WE ARE MANY. WE ARE RAILFANS.

WATCH VIDEO

A RAILFAN'S JOURNEY: FROM ENGINEER TO YOUTUBER YouTube Modeling

RAILFAN-JOE NOVEMBER 5TH, 2020

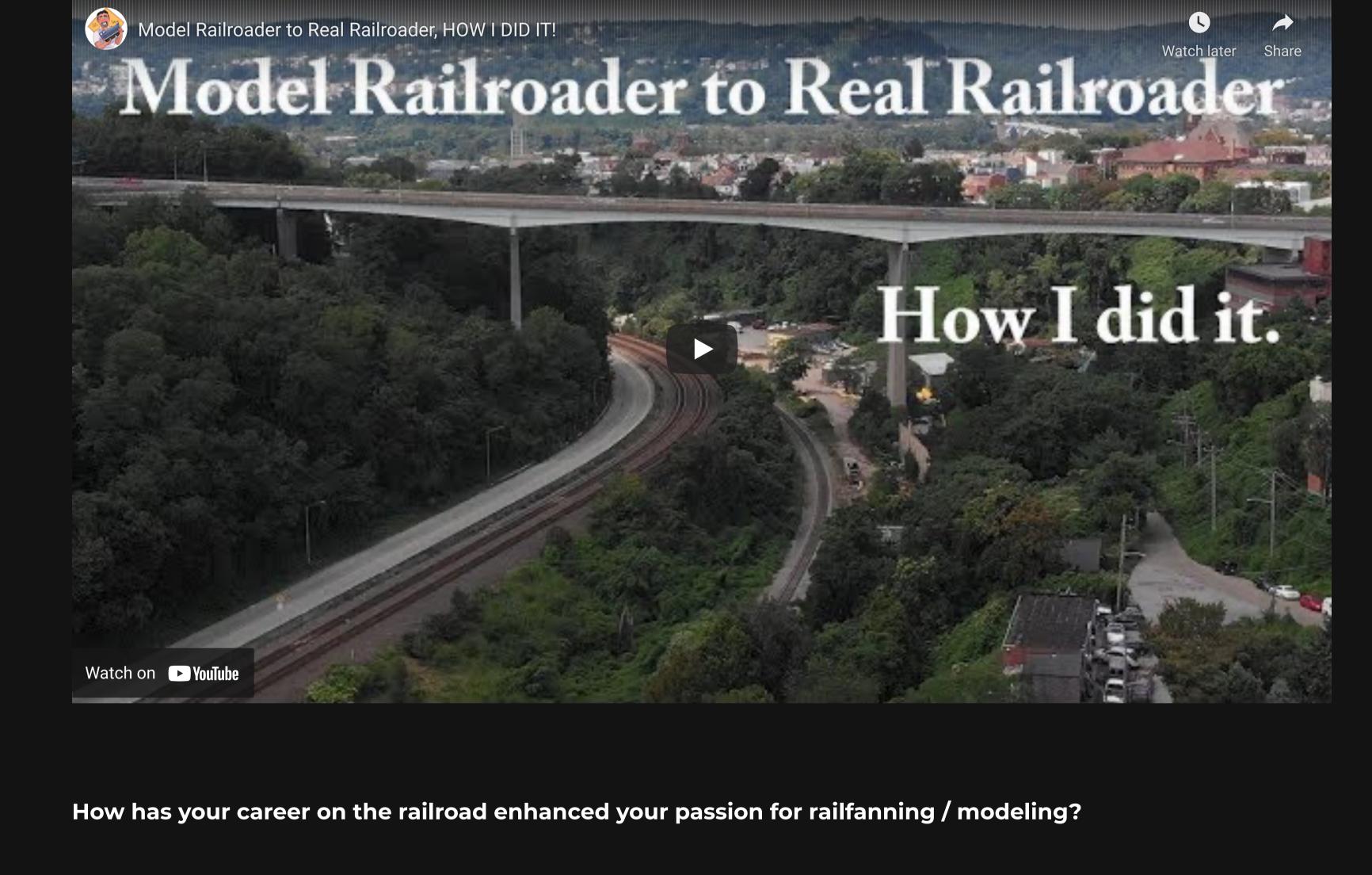
(f)

