



Amherst Railway Society
P. O. Box 2351
Amherst, MA 01004-2351
www.AmherstRail.org

The next meeting of the Amherst Railway Society is Tuesday, Mar 16, 2010, 8:00 p.m. at the Amherst Regional Middle School Auditorium.

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

March Topic: "Member presentation night" by you and other ARS members

(This program will include oral transliteration for the hearing impaired).

Please bring in your items to share. There is a limit of about 10-15 slides/images per person. If you need someone else to narrate your presentation, please have that arranged in advance and be sure the person has a script.

We may be able to provide 8 or 16mm Movies projectors, but absolutely need a week or two notice for this!!!

If you plan to present, please contact vice.president@amherstrail.org to let him know what you are bringing, and what equipment you will need.

Attendance at January's meeting, "The Life of the FL9" by Bob LaMay, was 93 people.

The following equipment will be provided

- Carousel Projector with individual slide capability
- spare carousel(s) for onsite loading...

NOTE: for the following four items the pictures should be in .jpg or .jpeg format

- DVDs via computer and digital projector
- USB Flash Drives
- handle CDs
- Also mini presentations using Power Point

UPCOMING MEETINGS
All meetings are in the MS Auditorium
Interpreted for the Hearing Impaired

Apr 20, 2010	Craig Della Penna:	Rail Trail update
May 18, 2010	Dan Bigda	"Freight Car Futures"
June 15, 2010	Annual Business Meeting and Silent Auction	

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

From the President

A hearty *THANK YOU *to all of our members that helped to make the 2010 Amherst Railway Society Railroad Hobby Show a GREAT success! As a volunteer organization our success depends on our members.

Message from the Trip Director:

NRHS – Palmer MA Chapter

The Seven Railroads Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society is forming in Palmer.

The next meeting is March 27th at the Palmer Library’s Community Room at 10:00.

Palmer Public Library is at 1455 North Main Street, Palmer, MA. 01069

Parking is behind the library or across Main St in the public lot.

Any interested parties are welcome to join, more info at the meeting on how to join.

Join now to become a Charter member.

Spring Layout tours

We have received the Spring 2010 layout tour schedule. See pages 4-5 for details.

This is a good chance to see home layouts in southeastern Mass and Rhode Island

SAT April 10th 2010 from 10:00am - 4:00pm

Message from the Amherst Belt Lines:

First off, a truly heartfelt “THANKS” to all the module owners, associates and volunteers who assisted in assembling one of the largest modular layouts the Belt Lines has put together at this year’s Railroad Hobby Show at the Big E! Without the help of the many hands that put it together and kept it running, we would not be able to manage such an impressive display. The layout provided a nearly 12 scale mile run which



could take over 30 minutes to traverse at scale speeds! We ran the layout almost entirely with NCE radio cabs and the system performed far better than anyone would have expected in the Better Living Center, and Show, environment. Top that off with the attendance at the show this year, and we couldn’t have asked for a more successful Railroad Hobby Show!

The Belt Lines attended the Worcester Model Railroader’s Show in Auburn, MA on February 28. Compared to the 94’ x 74’ behemoth we assembled at the end of January, the 18’ x 30’ layout in Auburn Elks Club a month later was a postage stamp! The Worcester Show is always a challenge since it is a true one-day show. Setup started around 7 AM on Sunday and the doors opened to the public at 10AM! Thanks to all of you who came out to lend a hand with setup and to ‘beat the clock!’

Our next show, and the last one for the 2009-2010 season, is the Nashua Valley Railroad Association (NVRRA) Show in Shirley, MA. The show will be on April 11 at the Shirley Middle School from 10 AM to 4 PM. We will have more details about the show in an upcoming *Modular Mumbblings* and at the meeting. If you’d like to help out at the show, it is never too early to let Sudro, Clark or Alan know – especially if you have a module you want to include in the layout.

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 through April of next year 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:

- April 11, 2010: Nashua Valley Railroad Association Show – Shirley, MA
- January 29-30, 2011: Amherst Railway Society, Inc. Railroad Hobby Show – West Springfield, MA

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

If you just renewed for one year and your mailing label says 2010, yes you are due to renew again.

From the CNE annual bus tour organization

Hello All - April is getting closer

We are taking reservations for the 2010 segment of the annual bus tour along various portions of the former Central New England Railway. The 2010 tour will be on Sunday April 11 (rain or shine).

In the past few years we have covered almost all of the old CNE except for the Springfield branch. For 2010 we plan to go back to the east end and start over. The tentative plan is to start from Tariffville and tour the area through Griffins and Bloomfield to Hartford. We are trying to arrange a real operating, current day CNE Train for a run-by on the original CNE tracks between Hartford and Griffins. Details when we get it nailed down.

