



THE SIGNAL



THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

VOLUME 14. ISSUE 4

SEPTEMBER 2012



Member since June 1988

NEXT MEETING
Sep. 20
6:45 p.m.

NEXT MONTH
Deadline for
October Issue
September 28, 2012

MEMBERSHIP
117

ATTENDANCE PRIZE

Three names were drawn and Ken Nettleship was present to win.

Will your name be drawn on **Sep. 20**? You have to be present to win!

BOTTLES FOR BASICS

- ◆ LAST YEAR \$320.86
- ◆ YEAR TO DATE: \$114.00
- ◆ THIS MONTH: \$26.50
- ◆ \$26.50

Layout donation by Paul Lodge

LAYOUT DONATION FROM KENNEBUNK

On Monday, August 20, Tom Coulombe, Terry King, Jerry Johnston, Bob Willard, and Paul Lodge went to Kennebunk to tear down a layout. In March, the club received an inquiry through our website that this layout was available if we wanted it. Betty Jordan's husband passed away about two years ago and she was looking to find a home for his layout. Tom Coulombe took a trip to Kennebunk, looked at the layout, and reported that it was a well-designed layout with lots of fine details, buildings, and some engines and rolling stock. The gentleman who built the layout was an electrical engineer, and the wiring was kept very simple and neatly



installed. Tom made arrangements for club members to go to the house and get the layout.

It took the team about two and a half hours to dismantle

the layout, put it into the club truck, and clean up the room. In addition to the layout, there are five railroad lanterns in excellent shape which we received on consignment for \$75 each.

Basswood Building Class BY Paul Lodge

SIGN UP FOR BASSWOOD SCRATCH BUILDING CLASS

On Saturday morning, **October 20**, starting at 9 a.m., Ed and Brenda Leslie will be leading the next scratch building class using basswood. If you are interested,

would you please let them know so that enough supplies can be ordered. They can be contacted by calling 265-6547 or email mrandsrdeere@maine.rr.com.



On September 29, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. club members are invited to go to Intervale, New Hampshire, a short distance from North Conway, to visit the Hartmann's Railroad Museum and Restaurant.

In an attempt to add money to our treasury, a spaghetti supper is planned for 5 o'clock before the regular monthly meeting on Thursday, September 20. The \$5 each charge is less than one would pay at a restaurant and it will benefit the club at the same time.

More than two hundred children and adults attended this year's TRAIN FEST. Some learned about the event from the newspapers, our website, and from previous club events. Guests are learning that they can bring children and have family fun and entertainment.

Hartmann's Railroad Museum by Paul Lodge

On September 29, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. club members are invited to go to Intervale, New Hampshire, a short distance from North Conway, to visit the Hartmann's Railroad Museum and Restaurant. The fee of

\$20 each will include a meal at the restaurant and allow entrance into the museum. There is also an extensive hobby shop attached to the restaurant.

Several years ago Larry Cannon donated an item which was added

to the model railroad museum.

This is another opportunity to share model railroading experiences set up by Activities Director, Brenda Leslie. Thank you, Brenda.

Sept. Meeting Special by Paul Lodge

In an attempt to add money to our treasury, a spaghetti supper is planned for 5 o'clock before the regular monthly meeting on Thursday, September 20. The \$5 each charge is less than one would pay at a restaurant and it will benefit the club at the same time.

As part of the supper, members

are asked to bring a dessert or salad to share.

After the supper and a brief business meeting, club members Roger Plummer, Dick Clark, and Terry King will show slides as entertainment for the evening.

We are always looking for ways to help financially support the club. This is another way we can

work together and get to know our train mates at the same time. This is a lot more fun than raising dues.

Trainfest Another Success by Paul Lodge

About thirty club members participated in the 2012 TRAIN FEST on Saturday, August 18, during the Lewiston/Auburn Balloon Festival. About 90 children and 130 adults attended the event. Children wrote their names on small paper locomotives and pinned them to a colorful train painted on a panel of 4-by-8-foot homasote. Children could also sit and play with trains on the rug in the children's play area. New activities for children included a bean bag toss game and the outdoor "Bubble Blast" where blowing bubbles was a hit. Tonya Largay and Julie Bruce did face painting for both children and adults.

Another new feature of this year's show was selling raffle tickets for train rides. Wiscasset, Waterville & Farmington Railway and the Sandy River & Rangeley Lakes Railroad donated passes for families to ride on their tourist railroads for free. Governor's Restaurant also donated two \$20 gift certificates.

Mike Reed brought one of his speeders (or rail car) and displayed it at the club's entrance. Larry Cannon sold excess inventory, and tickets were sold on the club's raffle layout. Terry King pulled names for door prizes once an hour during the event.

The three rooms of HO, G-gauge, and N-scale, were busy entertaining our guests. Terry King made educational signs for the HO

layout area, explaining the purpose of some of the building and scenery supplies displayed. Many children got their "Guest Engineer" stickers as they ran trains around the HO layout.

