

The Signal

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club



VOLUME 25. ISSUE 6

NOVEMBER 2013



Member since June 1988

NEXT MEETING
November 21
6:45 p.m.

NEXT MONTH
Deadline for
November Issue
December 6, 2013

MEMBERSHIP
120

ATTENDANCE PRIZE

Gordon Draper and Ray Lagasse were not present to win

Ed Webb won the 50/50 raffle.

Will your name be drawn on **November 21?**

You have to be present to win!

BOTTLES FOR BASICS

- ◆ Total LAST YEAR
- ◆ \$363.85
- ◆ YEAR TO DATE:
- ◆ \$417.50
- ◆ THIS MONTH:
- ◆ \$60.00



Ex **TRAIN** aganza

2013 VERSION

Paul Lodge



The Ex**TRAIN**aganza is one of the largest fundraising projects each year for the Great Falls Model Railroad Club. The days and times of the five-day event correspond with those of the Shriner's FEZtival of Trees as we try to make the L/A area a family destination at Christmas time. The Ex**TRAIN**aganza begins on the Saturday, Sunday, and Monday before Thanksgiving and ends on the Friday and Saturday after Thanksgiving. The times change from day to day.

The success of this event depends on the help of as many club members as possible. Whether you are available for a short time or several hours, one day or every day, we appreciate your help. Members will be needed to fill positions by greeting guests at the door and collecting admission fees, supervising the craft area or the children's play area, selling surplus assets, and being a library greeter. Members are also needed to sell raffle tickets for the train sets under the Christmas trees and on the club's raffle layout. Some people help by bringing food for the club members. Members are also needed to supervise and operate the G-gauge, N-scale, and HO layouts.

On Monday and Tuesday, November 18 and 19, starting at 9 a.m. club members are encouraged to come and decorate the club house with our Christmas decorations.

Each year visitors to the Ex**TRAIN**aganza see changes to every layout. Throughout the year, several club members have been working diligently on the HO layout's electrical system, track improvements, and scenery. The G-gauge Division has been making some major changes to include new winter scenes at the entrance to the club. The N-Scale layouts have also added some interesting details.

In the past, Beth and Jeff Chaffee have provided child-friendly layouts for families to enjoy. Although they will not be able to do that this year, Bob Willard has volunteered to display about twenty feet of his On30 layout downstairs in the classroom area.

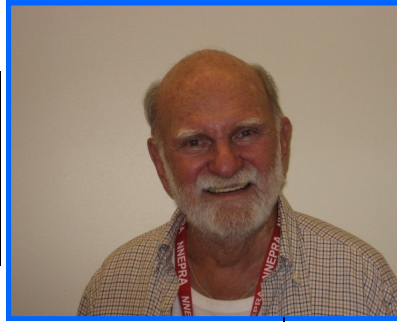
All club members are encouraged to help with publicity by hanging posters at their local businesses and distributing handouts. Your personal touch by inviting family and friends, including with e-mails and Facebook postings, is another important contribution.



MEET THE MEMBERS

**Ray
Anderson**

By Maurice Fortin



Raymond Anderson is a long-standing member of GFMRRRC who joined the club in 1992. He has four children--one son and three daughters--as well as four grandchildren. Ray was recently married to Nancy Johnson. Congratulations to you both! He was in the Army for twenty years. He is now retired, spends his winters in Florida, and does what he wants when he wants (with Nancy's permission, of course).

He became interested in model railroading when he bought an HO model train set at a garage sale. He says that was the beginning of his model railroading.

When the railroad club was on Canal Street in Lewiston, Ray and Larry Cannon designed and installed all of the electrical work for that HO layout. As I was interviewing Ray, Terry King brought out the manuals Ray and Larry had prepared for that location. These manuals included Excel spreadsheets of all the electrical layout control and lighting systems. The Layout Operation Guide included instructions on how to operate a DCC unit on the railroad. Everything a new member would need to operate the system was in these manuals.

Long-time members of the club have many good memories of the club picnics at Ray's camp on the lake in Turner. Ray was also Santa Claus at the Auburn Parade of Lights, one of the many Christmas events in which the club participated.