Railfans in the 21st century will no doubt have been curious enough to search YouTube for engaging railway content and one such outlet is that of DJsTrains. DJ has, for over two decades, been an engineer with CSX but also knows a great deal about railroading in the miniature world, with over 200 helpful tutorial videos on modeling. We caught up with DJ and asked him a few questions about his life as a railfan.

So DJ, Engineer, Railfan, Modeler - which came first?

could see the trains. Growing up in the 1970s in Pittsburgh, there were plenty. When I was a teen, I'd ride my bike after school to the tracks. I have great stories about it on my YouTube playlist under "Life as an Engineer" that even shows me as a kid obsessed with trains:

I probably said "Choo Choo" before I could say "Mama". I drove my family crazy by making them stop the car so I



Truth be told, I knew nothing about how the railroad worked before I hired out in 1999. I grew up, pre-internet, and not having any friends that were railfans, so I learned by doing it for a living. Now that I fully understand how

seriously. I do that all day. Most of my layouts focus on the scenery and rail fan aspect of it.

What made you take your hobby onto YouTube?

the railroad works, I enjoy teaching it and modeling it. I don't like operating sessions where people take it too

I was a Disc Jockey for most of my life (DEEJAY The DJ). I mostly did weddings and clubs, and enjoyed making people laugh. I also was an extra in a lot of movies because I wanted to make movies for a living. Ten years ago, I

the railroad works. The past 2 years with the drone has allowed me to do all this but with incredible views, like this:

Railroad Modeling Ideas & Inspiration: Amazing Video!

Watch later Share

was selling model train stuff on Ebay and I decided to make a video about the item. Then I made a few more, but

showing how I built stuff. I then added comedy and story telling into the videos, and then started teaching how



is the friendship. With a club, you can learn from others and you don't even need a layout to run trains.

Join a club. A quick google search will help you find a model railroad club in your area. The best part of the hobby

is amazing what I can do in a small space.

You model N Scale, why is that?

