

# Sparks & Steam

Newsletter of the Central New York Large-Scale Railway Society • [www.cnylrs.com](http://www.cnylrs.com)

March  
2012  
Edition



MARK YOUR  
CALENDARS!

March 3-10  
Greenburg Show  
Rochester  
(there will be a  
carpool)



## Remember When?

Shirt-sleeves and greenery, they'll be coming back and it is time to schedule your open houses for another garden railway tour season. As there's an NMRA Division convention in September, I've scheduled mine for one of those afternoons and plan on having a member's day sometime during the summer.

If you haven't set a date be certain to do so and notify Ed Feeley so he can add you to his schedule.

Oh yes, that's Roger at play.

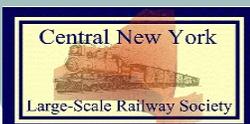
## Five-Rail Grover

A 'borrowing' from Tin Plate Times and on-line site covering early toy trains. Pictured below are Alex and Thomas at one of our Family Train Days beside a loop of five-rail track; Standard & 'O' and of course the fifth rail is the center one. Charles authored a how-to on creating this track from standard product for the above site. Hopefully after the Grovers settle in from their move to Dallas, their backyard shed will be history and in its place a new train building. Charlie, send us some pictures when it's completed.



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## FAQ

We often mention car pools when listing train shows and sales which usually result in the same question; "Do they have any large-scale?" There is no definitive answer to this question, one takes their chances, it's a gamble; however, often worth taking. The next time we offer a ride come along and "take your chances."

## Amherst Encounter

Long-time friend of we Central New Yorkers, Don Sweet, showed the latest RCS remote control system along with his line of Accucraft trains. Several of us use the earlier version of RCS, a unit that was made in Australia. The newer version with control of multiple locomotives is of domestic manufacture. Interested?

<http://www.remotecontrolthrottles.com/>



## Pennsy

In a very large scale, of the Finger Lakes Live Steamer's variety.

Friend, Andy Morrison, built this beautiful model to be hauled behind his live steam Pennsy 2-10-0 Decapod, such units operated on the Elmira to Sodus Point coal trains. These trains were unusual in that they were delivering coal for an Oswego power plant but because of odd rates it was cheaper to haul to the Point and transfer the coal to a lake boat for Oswego delivery. Part of this line is still in service; however, the Sodus end is gone along with the transfer pier. A visit to the Point's lighthouse museum offers a great exhibit on this service complete with a video and model of the coal trestle, plus many photos. Well worth a visit.

## A Couple of Pics from Past Family Train Days!



Big Bird has landed

The Marines have landed



## Build them and they will come....

Roger's workshop of creating buildings based on prototype units has been added to our website. Look for "workshop." Anyone interested in getting plans for a building project check with Roger or Ye Editor for a source. Or make a visit to an existing building of interest and with a few photos and measurements, create your own plans. The Woodard station here in Liverpool had plans published in Model Railroader several years back. Check with one of their subscribers for a down-load from the website or check out a member with the MRR archive disc.



## Workshop Update

**March 10th  
9:30 AM**

**How to Build a Stone Viaduct  
Presenter: Guy Garnsey**

To those who have seen Guy's garden layout, one of the distinctive features is an arched stone viaduct.

In our future will be our much-requested workshop on getting started in air brushing.

A workshop on our wish list is how to create your own figures. Anyone interested? Please let me know.....it will be for a Fall date as we are nearing the outdoor season.

## HO in the Garden

Yes, and not a modest loop of track, but a monster; trains of 100+ cars off-the-shelf locos doing heavy duty. A four-track viaduct at least 20 ft. long and much more.

And where is this wonder? Northern England (and it snows there) and it has been in place for many years. Interested? Check out Continental Modeller (try Barnes & Noble) or I'll bring a copy to one of our Saturdays.

You may have noticed that your newsletter and workshops are focused on interpreting the prototype in our large-scale. We all have our favorite railroads and time periods often related to our ages and scenes from childhood.

Modifying your rolling stock to represent these lines is quite simple for there is a wide range of product representing mainline railroads; our layout sometimes looks like the New York Central or the Union Pacific. While in the diesel era it is not difficult to find your particular favorite, steam era fans may have to do a bit of modifying of commercial product. It is easier than you think. New England short lines were filled with ex-Boston & Maine steam power, a simple re-positioning of the headlight (sans visor) to the middle of the smoke box with other modest changes would make a most acceptable model. Connecticut's Valley Railroad kit-bashed a 1 ft = 1 ft 2-8-2 built in China into a most acceptable New Haven unit. Baldwin built a lot of stock engines that were widely used here in New York State. Check with me at The Archives and I'll attempt to send you an appropriate prototype photo as a guide.

This coming garden railway tour season may find representations of various lines of fond memory. I'm looking forward to the experience. .

*Gordon*

## Amherst 2012 7/8 Scale

7/8 scale, that's the size ratio for large-scale trains of the 2 ft. gauge variety operating on 45mm (Gauge 1 / G Gauge) track.

One of the Maine two-footers in the above scale and a big one it is too. This show seemed to have a great representation of these railways with two of their preservation projects on display as was this (slightly dusty) HOn2 layout.

Oh yes, for those of you with the FAQ, the show was loaded with large-scale. Join next year's carpool.

