



THE SIGNAL



THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

VOLUME 14. ISSUE 5

OCTOBER 2012



Member since June 1988

NEXT MEETING
Oct. 18
6:45 p.m.

NEXT MONTH
Deadline for
November Issue
October 26, 2012

MEMBERSHIP
117

ATTENDANCE PRIZE

Three names were drawn and Sandy Sondheim was present to win.

Will your name be drawn on **Oct. 18**?
You have to be present to win!

BOTTLES FOR BASICS

- ◆ LAST YEAR \$320.86
- ◆ YEAR TO DATE: \$153.10
- ◆ THIS MONTH: \$39.10
- ◆ \$39.10

Another Layout Donation by Paul Lodge

Club member Lee Akeley has given the club a generous donation of his HO layout, rolling stock, motive power, buildings, and scenery materials. Lee and his wife are moving to Florida and cannot take the layout with them. Lumber from the layout will be used for the Adult Education class and for next year's raffle layout.

Tom Coulombe, Larry Cannon, Paul Lodge, Stephen Martelli, and Jerry Johnston helped tear down and pack the HO layout and supplies. The club truck was used to transport the donation back to the club for inventorying.

Gifts like this help the club by providing items we can sell as excess inventory or use on the club layout or the raffle layout.

Thank you, Lee for this helpful donation. We appreciate it.



Special Day - Oct. 20 BY Paul Lodge

Saturday, October 20 will be a busy day at the club. The regular operating session on the HO layout will begin at 9 a.m. In addition, Ed and Brenda Leslie will be leading a class in scratch building with basswood.

In the afternoon, Tom Coulombe will bring the "putt putt" which has been donated to the club. Club members will build a level

spot on the lawn near the east end of the building on which to place the speeder. Rails and ties have been donated for the project which will become a permanent display and will help identify our building as a railroad club. Landscaper Ken Nettleship will lead the group by helping to build an earth platform for the display and creating a small New Eng-

land dry laid stone retaining wall.

At 5 p.m. a *SLIDE and DINE* event will take place. After the \$5-a-plate supper, special guests will provide entertainment with railroad-related slides to educate and entertain club members and their guests.

Tom Coulombe requested that club members donate old 12-volt AC adapters.

This fall there are nine students in the Model Railroading class offered at the railroad club through the Auburn Adult Education program.

On September 19 clients from the Maine Vocational and Rehabilitation Department in Augusta visited the club.

AC Adapters

At the September 20 club monthly club meeting, Tom Coulombe requested that club members donate old 12-volt AC adapters. The adapters can power the new LED lighting strips expected to be used on the N-scale layout.



Class Started by Paul Lodge

This fall there are nine students in the Model Railroading class offered at the railroad club through the Auburn Adult Education program. Five are members of the club who are taking the class for the first time. A grandmother and her grandson from Waterville are taking the class and each of them is building a model for the November 3

train show at the Auburn Middle School.

A total of six modules are being built by the nine class members. As usual, we are glad to have a number of club members come to help with the



Guests from Augusta by Paul Lodge

On September 19 clients from the Maine Vocational and Rehabilitation Department in Augusta visited the club. Tom Coulombe and Jerry Johnston greeted the visitors and gave them a tour of the different layouts and the library.

Jeff, one of the clients, had visited the club during one of our earlier events and wanted to share his enthusiasm with some of his friends. He brought with him the working locomotive he has made from Legos. Jeff tried to run it on the G-gauge layout, but the width of the wheels did not quite match the rails.



Meet the members By Maurice Fortin

Terry King

Terry King is a bachelor. He recently retired from the United States Postal Service after being a Postmaster in several towns over the last 30 years.

He has been interested in railroads since he was a child when his parents gave him a Lionel train. Terry is a charter member of The Great Falls Model Railroad Club and has been a member for 26 years. He remembers the first meetings which were held at Edward Little High School, meetings at the Auburn Fire Station, and the club's temporary home on Canal Street, before finally moving to our present location.

