



Have You Heard about Model Railroad Podcasts?

by Jim Walsh

I have discovered that there are people who don't listen to podcasts and some that do not know what they are. Podcasts are audio programs that are delivered over the internet to an iPod or accessed on computer. There are podcasts on a variety of topics and I listen to one on photography as well as a few on model railroading.

I discovered the Scotty Mason Show (www.themodelrailroadpodcast.com) on my computer late in 2009 and later transferred the MP3 files to my MP3 player. It enabled listening to model railroad discussions and tips while working on activities like raking leaves and shoveling snow and it made those chores a lot less tedious. On Christmas Day 2011, I received an iPod Touch and discovered all the podcasts available for subscription through iTunes. That is when I discovered more podcasts dedicated to model railroading.

The Model Railcast Show (www.modelrailcast.com) is cohosted by the Garden State Division's own Craig Bisgeier. The show relates helpful information and there are guest model railroaders with great information, tips and stories. The Model Railway Show (www.themodelrailwayshow.com) was a shorter format podcast with two guests interviewed on each show. The guests were often famous or important people in model railroading. This podcast ended in early 2013 but all shows are still available and worth hearing. All episodes of The Model Railway Show are now available for downloading at the Internet Archive (<https://archive.org/details/TheModelRailwayShow>) or through iTunes.

While the previous podcasts are organized like radio talk shows, the Model Rail Radio (www.modelrailradio.com) podcast is the only live call-

in talk show for model railroaders. All modelers are invited to call with questions or comments about model railroading. Alternatively, listeners can participate through the online chat or simply listen to the live broadcast. After the live show, the host, Tom Barbalet edits the hours of material and posts the resulting podcast for everyone to hear.

There are some other podcasts that are not as regular in schedule but still available. The Observation Car Podcast (www.observationcarpodcast.com) This podcast's hosts include Dave Frary and contains good model railroading discussions. It has not been updated for a long time but there are currently a few episodes available. Another podcast that is not very regular and available through iTunes is the Model Railroad Hobbyist Podcast. This one is affiliated with the Model Railroad Hobbyist free online magazine.

This is a summary of the model railroad podcasts that I listen to for concepts and ideas and I recommend that you try some. I find them to be valuable resources for model railroading instructional and inspirational. Besides the podcast audio program, most usually feature additional information on their web sites through text, photographs and helpful links to other web pages. As a result of listening to these podcasts, I became more active in the hobby, started annual trips to the West Springfield train show (Amherst Railway Society Railroad Hobby Show), started building craftsman kits, joined the NMRA, subscribed to RMC and the Model Railroad Hobbyist online magazine and purchased a TI Launchpad microcontroller development kit (but that's a story for another article).