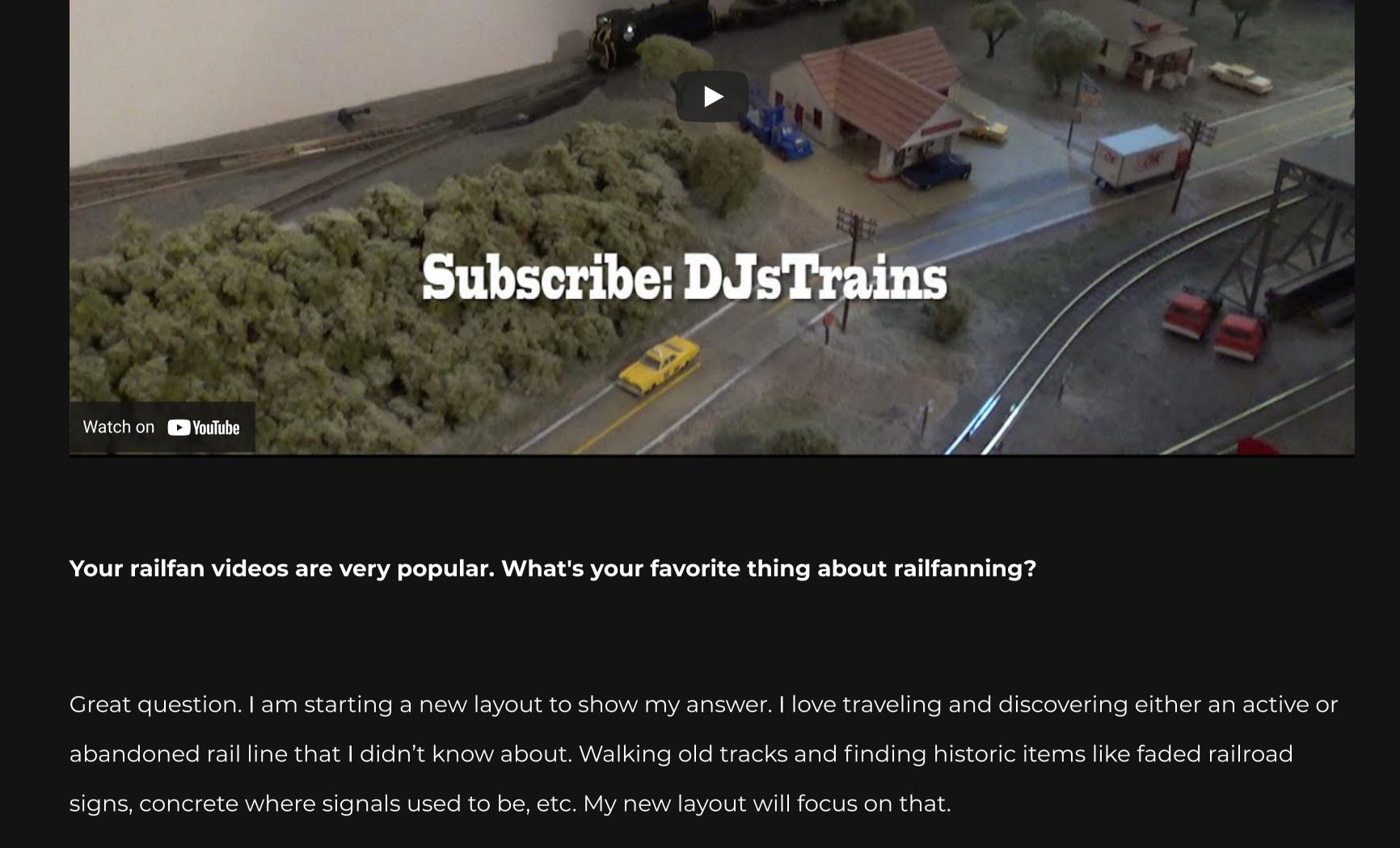
N Scale Layout on a door. Finished Model Railroad that is fun to operate.

IN SCALE LLAYOUT

On a door.

On a door.

N Scale allows more room for longer trains and more realistic scenery. I don't have a big house or large area, but it



