



Member since June 1988

NEXT MEETING
October 17
6:45 p.m.

NEXT MONTH
Deadline for
November Issue
November 1, 2013

MEMBERSHIP
120

ATTENDANCE PRIZE
Guy Lovell, III won the
attendance prize.

Peter Amershadian
won the 50/50 raffle.

Will your name be
drawn on **October**
17?
You have to be
present to win!

BOTTLES FOR BASICS

- ♦ Total LAST YEAR
- ♦ \$363.85
- ♦ YEAR TO DATE:
- ♦ \$357.50
- ♦ THIS MONTH:
- ♦ \$78.00

The Signal

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club



VOLUME 24 . ISSUE 5

OCTOBER 2013



DID YOU KNOW!

**ROBERT W. SPATE
PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD**

Larry Cannon



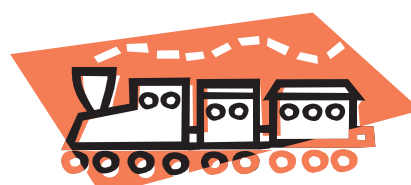
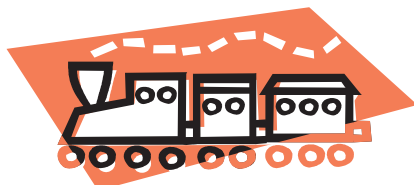
The Spate Public Service award was created by the Great Falls Model Railroad Club in memory of Robert W. Spate. The award is presented annually to a member or organization of the Northeastern Region of the National Model Railroad Association that best exemplifies the promotion of the hobby of model railroading. Preference is given to those whose service to the hobby is in a public forum open to young people and/or others who are not usually exposed to the hobby. The recipient receives an engraved plaque which is presented at any Regional Convention.

Robert W. Spate of New Harbor, Maine, was a Life Member of the National Model Railroad Association and a member of the HUB Division of the Northeastern Region of the NMRA. He actively shared his model railroading interests with young people and others who wanted to learn more about the hobby. After he retired, he moved to Maine where he continued to support other model railroaders from his rather remote Pemaquid Point location. The Spate Award honors Bob by recognizing others who share this spirit.

Louise Spate, Bob's widow, donated his 78- by 16-foot layout to the Great Falls Model Railroad Club. We have used parts of that donation to build both the Canal Street Alley layout (Code 100 rail) and the present layout with Code 83 rail. The donation included a number of the tools we use in the shop and some of the supplies still on our shelves. A substantial portion of the donation was sold and the funds were used toward the purchase of our current building.

Bob Spate did not belong to the Great Falls Model Railroad Club. He probably attended our shows, but none of our "surplus assets" were included in the material his widow donated to the club. When the monetary value of the sales of assets from this donation reached five figures and we realized the value of what was still on hand, the club decided to create a memorial to him.

Since Bob's primary connection to the hobby was in the Northeastern Region, we honor his service and donation with an endowment which funds an annual public service award to members of the Northeastern Region of the NMRA. Over the years the award has been presented to the Bedford Boomers and Amherst Society of Model Railroad Engineers. Individuals receiving the award have included Emmons Lancaster, Jack Alexander, Charlie Bettinger, and Paul Allard.



MEET THE MEMBERS

**Bob & Denise
Purington**

By Maurice Fortin



Denise and Bob Purington are both very active members of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club. They have been married for 30 years. Denise is originally from California and moved to Maine when she was seven years old. They are both retired and are actively involved in their church and community.

About five years ago the railroad club bought the building at 144 Mill Street and members soon began major renovations. At that time Bob and Denise lived in the Barker Mill Apartments across the street from the club house. Bob saw a lot of work being done and often came over to offer his help. He has been a member ever since. Denise joined the club a year later.

Denise had a model railroad when she was about seven years old. Bob also had an HO railroad when he was young. At their home in Mechanic Falls, they now have an N-scale railroad on a two-foot by four-foot table and an HO layout on a three-foot by five-foot table.

