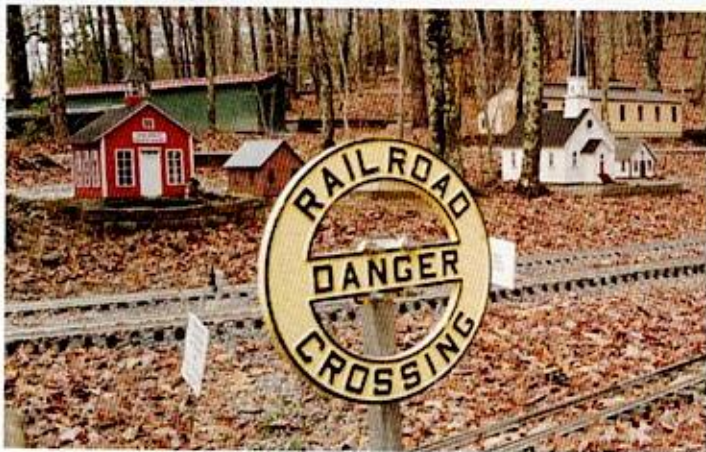


Railroad



Eagle Point Railroad passes through miniature towns and industrial areas.

"During the year, we'll schedule operating sessions where we operate the model railroad like a real railroad," Larry says. And because it is a signal track, they can safely operate trains going in both directions. It takes about an hour and 15 to 20 minutes to travel the 5-mile railroad, depending on traffic.

While some may refer to the trains as miniature, they're certainly not small. Some of the smaller locomotives are 300 to 400 pounds, while midsized ones are typically 800 to 900 pounds. "Then some of the large ones are up to 2,000 pounds each," Larry says. "One of our members calls it 'the hernia gauge.'"



Larry checks a water tank for the steam engines.

The trains aren't cheap, either. "You can build your own fairly inexpensively," Larry says. But a commercially built steam locomotive can run \$30,000 to \$40,000. Diesels typically cost about \$15,000 to \$20,000.

Running a live steam railroad can take serious money and skilled engineering, but in the end, it's all about fun. "It's just big kids playing with big toys," Larry says. 🚂



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