



THE SIGNAL



THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

VOLUME 14. ISSUE 7

DECEMBER 2012



Member since June 1988

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

NEXT MONTH
Deadline for
Jan. Issue
December 28, 2012

MEMBERSHIP
121

ATTENDANCE PRIZE

Three names were drawn and no one was present to win.

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

BOTTLES FOR BASICS

- ◆ **LAST YEAR**
\$344.11
- ◆ **YEAR TO DATE:**
\$181.60
- ◆ **THIS MONTH:**
- ◆ **\$28.50**

New Editor by Terry King

Starting with the January issue Richard James will be your new editor. Frances Lodge will continue to proofread as usual.

I started as your editor in 1997 and it has been fun. I have found out, as many other people have, that once I retired I did not have enough time to do everything that I wanted to do. Also as I am turning 68 on the 18th I also had to think about the future of The Signal. The best time for an organization to make changes is when everything is running smoothly.

I know Rick will do a great job and I will do everything in my power to help him.



Rick James



Pie Auction A Success BY Paul Lodge

Activities Director Brenda Leslie organized a pie auction for the November 15 club meeting. Fourteen pies were sold, netting the club more than \$80. Three pies were donated by Governor's Restaurant in Lewiston, the club's official restaurant. The rest of the pies were donated by club members.

The pies were displayed on the club's conference table for a

silent auction. Members were invited to bid on each pie by writing their name and the bid on a sheet of paper. As the evening progressed, bidders could see how much had already been bid for a pie and bid on the pie again. At the end of the evening, the Silent Auction winners were announced.

The pie which received the

highest bid was the CHOCOLATE Cream pie from Governor's. Guess who won that one!

Kate Griffith from Museum L/A contacted the Great Falls Model Railroad Club about having a train to put under a Christmas tree for the Old Fashioned Holiday event. After talking to Mrs. Griffiths, the club volunteered to bring an artificial Christmas tree, lights, garlands, and ornaments in addition to the train to run under the tree.

The entire layout, complete with an HO train set, buildings, and automobiles, is included. This year the drawing was held at the ExTRAINaganza and the winner was Roxanne Kehling of Auburn.

Fishing Pond Bridge by Paul Lodge

FISHING POND BRIDGE MADE AT DICK CLARK'S WORKSHOP

Paul Lodge
Museum L/A sponsored an Old Fashioned Holiday Celebration on Saturday, December 8. The event featured Santa and the "fish pond" that was a staple of Peck's annual Christmas display. The bridge needed for the "fish pond" was built by Dick Clark in his workshop with some help from Paul Lodge.

Kate Griffith from Museum L/A contacted the Great Falls Model Railroad Club about having a train to put under a Christmas tree for the Old Fashioned Holiday event. After talking to Mrs. Griffiths, the club volunteered to bring an artificial Christmas tree, lights, garlands, and ornaments in addition to the train to run under the tree.

When talking about the event, the proposed "fish pond" was discussed. Because the Great Falls Model Railroad Club needs a bridge for the "fish pond" at its Hobo Holiday in the spring, it

was agreed that the club would make the bridge for both events.

Thank you, Dick, for your craftsmanship and your willingness to take a day to build the bridge.

ExTRAINaganza Winners by Paul Lodge

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club of Auburn held a five-day ExTRAINaganza during the last two weekends of November.

On Saturday, November 24, twelve winners were announced for the seven raffles and five railroad engineer teddy bears.

More than three hundred children attended the ExTRAINaganza. As they arrived, they wrote their names and phone numbers on paper locomotives which they pinned to a large painting of a Christmas tree. Five names were drawn from these three hundred slips of paper, and each received a twelve-inch teddy bear dressed like a railroad engineer. The five win-

ners were Megan Roy, Devyn Campbell, Madison McGonagle, Lexi Moody, and Lucas Poisson.

Club member Stephen Martelli had donated a large white teddy bear wearing a Santa Claus outfit. Cory Golob won the raffle for this two-foot teddy bear.

Train sets to be raffled were running under three Christmas trees throughout the event. Austin Adams volunteered to draw the winning tickets for the raffle items. The large G-gauge Christmas train was won by Bert Pare. Amanda Gray won the Thomas the Tank Engine HO train, and Earlene Fraser won the Lionel train set.

Governor's Restaurant is the Great Falls Model Railroad Club's official restaurant. Governor's donated two \$20 gift certificates which were won by Cherie Assel-

in and Jim Dunnington.

Each year the Great Falls Model Railroad Club builds a four-by five-foot model railroad layout to take to special events at elementary schools, nursing homes, veterans' homes, churches, civic organizations, and libraries. At all the club's major events throughout the year, the club sells raffle tickets on this layout. The entire layout, complete with an HO train set, buildings, and automobiles, is included. This year the drawing was held at the ExTRAINaganza and the winner was Roxanne Kehling of Auburn.

The club wishes to thank all the people who have helped make the ExTRAINaganza a family-oriented success.

