



Member since June 1988

NEXT MEETING
Jan 17
6:45 p.m.

NEXT
MONTH
Deadline for
November Issue
January 25, 2013

MEMBERSHIP
117

ATTENDANCE PRIZE

Four names were drawn and Jerry Johnston was present to win.

Terry King's name was drawn for a special Christmas party door prize.

Will your name be drawn on Jan. 17? You have to be present to win!

BOTTLES FOR BASICS

- ♦ LAST YEAR \$320.86
- ♦ YEAR TO DATE: \$187.75
- ♦ THIS MONTH: \$34.65

THE SIGNAL

THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

VOLUME 15. ISSUE 8

JANUARY 2013



DECEMBER BUSY FOR CLUB MEMBERS

Paul Lodge

DECEMBER 5: The club hosted 25 third grade students and 3 teachers from Montello Elementary School in Lewiston. The students rode a school bus to the club for a three- hour session starting at 10 a.m. Tom Coulombe and Paul Lodge gave a brief history of railroads in the Lewiston/Auburn area, including information about workers coming from Montreal, Canada, on the St. Lawrence and Atlantic Railroad. Raw materials and finished products were shipped on the Maine Central on the Lower Lewiston line from Brunswick and on the back line through Lewiston.

The class was divided into three groups so they could visit the three layout areas at the club. After fifteen minutes they rotated to the next area they had visited each area. Dick Clark ran the G-gauge layout and the Thomas the Tank Engine. The third graders were really excited with the big trains, especially Thomas. Chuck Bagley and his wife ran the N- and Z-scale trains and explained the different sizes to the children. Tom Coulombe and Jerry Johnston let the children run trains on the HO layout, which was a big hit all of them.

After the children had visited all three areas of the clubhouse, they came to the meeting room, where they ate the lunches they had brought with them. While they ate, a TRAIN TIME video was showing on the club's television.

For the last half hour, Paul Lodge gave an Operation Lifesaver railroad safety presentation which included the video, "Tracks are for trains, not for kids."

DECEMBER 6, 7, and 8: On Thursday, December 6, several club members set up a modular display at the Maine State Museum. On Friday and Saturday more than five hundred people visited the museum and saw the trains. The following club members helped set up and run the trains: Tom Coulombe, Jerry Johnston, Rick James, Ed and Brenda Leslie, Jay Calnan, Stephen Martelli, John Robertson, Bryce Weeks, and Carmen Anatase.

DECEMBER 8: Travis Johnson and Roger Plummer conducted a turnout rebuilding class at the club. They plan to offer the clinic again in January or February.

DECEMBER 8: Museum L-A asked the club to set up a Christmas tree and have a train running under it for their "Old Fashioned Holiday Celebration." They were trying to recapture the days when Peck's Department Store in Lewiston celebrated Christmas with magnificent window displays, interior decorations, a fish pond, and Santa. In those days Lewiston-Auburn's Christmas parade included Santa Claus before he went to Peck's to greet children and ask what they wanted for Christmas. Professional photographers took pictures of children sitting on Santa's knee. More than 250 of these pictures had been sent to Museum L-A and were displayed as part of the Museum's tribute.

About 500 adults and children attended the four-hour event at Museum L-A, and many of the adults had their picture taken again on Santa's knee. Dick Clark and Paul Lodge had constructed a ramp/bridge for the fish pond. The ramp will now be available for the club's Hobo Holiday in the spring.

DECEMBER 14: Travis Johnson, Dick Clark, and Bryce Weeks traveled to Belgrade with Travis's 4- by 8-foot layout, which was part of their Christmas celebration. The Maine 3-Railers were also part of the evening's festivities. Children had hot cocoa and popcorn for refreshments while they watched the *Polar Express* movie.

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Meet the members By Maurice Fortin

Jay Calnan

“He is available for most of the club’s activities, and he is always willing to help. “

Jay Calnan, a very active member of GFMRRRC, is married to Suzanne. He has two children by a previous marriage, Lisa and Robert. He is retired as a surveyor for the Maine Department of Transportation. In addition to his interest in model railroads, Jay volunteers with the Central Maine Adaptive Ski Program at Lost Valley, a program which helps handicapped skiers.

For several years, Jay has volunteered for the Maine State Employees’ Association (MSEA) in Augusta and has given seminars on retirement planning for individuals looking forward to retirement. Jay is currently the president of the Androscoggin Valley Retirees Chapter of the MSEA-SEIU Local 1989 and vice chairman of the Retirees Steering Committee of the MSEA. He serves on the Western Maine Labor Council and is a member and regional vice president of the Maine Council of Senior Citizens.

