



Modular Mumblings

The Amherst Railway Society, Inc. HO Scale Modular Layout
Newsletter
Fall 2009

Amherst Belt Lines
P.O. Box 2351
Amherst, MA
01004-2351

email:
AmherstBeltLines@amherstrail.org

Show Schedule:

October 4, 2009:

Pepperell Siding Model Railroad Club Show and Open House
Pepperell, MA

Sunday 10:00AM to 4:00PM.
Setup Saturday Oct 3

November 8, 2009:

Bedford Boomers 27th Annual Model Railroad Exhibition
Bedford, NH

Sunday 10:00AM to 4:00PM.
Setup starts Friday after 5:00PM

December 5 and 6, 2009:

NMRA® HUB Division New England Model Train EXPO
Marlborough, MA

Saturday 10:00AM to 5:00PM
Sunday 10:00AM to 4:00PM.
Setup starts Friday after 4:00PM

January 30-31, 2010:

Amherst Railway Society, Inc. Railroad Hobby Show
West Springfield, MA

Saturday 9:00AM to 5:00PM
Sunday 10:00AM to 5:00PM.
Setup starts Thursday afternoon, January 28, around 1:00PM

Coordinators:

Sudro Brown
Clark Huber
Alan Rice
ABEL_planning@amherstrail.org

*A Special Interest Group of
The Amherst Railway Society, Inc.*

Look for us on the Internet at www.amherstrail.org/abl

It's Showtime...!

Where did the summer go? It seems like we were just at a train show, and now it is time to start planning for the fall shows! The Belt Lines has invitations in hand, and for the most part accepted, for all three of our fall shows in Pepperell, MA, Bedford, NH and Marlborough, MA. Since our 2009/2010 show season has already started with the National Train Show® in Hartford, CT in July, let's start with a show wrap-up before we get to the next three.

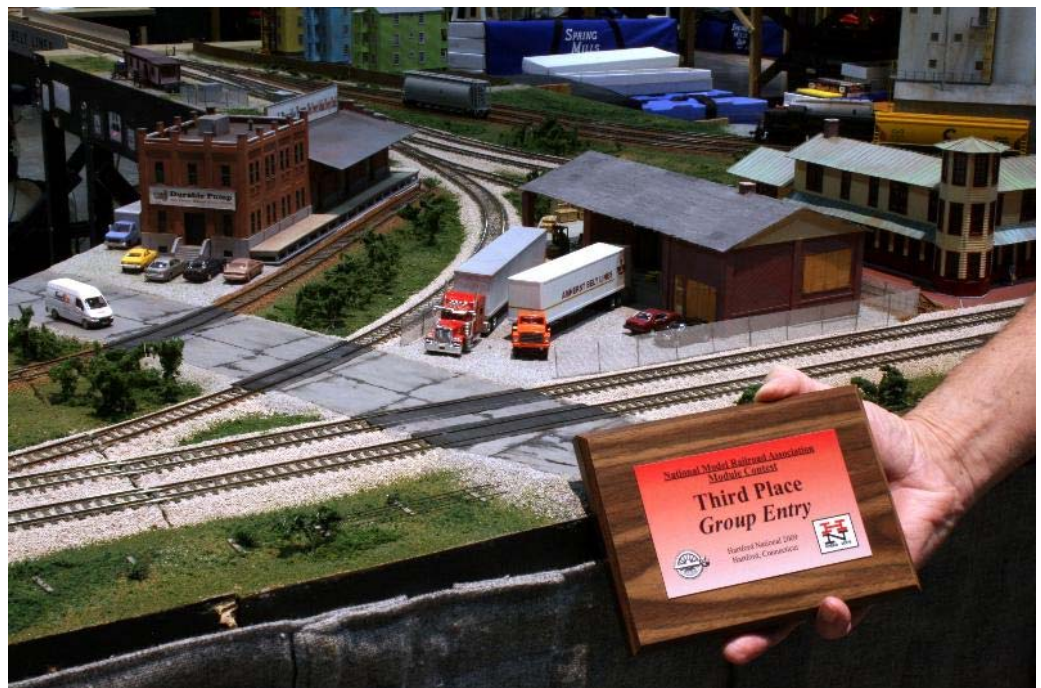
The "Award Winning" Modular Railroad

The National Train Show® at the NMRA® National Convention in Hartford, Connecticut in July was quite an event. Thanks to your efforts and patience during move in on Wednesday, the entire layout was in the Convention Center and on its feet

before the exhibit hall closed that night. The remainder of setup was typical and ran relatively smoothly. The show opened to convention attendees at 9AM on Friday, and to the public at noon. By the time the show closed on Sunday, after three very long days, all who participated were worn out and ready for a vacation!

