

Friends of Kingston Station, Inc.



WINTER 2006



TRANSPORTATION CAMP

Twice each summer young children come to the RI Railroad Museum as part of their week long experience at transportation camp. In conjunction with University of RI



Transportation Center and RIDOT transportation planning, the



Friends offer two components. Frank Heppner has a great segment on railroad history, including history of the station. Jack

McCabe presented a video and important railroad safety facts from Operation Lifesaver®. Of course the kids were very excited to take train watching breaks to wave at the conductors and train passengers on the platform.

NEWS BULLETIN! FRIENDS' RHODE ISLAND RAILROAD MUSEUM APPROVED FOR \$280,000 FUNDING!

On December 7, 2005, the Rhode Island Department of Transportation approved for funding the Friends' \$280,000 proposal to establish a formal railroad museum in Kingston Station. Work will not start until 2007, but much planning is needed. We will need lots of help-if you're interested, please come to one of the regular monthly (2nd-Monday) 7:15 meetings of the Friends at the station. More info: www.friendsofks.modblog.com

STATUS ON THE KINGSTON RR TOWER BLOCK STATION 133

It has been one whole generation since the local citizens accepted "the Block Tower 133" from Amtrak (1984) and moved it over to the state property. Although it is not an historic building, having been built in 1930, it is historically significant by virtue of being the last building remaining that was part of the station complex.

RIDOT, South Kingstown Parks and

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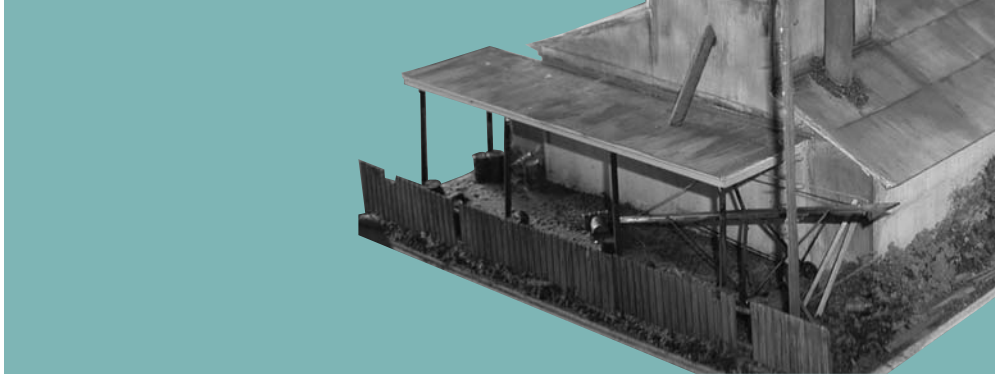
RI SUPPORTS NY FOR OL SAFETY AT THE STATE FAIR

Recreation, and the Friends met over the summer to settle up on the oversight and ongoing maintenance for the tower. RIDOT reports, the project is at 90% design. We hope to see requests for proposals (RFP) come out soon. The Friends have brokered a plan to use the first floor of the tower as a much needed comfort station for users of the O'Neill bike path. It will moved, restored, and located near the RIPTA bus stop at the Kingston Station.



THE NEW KINGSTON STATION MODEL RAILROAD

By Frank Heppner, Chairman



With the help of a generous grant from the Rhode Island Foundation, a “permanent” model railroad is finally under construction for the Museum. Among kids visiting the station, the old temporary layout was hands-down the favorite display—even today, kids love to see trains run.

Building a small model train layout for a railroad museum presents a number of challenges. As it is part of our railroad

museum, by definition it must be “museum quality,” that is, it must have a degree of historical accuracy and fine craftsmanship, but it must also be rugged and reliable. A Plexiglas shield will be required for example.

In a 4' x 8' space, you can only have a few key features. The Friends layout will show the Kingston station area in the historical period from about 1925-1950, and loop up to a view of Peace Dales’

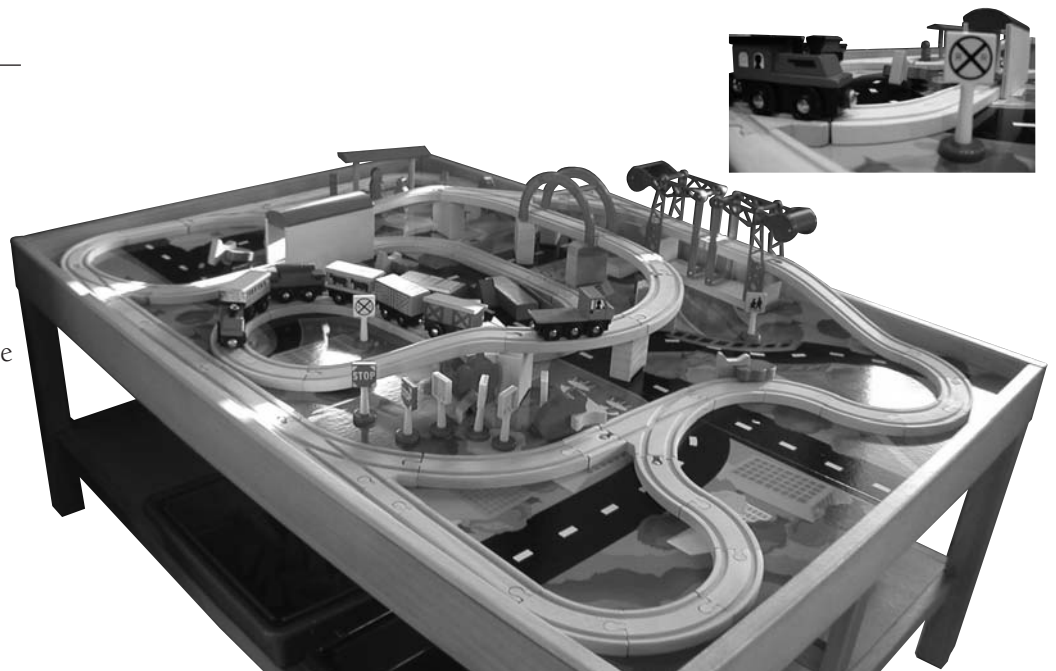
former trestle location. The basic design is a loop-within a loop. The inner loop, which will be station-side, represents the Narragansett Pier RR, and will feature trains appropriate to that line. The outer loop, with gentler curves, will be New Haven RR mainline track. The NPRR track will gradually ascend, to give an excuse to build the Peace Dale trestle just before the station.

