection*.<sup>1</sup>

The front covers of the three books are adorned with:

- Wreck of the 44-wagon runaway No 202 Lithgow-to-Sydney at Wentworth Falls in the Blue Mountains near Sydney on 16 July 1965, after a 6.5 km 153 km/h<sup>2</sup> downhill career because the train pipe cock on the rear of electric loco No. 4620 was left closed.
- The wreck of the *Southern Aurora* [overnight Sydney-Melbourne passenger train] at Violet Town, Victoria, on 7 February 1969. With its Driver dead of a heart attack, the train ran through all Stop signals and crashed head-on into a goods train at a closing speed of some 180 km/h<sup>3</sup>. [I remember this crash; the fireman was in the back of the locomotive making the tea.]
- An overspeed accident site near Waterfall, NSW on 31 January 2003. The leading car demolished two strong electrification portal structures and uprighted itself against a rising rock wall, destroying the car structure and ejecting the bodies of the seven who were killed.

*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

<sup>1</sup> ISBN 185825 700 9, 085825 826 9, and 085825 779 3, respectively.

<sup>2</sup> Just shy of 100 mph.

<sup>3</sup> 110 mph.

wonderful stuff. (Editor's Note: Let me know when your item sells or when you want to stop running the advertisement.)

### 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

Even though he is in Wisconsin getting a degree in Cheese and beer, 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).



## 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. In that spirit, the

It's Train Show Season Again. Essex & Willimantic in November

calendar that follows separates the train shows that M&P is participating in from the rest of them.

## **This Month in 2007**

### **October 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31, North Stonington CT.**

Work sessions Wednesday nights at Larry Southwick's house starting at 7:00 PM.

### **October 14, Sunday; North Stonington, CT**

All-day work session by consensus at Larry Southwick's house. Doors open at 10:00 AM. starting whenever. Then, Club **meeting at Bill Library in Ledyard at 7:30 PM.**

**October 28, Ledyard, CT** M&P Club Meeting at the Bill Library at 7:30 PM.

## **Next Month in 2007**

### **November 3 & 4 and 10 & 11; Essex CT:**

Thomas the Tank Show. M&P HO Layout. (Not confirmed yet)

### **November 4, Willimantic CT:**– Eastern CT

Chapter of NRHS Show at Windhan High School. M&P HO, G or N scale layout(s) to be displayed. Yet to be determined which one(s) Contact Joe Sokol [joseph\\_sokol@msn.com](mailto:joseph_sokol@msn.com)

## **Train Shows from Ron's List**

(Ron Pothier at [repth@snet.net](mailto:repth@snet.net) for latest information.)

Train Show – October 7, 2007, 9 AM – 3 PM, Orange, CT. – High Plains Community Center Derby & New Haven Model R/R Club  
Contact: (203) 932-0185 or (203) 874-2787

The New Haven show is at The A.C. Gilbert Factory this year (this was the August Show) The Show will be on October 13 and 14, 2007. The time is 11 AM thru 5 PM. Contact info is John or Robin Vanacore at (203) 629-1083 or (203) 239-1346 or [www.AFSTRAINS.com](http://www.AFSTRAINS.com).

Great Scale Model Train Show – October 13/14, 2007, 9 AM – 4 PM, Timonium, MD – Maryland State Fairgrounds, I-83, Exit 17E, Howard Zane

Fall Convention – October 19-21, 2007 Albany, NY. – Best Western Sovereign Hotel 1228 Western Ave. (518) 489-2981 Commodore Vanderbilt, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Limited NMRA-NER, Hudson-Berkshire Division

Train Show – October 27/28, 2007 10 AM-4 PM, Hingham, MA. – South Shore Country Club & Open House – Hingham, MA, - Bare

Cove Park, Building 51 South Shore Model Railroad Club

Train Show – October 28, 2007, 9AM – 3PM, Wallingford, CT. – Zandri's Stillwood Inn  
Contact: Lud Spinelli (203) 926-1327