Terry mentioned the name of Larry Hart from Bangor who

made the first large donation to GFMRRRC. It was about this time that Terry became librarian for the organization, and he has since been duly elected to this position. Because of Terry's work and a number of donations, we now have a very extensive library, including books, journals, slides, and many other railroad materials. He spends many hours organizing materials that are donated to our library to prepare them for viewing and use by members. Terry is also our newsletter editor, another job that requires a great deal of time. Terry noted that this position is currently available for anyone who may be interested.

HO model railroading is Terry's preferred choice. Although he does not have a railroad setup at home, he is very active in the construction of the HO layout in the basement at the club. His area of expertise and joy is building the scenery that we see gradually appearing each time we go down-

stairs to look at the setup or to run trains.



Dick Clark's Open House by Paul Lodge

On Saturday, September 8, Dick Clark invited everyone who attended the annual Greene Village Day festivities to visit his outdoor G-gauge garden railroad, the Toot 'n Chug. After the parade through town, people started coming to see the layout. Dick reported that 130 people signed the guest book during his open house. Everyone was fascinated by the many miniature scenes created by Dick and his family. Visitors from the Maine Garden Railroad Society were particularly impressed with Dick's use of the natural surroundings. Although Dick's wife Sharon had taken ten frogs out of Mud Slide Pond before everyone

arrived, three frogs still caught people's attention.

At one point during the day, many railroad fans walked down the street to the nearby railroad tracks to watch a long Pan Am freight pulled by five locomotives on its way to Waterville.

Several Great Falls Model Railroad Club members came to Dick's Open House to offer support for him and to run trains on his garden railroad. The Clark family provided lunch for club members and for others who were helping with the layout. Jerry Johnston brought corn chowder

which was spiced with one of his "secret" ingredients.

Dick's daughter, Angela, spent a good part of the day face painting a variety of images on cheeks, foreheads, arms, and legs for teenagers and children of all ages. The relaxed and friendly atmosphere at Dick's home and layout always makes this a special event. Thanks, Dick, for providing an opportunity for everyone to enjoy "The World's Greatest Hobby."



September Minutes by Paul Lodge

A fund-raising spaghetti supper was prepared for club members and their guests before the evening's festivities started. While club members ate and talked, Ed Leslie showed slides from previous events in which club members have participated. After the meal and before the meeting started, Ed Leslie showed pictures of club activities during the month since the last meeting. The evening's *TRAIN TIME* program featured passenger and freight trains in California near Los Angeles.

President Ed Leslie opened the meeting and expressed concern about individual club members working on the layouts who are using fuel to heat the work area for only one person. He suggested that members consolidate or restrict the times for working on the layout so that the heat can be used more efficiently. President Leslie asked for the Secretary's Report. A motion was made to accept the report as published in the newsletter.

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

As Station Master, Tom Coulombe reported that the ramp into the building, and the outside stairs from the library, have been stained. Two layouts have been donated to the club recently and Tom has sent receipts for their tax-deductible donations. Lanterns from Mrs. Jordan's collection have been available for sale and there is only one left. Tom has checked several of the locomotives from the Lee Akeley donation and they all work. He reported on other parts of the donation as well. Tom is waiting to hear from Northern Utilities about the natural gas line which leads into the building. If it is

feasible, we may convert from oil to natural gas. The cost of the conversion is expected to pay for itself within two years. Tom is looking for 12-Volt AC adapters to use with the LED lighting. Tom and Jerry Johnston attended a Chamber of Commerce program about fundraising ideas for non-profits. Mark Pitman presented ideas about fundraising and suggested it is more effective to try to raise money for specific projects or items. Another suggestion was to have specific denominations for donations like \$5, \$10, \$25, etc. When going to businesses, an appointment should be set up in advance to talk about a specific agenda item. If possible, slides or video should be used to highlight the proposal.

