



MAY EVENT

The next Little Rhody Division event is scheduled for **Saturday, May 4** at the **United Methodist Church**, 1558 South County Trail, East Greenwich, RI 02818. Parking and entrance at the rear of the building. Spouses and guests are always welcome.

We will begin with coffee, donuts and socializing at **9:30 AM**, followed by information sharing and a short business meeting at about **10 AM**. Plus, as always, we will share ASK A QUESTION/SOLVE A PROBLEM, a forum for our in-house experts to answer your questions and solve your nagging model railroad problems.

"A History of the Old Colony & Newport Railway" by Jack Doyle

VIEW OF THE NEWPORT TERMINAL SHOWING THE
STEAMBOAT LANDING AND ROUNDHOUSE

For those of us who missed his presentation at the Newport Convention, Jack Doyle will be joining us again with some of his photos to discuss the history of the Old Colony and Newport Railway, from its inception up to Conrail (for those who travel to Boston on Amtrak or the MBTA you still ride on the tracks of the Old Colony and Newport Division of the New Haven RR).

The discussion will begin with the city of Fall River's nefarious maneuvering to prevent the rail line extension to Newport in an effort to keep the southern terminus in their city. It will cover the challenge of bridging the treacherous current at the head of the Sakonnet River. The steady rise of the railway on Aquidneck Island including the

famous "Boat Trains" which ran express from Boston to connect with the elegant steamers that plied Long Island Sound to New York City. Newport, in fact, had two stations - one to service the community and another on Long Wharf to meet the boats. We'll meet "Capt." Asa Porter, the epitome of a well-turned-out conductor who knew his regular passengers by name. Later, we meet Jim Steele, the burly New Haven freight agent who was reputed to have taught every kid in Newport how to swim. We'll consider the vital role of the railroad in WWII, when the Navy base received tons of material as well as recruits packed aboard "Sailor Trains", and solve the mystery of why the I-4 backed to Fall River. We will end considering the contemporary Old Colony & Newport, a tourist line created in 1979.

White Elephant Table

Bring your surplus train stuff to our White Elephant Table and see if someone would like to give a new home. Provide a suggested price for your items, but be willing to haggle a bit if necessary. Price tags will be available. A contribution to Little Rhody Division of 10% of the selling price is requested to support our endeavors and to offset any expenses we may incur.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Our Election of Officers will take place at the Annual Meeting on June 12. Superintendent Sue Osberg has appointed a Nominating Committee consisting of Tom Emmett, Steve Erickson and Justin Maguire to solicit candidates for office. The following positions are open: ***Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Paymaster, Chief Clerk and Director***. If you would like to run for one of these positions or would like more information, please Contact Justin Maguire at pennywhistle@fullchannel.net.

A QUICK SURVEY...

If you could pick one topic for a clinic/presentation, what would you choose? Send me an e-mail (xxxx@aol.com) with your choice. This will help us with planning. Thank you!

FUTURE EVENTS

June

Wednesday Evening, June 12 - **Annual Dinner Meeting and Election of Officers** at Chelo's Hometown Bar & Grille, 505 Silver Spring St, Providence, RI 02904. Advance reservations are required. Details to follow.

July/August

Summer Outing - TBD - We are looking at several options. Let me know if you have any ideas.

As always, please contact me with any questions or issues.

Linda Bergemann
Membership Chair
Little Rhody Division NMRA