

Worcester Model Railroad Show and Open House
(as printed in the Webster Patriot, March 10, 2010)

Worcester Model Railroad Club held its semi-annual open house on Sunday, February 28 at two separate locations. Guests were treated to operating layouts in both N and HO scales at the club's permanent quarters, 137 Schofield Ave., Dudley. Also on Sunday, over 500 visitors to the club's annual show and sale held at the Auburn Elks Lodge enjoyed viewing operating layouts in O and HO scales. At this show 25 vendors displayed model railroad equipment for all scales as well as books, memorabilia, artwork and other items of interest to railroad buffs of all ages.

Founded in 1946, Worcester Model Railroad Club moved from its location of 15 years in Worcester to new Dudley quarters on June 1, 2008. Construction of a 3,000 square foot HO scale, operating model railroad began immediately. More recently the club has embarked on a modular layout in the smaller N scale. In this concept each participant builds his or her 2 ft. by 4 ft. "module".

The modules are then connected together to form an operating layout. They are designed to be interchangeable so that they can be assembled and operated in endless combinations. The modules are also portable allowing them to be assembled and operated away from the club.

Both layouts continue to be works in process. When asked about a completion date, club president Peter J. Smith of Oxford chuckled and allowed that no model railroad is ever complete.

The club meets in Dudley every Tuesday evening. One meeting per month is devoted to operating the main layout with the remaining Tuesdays being devoted to construction and repair.

While some members have home layouts, many devote their entire modeling energies to one or both of the club layouts.

Crafts including carpentry electronics, model making, scenery construction and computer operation is required in model railroading and the club is a valuable resource for its members.

Members who are masters of each of the crafts share tips and pass their skills on to other interested members.

Worcester Model Railroad Club currently has 30 members ranging in age from early teens to mid eighties. New members of any age are always welcome. Skill levels are as varied as the ages and the only requirement is a heartfelt desire to participate in model railroading, “The Word’s Greatest Hobby”.