The show featured a typical mix of layouts and vendors, many of which attend the Railroad Hobby Show in West Springfield, Massachusetts. Because of the national nature of the show, there were a number of layouts and other participants that were not 'local' to the greater Hartford area, which offered the opportunity to see some great modeling work from outside of New England and New York. One layout made the trip up to Hartford from Georgia, a very simple modular layout with excellent scenery.

The Belt Lines layout saw the return of



some old friends that have been missing for a while from the layout. All through the show we ran live coal loads from the flood loaders to the rotary dumper, courtesy of John and Dana Bock and Wes Warner. Joe Biagioni's *Hooterville* module came back after a long hiatus. There were also several new modules that came to the show. Alex Conta introduced the *Dreamville Locomotive Works*, complete with a working transfer table. *Green Acres*, built by Brian Kleinknecht made its debut. The Bedson's *Prescott Valley* reinvented itself in ten feet, as did *Broadway* and *North Stratford*, built by Dave and Tom Kmetz. John Flander's *Stony Creek Bridge* grew four feet from its debut last year. It was great to see the return of some of the older modules to the layout as well as the continued growth of the Belt Lines by new talent!

One of the benefits to attending a train show sponsored on the national level is the ability to participate in the modeling contests, as long as you are a member of the NMRA®. One of our associates, Alex Conta, brought his stable of custom-built diesels and turbines and swept the diesel category with his handiwork. The layout was not left out of contest participation either. James Mayo and Jim Whitman each submitted applications for the module contest. James submitted his *Middletown* modules as an individual contestant and also *Bolton Junction* as a group entrant. Jim entered *Summit Junction* with all of its lights and sounds as an individual contestant. We are pleased to announce that two out of the three modules were award winners! Jim Whitman



was awarded the International Hobby Corporation's 'Pizzaz' Award and it is well deserved. *Bolton Junction* was awarded third place in the Group Entry category with recognition given to Alan Rice for design, Steve Belforti, John Bock, Sudro Brown and Clark Huber for construction and James Mayo for scenery. This isn't the first time that modules in the Amherst Belt Lines have won awards – Stan Slowik has won several of the Permon Awards at the Bedford Boomer's show, as has *Munsey's Farm*, built by Steve Belforti. Winning these awards at the National Train Show® just further recognizes the talents of our associates and the work that makes us an "Award Winning" modular layout!

After finally clearing out of the Convention Center late Sunday night, we were all ready to take a break and enjoy the

rest of the summer. A heart-felt "Thanks" is due to all of our associates who participated and made the setup, operation and break down of the layout run as smoothly as it did. As your module coordinators, we appreciate all that you do at each show to make it a success. Now, what do we do for 2010?

Pepperell Siding Model Railroad Show and Open House - Pepperell, MA Sunday, October 4, 2009

Our first show this fall is rapidly approaching as this is being written. The Pepperell Siding Model Railroad Club will hold its annual Railroad Show and Open House on October 4, 2009. The show is open to the public from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Sunday and will be at the Varnum Brook Elementary School, 10 Hollis Street in Pepperell, MA. Setup starts on Saturday, October 3; the school will be open from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. This year will mark the twenty second year the Belt Lines has attended the Pepperell Show and we are happy to be a continued part of this event.

An invitation to all module owners and associates was sent out by email several weeks ago. The deadline for module participation has long passed, having been September 13, but if you would still like to come to the show on the fourth, please feel free to attend. An email will be sent prior to the show to all attending to provide the arrival time for setup, although you are welcome to bring you module to the school any time after the building opens for setup.

For those who haven't attended the show, this is a great show to start our season and work the bugs out of the layout from being dormant through the summer. The show has a good mix of layouts and vendors spread throughout the cafeteria and gymnasium of the school. In addition to the show, or rather as a part of the show, the Club opens up their clubhouse for an open house. The Pepperell club has a modular layout that they bring to the Railroad Hobby Show, but they have also built a 'permanent' layout that utilizes some of the modules along with some less mobile pieces. The layout is worth seeing, and if we don't have an opportunity to visit Saturday night, it would be worth sneaking out for an hour during the show to view it. The clubhouse is not far from the school, and directions will be provided. For more information on the show, visit the club's web site at www.psmrc.org.

Bedford Boomers 27th Annual Model Railroad Exhibition – Bedford, NH Sunday, November 8, 2009

For our second show we will head a little further north to New Hampshire. On November 8, the Bedford Boomers will hold their Twenty-Seventh Annual Model Railroad Exhibition from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the McKelvie Intermediate School in Bedford. This show is a 'no vendor' show, with only layouts and displays of all scales. While HO scale is predominant, there is plenty of variety from N scale to Live Steam. In addition to the layouts, displays in the past have included

static displays of circus equipment and other railroadians. Past years have also presented displays of prototype equipment with a number of speeders on the property. The show is unique not only because of the lack of vendors, but also because it has exhibits indoors and outdoors. This year will mark the Belt Lines twenty-fourth year in attendance.