Ray and Nancy were among the eleven club members who enjoyed the weekend camping trip in late July of 2011 to see the relics and restored engines of the Eagle Lake and West Branch Railroad in the Allagash. The expedition by this group was the subject of the "Trains from Nowhere to Nowhere" video shown on Train Time and at our club meetings in September 2011 and August 2013. Additional details about the trip can also be found in the August 2011 issue of The Signal.

Ray still has a great interest in model railroading and attends meetings as often as possible when he and Nancy are in Ogunquit for the summer. When he spends time in Florida, his current interest is operating radio-controlled sailboats.



BACKDROP PAINTING CLASS

HELD IN OCTOBER

Paul Lodge

Eight club members participated in this fall's Backdrop Painting for the Reluctant Painter class. On Saturday, October 26, Paul Lodge led the class at the club and demonstrated techniques for the project. The class used basic inexpensive tools and acrylic paints to gain confidence that they, too, can paint backdrops.

Paul showed several photos of sky and clouds as examples of features which can be painted with these basic tools. The class started with an explanation of how to blend dark blue sky into a light blue horizon. Paul then used a fan brush to create clouds. Class members were shown how to combine white and black paints into mountain peaks by using a palette knife. Foothills in various shades of green were painted below the distant mountains, using a fan brush and other brushes of various sizes to create depth and distance.

Three young people painted their backdrops with the help of parents or grandparents. The Saturday morning backdrop painting class was offered after the eight-week Tuesday evening model railroading course completed. Many of those who came to this class had recently completed creating their own modules in the Tuesday course. The finished backdrops were displayed at the club's train show on November 2 at the Auburn Middle School.

During the clinic at the Auburn Middle School on November 2, Paul demonstrated the same techniques while creating part of a backdrop scene. The class at the club lasts three hours and gives students skills in applying the lessons. The clinic at AMS was only forty-five minutes, so observers did not have time to practice. One of the goals of the clinic, however, was to encourage them to try painting backdrops on their own or to take the next class at the club.



AUBURN MIDDLE SCHOOL

MODEL TRAIN SHOW

Paul Lodge

On Saturday, November 2, over 500 people attended the annual model train show sponsored by the Great Falls Model Railroad Club sponsored its annual model train show. Dealers from around New England sold model railroad equipment and supplies. Families enjoyed the large HO modular layout the club displayed along with one N-Scale layout. This year the children's play area featured the club's new Brio wooden train tables along with the usual toy trains.

For the first time in many years, the club offered model railroad clinics during the day for modelers interested in improving their modeling skills. Bob Bennett did a clinic on creating buildings "From Concept to Conclusion." Paul Lodge demonstrated techniques for painting scenic backgrounds with his clinic, "Backdrop Painting for the Reluctant Painter." One of his goals was to encourage participants to take a backdrop painting class at the club's home at 144 Mill Street in Auburn.

As part of the crafts cottage industry, several members sold from a table filled with items made by individual club members including those who have formed a group to do knitting projects. Sales included such items as knitted hats, train whistles which were painted by Carmen Coulombe, Christmas cards with train photos, and train cookie cutters. They also sold raffle tickets on the beautiful train bedspread they have recently finished knitting.

Refreshments were provided by the Auburn Music Association. The annual train show is their largest income-producing activity.

Many club members helped set up and take down dealer tables, set up and take down the club's modular layout, sell surplus inventory and consignment items, sell raffle tickets, interview guests, watch doors, set out signs, and run layouts.

The good turnout of guests this year was partially credited to the front page article by Russ Dillingham about Joe Landry's layout and the sidebar referring to our model train show. When asked how visitors heard about the show, the most frequent answer were the signs and the club's website.

WW&F VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS

Paul Lodge

The Wiscasset, Waterville & Farmington Railway sponsors free train rides during its annual Victorian Christmas. On December 21, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., the WW&F will again be giving free train rides as a "Thank you" to the abutting landowners along the train route. The general public is also invited to enjoy the event. Last year over 1,000 visitors came to ride the Victorian Christmas trains. In the past, several club members have gone together to enjoy the train rides and each other's company.

Riders will travel in vintage passenger cars behind a narrow gauge steam locomotive and get off at Alna Center. They can then take a sleigh ride if there is snow or a wagon ride if there is not enough snow. Either the sleigh or wagon will be pulled by horses. Inside the Sheepscot station, guests can get refreshments and buy items at the gift shop. Artifacts can be found and examined at the engine house, which is open to the public.