Train Craftsman Structure Show – November 2/3, 2007, 8 AM – 6 PM, Mansfield, MA – Holiday Inn Contact: CSS (508) 210-2003 or [www.craftsmanstructureshow.com](http://www.craftsmanstructureshow.com)

Train Show – November 4, 2007, 10 AM-3 PM, Willimantic, CT. – Windhan High School Eastern Connecticut Chapter NRHS

Train Show – November 10, 2007 9 AM – 3:30 PM, North Haven, CT. Holiday Inn NHRHTA

Train Show – November 11, 2007, 10 AM – 3 PM, Poughkeepsie, NY. – Mid-Hudson Civic Center, Hudson Valley Railroad Society

Greenberg Great Train Expo – November 17/18, 2007 10 AM – 4 PM, Wilmington, MA. – Shriners Auditorium, Greenburg Shows

Train Show – November 18, 2007 10 AM – 3 PM, Cheshire, CT. – Cheshire High School Cheshire Band Association Contact: Thomas J. Kotulaki, 54 Old Lane Rd, Wallingford, Ct. 06492 (203) 265-7527

Train Show – November 25, 2007, 10 AM-3 PM, Greenwich, CT. – Greenwich Civic Center Westchester Model R/R Club  
Contact: Ron Rosenberg (914) 967-7541

New Additions: The Fairfield Train Show will be on March 11, 2008 at the Fairfield Ludlowe High School, same place as last year





### The Lighter/Heavier Side

(Real Engineers won't be offended)

#### Engineer Q&A's

Q: When does a person decide to become an engineer?

A: When he realizes he doesn't have the charisma to be an undertaker.

Q: What do engineers use for birth control?

A: Their personalities.

Q: How can you tell an extroverted engineer?

A: When he talks to you, he looks at your shoes instead of his own.

Q: Why did the engineers cross the road?

A: Because they looked in the file, and that's what they did last year.

Q: How do you drive an engineer completely insane?

A: Tie him to a chair, stand in front of him, and fold up a road map the wrong way.

#### You might be an engineer if:

- \* Choosing between buying flowers for your wife and upgrading your RAM is a problem.
- \* You take a cruise so you can go on a personal tour of the engine room.
- \* In college, you thought Spring Break was metal fatigue failure.
- \* The salespeople at the local computer store can't answer any of your questions.
- \* At an air show, you know how fast the skydivers are falling.
- \* For your spouse's birthday you gave a new CD-ROM drive or a Palm Pilot.
- \* You can quote scenes from any Monty Python movie.
- \* You can type 70 words per minute but you can't read your own handwriting.
- \* You comment to your wife that her straight hair is nice and parallel.
- \* You sit backwards on Disney rides so you can see how they do the special effects.

- \* You have saved every power cord from all your broken appliances.
- \* You have more friends on the Internet than in real life.
- \* You know what http:// stands for.
- \* You look forward to Christmas so you can put together the kids toys.
- \* You see a good design, and have to change it.
- \* You spent more on your calculator than you did on your wedding ring.
- \* You still own a slide rule and know how to use it.
- \* You think that people yawning around you are sleep deprived.
- \* You window shop at Radio Shack.
- \* Your laptop computer cost more than your car.
- \* Your wife hasn't the foggiest idea of what you do at work.
- \* You've already calculated how much you make per second.
- \* You've tried to repair a \$5 radio.

## Club Administration

### M&PMRR Officers & Functionaries

<b>The President</b>	<b>Dan DeLany</b>	860 748-7581
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>John Waller</b>	564-3114
<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>	

[jimspav@alum.rpi.edu](mailto:jimspav@alum.rpi.edu)

Prototype Questions

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

### 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  
These Go-To guys will mentor new members who want to learn more about particular model railroad scales.

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<http://www.mpr.org>



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