If you would like to participate at the show, with or without a module, we must know by **October 10, 2009**. Setup will start Friday night at 5:30 PM to 10:00 PM and will continue on Saturday at 7:30 AM. We would prefer to have all modules in the building Friday night if at all possible, but if you cannot make it to Bedford until Saturday morning, please let us know with your note of attendance. Because of the coordination required for this show, please let both **Clark** and **Alan** know that you plan to attend and for what days. An email response to AmherstBeltLines@amherstrail.org is sure to let everyone know. The Boomers have become more security conscious over the past several years and exhibitor badges provided by the Boomers must be worn at all times. They prefer to pre-print the badges prior to the show, so we must submit a list of all attendees by not later than October 20. Your cooperation will be appreciated in responding early if you plan to attend the show.

In addition to the public show, the Boomers have some special events scheduled on Saturday for exhibitors. The 6th Annual Victor Metoyer Photo Contest will be judged on Saturday. There are many categories in both prototype and model photography that can be entered. For more information on the contest try this link: http://www.boomers-rr.com/pdf/vmm_photocontestrules_2008.pdf. These are last years contest rules, but should be similar this year. The Boomers have also had clinics on various subjects in the past for exhibitors. Saturday night we will find some way to entertain ourselves. In the past we have attended operating sessions on local layouts, and this year will likely be the same.

For more information on the show and the Bedford Boomers, visit their web site at www.boomers-rr.com.

NMRA® HUB Division New England Train EXPO – Marlborough, MA Saturday and Sunday, December 5 and 6, 2009

Our third show for the last quarter of 2009 will be the New England Train EXPO in Marlborough, MA. This is a two day show sponsored by the Hub Division of the NMRA®. The Belt Lines has been attending now for several years and have been honored to be placed in a prominent position in the show as well as on the Hub Division web site. Held at the Best Western Royal Plaza Trade Center in Marlborough, the show will be open to the public from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Saturday, December 5, and from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Sunday the sixth.

We have given the Show Committee our positive response for attendance this year and requested the same amount of space as last year. We have a little time before this show, but ask that if you want to attend, you let **Clark** and **Alan** know as

soon as possible. The deadline for attendance sign-up will be **November 1, 2009**, which will be here before you know it! As with all of our away shows, we need to know when you will be arriving, if you need accommodations, what module(s) you will be bringing (if any!) and if you plan to be at the show through Sunday. Because of the mix of vendors and exhibitors, the Hub Division is very conscious of security, much like the Boomers. Badges will be required by all show participants and we must provide the names prior to setup so that badges can be pre-printed.

Setup will start on Friday at 4:00 PM until 9:00 PM and continue on Saturday morning from 7:00 AM to 9:30 AM. We may have the opportunity to get in to the Trade Center before 4:00 PM on Friday to start setup – we have been setting up prior to that in years past. As we get closer to the date and more details become available, we will be sure to update this information. Your coordinators are looking for something to do Saturday night for entertainment. Past years have included operating sessions or slide shows. Last year we were able to get a meeting room at the Best Western and have a ‘member’s night’ style slide show where anyone could participate if they brought slides. Let us know what your thoughts are for this year and we’ll throw those ideas in the mix.

If you’d like more information on the show, visit the Hub web site at <http://www.hubdiv.org/fallshow/index.htm>.

DCC Update

Over the summer there was some maintenance performed on the ABEL Command Station that is used at all the shows. Hopefully, this will improve operation as we move forward. Part of this maintenance wiped out the cab addresses in the Command Station memory. For those of you with Cabs in the ABEL database, this means that starting in Pepperell, your Cab will need to be checked for a valid cab address and may potentially need to be readdressed due to changes in the Command Station. If you have a new Cab you would like to have added to the database, now is the time to do it. Space is limited, so plan on having your Cab checked at your first show this season!

End of the Line

That will do it for this edition of the *Modular Mumbblings*. We look forward to seeing you in Pepperell, MA very soon, Bedford, NH in November and Marlborough, MA in December. **Remember that the deadlines for module sign-up and attendance are October 10 for Bedford and November 1 for Marlborough.**

If we don’t see you in the coming months, we look forward to seeing you in West Springfield! And, as always, remember...

Modular Railroading is Fun!!

Sudro, Clark and Alan

Modular Railroading is Fun!



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