More than two hundred children and adults attended this year's TRAIN FEST. Some learned about the event from the newspapers, our website, and from previous club events. Guests are learning that they can bring children and have family fun and entertainment.

Special thanks go out to those club members who helped support the TRAIN FEST.

Seashore Trolley Museum Trip By Paul Lodge

On Saturday, August 4, 27 club members and their families visited the Seashore Trolley Museum in Kennebunk. For some of the participants, this was a new experience associated with the club.

Those who went were privileged to visit the back shops and see equipment which is being restored. These areas are not usually open to the general public. There were several trolley rides over the three

miles of track at the museum. Time was taken to have a picnic during the afternoon. Those who went expressed the pleasure of the camaraderie felt with the group. Some of our club members volunteer at the museum. Activities Director Brenda Leslie was pleased with the turnout for this event and the pleasure everyone seemed to enjoy.

Minutes Continued from page 4

For the "What's on Your Workbench" segment of the meeting, Dick Clark showed a Christmas train which was not working properly. He emphasized that after checking the working mechanisms of the train, what was needed was to clean the track and the locomotive wheels.





Before the regular Thursday monthly meeting on September 20, there will be a spaghetti supper starting at 5 p.m. Cost of the supper is \$5 per person. Club members are asked to bring desserts or salads. After a short business meeting, slides will be shown by Roger Plummer, Dick Clark, and Terry King. Club members are encouraged to invite friends and family members to enjoy the meal and slide show.

August Minutes by Paul Lodge

The evening's *TRAIN TIME* program featured trains in Tehachapi Pass in California.

President Ed Leslie opened the meeting and reminded members that we are looking for a volunteer to publish the club's newsletter. Jay Calnan is in charge of finding another person to do the newsletter so that other club members can get more involved in the club activities.

The Secretary's Report was approved as published in the newsletter.

Tom Coulombe gave the Treasurer's Report which was approved as given.

As Station Master, Tom Coulombe reported that a layout in Kennebunk has been donated to the club and that Jerry Johnston, Paul Lodge, Terry King, Bob Willard, and Tom Coulombe will tear down the layout on Monday, August 20. Tom also noted that additional lighting has been installed in the helix area of the HO layout. There are plans to stain the ramp and the library stairs. The outside lighting needs to be checked to be sure all four corner lights are functioning properly. Sometimes there is only one light on at night. Additional volunteers are still needed to do mowing and general grounds keeping chores.

Club Librarian, Terry King, reported that Gordon Draper is scanning slides and their descriptions into the computer. Surplus books are being selected to take to the Concord, NH show on Sunday, August 19.

Activities Director Brenda Leslie reviewed upcoming events planned for club members. On

August 4, at least twenty-seven club members attended the Seashore Trolley Museum in Kennebunkport. They viewed old cars, rode on the trolleys, and had a picnic lunch. She was pleased that many members attended who do not usually participate in other club activities. At this monthly meeting there is to be a "Make your own sundae" event. Executive Committee members brought toppings which could be used on the sundaes.

On August 25, the annual club picnic will be held at Tom and Carmen Coulombe's home in Lewiston. More breakfasts are being planned for the fall months.

Nancy Weeks has taken the club's hot dog steamer to be repaired.

Before the regular Thursday monthly meeting on September 20, there will be a spaghetti supper starting at 5 p.m. Cost of the supper is \$5 per person. Club members are asked to bring desserts or salads. After a short business meeting, slides will be shown by Roger Plummer, Dick Clark, and Terry King. Club members are encouraged to invite friends and family members to enjoy the meal and slide show.

On September 29 for \$20, club members will be able to attend the Hartmann's Railroad Museum and Café outside North Conway in New Hampshire.

On Saturday, October 20, a full day of activities is planned. In the morning Ed and Brenda

Leslie will hold a scratch building clinic. In the afternoon members will create a level pedestal on which to put ties and track for the rail car (putt putt) donated to the club. Tom Coulombe will bring the rail car and ties for the project. Ken Nettleship will help with the landscaping part of the project. In the evening, there will be a slide and dine activity.

As chairman of the Train Fest, Terry King reported that Mike Reed will have his speeder (putt putt) on display again. There will also be face painting by Rick James' daughter, a bean bag toss game, bubble blast, and hourly door prizes. There was discussion about the train set raffle. It is expected that we will not sell enough tickets to cover the cost of the train set. It was agreed to select the winner at the ExTRAINaganza instead of the Train Fest. Tickets which have already been sold on the train set will be held and be eligible when the drawing happens in November. Sets of tickets for a family of four have been donated by Wiscasset, Waterville & Farmington and Sandy River & Rangeley Lakes Railroad and will be raffled at the Train Fest. Tom will bring the toys and rug for the children's play area as well as the homasote train board on which children will push-pin their names.