His story of how he got involved in model railroading is very interesting. He had planned to go skiing at Sugarloaf with his two nephews. Because it was raining, however, they decided not to go. Jay had heard there was a model railroad show in Augusta and they went to the show instead. While there, Jay spoke with Paul Lodge and learned about a model railroading class in the fall.

Jay took the class in the fall of 1995 and became a club member in April 1996. Since then he has been very active in the organization. He is currently one of three directors for the club. He is available for most of the club’s activities, and he is always willing to help. He has been a reliable



Jay Calnan

volunteer helper for each season’s model railroading class.

His favorite modeling scale is HO, and he has many Conrail engines that are DCC ready. He often brings his engines to the clubhouse to run them on the HO scale layout. He currently does not have a layout at home; however, one is in the planning stages.

Jay is also a Certified Volunteer Presenter for Operation Lifesaver. He has done many presentations in schools, including his most recent presentation at Brunswick High School on December 19. He has also manned the Operation Lifesaver booth at various functions.

PLEDGE DRIVE FOR 2013

As this year comes to an end, I am asking you members if you are considering your pledge for your annual donation for this coming year. As you know the Club is a 501 (c-3) non-profit educational organization as identified by the IRS. Any donation is tax deductible on your individual income tax form.

I would like to thank those members who have given generously in our annual pledge drive this past year. As I illustrated in May at the annual meeting, the pledge drive makes up one third of our revenues. This coming year (2013) will be our first year of the second five-year plan to help offset the cost of operation and maintenance of the building.

We are grateful to those who have contributed in the past, not only with labor but with monetary contributions to support our ongoing activities. Some have contributed directly to specific projects when asked; others have contributed materials to help in building the layouts in the club. The success of the train show at the Auburn Middle School and the tremendous response of your time and effort for HOB0 Holiday, Trainfest and for the ExTRAINaganza has been very encouraging this year.

As I report at each monthly meeting, the revenues generated from dues, train shows, raffle layout, and donated materials are supporting the normal operations of the club. These additional pledges help to pay for the club's major projects. You will find in this newsletter a pledge form to fill out and forward to me. All pledges will be held in strict confidence.

Thank you,
Thomas A Coulombe, Treasurer

Continued from page 1
Busy December

DECEMBER 15: A birthday party! The clubhouse is now in a position to be used for birthday parties. We started publicizing the birthday party idea to families as they left the ExTRAINaganza. This birthday party included more than twenty children and a dozen adults. This is another way for the club to raise money and create a great memory for children and their families.

DECEMBER 18: Minot Consolidated School's art teacher had asked Paul Lodge to use his West Minot village as part of a three-dimensional art display. In addition to being a model building experience, math instruction for the students will include reducing to scale buildings with which they are familiar. Paul also explained the paper tole concept of building art works in layers, displaying some of the framed railroad scenes which Dick Varney has created for the club. Many of the students will be constructing dioramas for classroom activities or science fairs, and these techniques will help them to be even more creative.

DECEMBER 20: The club's Christmas Party. At 5:30 on that evening, Paul Lodge had been invited to Washburn Elementary School in Auburn to be a conductor for their evening event that included the *Polar Express* movie. The St. Lawrence and Atlantic Railroad cross buck sign on the pedestal created by Travis Johnson was used as part of the railroad motif for the evening. More than 250 adults and children attended this event, which was a clever way for the teachers to hold teacher/parent conferences while the students were watching the movie. Operation Lifesaver materials were distributed for both adults and children.

DECEMBER 21: Paul Lodge returned to Minot Consolidated School with Jay Calnan, Tom Coulombe, and Travis Johnson to give Operation Lifesaver presentations to seven individual classes.

Trains are an important part of Christmas celebrations, and members of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club helped to make this a memorable season for children of all ages in many different locations.



December Minutes by Paul Lodge

December 13, 2012

At the Christmas party on December 20, it was voted to have no business meeting. Instead, this issue of *The Signal* will include the following summary of the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting on December 13.

The Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports were approved as given.

As Station Master, Tom Coulombe reported that two security cameras have been installed in the lower level to observe the work station area and the HO layout throughout the length of the room. A family has rented the club for a birthday party. John Marchesseault has cleaned the furnace and now thinks converting it to natural gas would cost about \$2,500. There was some discussion about utilizing the Crew Lounge as a sales area for train sets and excess inventory. The magazines in binders would need to find a new home in order to make room for more sales items.

Membership includes four new families, but five others may be dropped because they have not renewed their membership.

The club sold more than \$700 worth of excess inventory at the train show in Brewer sponsored by the Eastern Maine Model Railroad Club on November 17.