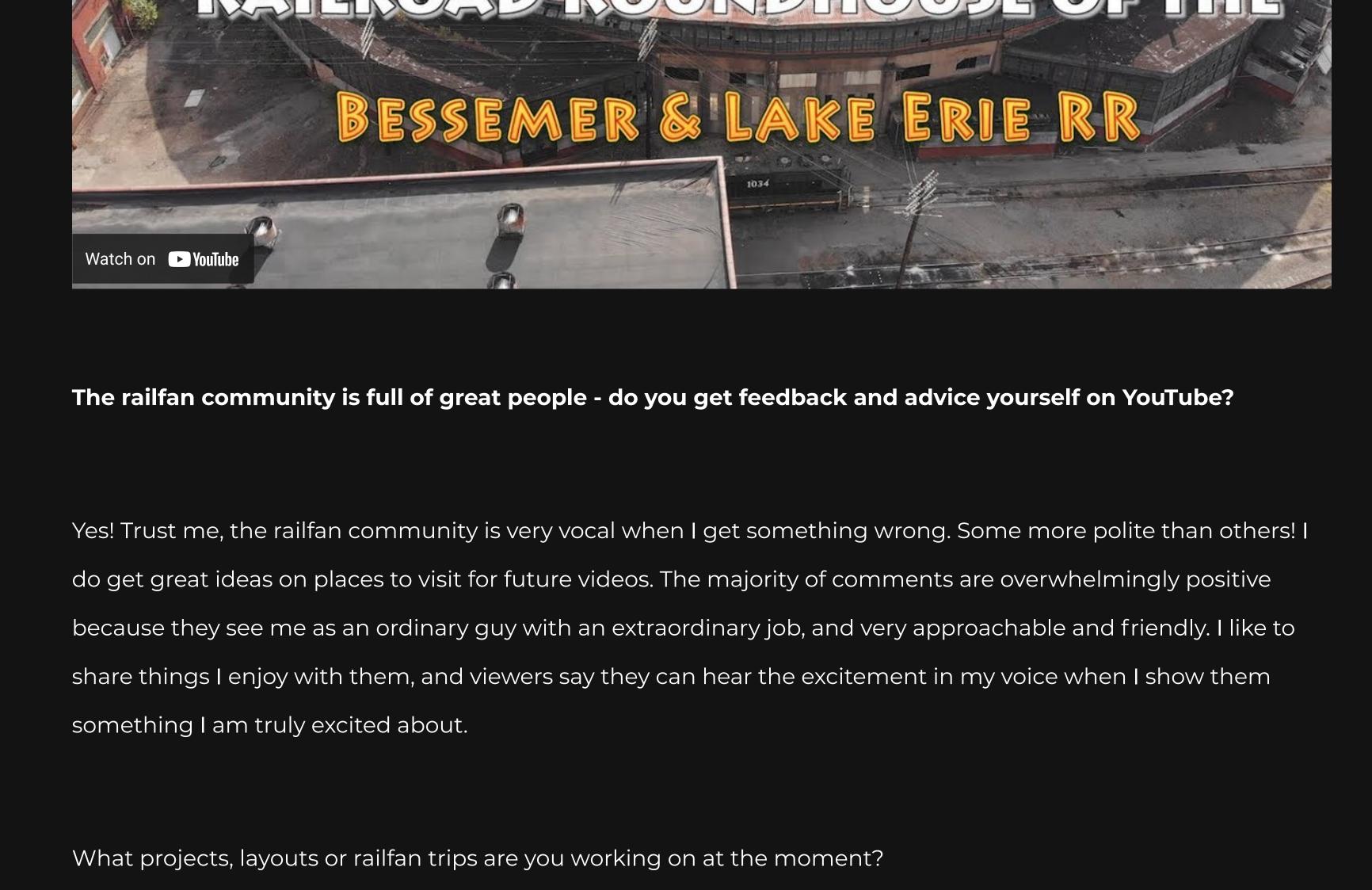
What have been your best railfan moments out 'in the field'?

Abandoned Railroad Roundhouse of the B&LE

Watch later Share

something epic. Just spending the day with a great friend and exploring places that we never been to. Like here:

When my friend Ron & I flew the drone over the old turntables and roundhouses. We knew we'd filmed



RAILROAD STUFF YOU MAY HAVE NEVER SEEN!