Meet the members By Maurice Fortin

DICK CLARK

Dick Clark is a very active member of GFMRRC. From 1998 to 2000, Dick was president of the club. He is married and has one son and two daughters. He tells me one of his granddaughters loves trains. Dick worked for the Department of Transportation in Traffic Engineering for 27 years, but he is now retired. As he told me, he was responsible for painting the STRAIGHT lines on the highways.

Since childhood, Dick has been fascinated by trains. In grade school he once took a train ride on a steam engine from North Leeds to Lucerne for ice cream. He was involved with HO scale railroads with his son. When

his son left home, Dick began building a garden railroad at home, which he has enjoyed for the last 15 years. His outdoor G-gauge railroad covers approximately 65 feet by 35 feet with the upper loop covering about 50 feet by 20 feet. His wife Sharon has created many features for the layout, including the people for the unique villages. His garden railroad is open to the public for two special events each year—at Halloween and during Greene Village Day in September.

Dick has been involved with the G-scale layout at the club since its beginning and has particularly enjoyed developing the Thomas the Tank Engine section for the younger children. He also organizes and helps set up modules at all the shows and participates in the ExTRAINaganza, the Trainfest, and the Hobo Holiday.

Dick is a certified volunteer presenter for Operation Lifesaver. In addition to doing many presentations, he has manned an Operation Lifesaver booth on many occasions.



Female Members Are A Big Help by Terry King

A special thank you goes to the many ladies of the club for all of their help during this year's ExTRAINaganza. Sharon and Dick Clark made more than one hundred gingerbread men and Nancy Weeks made train-shaped sugar cookies, which children could decorate with frosting made by Rick James.

Rita Vatter, Terry James, Sandy Kierstead, Julie Hayes, Carmen Coulombe, Julie Bruce, Terry Obie, and Nancy Weeks helped children decorate cookies and Christmas tree ornaments as well as create tri-bead ornaments. Rita Vatter organized the craft tables and provided thin train-shaped wooden ornaments and the felt-tip markers with which children could color them.

Beth Chaffee, who was hospitalized

on Friday, is always a major contributor to the ExTRAINaganza. She and Jeff set up their two special Christmas layouts in the club's classroom area and these were a big hit with children and adults.

Julie Hayes and her family helped with the Chaffee layouts and with activities in the HO room.

Julie Bruce did face painting, helped as an engineer by showing guest children how to run trains on the HO layout, and monitored the Chaffee's layouts while they were away.

Nancy Weeks prepared several meals and desserts and helped Jerry Johnston serve them in the Hobo Café so that club members could eat during the day without leaving the club.

Denise Purington sold many dollars' worth of tickets on the club's raffle layout.

Daphne Nettleship provided inspiration to those working on the G-gauge layout.

Frances Lodge and Terry Obie greeted and kept a tally of more than 460 adults at the door, handed out Operation Lifesaver materials, and Governor's coupons, and had the more than 300 children put their names on locomotives to tack to the Train Tree.

Male club members are very thankful for the women in their lives who support them in this great family-oriented hobby.



ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR Brenda Leslie reported that Rob Kenderdine of Steward Hobbies, Inc. will be asked to be a guest speaker for our January or February monthly meeting. Xuron of Saco makes rail cutters which are popular among those in our hobby. Someone from Xuron will be asked to be a guest speaker in either January or February, depending on Rob Kenderdine's schedule.

November Minutes by Paul Lodge

Before the meeting started, club members were treated to a slide presentation made by Ed Leslie showing pictures of club activities since the last meeting. Rick James uploaded the video made by Sun/Journal photographer Russ Dillingham showing the train show at the Auburn Middle School. The evening's *TRAIN TIME* program featured the mail car built by the Wiscasset, Waterville & Farmington Railway. President Ed Leslie opened the meeting and asked for the Secretary's Report. It was approved as published in the newsletter.

Tom Coulombe gave the Treasurer's Report which was approved as given. He also gave a separate report on the results of the November 3rd train show.

As **Station Master**, Tom Coulombe reported that the earth work for the speeder display has been completed. The speeder will be repainted next spring windows will be installed, and Maine Central decals will be added. A radiator is still needed to fill the void in the front of the speeder. Tom, Ken Nettleship, and Larry Cannon, were given recognition for their workmanship in this project. Three additional yards of crushed stone will be used to install the switch stand so that it can be aligned with the speeder display. Electrician Steve Goulet has installed an outlet outside the east end of the building, so that lighting can be used for the display and for other special events. Mr. Goulet recently installed a motion detector for the light in the upstairs bathroom. The door to the library has been repainted because it was "tagged" some time ago. The Executive Committee agreed to pay to have two DOT

signs made displaying our club name and distance. Tom will apply for the permit from the state and have Marquis Signs make them. A person from Auburn has donated a spike hammer which will be displayed as an artifact. Executive Committee members reported on the potential of converting our oil burner heating system to natural gas. The model of furnace we have cannot be converted to gas. Buying and installing a new furnace would cost more than \$6,000.

ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR Brenda Leslie reported that Rob Kenderdine of Steward Hobbies, Inc. will be asked to be a guest speaker for our January or February monthly meeting. Xuron of Saco makes rail cutters which are popular among those in our hobby. Someone from Xuron will be asked to be a guest speaker in either January or February, depending on Rob Kenderdine's schedule. Travis Johnson suggested that we not sponsor clinics during the Saturday when we have operating sessions because club members want to do both.

NEWSLETTER: Starting with the January issue of *The Signal*, Rick James has volunteered to take over the responsibility of publishing the newsletter. Terry King will continue to distribute the hard copies to members who do not have e-mail until the files of addresses can be transferred to Rick. Rick suggested having the newsletter printed at a local company. It was

suggested that Rick talk to Jerry Johnston and get input from Jerry for printing companies.

ExTRAINaganza: Plans for the ExTRAINaganza were discussed. Tom still has five teddy bears dressed like railroad engineers. It was thought that they could be given as door prizes during the event. We still have two trains to be raffled and the potential for some other items. Sign-up sheets were circulated during the meeting. Club members who helped decorate were thanked for the good job which they accomplished. Paul Lodge suggested that any of the donated items which are not used to decorate this year should be offered to club members at the November monthly meeting. Any items left after the meeting should be donated to Goodwill or the Salvation Army. Paul felt that we should not ask someone to store a lot of items which are not going to be used. Paul Lodge has asked Dave Gilchrist to take some time to be at the Shriner's FEZtival of Trees. His task will be to encourage people from the FEZtival of Trees to come our club to see the trains.

EASTERN MAINE TRAIN SHOW: On the first day of our ExTRAINaganza, the Eastern Maine Model Railroad Club is sponsoring their train show in Brewer. Tom Coulombe and a few others will take the club truck filled with excess inventory to the show. The Bragg family, who are from Bangor, helped sell club items.

MAINE STATE LIBRARY: On Thursday, December 6 between 3 and 5 p.m., we will set up a modular

(Continued on page 5)

Minutes Continued

display at the Maine State Museum in Augusta for the show on December 7 and 8. To avoid using push pins, Brenda Leslie suggested that the modules have continuous strips of Velcro attached to the fascias of all the modules.

EBAY: Rick James suggested that the club attempt to sell some of its excess inventory on eBay. Terry King made a motion, which passed, to allow Rick James to look into what it would take to make this happen.

Bangor Savings Bank Grant: Dick Rubin suggested that the club apply for a Foundation Grant from the Bangor Savings Bank. A contact person for the grant is Yellow Light Breen.

Fundraising Committee: Jerry Johnston has volunteered to get a

Fundraising Committee organized. Tom Coulombe and Paul Lodge will be part of the committee. Members are invited to join the committee to help find ways to pay for the club's operations. The Amherst Railroad Society offers grants which can be used for major club projects such as the furnace, siding on the building, or a new roof.

CLUB BROCHURES: Jerry Johnston reported that the new club brochures will be printed and available for the train show in West Springfield, Massachusetts.

LAYOUT COMMITTEES: Travis Johnson reported that the HO layout is ready to go for the ExTRAINaganza. He also reported that there will be a clinic on December 8 on wiring turnouts. Ken Nettleship noted that the G-gauge group is ready to run. Tom Coulombe gave Maurice Fortin credit for making three new industrial buildings for the N-scale layout.

VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS: John Robertson invited members to come to the WW&F on December 22 for their annual Victorian Christmas free train rides.

WHAT'S ON YOUR WORKBENCH: Bryce Weeks demonstrated the use of cotton balls and paint to create quick scenery for a layout.

THINKING OUT OF THE BOXCAR: Paul Lodge displayed a variety of household items which can be saved and then used for layout details. He suggested that modelers have a large box into which they can toss items to be used as creative sources at a later time.

The monthly Attendance Prize drawing found no winners. Roy Gove, Erwin Hodsdon, and Tim Tyce were not in attendance. The 50/50 raffle was won by Chuck Bagley.





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
mrandsrdeere@maine.rr.com

Vice President:

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

Secretary:

Paul Lodge - 966-3641
paul lodge@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@braintriggers.com

Assistant Webmaster:

Frances Lodge - 966-3641
paul lodge@gwi.net

Activities Director

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

Librarian

Terry King—576-3788
tpking@roadrunner.com

THE SIGNAL

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

Copyright December 2012

Editor:

Terrence King
tpking@roadrunner.com

Proofreader:

Frances Lodge
paul lodge@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



December 13, Executive Committee meeting 7:00 p.m.

December 20, Membership meeting and Christmas Party 6:45 p.m.

January 10, Executive Committee meeting 7:00 p.m.

January 17, Membership Meeting 6:45 p.m.

January 26—27, 2013 Springfield Show

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



Photo by Terry King