



The Short Line

April 2025

The Annual Club Dinner is held on Sunday May 18th at 4 PM at the Dubois Eat'N Park restaurant. It is easy to get to. Just put in your GPS. From State College and eastern PA take I-80 west to the first Dubois exit and turn right. Eat'N Park is to the right at the 2nd light just past Wendy's.

Coming from Altoona area, take I-99 to the Bald Eagle exit and that route 350 west to Philipsburg and go toward Clearfield on Route 322. Go through Clearfield and stay on route 322 to Rockton and then bear right to Dubois. At the light, turn right and go to the 2nd light. Straight in front of you on the other side of the road is Eat'N Park. Another option on route 322 at Woodland is to take the road leading to get I-80 and go west on I-80 to the first Dubois exit. Questions e-mail me.

I finally got around to the building my Piko Red River station. It is a simple kit to build and you can build it in about 2 hours. The hardest part was cutting out the clear window plastic for the 4 windows. Everything is held in place with plastic bars. The bars are grooved to hold the windows in place and small bars are used to hold the two doors in place. The walls slide into each other and I tapped them very tight with a small hammer which I then glued in place with Gorilla Clear Grip glue. I found that putting the front bay and the parts to hold the seat in the walls as they have little nubs to anchor them in place, but I couldn't push them through the walls. I trimmed the nubs off and glued them in place. If you buy the kit make sure you put on window in the bay area and not the hole in the wall. The sub roof is held in place by plastic supports that attach to the side of the walls and the sub roof. The actual roof is held in place by long tabs on the top of the wall sections. I added glue to make sure the roof never comes loose. Then all you have to do is push the 2 halves of the chimney together and snap in the hole in the roof if you can. I glued my chimney in place and put a piece of clear plastic I had on top of the chimney as I didn't want water flowing through the chimney. I added a 1/8 plastic sheet that I found in the basement to make a platform. If your building is going to be on the ground, you do not to add this.

I repainted the red parts except the doors, windows, and the sub roof panels a dark brown. Below is the picture from the box that the kit came in.



Front of the station



Back of the station



It passed the watchman tower on the raised layout.

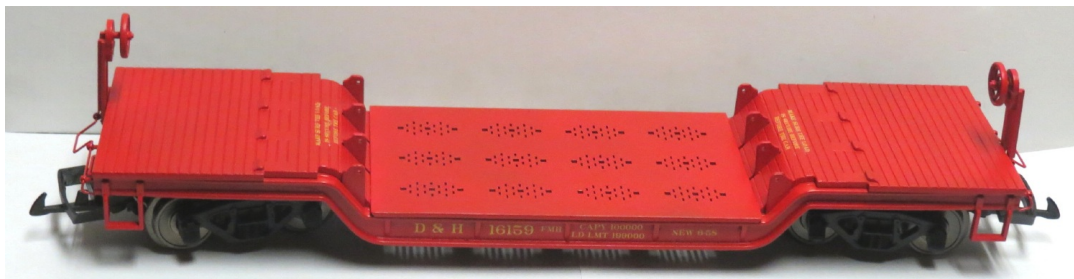
Dave Catalano's Update on His new layout



Dave on 4/24/25 added all the wood which he sealed with several coats of sealer on the trailer. His next project is to cover the wood with a grass rug. I told Dave he could buy the rug at Walmart as I covered my cement porch with 3 grass rugs several years ago. Each month in the Short Line, we will follow his progress to see how easy it is to build a raised layout. You could build in on a raised platform instead of a trailer. His layout is now 10 by 14 feet.

I will feature any other layout as you build it in the Short Line or any existing layout.

In April, other than Easter weekend, I have tried to get back on schedule with my custom painting. I began the month by making a new member Steve Sanford of Union Dale, PA some freight cars painted in Delaware & Hudson. Steve Sanford is, over in north eastern Pennsylvania, building a garden layout based on the D & H. I sold him a USAT center cupola D & H caboose. Then I took 2 of my own cars that I don't need and painted them red and lettered them with yellow lettering.



Years ago I gave Dave Farabaugh of St Marys, a D & H RS3 as at the time I had two of them. Dave passed away on Thanksgiving Eve of 2017. I sold all of the trains for his wife as she didn't know what to do with them. But Dave had loved the D & H RS3 and ran it a lot. He picked it up the long hood and in the process, he wore the lettering off of the engine. I kept it as I didn't think anyone would want it. His wife told me to take anything I wanted and besides the RS3, I took back two cars that I had made that

the decals had yellowed.

So I mentioned to Steve that I had a D & H RS3 and that I would give it to him. I restored the D & H lettering and replaced parts that were missing. He was missing the short hood handrail which I took off my new Aristocraft B & O center cab switcher and several of the plastic stanchions. The engine has sound, but he will need to get magnets.



I am in the process of custom painting a British Columbia Rail SD40-2 that Larry put the headlight in the short nose. I hope to have the locomotive painted by the middle of next week. The engine goes to my friend Rick in British Columbia, Canada. I also have two extended vision cabooses to do for him. All three pieces will be in red, white, and blue. You might remember the SD40 I did for him last year.



The next piece after those three pieces will be an E8A painted into Southern for a friend in Florida followed by a DRGW observation for Applied Imagination.

While I told friends I really didn't plan on buying any more engines, I came across a really good deal at Train-World last week. I bought another MTH SD70ACe, this time lettered in Canadian Pacific Veterans Heritage paint scheme. You might remember that last year I bought the Southern Pacific Heritage SD70ACe MTH engine which I test ran on the new raised layout.



This is a picture of the real Southern Pacific locomotive above.

The MTH model of it looked like this:



I test ran the engine in July after I had placed the track on the new raised layout and it tracked well as with the swinging pilots(like O scale diesels work), it went around my 5 foot curves with nary a problem. But with my raised layout, I don't see how fast I can go as I don't want an engine to fall off the layout.

I had a 6 x 13 foot G scale layout in the back of my classroom when I taught 3rd graders and also 6th graders to work as team, but that layout had plexiglass on the sides to keep some ambitious student from trying to run the train off the layout. I have thought about putting Plexiglass around the edges of the raised layout to prevent accidents.

Look close at the above picture and you can see the swinging pilots. If you have 8 foot curves, you can replace the pilots with fixed pilots as the fixed pilots are included in the MTH SD70ACe box. I sold the engine to my friend Mark who lives in the Houston, Texas area.

The new SD70ACe is copied from the CP heritage engine to honor those of World War Two. The model looks like this:





The picture was taken on my kitchen counter which is level, but the kitchen floor is not level which is why it looks like the unit is going downhill. It is 1:32 which is a hair smaller than USA trains, but will pull all G scale trains.

I don't use a cell phone as it has poor memory, but you can load an app and run the train with all the sounds and functions of MTH's DCS system with your cell phone or tablet plus 2 other items - the DCS Explorer Track Internet Interface Unit and either a AC or DC power supply. The app is free. The locomotive or any MTH locomotive comes with a booklet to explain their DCS system using your phone or tablet to run the locomotive and how to set it up. I might buy a tablet to run the engine as without the app, the engine has all sounds except the bell, horn, and cab talk which will not work.

Don't forget the dinner. I told Eat'N Park we would 8-10 folks there.

I am still looking for articles - just send as a word Doc and I change them to work with Word Perfect. I appreciate all the articles folks have written in the past.

Cheers,
Jeff