



Amherst Railway Society
P. O. Box 2351
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www.AmherstRail.org

The next meeting of the Amherst Railway Society is Tuesday, May 18, 2010, 8:00 p.m. at the Amherst Regional Middle School

Amherst Railway Society Railroad Hobby Show – West Springfield, MA January 29-30, 2011

May Topic: "Freight Car Futures " by Dan Bigda

Dan Bigda will begin his talk relating his personal experiences at Quaboag Transfer, to the Boston & Maine RR / Guilford, The Army, Railway Design Associates, then getting hired into Lionel Trains, and then starting his own railcar design business which led to leasing rail cars. He will spend the rest of his time on the state of the industry today and what is to come, including new designs for railcars. An example of his company's products is the largest boxcar in the world; pictured here (**This program will include oral transliteration for the hearing impaired**).



Boxcar Services founder and president Daniel Bigda began his rail industry experience with Quaboag Transfer in Massachusetts, where he performed early-morning lumber car switching at their transfer facility. He moved to the Central Vermont Railroad to work in the section gang, later joining the Boston and Maine Railroad (now part of the Guilford Rail System) where he earned the positions of conductor and engineer.

Dan then left the rail industry for a tour of duty in the U.S. Army, followed by college. Moving into design, Dan worked in the consumer goods industry, holding prominent roles in product design, marketing and creative services.

Combining that experience with his foundation in railroading, Dan started HLW in 1999, emphasizing innovation in new railcar technologies and designs. In 2003 Dan expanded his offerings with the founding of Boxcar Services as a next-generation railcar fleet and leasing concern.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

June 15, 2010 Annual Business Meeting and Silent Auction
Quabbin's RR: The Rabbit" by J. R. Greene

Sep 21, 2010 - Topic TBA

Oct 19, 2010 - Topic TBA

Attendance at last month's meeting, "Rail Trail Update"
by Craig Della Penna, was 69 people.

From the Treasurer

All donations to the Amherst Railway Society may be tax deductible. As Amherst Railway Society Inc. is a 501 C(3) tax exempt organization, your donations (of either cash and/or property) may be deducted on your Schedule A, Form 1040 of your Federal income tax. Consider the Amherst Railway Society in your estate planning. Your gifts can be restricted or non-restricted (you can pre-determine how you want your donation used). Upon request, and proper documentation of course, the Treasurer will issue you a letter to be used as justification for you tax deductions

Message from the Amherst Belt Lines:

Thanks to all of our associates who have participated in setting up, operating and breaking down the layout this past season. Our shows may be over for the summer, but we will start up again in September or October with the Pepperell Siding show – we’ll provide more details as we get closer to the show.



While our show attendance may be on hiatus for a few months, now is the perfect time to start planning and building your own module! If you are interested in operating a large and variable modular layout, and displaying your own modeling efforts, see Sudro, Clark or Alan and we will be happy to ‘sign you up!’ Remember, you don’t need a module to participate with the group!

Email address: amherstbeltlines@amherstrail.org

Show Schedule Update

The Belt Lines attends about six shows per year from September through April. Our schedule as we know it today is below. If you would like to mark your calendars for shows we will be attending, here are the dates for the rest of the spring season in 2010 and our start on 2011:

- October, 2010: Pepperell Siding Model Railroad Club, Pepperell, MA. Show details are not yet available.
- November 7, 2010: Bedford Boomer’s Railroad Exhibition, Bedford, NH.
- December 4 and 5, 2010: New England Model Train Expo, Marlborough, MA.
- January 29-30, 2011: Amherst Railway Society, Inc. Railroad Hobby Show – West Springfield, MA.

We will publish additional details as invitations are sent to the Belt Lines.

From the Clerk

Please check your mailing label. Your membership expires on June 30 of the year listed on the label. You will not be able to check out items from the library, or participate in other benefits of membership after that date. Now is the time to think about renewing. Free for Full Time students, 1 year for \$20, 3 years for \$50 and 5 years for \$80

Student memberships require the name of the school, and the class/year in addition to the student contact information

2009 – 2010 Meeting Topic Review

- Sep-----Maine Central Railroad – George Melvin (no attendance recorded)
- Oct----- Roots on the Rails - Charlie Hunter (76)
- Nov----- announced as Railcar Futures, actually was NYC subway system – Richard Solomon (80)
- Jan----- Life of the FL9 – Bob LaMay (93)
- Mar----- Members’ Night – various members (82)
- Apr----- Rail Trail Update – Craig Della Penna (69)

The President says:

The nomination committee members are:

- Dick Joyce
- Sy Berger
- Tom Lowry

At the May meeting they will present their slate of officers and directors for the 2010-2011 year.... At the June meeting the committee will actually nominate their slate for the respective positions... The membership will then vote...