The WW&F has many members from the United States and around the world. Financial contributions from its members and other individuals are used to maintain and expand the railroad and cover its annual operating costs. Several of our club members are contributors to the WW&F and/or volunteer regularly to work on the railroad. Club member John Robertson, who is a WW&F volunteer, has been instrumental in getting family passes for our club to use as raffle prizes at several of our events.

Get a group together and enjoy a day riding the Victorian Christmas train on the Wiscasset, Waterville & Farmington Railway.



Benton Hayes and Daniel Malkowski at AMS



October Minutes by Paul Lodge



MINUTES OF OCTOBER 17, 2013 MEETING

Before the meeting started, club members were treated to a video of the many club activities this year from April through August. The evening's TRAIN TIME program showed the club's activities four years ago, including the first ExTRAINaganza, McLaughlin's Garden in South Paris, and our participation in Auburn's Festival of Lights.

In Ed Leslie's absence, Paul Lodge moderated the meeting. The Secretary's Report was approved as printed in the club's newsletter.

Terry King gave the Treasurer's Report for Tom Coulombe. He appealed to club members who have pledged money in addition to their dues to donate soon because there is not enough cash to pay the current bills. The Treasurer's Report was approved as given.

In Tom Coulombe's absence, Paul Lodge summarized the Station Master's Report based on the report given by Tom at the Executive Committee meeting on October 10.

The money pledged for the DOT signs will allow the club to place three signs on the routes leading to the club. The DOT signs need to be approved by the city. A fee will need to be paid and then the next steps will be taken. Tom Coulombe recently brought his chip-ping machine and worked on the dead branches on the hillside by the upper parking area. The club's truck has been repaired, inspected, and registered. Operation Lifesaver will meet at the club on November 9. Sandy Sondheim has donated a chair from the Buckfield railroad station and he has asked that it not be sold. Dick Clark is making a sign for the door outside the library which will say "Library."

Paul Lodge announced that Train Time is now showing on Time Warner Cable Channel 9 on Monday at 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Time Warner plans to return the show to Tuesdays after the football season.

The "Backdrop Painting for the Reluctant Painter" class is scheduled for Saturday, October 26. Five people have signed up for the class. It is expected that the class will be offered each semester on a Saturday after the Adult Education class in Model Railroading ends.

November 18 and 19 have been selected as

the days for decorating the club house for Christmas and the ExTRAINaganza. We will start at about 9 a.m. and decorate as long as we can. The ExTRAINaganza will be held at the club on November 23, 24, 25, 29, and 30. Members will attend the November Chamber of Commerce meeting and hand out materials for the ExTRAINaganza.

Tables will be set up at 4 p.m. on Friday, November 1, for the train show the following day at the Auburn Middle School. Nearly all the tables have been sold. A table will be provided for crafts which have been made by club members, including the special quilt. T-shirts, cookie cutters, greeting cards, and other club items will also be sold at that table. Two tables will be used for the consignment of materials from a lady in Turner. They will be separate from the club sales area so that the money can be kept separate from other sales and consignments. We have some Governor's gift certificates which we can give away at the train show. Tom Coulombe has suggested that they could be given to our guests for the 25th, 50th, 75th, and 100th person through the door. The Auburn Music Association has been contacted and they are planning to sell refreshments again this year.

Reports on the club layouts were given. The HO Group announced that they will be adding another operating session each month starting early next year. When the group has a meeting, the minutes of that meeting will be placed on the bulletin board so that members who do not attend can be informed about decisions made. Ken Nettle-ship reported that progress is being made on the winter portion of the G-gauge layout.

Club members were invited to help out at Kids' Night at Governor's Restaurant on the first Thursday of each month. Governor's promotes Kid's Night every Thursday when a variety of children's meals are sold for 99 cents. Pictures of Kids' Night had been seen during the opening video for the evening so that members could see how our club participates in this activity. This also provides us with an opportunity to promote club activities such as the train show, ExTRAINaganza, Hobo Holiday, and Train Fest.