Activities Director
Brenda Leslie reported that attempts are being made to have another program about the Eagle Lake and West Branch Railroad. Donovan Gray will provide a program on Narrow Gauge in Maine. On October 20, she and Ed Leslie will lead another scratch building class with basswood. On September 29, club members are invited to go to the Hartmann Railroad Museum, Gift Shop, and Restaurant. Dick Rubin explained about the excursion and asked that members meet at Hartmann's by 10 a.m. The cost is \$20 per person and includes a luncheon as well as a tour of the museum.

Dick Rubin has purchased two B&M locomotives and a dozen BAR potato box cars and a caboose from Charlie Ro of

USA trains to be used on the double helix display at the West Springfield show on January 26 and 27. Signs will indicate that the display is sponsored by The Great Falls Model Railroad Club. Jerry Johnston hopes to have the new club brochures available in time for the show.

For the library, Terry King reported that some magazines and a new book have been donated.

Terry King submitted a list of approved location names for the HO layout. Terry King made a motion, which the Executive Committee approved, to have the main yard named "Obie Yard." The following locations and names were submitted by the HO layout group:

Lumber Area: Woodsville Junction; area near the big trestle: Cave Junction; area above Cave Junction: Spruce Ridge; area below Cave Junction: Town of Wilder; in the town of Wilder: Wilder Passing Siding; Peninsula: Lewiston Lower; paper mill area: International Paper; where branch, helix and mainline meet: CP Riverton; lower level town: Riverton; above Riverton: Upper Riverton; intermodal yard: Tee Jay Global Enterprises; main yard: Obie Yard.

Ken Nettleship reported that work is under way to complete the upper level of the G-gauge layout. It should be finished before the Ex-TRAINaganza in November.

Tom Coulombe noted that the N-scale layout has installed a run-around track for better operations.

Paul Lodge thanked club members
(Continued on page 5)

Minutes Continued

for bringing returnable bottles and cans for the **Bottles for Basics** initiative and explained the program to the new members who were at the meeting.

At the September Executive Committee meeting, the following items were covered:

Club Train Show: Tom Coulombe reported that additional club members are needed for the sales tables. Items are being sold for three different consignments and the money needs to be kept separate. Tom also indicated that about thirty tables have been sold to dealers for the show.

Web Site: President Leslie complimented Joe Marshall and Frances Lodge for the work that has gone into improving the looks and features of the club website.

Face Book: Past President Rick James volunteered to take responsibility for the club's Face Book

Fan page.

Portland Flower Show: In March the Portland Flower Show would like to have a G-gauge train set as part of one of the dealer's displays.

ExTRAINaganza: Because there are not as many visitors to the club on Monday as on the weekend days, it was suggested that we close on Monday. Terry King reminded the Executive Committee that we try to be open on the same dates and times as the FEZtival of Trees by the Shriners and that the advertising for their event also helps us.

Roger Allen has donated four full-length mirrors to the club. They will be placed at strategic locations around the building. If anyone wants to buy one, contact Tom Coulombe.

The October/November issue of the Lewiston/Auburn Magazine has a feature article about The Great Falls Model Railroad Club. It was available for club members to read.

Stephen Martelli previously volunteered to talk about "What's on My Workbench." He is preparing to hike the 2,181 miles of the Appalachian Trail in 2014. Using a four-foot map, Stephen thoroughly explained how he plans to get pictures of trains where they cross the Appalachian Trail between Georgia and Maine.

Brenda Leslie displayed a G-gauge RV trailer she made from basswood. It has a detailed interior and wheels so that it can be pulled by an Egg Liner. You should have been there to see it.

At the October 18 meeting, Travis Johnson will present "What's on My Workbench," and John Visco will prepare a presentation for "Thinking Outside the Boxcar."

The 50/50 Raffle was won by Rick James. Sandy Sondheim won the Attendance Prize and selected a Durango & Silverton hat.

The meeting adjourned.



The top two pictures taken by Dick Clark are of Lewiston Lower. The two on the right are showing the river area that Jim Vatter & Terry King are working on. Below, left is Mike Reed and on the right is Nicholas Matluk. These four pictures were taken by Terry King.





THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

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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.

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Upcoming Events



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 Mod-

el 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 Terry King