The Archive Committee (Bill Venman, Janet Moore, Harvey Allen and Chris Coyle) have begun their first task... Sifting through a file cabinet of old ARS documents... If you have any documentation from the early years of the ARS, please contact one of the committee members about possible inclusion into the archives..

New Club Starting

Brian Klienknecht and John Flanders are starting a club layout in Clinton MA. Email Brian at BrianK2112@aol.com for more information

Message from the Show Director:



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I am reporting to you having just completed our first Annual Swap Meet. Held at the Carriage House on the grounds of the Eastern States Exposition, it was a wild time. Once all arrived – our final count was 23 – swapping and “horse-trading” abounded. At one point, we all realized that this was nothing more than an exchange of what we did not want. In Clark Huber’s words, “We will be taking everything home again, just in different boxes!” The good news is that some of us had what the others were looking for and that’s what counts. The bad news is that some of us left with more than we came with! At one point, it got so rowdy (laughing and carrying on with the trading) that I turned to Dick Joyce and said, “This is why I love doing these things.” This turned out to be another event that we can get together and have fun with our friends; so many of us having a great time. The fact that we sent this out to the entire Amherst membership, gave us the opportunity to meet folks that we had not seen before as well. On top of it all, we had a continental breakfast and a fantastic lunch. We would love to see this double in size for next year!

While the swap meet has little to do with the Show, I can tell you in that regard that we are about to have our first planning meeting for the 2011 show. We were in the habit of having that meeting in April, but the Show has been running smoothly (knock on wood) for the past couple of years so that we really do not have to have this meeting until the May/June time frame. I can report that the number of requests from NEW exhibitors has dramatically increased, thanks to the success from the 2010 Show. Some of these “new” exhibitors are very interesting, which means we will once again have some new and surprising things at our annual event! Remember, if you have any ideas for the Show, no matter what type of idea (new exhibitor, and other ideas, etc.) please do not hesitate to contact us.

My final note for this month is that of a reminder for the Silent Auction that we will have just before the final meeting of the season (at the June meeting). We have accumulated many great items that will allow you to bid, have some fun, obtain these items at a VERY low price, and we get to add to the grant fund all at the same time. What was great about the swap meet is that many folks donated things for this year’s silent auction. This year’s items include works of art, lots of cars, locos, more vintage Lionel, tons of scenic materials, books, throttles (some new still in the box), clothing and more. Once again, I look forward to the “friendly” bidding that we saw at last year’s silent auction. And, get this: This is our third Annual Silent Auction....times flies when you’re having fun....see you soon!

John Sacerdote, Show Director

Upcoming dates that may be of interest

- May 15** **Mass Bay Day Cape Codder** Buzzards Bay - Middleboro - N. Falmouth - Hyannis & Return <http://www.massbayrre.org/DayCapeCodder.html>
- May 22** **Training Day at the Shelburne Falls Trolley Museum,**
New volunteers are always welcome! See <http://sftm.org/training.shtml> for more information.
- Chester on Track** (20th Anniversary) Chester MA. Full details can be found at their website: www.chesterrailwaystation.org
- May 29** **Opening Day at the Shelburne Falls Trolley Museum,**
See <http://sftm.org/training.shtml> for more information.
- June 4 -5** **New England / Northeast Prototype Modelers Meet Collinsville CT**
<http://www.neprototypemeet.com/Welcome.html>
- June 12-13** **Pioneer Valley Live Steamers Work Weekend Southwick MA**
- June 15** **All materials borrowed from the ARS library are due.**
ARS Annual Business Meeting and Silent Auction
- June 18-20** **Fathers Day weekend –**
Pioneer Valley Live Steamers annual open to the public weekend
- June 22-26** **NRHS Annual Convention – Scranton PA**
- June 25 – 27** **West Virginia Rails, Petersburg WV** <http://www.wvrails2010.com/>
- July 11 -17** **NMRA National Convention – Milwaukee WI**
- July 10,11 & 18** **Berkshire Limited – *Passenger Rail Service* between North Canaan CT and Great Barrington MA** with North Canaan departures at 10 a.m., 1 p.m., and 4 p.m., and Great Barrington departures at 11 a.m., 2 p.m., and 5 p.m. \$15 Tickets will be available through the [Canaan Chamber of Commerce](http://www.canaan-chamber.com). Service is part of Canaan's annual Railroad Days. Money raised will be used to restore the Canaan Station.
- Aug 6** **Flying Yankee Dinner Train – Lincoln NH** 6:00 PM - Catered by Hart's Turkey Farm aboard the Hobo Railroad Train with Mr. Phil onboard for entertainment. \$40 Adult, \$35 Child - A portion of the proceeds will benefit the restoration project. Purchase tickets online at www.hoborr.com
- Sept 9 - 12** **Northeast Region NMRA Convention Burlington VT**
- Sept 21** **First Amherst Railway Society meeting in the fall**