

THE SIGNAL



VOLUME 17. ISSUE 10

MARCH 2013



Member since June 1988

NEXT MEETING
March 21
6:45 p.m.

NEXT
MONTH
Deadline for
March Issue
March 29, 2013

MEMBERSHIP
117

ATTENDANCE PRIZE

Rob Roy's name was drawn and he was not present to win.

Larry Canon's name was drawn for the 50/50.

Will your name be drawn on **March 21**?
You have to be present to win!

BOTTLES FOR BASICS

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

THE COTTAGE INDUSTRY PROJECT

by Jerry Johnston

Cottage industry projects are popular today just as they were in the past, but we don't seem to call them that any more. A cottage industry is one in which materials and tools are used at home to produce a product for sale in a marketplace with similar products. The Great Falls Model Railroad Club already has a market place in the form of our surplus assets tables at shows and other events. Sales from these surplus assets raise a significant amount of money to help pay our bills. We can use even more help.

If you have an idea for a product that you or others could produce for sale, we would like to know about it. This project is getting underway. Club members are making plaster castings and trees, sanding boards, upgrading vehicles and refurbishing buildings to be sold for profit.

What do you have for an idea? What can you contribute for a product? We are willing to pay for the cost of materials or tools to help make a good idea come to fruition. Products should be train-related, but we want to consider all good ideas.

Along this line, anything you do that enhances the club and helps generate funds would qualify you as a cottage industry participant. For instance, it is important that the club modules at our shows look as good and as interesting as possible in order to draw more people. One member has agreed to adopt a couple of modules to restore and renovate. We have other modules available that need enhancement as well. Are you interested?

Please see or contact Jerry Johnston for any information or details on the Cottage Industry Project. 207-966-2932 or jjchef@megalink.net

"If you have an idea for a product that you or others could produce for sale, we would like to know about it."

“Since 1995, Paul has edited and produced nearly 250 half-hour Train Time episodes “

Meet the members By Maurice Fortin

Paul Lodge

Paul Lodge, a charter member of GFMRRRC, has been married to Frances for 52 years. They have two children and five grandchildren. His youngest granddaughter, Julie Bruce, often participates in club activities. Paul is a retired teacher who taught in Washburn, Maine, at Thornton Academy, at Biddeford Vocational School, and for many years at Edward Little High School as head of the Business Department. During his teaching career, he was President of the Maine Business Education Association, the Maine Vocational Association, and the Maine Chapter of the National Secretaries Association. At one point, he was selected as the Business Teacher of the Year from the Southern District of Maine.

Paul became involved in model railroading as a youngster when his uncle gave him a model railroading magazine. He eventually bought an American Flyer train set and used his paper route money to add to his collection. When he again became active in the hobby, Paul often joined an informal group of modelers who met at the Freight Station, a model railroad store in Auburn “just to talk.” When that group was officially organized in 1987 to become The Great Falls Model Railroad Club, he became the club's first president.

His interest is in HO railroads. His home layout covers the entire second story of his barn, an area 20 feet by 40 feet. He has designed his own train line called the Pine Tree Lines, with the initials which also stand for “Praise the Lord” for “The Heavenly Line.” The modules he has built to use at our shows include several scale models he has created of actual homes and buildings in West Minot village.

Paul is currently the club Secretary and one of the Instructors for the Model Railroad classes held twice a year. He is involved in nearly all other club activities and appreciates having been asked to paint the backdrops for the club's permanent layouts. He is the club “greeter” at our train shows. The corner module he uses at these shows provides written information about the club and our special events, Train Time videos, and several items available for purchase. Since 1995, he has edited and produced nearly 250 half-hour Train Time episodes which are shown on Time



Warner Cable Channel 9 and on various public access television stations in the state of Maine. Several club members have become part of the Train Time Team, joining him in videotaping trains throughout New England, New York, Pennsylvania, and even California.

He is an active member of Operation Lifesaver, having given multiple presentations and monitoring new presenters. At the 2007 Region One convention of Operation Lifesaver held in Burlington, Vermont, Paul received a plaque recognizing him as Maine's outstanding Operation Lifesaver volunteer. He is particularly proud of the fact that ten Great Falls Model Railroad Club members are now certified Operation Lifesaver presenters.



**OPERATION
LIFESAVER®**

OWLS HEAD SHOW IN MARCH

Paul Lodge

For the fourth year, the Great Falls Model Railroad Club will attend the Midcoast Model Festival at Owls Head Transportation Museum on Saturday, March 23, and Sunday, March 24. Some club members plan to go on Friday, March 22, and set up modules to get ready for the two-day event.

This hobby show is a chance to exhibit and appreciate all types of hobbies. Modelers from throughout Maine and beyond will display a mix of both kit models and hand-made creations. Displays will feature everything from antique model steam engines to cars, planes and trains. There will be indoor and outdoor airplane and car model demonstrations. There are race cars, helicopters, live steam trains, airplanes, circus displays, and temporary model displays of various types and sizes. In addition, visitors will be able to view all the exhibits on permanent display at the museum.