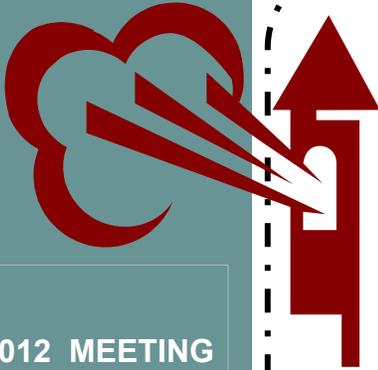


## Consolidation of the Month

Perusing some old Garden Railways prior to their going to a new home I ran across a Mike's Train House advert for a Southern Pacific based 2-8-0. Was it ever produced? Do any of our readers have one? An Aristo-Craft one is now gracing the layout and a fine looking model it is. The above is an Ontario & Western Consolidation pictured at Middletown, NY in 1938. These locos roamed the upstate lines of the O&W being the predominate freight motive power for the Northern Division headquartered in Norwich. Who is going to be the first with a kit-bash of the Aristo unit?



# Club News...Member Page



## PREZ'S TWO TOOTS

### 2012 MEETING DATES

All meetings will be held at 9:30 AM at the layout at Driver's Village. General meetings and Executive Committee meetings are open to members, spouses, friends, etc.

#### Executive Committee Meetings

Saturday, 3/17  
Saturday, 5/19  
Saturday, 7/21  
Saturday, 9/15  
Saturday, 11/17

#### General Membership Meetings

Saturday, 4/21  
Saturday, 6/16  
Saturday, 8/18  
Saturday, 10/20  
Saturday, 12/15

All dates are tentative and may be changed with sufficient proper notice given to the membership.

It's the end of February and the snow has come and gone again. We are looking forward to the end of winter and spring to arrive.

Although the weather is often mixed at best (like this winter has been), in March we just know that we will be able to get out there and work on our garden railways soon. It's a good month to work on our locomotives and rolling stock, getting them checked out and running well for the outdoor running season. I hope you will consider our Driver's Village layout as a good place to run your trains to make sure they run well after tuning them up. It's available for you to run any time the mall is open.

Our VP for Shows, Ed Feeley, wants to firm up the schedule for summer open gardens and would appreciate knowing which of us will offer to open our gardens to the public this summer. He wants dates and times by May 15th so he can work on getting the best publicity possible. Please help him with this scheduling task by agreeing to host an open garden and letting him know your open garden

dates soon. I'm sure that we will have a nice mix of gardens open this summer. It is nice for folks to see gardens of varying sizes, with varying themes, and in every stage of development (from newly formed to well-developed gardens).

It would be great to have an open garden almost every weekend during the summer months. In the past we have had some open houses grouped by area so people can enjoy more than one layout in their day. I understand that the Fulton and Oswego area is looking into doing this again this year.

Drivers Village has scheduled many activities for the month of March. Here are some of the ones that would be nice to have trains running:

**March 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
MDA Walk A Thon  
8 AM to noon

**March 9<sup>th</sup>**  
Blood drive  
10 AM to 4 PM

**March 18<sup>th</sup>**  
Taylor Fleming Family  
Fundraiser

Also remember the York, PA train show is March

23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Some of our members will be there.

I would like to pass along my experience at the Syracuse Car Show. As you know Driver's Village has many dealerships. As I talked to their representatives and mentioned that I was with the train club, EVERY one of them said how much they and their families enjoy our layout. Thanks to all who have made the layout such a joy to all who visit Driver's Village.

As usual our Family Train Day was a great success. Thank you to all that ran trains, the people who came seemed to enjoy the day. If I missed you at Family Train Day, I hope to see you at the April 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

*Jim Higgins*  
President

# Club News...Member Page

## CNYLSRS Officers for 2012

Jim Higgins  
President

Ed Feeley  
VP of Shows

Jim Leach  
VP for Layout

Jon McCumber  
Secretary

Bob Loran  
Treasurer

## Workshops

Would you like to offer a workshop on a topic of interest to you that you would like to share with other members? If so, please contact Gordon Davis. Possible topics: Garden structures and/or plants, making decals on a computer, controls systems (DCC, DC, Revolution), using air brush for painting, etc.

## *Educational Displays Updated*

One of the stated purposes of our club is: **“to provide information and education about railroads and railroading history via a permanent public display, participation in public events, outreach to other organizations, and service to local hospitals and other civic groups.”**

We have five areas at our layout in Driver's Village which are dedicated to these purposes. The four columns which define the outline of our layout have been decorated with posters (column #1 near the power console, columns #2 and #3 towards the mountain, and column #4 near the mill and covered bridge). The fifth area is the glass display case under the escalator. Column #1 has information about our club and its activities including some pictures of member gardens and the FLLS club's facilities at Marengo. Column #2 has pictures of member layouts. Column #3 has information on how we built the mountain and how we are decorating the layout with trees, structures, etc. Column #4 has information about the various buildings and structures that can be found on the layout, as well as information about the backdrops, plus pictures of member layouts.

The display case, #5, has information about model railroading as a hobby including information about gauges and scales demonstrated with cabooses of the different scales including Z, N, HO, S, O, G, and “Standard Gauge”; some information on building materials; samples of model railroad catalogs and magazines; “safety tips” when around real railroads, etc.

Please look over these informational displays and mention them to visitors when you are conversing with them.

If you have suggestions for adding to and/or improving these displays, please pass those on to Bruce Haney for consideration of inclusion in the future.