Lunch will be back in Tariffville. In the afternoon we will cover the Springfield branch as far north as Agawam. This will include the infamous Montague Farm blockage and bypass which contributed to the financial downfall of the CNE. We have done a couple scouting trips already with some of the people who know the territory. We will keep you informed as details are worked out.

We have reserved air conditioned buses with on board restrooms and they also have a PA system for narrating the trip. As usual, everybody will get a copy of the 2010 CNE Tour guide book.

Meanwhile mark your calendar for Sunday April 11, 2010.

The cost of this year's tour will again be \$50.00 per person and payment should be made out to:

Joseph Mato CNE 2010

Be sure to include your E-Mail address so we can contact you if we need to. If you don't have E-Mail then include your phone number and address.

Send it to:

JOE MATO-CNE 2010

62 WOOD ROAD

REDDING, CT. 06896

We don't issue tickets. Your name on our list will get you onto the bus on tour day. Any money that is left after the expenses will be used as "seed money" for next year's trip.

As we did in past years, we will have two buses. In past years we sold all seats and had a waiting list so don't wait too long to send in your reservation.

Please note that any request for refunds must be received thirty (30) or more days in advance of the tour date. If you can find a replacement to take your bus seat, that's OK just let us know who it is. We have to know who to let onto the bus when the tour starts. If you can't find a replacement then we may have somebody on the waiting list to suggest but we can't refund money that has already been spent on tour expenses.

If you have questions, send me a note at:

Brudberg@optonline.net

LAYOUT TOUR 10

Self-guided model railroad Open House 10 Layouts

SATURDAY April 10th 2010 from 10:00am - 4:00pm

In memory of Jack Alexander who was going to be part of the tour this year, but sadly is no longer with us

For inquiries email questions to: rayschofield2000@yahoo.com

THANKS Ray Schofield

1. New England and Western

Bill Robertson

63 Frontier Drive

Attleboro, MA. 02703

Tel # 1-508-222-7776

The New England and Western is a large freelance HO scale railroad, which models New England prototypes of the steam era with numerous interesting line side structures suitable for that period. The layout is operated by Dynatrol command control and features car card freight operation. The scenery is about 90% completed with some very interesting scenes depicting life in the early to mid part of the 20th century. Lou Sassi has photographed Bill's layout for a future **Model Railroader** article.

2. Old Colony & South Shore Railroad

Cliff Coutinho

1097 Marlborough St.

New Bedford, MA

Tel # 1-508-995-7616

The HO scale Old Colony & South Shore Railroad is an early 20th century era layout located on the second floor above the garage/workshop and features superb scenery and multi-train operation. Cliff's layout has many scratch-built and super detailed structures from many manufacturers with beautiful city and town settings. The scenery is 98% complete. The layout was featured in the October 2004 **Model Railroader** and also in the 2009 **Great Model Railroads**. The OC &SS is DCC with an NCE system and can be operated with conventional DC also.

3 Aquidneck Valley RR

Ed Silvia

232 Honeyman Ave,

Middletown, RI

Tel #401-846- 3436

The AVRR is a large HO railroad occupying two rooms, one 20x24, and the other 26x10. The minimum radius is 30 inches and all the track work is complete. The scenery is about 90% complete. The total track laid is about 1300 feet. Trains are powered by diesels, and controlled by a Digitrax DCC radio system with sound. The railroad has two large freight yards, numerous industries, including 3 coalmines, an ore mine, and gravel processing plant, many bridges, in an eastern mountainous setting. The layout was featured in the November 2004 **Model Railroader**.

4 Providence & Worcester

Donald Irace
11 Road C,
North Scituate, RI
Tel #401-647-2455

This 42'x25' double decked railroad is located in the basement. Enter from garage. It is a fictitious track plan between Worcester Ma. and Queens N.Y. It models the Providence & Worcester Railroad as a regional freight carrier with trackage rights on the Amtrak's northeast corridor. Commodities include Paper goods, coal, stone, plastic resins, produce, lumber, grain, cement, chemicals, general merchandise and scrap metals. Interchange is made with CSX Transportation, Sea View a shortline railroad located in Davisville, RI, New England Central Railroad in Ct and the Guilford Rail System in Gardner Ma. The railroad is Dispatcher controlled by means of computerized CTC (Centralized Traffic Control) using two dispatchers. One on site and the 2nd which is located in Georgia. 1/3 of the layout was demolished and redesigned. Should have the mainline back up and finished before the tour. Yards maybe un-sceniced. For more info see the P & W website at <http://www.trainweb.org/pwmrr> or visit us on facebook.