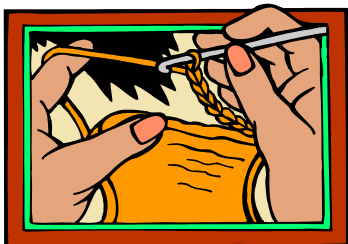
Afghan Fundraiser

Rita Vatter

I have located a few patterns related to trains, and thought that we as a group could make some items and sell them or raffle them at the club's open house. The next operating session at the club is March 16th at 9 am. I plan to be there and will bring the patterns and materials to get us started.

If you have any interest or any other ideas, please come! If you could email me "yea" or "nay" I can plan enough materials for everyone. My e-mail address is : rvatter@maine.rr.com

Also, if you know others who might be interested, please bring them along. The afghan I found is crocheted and suitable for a child's room. I will donate all of the yarn, and have hooks but I don't know how to crochet!



BACKDROP PAINTING FOR THE RELUCTANT PAINTER

Paul Lodge

At the February 14 meeting, Paul Lodge offered to hold a clinic on "Backdrop Painting for the Reluctant Painter." The class is designed for a limited enrollment of ten people, and new member Steve Wright has volunteered to help with this project.

This first one-day class is scheduled for Saturday, April 13, from 9 a.m. to noon. It will include learning to paint sky and clouds, mountains and foothills, lakes and ponds, and forests and trees. Arrangements have been made with Craft Mania to supply the necessary tools for the class. Class members who do not have the appropriate tools will be able to buy them on the day of the clinic. The tools will include a #2 fan brush, a pallet knife, a one-inch brush, and a two-inch brush. The cost of these tools is \$20. Participants will also pay a registration fee of \$10 to be donated to the club.

This first class will help to determine whether to offer additional classes. It is unclear as to how much time will be needed and what other details should be considered. Is this too much or too little time? Will additional tools be necessary? How much paint will be needed? Will non-class members be able to monitor the class? How much of a mess will we make? Will ten people be too many?

The sign-up sheet for this first class was filled with ten names at the February meeting. Some club members who were not at the meeting have also expressed interest in the Backdrop Painting class. When we have a clear picture of how this class goes, another class will be offered for those who did not get into this one.

A long-term goal of this project is to eventually offer additional Backdrop Painting classes to both members and non-members as a way to promote the hobby and bring a small amount of revenue into the club through the registration fee. Selling tools from Craft Mania will also benefit the club's official craft store.





February Minutes by Paul Lodge

MINUTES OF February 21, 2013 MEETING

Before the meeting started, club members were treated to a slide presentation made by Ed Leslie showing many pictures from the West Springfield, MA, train show. The evening's *TRAIN TIME* program featured the Finger Lakes Railroad based in Geneva, New York.

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*. Treasurer Tom Coulombe is on vacation and did not report. He did, however, leave the current figures with President Leslie, who gave highlights of the report.

At the Executive Committee meeting on February 14, it was noted that it took four club members two and a half hours to complete cleaning the driveways after the recent large storm. Work has been started inside the club trailer to get ready to sell it. Three of the modules which were stored in the trailer have been brought to the club to be rehabilitated. There are still two more in Tom's barn. In moving the club truck to get ready for the Augusta Train and Doll House Show on Saturday, February 16, a malfunction occurred. The pump for the air conditioning unit had seized up, causing a belt to break. The truck was towed to a mechanic who will fix the air conditioner by replacing the pump with an idler bar. The universal joint also needs to be replaced.

LAYOUTS: Travis Johnson spoke for the HO layout committee and invited club members to come to the Saturday operating session on February 23. Ken Nettleship reported that the G-gauge group will meet on Saturday, March 9, to discuss and decide on future activities for the layout. Ken also noted that the G-gauge helix layout at the West Springfield show was a huge success and we are invited back next year. A question was asked about being involved in the Portland Garden show in March. Ken replied that he has not heard from anyone asking us to be involved.

ACTIVITIES: Travis Johnson reported that Turnout Rebuilding Classes will be held on March 2 and April 6. Ed Webb is suggesting a "Back to Basics" workshop on coupler installation and adjusting and lubricating locomotives. Roger Plummer has been approached to lead a workshop on truck building. Paul Lodge introduced the idea of having a Saturday clinic on Backdrop Painting for the Reluctant Painter. Ten

members who were at the meeting signed up for the course scheduled for Saturday, April 13. Bob Willard has agreed to organize clinics for our November 2 show at the Auburn Middle School. Arrangements still need to be made with the school for a room for potentially three clinics during the day of the show.