Our HO train layout will also be useful for railroad safety education by our presenters of Rhode Island Operation Lifesaver. The HO model railroad is being constructed by our chairman, Frank Heppner and other volunteers. It will probably be at least a year before it is “completed.” The Friends being the Friends, there will undoubtedly be a ceremony and party to mark the occasion. All we have to do now is find an HO scale bottle of champagne.

THE BATTAT CHILDS’ TRAIN TABLE

The Friends board determined that many of our young visitors, being most eager to “run” a railroad and handle things more directly, needed a more hands on solution!

Eagle scout John McCabe volunteered his time to assemble the Battat train table kit donated by the Friends, and in no time young visitors took straight to it! Parents seem to appreciate the wooden trains and table as it keeps the children busy for a relaxing few precious moments.



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT CHARLESTOWN, RHODE ISLAND

RIOL was invited by the Charlestown Police to join in with the other safety related programs at the "National Night Out held at Ninigret Park in July. Many of the children attending were already aware of our program and even remembered some of the phrases they learned at visits to their school. "Tracks are for Trains and not for Kids," said one young fellow, having remembered perfectly the comments he heard when he saw the OL safety video at his school. There were over fifteen-hundred attendees enjoying the night out.



TIP OF THE HAT



• Anthony Gill, Newport artist who donated a etching of the Kingston

Station. Mr. Gill addressed our board and presented his gift at our April meeting. We have permission to use the image for fund raising.

• Mr. & Mrs. John F. McCabe, of Middletown, donated a 1920's era China cabinet to museum for displays.



• John F. McCabe, of West Kingston, presented his "Eagle Scout" project, a poster cabinet made from the old copper beech tree that stood next to the station for a century. John's "Eagle" award ceremony was held at the museum on September 10th, 2005. The cabinet was created for the Rhode Island Railroad Museum. To Bob Newman, Dan Nolan, Sean Reilly, and Troop 138 scouts for time and support on the above project.

• Bernadette DeAcentis has assumed the project of beautification at the start of the O'Neill bike path.

• Mike Monahan, graphic designer, creation of our newsletter.

• Tom Staton of Syracuse, NY, donating a (scratch built) fertilizer processing plant model.

• Dick Carpenter of E. Norwalk, Ct. Research on switch and signals and documents provided.

• South Kingstown Police Department for communicating with the state concerning the Friends reports on graffiti on nearby bridge abutments. Staying one step ahead of the taggers!





**RI SUPPORTS NY FOR OL SAFETY
AT THE STATE FAIR**

At the request of Charlie Alonges' call for volunteer assistance at the New York State Fair at the end of August, Jack McCabe agreed to devote two of his vacation days to the New York Operation Lifesaver booth. Both Charlie and Jack are the State Coordinators for the railroad safety programs in their respective states. Charlie approached Jack during the OL state coordinator summit they attended in April.

"I didn't mind it at all," said Jack about giving up his vacation time. "I love the train trip up the Hudson River to Syracuse, met some really dedicated NYOL folks, and enjoyed seeing the fair with my wife Martha". They do the same things we do... greet the public about rail safety.. I didn't need any training at all and I sure know how to fold thousands of engineer hats for the kids.

WORKSHOPS AT CAPE CODDER RESORT.

On September 20 & 21, Our RIOL safety presenters attended the Operation Lifesaver workshop hosted by MAOL at the Cape Codder Resort in Hyannis. Volunteers caught up on new aspects of the railroad safety program, upgraded DVD teaching tools, and other ways of improving state programs. Jack McCabe and Rich Neff volunteered to give one the seminar breakouts to instruct how to make tar-

geted power point presentations. RIOL donated two PowerPoint ready Kiosks for display and for the raffle. RIOL presented their annual awards to Amtrak Police Officer Russ Hall for over a decade of full time safety outreach to the communities, and to Julie Perkins for the most volunteer time devoted to presentations, safety shows, and other Operation Lifesaver safety activities in Rhode Island for 2004.