Using Google Type in **11 road C No. Scituate**, RI 02857 **not North Scituate**.

5. Quebec & New England Railway *Please enter through the garage*

Jim Reddington and Associates
17 Mia Court,
Warwick, RI 02886
Tel # 1-401-738-6899

The QNE represents a free-lanced bridge line running generally northeasterly from Hopewell Junction NY through the Springfield-Chicopee MA area to St. Johnsbury. The modeled portion of the road parallels the B&M Conn River line with an operational era of 1969-1980. Yard switching at Chicopee is handled by subsidiary Berkshire Terminal and includes interchange with New Haven/ Penn Central. The line is single track to St. J where live interchange occurs with CP & Maine Central, portions of which are also modeled.

Approximately 80% of trackage is in place in the shelf-style format with about 15% being sceniced. Walthers turnouts are used exclusively, all operated by Tortoise machines. NCE DCC is in use and the layout occupies all of a 26'x44' basement absent the stairway & furnace area. About half the power is painted for QNE, the remainder being mostly CP & MEC.

6. Rhode Haven Railroad

Marshall Sommer
Tel #1-401-333-9647

Ski Valley Condominiums
80 Fisher Road Unit #62
Cumberland, R.I. 02864

The Rhode Haven is a freelanced HO railroad using New Haven power. It is set in the 1930's through 1940's era. Since I live in a condo I do not have a lot of room in the basement so I used two rooms with a duck under to try and incorporate as much railroading as possible. The main room consists of a large city and yard and the small room has a smaller town and country. The railroad features many craftsman kits as well as kit bashed and scratch built structures. It is 3/4 complete with only an unfinished peninsular remaining which will be built as a large waterfront scene. I was lucky enough to have Lou Sassi shoot the layout which was published in **February 2010 Model Railroader**

Directions to Fisher Rd can be found in Google maps. Once you get to Fisher Rd. you go up all the way until you get to a small post office on the right. Take the first right after the post office, go up the hill and take a left at the stone wall. Continue straight and look for # 62 on the left. If you get lost call 1-401-333-9647.

7. Atlantic Great Eastern Railroad

Jeff Leonard

184 Jerrold St. Holliston, MA.

Tel # 508-429-6546

The Atlantic Great Eastern is an HO scale railroad running through Northern New Jersey in 1958. It is loosely based on the Lackawanna's "Old Road" and the Lehigh & Hudson River Railroad. The single deck layout occupies a 24' x 36' space in the basement. Most of the track is hand laid and the scenery is 90% complete. The railroad is powered by DC with tethered and radio throttles. It features both steam and diesel motive power on freights, locals and passenger trains.

8 Armand G. Lavoie

18 James Ave,

Westport, Ma.

Tel # 1-508-678-4490 .

Armand has a freelance HO scale layout located in a 15 X 28 foot area of his basement. It is built with two main lines. It is controlled by a Lenz DCC system and can also be operated with conventional DC. It models small town New England mountain areas. The layout has many scratch built and craftsman kit structures with lighting and animation. Scenery is 98%.

9 Scott Mason

9 Lee Street

Franklin, Ma. 02038

1-508-528-9457

Scott is well known in the hobby as the purveyor of model railroad DVDs and the Craftsman's Structure GURU. What many of you don't know is he is in the process of recreating the Rutland Railroad in his large basement, including a little freelancing of an interchange with the Hoosac Tunnel and Wilmington. Scott will explain to you how this happened

10 Dave MacPherson MMR

83 Bridge Street

East Bridgewater, Ma 02333

Tel # 1-508-378-3617

Dave's Clinch Mountain Railway is an HO scale, early 1960s, freelance layout located in two rooms in his basement, with many scratch-built and kitbashed structures, wireless throttles, hand laid track and finished scenery. It is a bridge route serving New England, interchanging with all local roads of the time period, with both point-to-point and continuous operation and featuring both steam and diesel motive power. Much has been added to the layout over the past two years including a new industrial area with many more structures.

For maps go to Google Type address in Google search (See special note for Don Itrace's) and enter, Go to Google maps, enter the address and map will appear.



Message from the Show Director:

30 days ago, I was making final preparations for what was to be our largest show in the past 4 years. Our near record breaking attendance was something to see. At one point on Saturday afternoon, we were told that we needed to open a few extra exits in the new Mallery Complex because the crowds were getting too large. Wow! What's interesting about this is that we continue to learn every year, making adjustments to continue to make our Show the best in the business.

