

Max Munger's Western Pacific Railroad



1. What is the name of your layout? Western Pacific RR in Maryland (WPnMD)

2. What scale is your layout? HO

3. Does your layout have a specific era and/or location?

This layout depicts the Western Pacific RR third subdivision from Oroville CA to Keddie CA (78m) and the fourth subdivision over the Keddie Wye to Westwood CA (39m) in autumn 1950. This may be more familiar as "Feather River Country" and the 1931 "High Line" Northeast Extension (to Bieber and the Great Northern RR). WP (UP in 1983) was the last class 1 railroad built in America. Started in 1903, this bridge line quickly stretched 930 miles from Oakland CA across northern California and Nevada to Salt Lake City UT (Rio Grande) by 1909 with a ruling grade of only 2%. The WP was the third leg of the famous "California Zephyr".



4. What are the overall dimensions of your layout? The walkaround layout is 22' by 24' with a total mainline of 450'.



5. How do you control your layout? It is single track with passing sidings controlled by distributed Digitrax DCC with 12 power districts.

6. When did you start making your layout? Construction began in December 2015 with finishing of the basement walls, lighting and suspended ceiling. Box frames and ½" plywood flats are mounted around the walls on the lower levels with metal bracket shelving supporting the narrow second and third levels. Levels are at 40", 50" and 60" with several moveable floor

risers for ease of reach. There are two standalone 'blobs' projecting into the room extending the mainline away from the walls. A staging area from Keddie to Portola CA connects back to Oroville yard for a continuous lower-level route for east-west through trains. A reverse loop is at Bieber enabling return of the High Line traffic to Keddie.

7. Do you host operating sessions or would you consider doing so? The round-robin Chesapeake Trainmasters Club has operated here for several years with plans to continue post-COVID. The layout was open for the 2018 MER Convention. Note the RR is located in a basement, with narrow stairs and is not handicap accessible.

8. What type of track (sectional, flex track or hand laid) and switches are on your layout and what is its code? Micro Engineering (ME) code 83 track and #6 turnouts are used throughout on cork subroadbed over ½"



plywood. Turnouts are controlled by Caboose Hobbies N scale trackside throws with Barrett Hills micro servers and “touch toggles” for remote areas and yard throats. LED strip lighting was added over the lower yard and other scenic areas where the overhead fluorescent lighting is shaded.

9. If you were to brag about your layout what would you describe as its outstanding feature(s): The Feather River area is fully scenicked, other areas partially covered with only Greenville, Westwood still in plywood status. The Keddie wye is not built as yet. A work in progress. Buildings, industries, and switching are being added slowly. Several Micro Engineering bridges are installed with many more to be built. Rolling stock is mostly 1970-80-90 accumulation of western reporting marks with a lot of newer Accurail kits to be built. I love old boxcars and 1940's vivid schemes!