Both Bob and Denise participate in every event the club sponsors. Bob also helps around the club house with painting and construction projects. Denise, of course, is our all-time greatest raffle ticket seller. At all of the club events, Denise is there to sell tickets for the club's raffle layout.

Besides their involvement in the railroad club, both are very active in their church. Bob has been a member of the church board of deacons since 2000. Denise is a member of the Ladies Circle and is involved in the Red Hat Society. Bob is interested in four-wheeling and has an Arctic Cat ATV that he really enjoys.



THE SIGNAL

CLUB MEMBERS ATTEND O/L REGIONAL CONVENTION

Paul Lodge

From September 16 through 18, several club members attended the Region 1 Workshop at Mystic, Connecticut. As part of the incentive to go to the conference, participants could ride Amtrak's Downeaster and another Amtrak train to Mystic for free. Dick Clark, Paul Lodge, and Maurice and Collette Fortin rode the train; and Jay and Susan Calnan went by car to the convention.

The opening ceremonies were preceded by the Amtrak Police Ceremonial Unit Pipes and Drums featuring bagpipes. The president and vice-president of Operation Lifesaver were guest speakers at the conference. One of the highlights of the workshop was O/L presenters giving their best presenter introduction to a presentation. About a dozen volunteers gave their entertaining introductions. The winner received \$100 based on the voting of the members at the meeting.

Maine had the largest delegation of all the states at the conference. Region 1 includes New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and all the New England states. Of the nearly 100 participants, almost 20 percent were from Maine.



MODEL TRAIN SHOW

AT

AUBURN MIDDLE SCHOOL

ON

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2

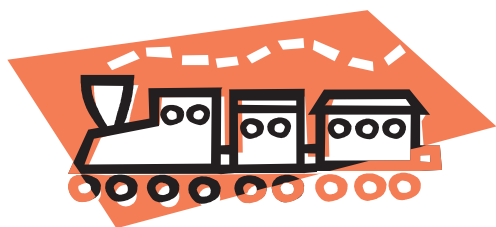
By Paul Lodge

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club is sponsoring their annual model train show at the Auburn Middle School on Saturday, November 2, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Displays feature model railroads in various scales built by model train enthusiasts throughout Maine. Additions to The Great Falls Model Railroad Club layout will include new modules created by students in this year's Model Railroad Class offered through the Auburn Adult Education program.

Dealers from around New England will be available to answer questions and to sell new and used model railroad items. Train Time videos, produced by The Great Falls Model Railroad Club and seen regularly on local public television stations, will be shown continuously throughout the day and will be available to purchase. Model railroading clinics will be held in a nearby classroom.

Refreshment sales benefit the Auburn Music Association, with coffee and donuts throughout the morning and luncheon specials beginning about noon. People can enjoy the refreshments and continue to watch the model train layouts from conveniently located tables and chairs. A play area with age-appropriate model trains is provided for younger children near the tables so that parents can sit and watch their children. Admission is \$4 and \$2 for those under 15.

Club members are encouraged to help during the show and setting up before the show. Many tables for dealers will need to be unloaded from the delivery truck at 4:00 Friday afternoon and set up then. If the gym is being used for a school activity on Friday, we will set up the tables Saturday morning at 6:00 when we start setting up the modular layouts. If you would like your module to be included in the club's large HO layout, bring it to the gym Saturday morning between 6:00 and 8:00. Please let Tom Coulombe know when you will be available to help and if you plan to bring a module.



CLUB TO HOST

BOY SCOUTS

Paul Lodge

Starting Wednesday, September 25, Tom Coulombe will be leading about six Boy Scouts who are studying for their Catholic "Ad Altare Dei" Religious Award. At first they will be meeting every week. Later they will meet every other week as they will need to do more homework between sessions.

Wednesday evening was selected because the club will already be heated for the weekly work session. The request for the use of our building came about because the Holy Cross meeting hall in which they usually meet is not available.

The Executive Committee voted to allow the use of the building for this Boy Scout Religious Award.