Speaking of the new area, we have gotten dozens of compliments about the new carpeted children's area not to mention the train rides and the LEGO™ layout! The new additions to the clinics were also a point of interest and more compliments for this year, especially the Iwata Air Brush Clinic that was held the day before the Show as well as on Saturday. We continue to grow with clinics and meetings. The "Masters" clinic tripled in size from the year before, resulting in our moving that to the Carriage House for Thursday and Friday! The 1/87 Club was a huge success and they have already asked to be included in our Show for next year and have requested more space. The latest news, just in from the NMRA: They have now recognized this as one of the biggest shows in the country and are asking us if they can participate more....stay tuned as it sounds VERY interesting.

Some of the compliments included long-time attendees telling us that "this was the best show in the past 15 years," and "I had a 2-day pass and still could not see everything...have you thought about making it longer!" These compliments were probably due to the new exhibitors, the re-arrangement of the show with new manufacturers, and the overall addition of many more clinics, not to mention 60,000 additional square feet. Other results included more buses to the show than in the past and this year we doubled the number of unique hits to the website; over 75,000 visitors – since October 1, when we reset the counters! Have you been checking the internet blogs and chat rooms....we are even on You-Tube. Model Railroad Hobbyist Magazine has an 18 minute video on our Show! The point is that people know about the Amherst Railway Society...and that's great to see.

There's more: For our 2010 Show, early indicators are that we will once again, be able to give away approximately the same amount in grant money as last year. Organizations will be able to continue with their programs of restoration and education of railroading in the US. For the second year in a row, we were able to raise over \$4,000.00 for the Baystate Children's Hospital. And, this year more any other, our exhibitors tell me that they are growing their businesses because of our show and their success in it. We continue to have a direct effect on so many lives and I am extreme proud to be a part of it!

We were able to take advanced ticket sales again, this year having more than 7 times the amount from last year with over 750 advanced ticket sales! Most were from out of the area and for 2-day

tickets as well. People are beginning to realize that you can bypass the wait in lines by purchasing advanced tickets. We have more planned for the web site, so please continue to visit.

Folks on the wait list – there are still over 250 exhibitors – are pressing us more than ever before. The word is out that this is The Show – the biggest Show of its kind in the United States (not just New England) and it is a command performance, a must attend! Exhibitors that are in the show are delighted with their new digs, especially our layouts that have asked and received much more space. Did you see the Bachmann exhibit, complete with carpet and 4 running layouts – not to mention the “Hall of Fame” exhibit.....very classy! How about the Narragansett folks and their HOn30 layout with many more modules.....beautiful. We cannot forget our own Amherst Beltlines, boasting their biggest and best layout ever, complete with EngineCAM, a favorite of those watching.

We have begun the process of gathering info from our floor managers and volunteers with regard to “hits and misses” – what worked and what didn’t work. As a result, we are incorporating adjustments into the procedures for the 2011 show. (to be held January 29th and 30th, 2011).

Finally, get ready for our third annual silent auction! Again, we have accumulated many interesting things, from power packs to locos, to collections to kits and more. In keeping with our tradition, the auction will be at the beginning of the final meeting of the season. We were able to raise an average of about \$800.00 these past two years! I am looking forward to it already!

As always, I encourage anyone with any ideas, thoughts for the show, possible new exhibitors – you name it, we would love to hear from you.

John Sacerdote, Show Director

February 26, 2010

Fast Mail for Rail

Fast Mail for RAIL is a regular compilation of the latest news and updates from the passenger rail industry that delivers timely information, resources, and announcements to *RAIL Magazine* subscribers, colleagues and friends. Please keep us posted on your latest news and developments by emailing your content to fastmailrail@ctaa.org.

Amtrak Launches Safety Campaign: A new effort is underway to address the number of pedestrian train fatalities in the United States. Amtrak, along with the non-profit rail safety group Operation lifesaver, began a public awareness campaign Friday called "Common Sense." The goal of the campaign is to alert the public to the dangers of walking or playing around train tracks.

Maine Readies Plans for Downeaster Extension to Brunswick: The Obama administration has allocated \$35 million in federal stimulus funds to expand Downeaster passenger rail service north to Freeport and Brunswick with connections on to Rockland as part of its \$8 billion Recovery Act grants for developing a nationwide system of high-speed intercity passenger rail service. The funding is enough to complete the expansion for Amtrak's Downeaster service, including laying welded rail and improving 36 grade crossings along the 30-mile route.