Railroad Stuff

Railroad Stuff

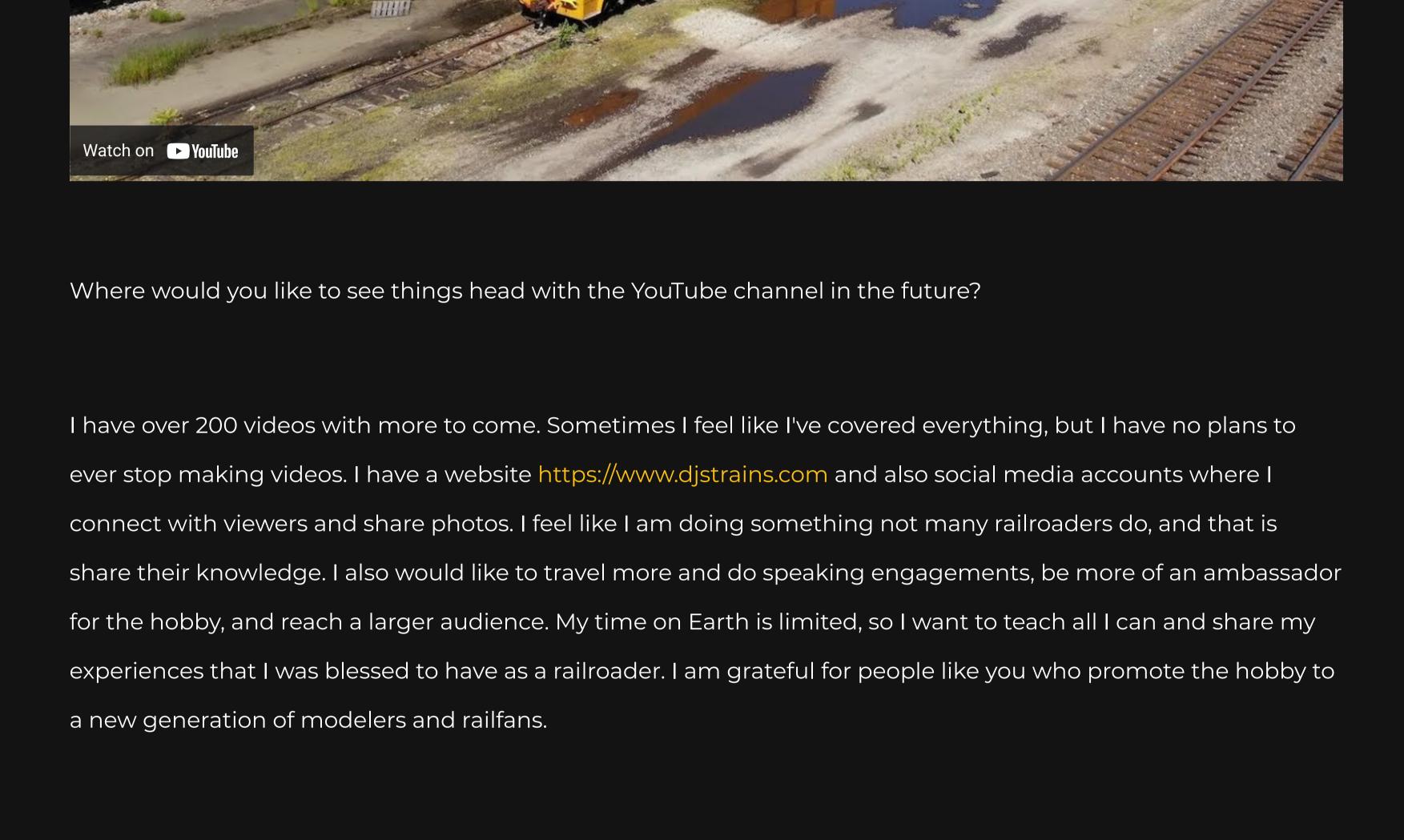
You May Never Have Seen

I have a lot of footage, but always try to think about how to use it in a video to make sense, rather than just

schoolwork, I work on the new layout in the next room.

random shots. Often I film in 4K, which makes editing way more time consuming. I have a daughter, Morgan,

who is my world and she will always come first, and take precedent over anything else. But while she does her



Keep up to date with all of DJ's uploads by subscribing to his YouTube channel. To find out more about DJ, you

CAIRO'S LOST TRAMWAYS Thanks to help from our Railfan following, we've been able to shed light on some previously unseen photos of Cairo's wider tram system from the 1980s.

RECENT ARTICLES

can visit his website, or follow him on Facebook and Twitter.



Railfan-Joe, a day ago

THE WORLD'S LARGEST TRAINS

A brief overview of the largest and longest trains to have been operated in the last 50 years.

A roundup of all the features for Railfan Fest 2021! From modeling, to simulation,



railfanning and much more.

Railfan-Joe, 8 days ago

WE ARE RAILFANS