FUND RAISING: Paul Lodge thanked club members for their contributions to the club in money, time and talent, and for donations of supplies and equipment. He reported that the club will be doing the Power Team fund raiser again this year. The Bottles for Basics promotion needs to be emphasized in order to reach our \$500 goal for the year. Jerry Johnston reported that he has purchased and donated to the club a Fund Raising Packet of suggestions. He has reviewed some of the ten CDs. Other members of the Fund Raising Committee will have a chance to listen to the suggestions and implement ideas which can benefit the club. He invited any club member interested to join the committee.

Jerry Johnston reported that he is renegotiating our loan from a 30-year mortgage to a 15-year mortgage with a lower interest rate from 4½% to 2¾%. The monthly payments will be kept about the same. The result will be a saving of about \$76,000 in interest charges which would have been paid over the extra 15 years of monthly payments.

In an effort to get more club members involved in club activities, Jerry suggested creating a "cottage industry" type of arrangement where members could help the club by volunteering to do activities at home. One of his ideas includes taking charge of some of the HO show modules which have been donated to the club and need rehabilitation and renewal. Another idea is to take some of the buildings from our excess inventory and rejuvenate them so they can be sold for a better price.

Paul Lodge reported that the Adult Education class on model railroading has ten students including three youngsters. They are building seven HO modules and one N-scale layout.

Several club members plan to attend the Owls Head hobby show. Some members will go on Friday to set up a modular display to be shown on Saturday and Sunday, March 23 and 24.

Rick James made an appeal for club members to write articles for the newsletter and noted that pictures are also welcomed.

Jay Calnan noted that he loaned two DVDs to someone and has not yet gotten them back. One was on High Powered Locomotives and the other was about Horseshoe Curve.

What's on Your Workbench: Larry Cannon displayed a building he is making for his home layout. The building is designed to replicate a Richford, Vermont, business called Star Grocery's. Yes, that is the way their sign is actually spelled.

Thinking Outside the Boxcar: Bob Willard had made a static grass machine from a "Super Bug Zapper." He demonstrated how it worked and how the Zapper could be redesigned for this purpose.

For next month's meeting, Ed Webb volunteered to present "What's on Your Workbench". Bob and Denise Purington volunteered to do "Thinking Outside the Boxcar."

Rob Roy's name was drawn for the Attendance Prize, but he was not at the meeting. Larry Cannon won the 50/50 prize.

DID YOU KNOW? Tidbits from the Past

Larry Cannon

At the February club meeting, Larry Cannon was asked to give an explanation of the Wilder reference which appears on the club's HO layout.

Several years ago model railroader Albert Critchett from Bridgton passed away. His wife gave the rolling stock and buildings to his nephews and other family members, but his layout needed to be taken down so the room could be used for other purposes. Larry Cannon was contacted. He and Paul Lodge took down the layout and were given what was left.

Mr. Critchett's layout was the Wilder Railroad. His inspiration for the railroad was based on his fishing trips to the White River in Wilder, Vermont. As our tribute to him for the donation we received, a scene on our HO layout depicts his fishing memories.

When we took his layout down, we salvaged a curved bridge. Larry redesigned the curved bridge into a straight bridge which is featured on our HO layout. We have a stream flowing under the bridge with a fisherman fishing for trout. The cows in the field near the brook give the scene a little Vermont flavor. From the "junk box" full of broken parts and pieces, Larry Cannon and Ray Anderson were able to reconstruct one Wilder locomotive from parts of two locomotives. Some decals from the collection have already been used for other rolling stock, and more decals are still available.

Mrs. Critchett was impressed and pleased with how clean the room was left. She apologized for not having more of the rolling stock and buildings available to give to us. A few months later, she called Larry to come and pick up a large tool box full of tools. We are still using that large red tool box in the workshop area at the club.

As a result, we have Wilder on our HO layout. Larry concluded his story by telling how the conductor on the Boston & Maine Railroad used to call out, "White River Junction, White River Junction and next is Wilder."





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



March 14, Executive Committee meeting

March 16 ,Operating Session 9:00 to 12 noon at the club house

March 21, Membership Meeting

March 23, 24 Owls Head Hobby Show

April 6, Turnout Rebuild Class

April 13, Backdrop Painting for the Reluctant Painter

April 11, Executive Committee meeting

April 27, Train Show: Mt. Ararat

May 18, Hobo Holiday

August 17, Train Fest

November 2, Train Show:
Auburn Middle School

November 23-25 and
29-30: ExTRAINaganza

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

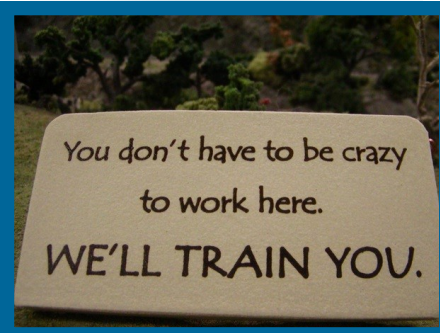


Photo by Dick Clark