

Mohegan Pequot Model Railroad



The News for: June, 2008

Larry Southwick

Larry is still at Pendleton in Mystic, but hopes to go home in a week, or so. He is mobile with a wheelchair and walker. He says he has lost 80 lbs.

Extracts: May Meeting Notes May 18 at the Bill Library

There were 14 members present.

Barbara reported on Larry's improving condition. His speech is now lucid and he has moved up to a wheelchair.

Harness Connectors

Most of the meeting was spent on this topic. Stu explained a possible mechanism as to why contact can be bad in the Cinch receptacles, namely movement of the receptacle female pin due to the stiff 14 AWG wire soldered to the pin lug. This results in misalignment between the male and female pins and fleeting electrical contact between the two. As said before, the wire will not fit through the hole in the lug.

The solution Stu proposed is to use the 9-pin version (selecting four of the pins) of our now well-established Amphenol connectors, using the same pin types as used elsewhere, but with a short piece of flexible 16 AWG wire, soldered to the end of the 14 AWG wire, and crimped with our existing tool. A 14 AWG crimping tool is priced at \$550+!!

The meeting agreed to adopt Stu's proposal.

Components will be bought by the Club. Owners of private modules will reimburse the Club accordingly.

Other matters

Jonathon wants to try the second and fourth Tuesdays in June (10th & 24th) starting at 7 PM, for operating sessions at his home.

June 4, 11, 18, and 25 will be work sessions at Larry's.

Next Bill Library meeting June 22.

Meetings, Schedule & Work Sessions

See above

John Waller's Column

Bob Johnston of Trains magazine frequently speaks out for Amtrak. His latest article is *Amtrak, Bush spar over funds*, in the June 2008 issue.

The attitude of the Federal Railroad "Administration" is summed up by the following pathetic statement by the head Joseph Boardman when trying to explain why only about half of Amtrak's 2009 request for funding is being offered: "... will ... [encourage] Amtrak to continue to undertake meaningful reforms ... and provide Amtrak continuing incentive to more effectively manage costs, rationalize its services, and pursue innovations."

I don't see any similar statements being made in respect of air and road transport.

The appropriation for 2009 is \$B 1.875 requested by Amtrak, whereas the Bush Administration has offered about half at \$B 0.9.

But I see no understanding of the fact that passenger rail service can not be improved simply by buying more and better trains. Just like the highways and airways, railways are saturated. And rail is expected to fund its own infrastructure, unlike the other two modes.

Infrastructure costs billions. Bob reports that Amtrak's Kummant estimates \$B 7.0 is required to reduce the Acela New York to Washington time from 2:45 to 2:20.

When are they planning to get serious?

John

The President's Corner
Good luck to Rachel and Dan.

The Vice President's Niche

Some time back I wrote about the restoration of a steam locomotive in Sydney, number 3265, which was withdrawn from service with the NSW Railways in 1968.



Work still goes on, and the new boiler has just arrived, a big step for steam reconstruction, as I am sure you will agree.

As an aside, I would expect any of the men in the picture could join our Club and not change the average age of its members!

John

Operating Sessions

Jonathan Harger will try holding operating sessions at his home layout in East Lyme on the second and fourth *Tuesdays* 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.



Dispatcher and Supervisor

Letters to the Editor

You all talk a good game but are you willing to put it on paper?

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.)

Wanted Items

Looking for junk plastic steam engine bodies for kitbashing, the Athearn clips to hold in the couplers if anyone had replaced them with something else and firewood or potential firewood (prototype). Contact Jonathan Harger at 860-739-4224 or hejharger@ct.metrocast.net

The Club Store

Inventory is complete. Please buy from the Club store if you need "stuff". A list of "stuff" will be published in the Newsletter year 2008 (2009/10?)

Commercial Corner

Nothing here

The Life Section



Unsupervised

The Technical Section

From Barbara

I now have the **TRACK MOBILE** from Factory Direct Trains. I have 3 in DCC and 2 in DC. All New Haven. DCC retails at \$99.00 Tacdab price is \$89.00, DC retails for \$69.00 Tacdab price is \$62.00.

I also have a lot of Broadway Limited and Precision Craft on hand. C-Liners normally \$110.00 now 30% off = \$77.00 no sound. C-Liners with Sound and DCC retails for \$299.99 now 30% off = \$209.99.

World-Wide-Web

Railroad Calendar

June/July 2008

Train Shows from Ron's List

(Ron Pothier at repth@snet.net for latest information.)

June 28/29 Timonium, MD Great Scale Model Train Show, 9 AM – 4 PM, –Maryland State Fairgrounds, I-83, Exit 17E, Howard Zane

July 13-19, Anaheim, California Anaheim National Convention –, 2008. Anaheim Marriott Convention Center The Pacific Southwest Region National Model Railroad Association

The Lighter/Heavier Side

Good news! The Club is going green! We have reached an agreement with CL&P that only electrons originating at wind farms will be used to run our layouts.



New Passenger Modules, Name Tags and
Show Layouts **Stu Dom** 536-7637
Webmaster **Jim Spavins**
 jimspav@alum.rpi.edu
Prototype Questions
Dave at <http://www.davesrailpage.com/>

The End

At least that is what everyone else is claiming, so why shouldn't we jump on the green wagon?

Recently, my wife Rae was driving along in her VW Passat when the warning buzzer sounded, and a message showed up on the screen:

STOP
Brake Failure

Rae is very resourceful and always carries an anchor and chain with her, which she used to stop the car before running into the Quinebaug River.

Seriously, the brakes had not failed, but the emergency brake lever was not fully in the off position!

Club Administration

Club Scale Contacts

G - Bob MacGregor, O - Jim Weitlauf, On3 - Sandy Alonzo, 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.

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	Clark Pritchett	444-1884
Newsletter Mailing and Meeting Speakers	Bill Evans	267-9482