

The Patcong Valley Model Railroad Club

The PATCONG VALLEY MODEL RAILROAD CLUB was formed in 1962 by a group of men who initially rotated among their home layouts. Their first club model RR was in a chicken coup on Patcong Ave in Linwood NJ not far from the Patcong tidal creek. The next layout was built at the farm of one of our members in Bargaintown off Fire Rd. It operated there for more than 25 years.

Currently, we have 30 members who travel here from locations as far away as Cape May, Margate, Tuckerton and Haddonfield. We take applications from prospective members. We hold shows open to the public on various occasions as announced on our web site, by flyers distributed throughout the area and e-mail notices. Most of our shows are on weekends in Nov. Dec. and Jan. Additionally, we work on building the layout most Tuesday and Saturday mornings between 9AM and noon. Visitors are very welcome to stop in, see the layout and talk to our members. We also meet Thursday evenings from 6 to 8 PM and hold our monthly business meeting the first Thursday of the month. The third Thursday evening is operating night. Visitors are welcome.

We signed our lease for the current location at 1308 Harding Hwy, Richland NJ, 08350 on March 16, 2005, with Buena Township. The township repaired and remodeled the exterior of the building and designed the front room to serve as a township visitor's center modeled after a midcentury railroad station. They did a great job. You really must see it. The rest of the interior was designed and rebuilt by the club at club expense. The first rail spike was driven October 22, 2005 and the final mainline spike July 21, 2007.

This is an HO scale (1:87) railroad with about 8 scale miles of mainline and more than twice that of sidings, spurs, by-pass and secondary RR tracks. The total size is about 25 by 70 feet. Digital command control (DCC) is the new electronics we use which includes full sound, smoke and many other features on the trains as they move about. Each engineer controls his own train thru the entire layout following on line signals. We have had as many as 1000 visitors on a weekend so the aisle space is designed to handle the crowd. The railroad represents primarily an East – West bridge route from Scranton PA, much of the way along the Susquehanna River, to Kingston, NY. 28 to 48 inch radius curves on the main allow us to run large engines with multiple engine consists and as many as 100 cars in length. Although the club owns and operates a few engines and rolling stock, the trains that run during the shows mostly belong to individual members who bring them in for the occasion. Beautifully detailed and weathers passenger, freight, military, maintenance, circus and other trains run up to six at a time on the main and others on branches and yards. Trains from the 1880's to current times will run from time to time.

We have no admission fee but donations are greatly appreciated as they help us to build the railroad and to pay our rent and utilities. Check our web site, Facebook.com and U-tube.com and use their search functions to find us. Send your e-main address to us to receive notices of our activities from time to time.

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