Dick Clark announced that his G-gauge outdoor Toot & Chug Railroad will be open on September 8 after the Greene Day Parade at about 9 a.m. He asked if the club's raffle layout could be made available for the event. He expects people to come between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Club members are invited.

(Continued on page 3)

Fall Adult Ed by Paul Lodge

On Tuesday, September 4, at 6:30 the Model Railroading class will start as part of the Auburn Adult Education program. The introductory class will be at the club. Normally many club members greet the new class and explain their model railroading background. We always have a good turnout of club members to help teach the class.

The adult education classes have been a useful tool for introducing our club to participants many of whom join the club later. There have already been inquiries about our fall class. We never know how many will sign up for the class until the first meeting.

Come and enjoy the fun!



The new class. Photo by Dick Clark

Brenda Leslie by Maurice Fortin

Brenda is not only our Activities Director at GFMRR Club but she is also our First Lady as her husband Ed is our president this year. Ed and Brenda have been married for 27 years. They have one son who also enjoys model railroading. When he was a boy, they provided him with bunk beds in his room. He slept on the top bunk and the bottom bunk was his HO railroad layout.

When asked about work, Brenda told me she has her dream job right now. She is working with Ed at Norm's O Scale Shop in Windham. They are building a 21-foot by 56-foot layout. She is involved with fixing and detailing all the buildings as well as weathering. It is wonderful to have a job that you enjoy every moment.

Brenda has been involved with model railroading ever since she met Ed. At home they have an N scale railroad on a three foot by

five foot coffee table as well as a garden railroad covering 300 feet of track on four levels.

I asked Brenda about her love for John Deere. She told me she grew up in the



"county" and her Dad was a potato farmer who used only John Deere equipment. She learned to drive on these.

She has been involved with GFMRR for three years and is presently our Activities Director. Brenda has planned and been involved with the scratch building project, the trips to Bar Mills and to Kennebunkport for the trolleys, the Slide and Dine, and breakfasts at GFMRR. She also has been actively involved in the Trainfest, Hobo Holiday, and EX-TRAINaganza.

Brenda is also a certified volunteer presenter for Operation Lifesaver but has not done any presentations because of her many other activities.



THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

144 Mill Street
Auburn, Me 04210

207-576-3788

e-mail gfmrrc@ne.twcbc.com

An Educational Foundation

MEETING POSTPONEMENTS

If severe weather threatens on a meeting night, Tom Coulombe will notify local television stations that the meeting will be postponed until the following week. This would make it the fourth Thursday of the month instead of the third. Club members who receive the newsletter via e-mail will be notified by e-mail about the postponement.

OFFICERS:

President:

Ed Leslie - 265-6547
mranmrsdeere@mainw.maine.rr.com

Vice President:

David Kierstead - 207-892-9712
oldironstandish@yahoo.com

Secretary:

Paul Lodge - 966-3641
paulodge@gwi.net

Treasurer:

Tom Coulombe - 240-9913
ctcoulombe@aol.com

Directors:

Roger Allen-783-2129
Jay Calnan-783-1719
jayceelc@live.com
Travis Johnson-336-2789

Webmaster:

Joe Marshall - 344-7099
joe@del-stardotstar.com

Assistant Webmaster:

Frances Lodge - 966-3641
paulodge@gwi.net

Activities Director

Brenda Leslie
207-265-6547
mrandmrsdeere@maine.rr.com

THE SIGNAL

The *Signal* is published twelve times per year by The Great Falls Model Railroad Club.

Copyright September 2012

Editor:

Terrence King
tpking@roadrunner.com

Proofreader:

Frances Lodge
paulodge@gwi.net

Address Change

If your mailing or e-mail address changes please notify Terrence King at tpking@roadrunner.com

www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org or www.gfmrrc.com

Upcoming Events



September 13, Executive Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m.

September 20, Membership Meeting. Spaghetti Dinner at 5:00 p.m. \$5.00 each. Meeting 6:45, with slide show by members after meeting.

September 22, Operating Session 9:00 a.m.

September 29. Day trip to Hartmann's Hobby Shop in Intervale, NH. **10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** \$20.00 each, includes museum, rides and luncheon.

October 6, Visually Impaired Project guests.

October 11, Executive Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m.

October 18, Membership Meeting

6:45 p.m.

October 20, Scratch Building Class & Operating Session 9:00 a.m. Slide & Dine at 5:00 p.m.

November 3, Train Show, Auburn Middle School 10:00—3:00.

November 8, Executive Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m.

November 15, Membership Meeting and Pie Auction. 6:45 p.m.

November 17, Eastern Maine Model Railroad Club Train Show in Brewer 10:00—3:30

November 17-19 & 23-24,

ExTRAINaganza.

November 30 thru December 1

Maine State Museum

January 26—27, 2013 Springfield Show

September 7-10, 2016, 36th National Narrow Gauge Convention at Augusta, Me.



Photo by Dick Clark.