Tom Coulombe helps Ethan Berube at the Adult Ed class



September Minutes by Paul Lodge

MINUTES of

SEPTEMBER 19, 2013

MEETING

Before the meeting started, club members were treated to a slide presentation made by Ed Leslie showing many pictures from the Auburn Mall train show. The evening's TRAIN TIME program featured the trip that club members had to the Trains from Nowhere to Nowhere in northern Maine.

President Ed Leslie opened the meeting and asked for the Secretary's Report. A motion was made to accept the report as published in the Signal.

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

As Station Master, Tom gave a list of items on which he has been working. The doors to the outdoor shed, which were out of alignment, have been fixed. Lights on the outside of the building have been working erratically and he would like to ask the electrician to look at them, but he will wait until they don't work at all. It is hard to have someone come to fix lights when they are working. Part of the driveway has been sealed. The Auburn Water and Sewage District will notify the owner of the property next to the club's that his leaking sewage pipe needs to be repaired. The pipe was broken this summer when a large tree limb fell on it. Surveillance cameras have been sent back to the manufacturer to see if they can figure out why the cameras are not working. They are still under warranty. A section of the work area will be arranged so that spray painting can be done. A roof has been installed above the air conditioner to help keep snow off from it. It was suggested that a cover also be installed to help keep out the cold air in the winter.

We have been using Goodman's parking area for club vehicles during events at the club. Tom plans to give Goodman's free passes for the ExTRAINaganza so that they can distribute them to their employees.

A Boy Scout group has asked to meet at the club on Wednesday evenings starting on September 25 to work on their religious merit badge. Tom will lead the group. Terry King made a motion, which passed, to allow the Boy Scouts to use the building.

Tom has been trying to sell our old trailer which is still on his property. He has placed it on Craig's List for \$850 and has received two inquiries.

Club aprons are available for \$15. They can be used to put car cards in while operating the layout and hold other things.

Tom suggested that club members be made aware of the opportunity to help with Kids' Night at Governor's Restaurant. Every Thursday their Kids' Night menu has items for 99 cents for children. We have been asked to supply model railroad entertainment on the first Thursday of each month. Club members are encouraged to come and help supervise children's activities and get a free meal from Governor's. They should let Tom Coulombe or Paul Lodge know in advance when they plan to come.

Layout Reports: Gary Thibeault reported that the HO group is still installing control panels and painting backdrops. Anyone wishing to work on scenery is welcome to come and help. An additional operating session will take place on the first Saturday each month. Ken Nettleship said that the G-gauge layout is having plaster installed in the winter scene which should be ready for our next open house. It is hoped that DCC will be installed on the N-scale layout in time for the ExTRAINaganza event.

West Springfield Show: The Amherst Model Railroad Society is inviting organizations to put on clinics at the train show in West Springfield on January 23 and 24. Any club member who might be interested should contact Tom Coulombe for more details. Ralph Luby reported that a G-gauge layout has been designed to fill a 45- by 45-foot area. This is even larger than last year. The layout will be placed on 41 tables and will have 500 feet of track on multiple levels, arranged in 2 dog bones. Six trains will be able to run at the same time. Ray Parent plans to bring his Freedom Train which has some new additions. Ralph suggested that club members should come to the West Springfield Show and help with the layout and experience the show, which utilizes five buildings. The club is expected to receive \$1,500 for its participation in the event.

Auburn Middle School Train Show: We have rented 75 tables and 50 of them have been sold. A room will be available for clinics. It was suggested that we have two 45-minute clinics and see how they go. We need club members to volunteer to give the clinics.

Bryce Weeks donated to the club three plaques taken from freight cars which were demolished. Two of the

(Continued from page 4)

plates indicated the name of the company which leased or owned the freight car. Club members thanked Bryce for his generous donation. Bryce also donated three VHS movies which he suggested could be used for "Movie Night."

Tom Coulombe noted that Operation Lifesaver will hold its annual meeting at the club on Saturday, November 9. Operation Lifesaver is also holding its regular monthly meeting at the club in September.

Because of the very limited amount of cash the club has, we have not been able to pursue buying and installing Department of Transportation road signs which were approved about two years ago. Paul Lodge asked if the members of the club thought it was still a good idea. After an overwhelmingly positive response, Paul asked who would be willing to donate \$100 for a sign. Jerry Johnston, Terry King, and Maurice and Collette Fortin volunteered to donate \$100 each, which will give us three signs. After the signs are made, the DOT will install them.

