

# LEDBETTER'S LEDGER

ISSUE TWO



JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2006

## MGBRR LEASES LOCO FROM UP

One of our readers recently wrote to me and asked "What has that big Union Pacific locomotive with the U.S. flag been doing on the MGB Railroad?" If you live around these parts, I know you've seen it too, and probably asked yourself the same question. I decided to call up the MGB home office in Bardstown to speak with my good friend J. W. "Spike" Bentley. Spike has been the Superintendent of the MGB since 1981. He and I go way back (but that's another story). I decided to do the rest of this article in a question and answer format. Our conversation went something like this:



UP #5714, a GE AC4400CW leased by MGBRR

**Harold Ledbetter:** Spike, how about telling our readers about the UP loco we've been seeing on the MGB.

**Spike Bentley:** Well, Harold, our traffic has really been on the increase here for quite some time now. There's been so much of an increase that our small group of company-owned locomotives just hasn't been able to keep up. We talked about buying a new loco, but frankly, they're just too darned expensive. Instead, we decided to lease a locomotive from the Union Pacific.

**H.L.:** Why the Union Pacific, Spike?

**S.B.:** We shopped around quite a

bit and they made us an offer we just couldn't turn down. Also, they promised us one of their big General Electric locomotives.

**H.L.:** Do you mind telling our readers a little about the UP loco?

**S.B.:** Not at all, Harold. It is a GE model AC4400CW and the UP has hundreds of them working all over

their railroad. As you probably already know, all diesel-electric locos use their diesel engines to create electricity. The electricity is then transferred to electric traction motors that make the loco move. This model has alternating current (AC) traction motors instead of direct current (DC) motors like its predecessors. That's why the model number begins with "AC". This unit is a little over 69 feet long and weighs in at 415,000 pounds. It has two three-axle trucks and has a maximum speed of 75 miles per hour.

**H.L.:** How many horsepower does

this big unit have?

**S.B.:** It's rated at 4,400 horsepower.

**H.L.:** Oh, so now we know where that part of the model number comes from!

**S.B.:** You're exactly right, Harold. This model has been in use since

1994, when the first unit was delivered. They've proved very popular because they're powerful and very reliable.

**H.L.:** Do you believe the MGB will have to lease even more locos in the future?

**S.B.:** Harold, with the way our traffic is increasing, I believe it's entirely possible. We may even see lease locos from other railroads besides the UP on

the MGB.

**H.L.:** That's exciting news for all of us that are rail fans!

**S.B.:** It is exciting and believe me, you'll be the first to know if, and when, that happens, Harold.

**H.L.:** Spike, thanks so much for taking time out of your busy schedule to speak with me today. I know our readers will enjoy learning more about operations on "our favorite railroad".

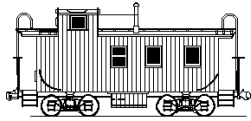
**S.B.:** You're quite welcome, Harold. It's been a pleasure talking to you again.

THE AREA'S ONLY  
SOURCE FOR MGB  
INFORMATION



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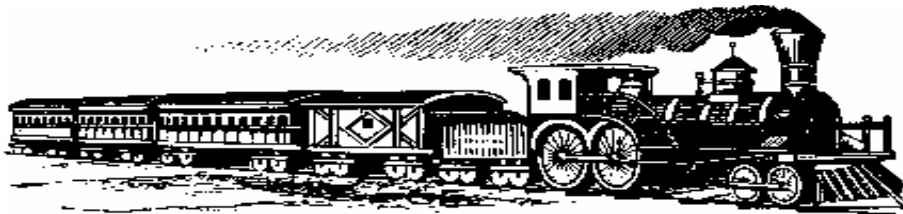


MGB MODEL RAILROAD CLUB SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- Work Sessions—7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
- Operating Sessions—1:00 PM to 4:00 PM
- Jan. 16—The MGB Model Railroad Club will go train watching
- Jan. 21—The MGB Model Railroad Club will visit our fellow modelers at the Central Alabama Model Railroad Club

## JANUARY 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5 Work Session	6	7 Operating Session
8	9	10	11	12 Work Session	13	14
15	16 Special Event	17	18	19 Work Session	20	21 Special Event
22	23	24	25	26 Work Session	27	28
29	30	31				



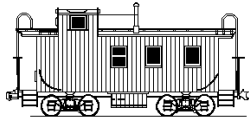
### MGB MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: GARY MOORE

As a founding member of The MGB Model Railroad Club, Gary has poured his lifelong passion for trains into model railroading.

Gary started model railroading as a child with an O scale train set.

His love of railroads led him to work briefly with Southern Railroad after college.



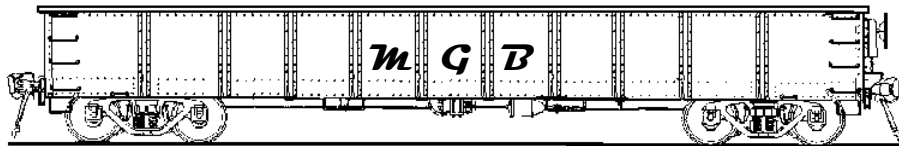


MGB MODEL  
RAILROAD CLUB  
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- Work Sessions—7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
- Operating Sessions—1:00 PM to 4:00 PM
- Feb. 20—The MGB Model Railroad Club will go train watching

## FEBRUARY 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Work Session	3	4 Operating Session
5	6	7	8	9 Work Session	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 Work Session	17	18 Operating Session
19	20 Special Event	21	22	23 Work Session	24	25
26	27	28				



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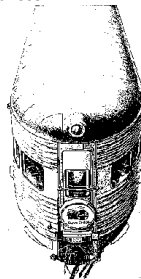
- Fun
- Educational
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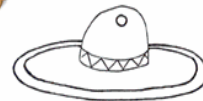
### MGB Railroad

Foggy Bottom Station

Tel: (555) 357-6421



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## MGB MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

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"WHERE LIFE IS NOTHING BUT FUN"

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE !!!

[HTTP://WEBPAGES.CHARTER.NET/SCOTTBRETT](http://webpages.charter.net/scottbrett)

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The MGB Model Railroad Club was founded in 1995 by Matthew Harris, Gary Moore and Brett Scott. Version 1 (as it is now known) of the MGB was located in a storage shed behind Brett and Jeanne Scott's home, while Version 2 is nestled within Brett and Jeanne's home. The railroad will eventually fill most of the 18' by 49' room above the garage. The MGB is an HO scale layout, and at present, the railroad has 164 feet of track laid along with 6 switches. There is approximately 350 feet of wire providing power to the track. Our railroad is operated through the use of a Digitrax Digital Command Control (DCC) system. Each locomotive contains a computer chip (a decoder) which allows it to receive instructions from the DCC system. Each locomotive has a unique DCC address (sort of like a house number), which under our system, is the same as its locomotive number. We currently have 5 locomotives with decoders installed in them (4 Diesels and 1 steam).

Unlike some other model railroads, the MGB is not modeling a specific timeframe. As a result we operate both steam and diesel locomotives. The scenery for Mt. Pilot will be modeled to represent springtime, but eventually, the MGB will "travel" through all four seasons. Our policy is not to get hung up on being so particular about "the way it is done in the real world", but rather to have a good time. That's why our motto is "MGB—where life is nothing but fun!"

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## MGB Model Railroad Club Layout Highlight

### Rush hour at Foggy Bottom Station