Reminder: The First Annual Best in Rail Awards: There is much in passenger rail that is exemplary. From captivating stations to distinctive vehicles, much can be celebrated as iconic, unique and worthy of honor. In that spirit, RAIL Magazine will be presenting the first Best in Rail Awards in 2010. As this publication covers the entirety of passenger rail -- intercity, high-speed, heavy metro, commuter, regional, light rail, streetcar, trolley, monorail, airport trains, funiculars; anything that has rails and moves people.

RAIL Magazine invites you to nominate outstanding passenger rail achievements in the following categories:

- Most Distinctive Vehicle (post-1980)
- Best Modern Passenger Station (post-1980)
- Best Historic Passenger Station (pre-1950)
- Most Influential Rail Leader (living, non-fictional)
- Outstanding Commitment to North American Rail Manufacturing
- Top Passenger Rail Service (all modes)
- Most Innovative Design Element (i.e., bridge, map, icon, nuance)

While these categories may seem vague, that is exactly the point: entries are open to your interpretation and best judgment. To submit a nomination in any or all categories, simply send an email to raileditor@ctaa.org, or send your submission by standard mail to RAIL Magazine's editorial offices at 1341 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005. Submissions must be received by May 1, 2010.

New York MTA to Rehab Six Pelham Line Stations: MTA NYC Transit announces the next phase of a major \$89 million construction project to reconstruct and rehabilitate five stations on the Pelham 6 line. They are Whitlock Avenue, Elder Avenue, Morrison Avenue-Soundview, St. Lawrence Avenue and Parkchester. The first two stations to close for rehab are Whitlock Avenue and Morrison Avenue-Soundview. The stations will close beginning 5 a.m. Monday, February 8 and will remain closed until Monday, September 13, 2010. The rehab work at all five stations will include the complete replacement of the mezzanines, canopy roofs, track beds, platform edge safety tiles, and public address systems. The stations will also undergo an electrical upgrade and the installation of fluorescent lighting.

Vermont Advances Rail Expansion Plans: A bill in the Vermont Senate would make passenger rail service between Bennington, Rutland and Burlington a statewide priority. The Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs unanimously approved S.288, *An act relating to the Vermont Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2010*, on Thursday. The bill includes a section added by Rutland Democratic Sen. William Carris and Republican Sen. Vincent Illuzzi of Essex/Orleans, listing passenger rail in the western corridor as a specific statewide priority, rather than just a regional one.

MBTA (Mass.) Improves Real-Time Arrival Information: The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) has begun providing real-time train arrival information on the Fitchburg commuter-rail line. The agency recently installed global positioning system equipment on the line to provide riders a six-minute countdown to the next train via electronic message boards. Passengers onboard trains also will hear automated announcements about an upcoming station.

Chicago Transit Authority to Purchase Hundreds of New Railcars: The CTA board took action Wednesday toward completing the purchase of 406 of the rail cars from Canada-based Bombardier Transit Corp., with an option to buy 300 more later if the money for it is available. The board approved issuing up to \$550 million in revenue bonds to help pay for the \$674 million deal, which will lead to the belated retirement of CTA trains that date to 1969.

San Francisco Begins Rehabilitation of Torpedo PCC Cars: The first of the four double-ended Muni PCC streetcars has left San Francisco for a complete rehabilitation in Pennsylvania, at Brookville Equipment Company. No. 1008, which operated in passenger service until 1982 and was then converted into a "repair car" to tow broken-down streetcars back to the barn and perform other services, left Metro East Feb. 9. When it returns, it will be painted in the green and cream "Wings" livery in which it was originally delivered to San Francisco in 1948.

Upcoming dates that may be of interest

- Mar 21 – 7 pm : CV and NH Steam in Eastern Connecticut**
Windham Memorial Hospital 112 Mansfield Ave | Willimantic, CT
- Apr 16** **FLYING YANKEE FUNDRAISING CELEBRATION**, Executive Court, 13500 South Willow St., Manchester, NH. 6-11 PM. Cocktails, silent auction, dinner, entertainment. Tickets \$60. **Info:** FlyingYankee Restoration Group, Box 145, North Woodstock, NH 03262; 603-881-3317; **e-mail:** flyingyankee@usa.net; www.flyingyankee.com
- June 4 -5** **New England / Northeast Prototype Modelers Meet Collinsville CT**
- June 12-13** **Pioneer Valley Live Steamers Work Weekend Southwick MA**
- June 15** **All materials borrowed from the ARS library are due.**
- June 18-20** **Fathers Day weekend –**
Pioneer Valley Live Steamers annual open to the public weekend
- June 22-26** **NRHS Annual Convention – Scranton PA**
- July 11 -17** **NMRA National Convention – Milwaukee WI**
- 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