In the special "Did You Know?" portion of the meeting, Larry Cannon explained the Spate Award, created by the club for the Northeast Region of the National Model Railroad Association. (You can read the details in a separate article in the newsletter.)

Dick Clark presented the "Thinking Out of the Boxcar" segment of the meeting. He showed how he lit the inside of passenger cars with LEDs and batteries from old cordless phones.

For the "What's on Your Workbench?" part of the meeting, Jerry Johnston displayed several tunnel portals he had created from wooden coffee stirrers and slices of plywood.

Next month, Bob Willard will do the "Out of the Boxcar" presentation, and Ken Nettleship will do the "What's on Your Workbench?"

New Member Peter Amershadian won the 50/50 raffle and the Attendance Prize. Peter graciously gave his Attendance Prize to another new member, Guy Lovell, III. Guy selected a John Deere hat.



NMRA MEMBERS TO VISIT CLUB

Paul Lodge

On Sunday, October 20 from 1 to 4 p.m., members of the Seacoast Division of the Northeast Region of the National Model Railroad Association have been invited to tour the club's layouts. That will be the last day of their convention, and Seacoast Division members who will be traveling to their homes in northern and eastern Maine and New Brunswick may stop by to view the club's layouts on their way home.

Club members are asked to come and help operate the layouts and give tours of our facility. If you need more information, contact Tom Coulombe. This should be a fun day for all of us. Come and help.

Conway Scenic Railroad Foliage Opportunity

By Paul Lodge

Larry Cannon has reported that members of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club have an opportunity to join NMRA members for a special trip on the Conway Scenic Railroad on Friday, October 18, from 10:30 AM to 3:30 PM. The Northeast Region of the NMRA is sponsoring this trip as part of its annual convention in Laconia, New Hampshire. The GFMRRRC is a supporting member of the NMRA, and the local Seacoast Division of the NMRA wants to recognize our club's continuing generous support by giving club members this opportunity.

The train ride will be in a Budd car, the RDC "Millie" and will travel to Conway, Redstone, Glen, and Bartlett before returning to North Conway. There will be photo run-bys and a stop for lunch. As of the time this article was written, there was still space available for this ride, with tickets at \$39 per person. You can pay an additional price for a lunch or you can bring your own lunch and eat it on the train.

You do not have to register for the convention or be an NMRA member to take advantage of this offer. Space is limited by the size of the car. More information is available on the convention website at www.seacoastNMRA.org. Click on Convention Site and then scroll down to Rail Trips for details.

Seacoast Division President Peter McKenney is a member of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club, Tom Coulombe is their treasurer, and Larry Cannon serves on their Board of Directors.

If you are interested in taking this exclusive train ride on the Conway Scenic Railroad, please see Tom Coulombe to sign up and pay for the trip.



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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THE SIGNAL

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Upcoming Events



October 10, Board Meeting

October 17, Membership
Meeting

October 21, Operating Session

November 2, Train Show:
Auburn Middle School

November 14, Board Meeting

November 12, Membership
Meeting

**November 23-25 and
29-30**: ExTRAINagana

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

MORE OPERATING

SESSIONS AT THE CLUB

Paul Lodge

The HO Group has voted to have an additional operating session each month beginning in October. These sessions will be held on the first Saturday of each month. Now that more of the layout has been completed, more operating sessions are needed. During operating sessions, defects can be spotted and fixed before the next event or open house. Additional operating sessions will also encourage more membership participation. The layout is still a work in

progress, and adding these sessions will help make the operating sessions more fun for everyone. This will give about 24 operating sessions a year. (Editor's note: It has been decided to postpone the second operation per month until January)

At the last Executive Committee meeting, it was suggested that Guest Engineers at club events should now be asked to use a ticket for the privilege of running a train on the HO layout. The tickets are purchased at the club entrance when adults pay for admission and are already being used for other children's activities.