The modular display at the Maine State Museum in Augusta was successful with about five hundred visitors attending. The club was also represented at Museum L-A for their "Old Fashioned Holiday Celebration." We set up and decorated a Christmas tree

and had a Lionel train set running around it. Dick Clark and Paul Lodge had built a ramp/bridge from which children could fish for prizes in the "fish pond," and Julie Bruce helped the children with their fishing expeditions.

During the Christmas season the club had an N-scale layout on display at the Androscoggin Chamber of Commerce in Lewiston.

Travis Johnson reported that two students attended the class on rebuilding turnouts. He and Roger Plummer will conduct another class in January or February.

Rick James will contact Joe Marshall to find out more about our efforts with E-bay and Face Book.

Travis Johnson, Nancy Weeks, and Bryce Weeks participated in a special evening in Belgrade where the *Polar Express* was read and Operation Lifesaver materials were distributed. Paul Lodge helped with the same type of event at Washburn Elementary School in Auburn on December 20.

On Wednesday, December 5, the third grade from Montello School in Lewiston visited the club, saw all the layouts, ran trains, learned about the history of the local railroads, and had an Operation Lifesaver presentation.

Terry King will ask club members who have rolling stock at the club to identify their equipment with a color code and record it so that everyone will know to whom it belongs.

Since the club trailer is no longer used, Terry King suggested that it be made available to sell. It was decided to do this in the spring of 2013.

**NEXT ADULT ED CLASS
STARTS FEBRUARY 5**

Paul Lodge

Our next Model Railroading class offered through the Auburn Adult Education program will begin on Tuesday, February 5. This very popular class has given local residents an opportunity to find out more about model railroading as they build basic modules for themselves which are often added to our displays at train shows. In recent classes a large number of children have taken the course along with their parents or grandparents. Sparks of enthusiasm from these families help to promote our hobby and build membership in the club.

Club members are encouraged to come on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 to help guide the participants in their modeling endeavors. In the past, we have had outstanding club member participation. All the help is needed and appreciated. Come, enjoy the fun, and promote the hobby and the club.

**RAILROAD HOBBY SHOW
IN WEST SPRINGFIELD, MA**

Paul Lodge

Several club members are getting ready for the Amherst Railway Society railroad show in West Springfield, Massachusetts, on January 26 and 27. Some club members plan to go to the show for one day, and others plan to attend both days. Four buildings are used to house all the participants at the Eastern States Exposition complex. More than 25,000 railroad enthusiasts have attended the event each year for the past three years. There are model railroad layouts in all scales from Z, which fits on a coffee table, to an 80-foot N-Trak system. Vendors and hobbyists sell model railroad equipment, photos, slides, video tapes, books, and other railroad memorabilia. National manufacturers and publishers regularly attend the show, which has been rated one of the top three in the nation.

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club will be participating for the first time this year, thanks to several club volunteers. Dick Rubin and Ralph Luby will be setting up their double helix G-gauge exhibit and will have the club's name on it. Dick and Ralph's display should be an instant hit because it is so unusual and eye-catching.

Jerry Johnston plans to have our new club brochure available for distribution at this well-attended train show.

Proceeds from the show are used to promote interest in railroads. Donations have been made to various museums, historical societies, restoration projects, and scholarship funds. Over \$600,000 has been awarded since 1991. Organizations which have received awards include the 470 Club, Maine Diesel Locomotive Restoration Project, Boston & Maine Historical Society, Kennebunk Trolley Museum, and the Wiscasset, Waterville & Farmington Railway.

2013 RAFFLE LAYOUT BEING BUILT

Paul Lodge

Ever since the raffle layout winner was announced at the ExTRAINaganza, several club members have been busy creating the next layout. Tom Coulombe, Jerry Johnston, and Travis Johnson have finished building the base, creating a track plan, laying the track, and painting the layout. Nick Matluk has been ballasting the track, and Terry King has been painting and restoring buildings to be used on the layout.

The raffle layout will be used at several club events this year and is frequently the center of attention at non-club affairs. It will be exhibited for the first time on January 18 at an event sponsored by the Court Street Baptist Church in Auburn. As the year goes along, we may be asked to use it at schools, libraries, nursing homes, veterans' homes, and "Old Home Days" at various towns. With the use of the raffle layout at these special events, our club gets a lot of exposure and opportunities for distributing handouts promoting our other club activities.



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



January 10 Exec Committee meeting
January 17 Membership Meeting

January 26—27, 2013 Springfield Show

February 5, Adult Ed Model Railroad Class starts, 6:30 - 8:30

February 14 Exec Committee meeting
February 16, Whitefield Lions Club Annual Model Railroad and Dollhouse Show, Augusta Armory, 10:00 - 3:30

February 21 Membership Meeting

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



Photo by Terry King