Operation Lifesaver, the railroad safety volunteer program in which several club members participate, will hold its annual meeting at the club on Saturday, November 9, from 10 a.m. to about noon. The emphasis this year will be on railroad trespassing. The HO layout will be used to stage trespassing violations which will be part of a scavenger hunt for those attending the meeting.

Club members were asked if there was any interest in taking a field trip to Norm's O Scale in South Casco. About five members indicated an interest. When asked who was interested in operating trains on the HO layout, three members raised their hands. When asked how

(Continued from page 4)

many would like to learn how to operate trains on the HO layout, about ten people raised their hands. These people were invited to attend an operating session. They will be assigned to an experienced person who will help them through the process.

For the "What's on Your Workbench?" segment of the meeting, Ken Nettleship described how he made a replica of a building in Turner using photographs and reducing it to a diagram from which he could construct the building.

Bob Willard did a presentation for "Thinking out of the Boxcar." He displayed a finger-held Xacto knife and how easy it is to control for certain projects. He also explained how he uses a paper punch for modeling "Out of the Boxcar." Bob described ways that household products can be beneficial in model railroading. He used 3-M micro pure tape to create roofing material.

For the December meeting, Jerry Johnston will do the "What's on Your Workbench?" presentation, and Brenda Leslie will do the "Thinking out of the Boxcar" presentation.

Names for the attendance prize were drawn. Gordon Draper and Ray Lagasse were not present, so there was no winner. The 50/50 raffle was won by Ed Webb. Other 50/50 raffle tickets were drawn to receive three New England laminated wall maps which include trains of New England. Norm Ness, Paul Lodge, and Bob Russell won the maps.

AFGHAN RAFFLE

A beautiful hand-made afghan featuring pictures of eight colorful train cars is being raffled by the Great Falls Model Railroad Club. The afghan, which will fit a twin-sized bed, is made of acrylic yarn and can be machine washed and dried. Club members Terry Obie, Terry James, Maddie Short, and Rita Vatter have crocheted and assembled a total of 786 granny squares to create this afghan. Raffle tickets may be purchased at the next club meeting or at the ExTRAINaganza. The winning ticket will be drawn on Saturday, November 30, the last day of the ExTRAINaganza.



WOMAN'S LITERARY UNION

REQUESTS TRAINS

Paul Lodge

Martha Feeley, President of the Woman's Literary Union, has requested a joint effort between their 501c(3) Educational Foundation and ours for a Christmas display at the Horatio Foss Mansion on 19 Elm Street in Auburn. They are planning an open house fund-raising activity for Friday through Sunday, December 13, 14, and 15. They are that enough of their volunteers will be available to have the mansion open from 5 to 8 p.m. on Friday and from 2 to 8 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Miss Feeley asked if our club would be interested in creating a display of a Christmas tree with a train running under it. They hope to have each of their rooms decorated for Christmas by different local organizations.

Stephen Martelli and Paul Lodge visited the mansion and presented ideas for displays by the Great Falls Model Railroad. We have an extra artificial Christmas tree which we can use for this event. Stephen Martelli has G-gauge trains and buildings available. Last year we participated in a similar activity at Museum L/A in Lewiston.

After Paul and Stephen visited the mansion, Martha Feeley came to our club for a tour of our facility. Martha, Paul, Stephen, and Terry King had a stimulating conversation about fund-raising and volunteer organizations. Cooperation between volunteer organizations such as ours helps both groups grow and become stronger members of our community.



Santa's visit at last year's ExTRAINaganza



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



November 14, Board Meeting

November 21, Membership Meeting

November 23-25 and 29-30: Ex**TRAIN**aganza

December 12, Board Meeting

December 19,
Membership Meeting,
Christmas Party

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

MAINE STATE MUSEUM EXHIBIT

Paul Lodge

On Friday and Saturday, December 6 and 7, the Great Falls Model Railroad Club will display part of its modular layout at the entrance (in the alcove) to the Maine State Museum in Augusta. This traditional exhibit has been carried on for a number of years. In addition to our club, the Maine 3 Railers also put on a great O-Gauge display. During the day of the exhibit, people can

visit the state's outstanding museum free.

Guests from this exhibit often come to Auburn to visit our layouts when we have an event like the Ex**TRAIN**aganza.

Club members are encouraged to bring friends and come to the Maine State Museum to help the club as well as to visit the state's special historic presentations.

