

**NEXT MEETING**  
**May 16**  
**6:45 p.m.**

**NEXT MONTH**  
**Deadline for**  
**May Issue**  
**May 31, 2013**

**MEMBERSHIP**  
**117**

**ATTENDANCE PRIZE**

**Rick James won the attendance prize.**

**Stephen Martelli won the 50/50 raffle.**

**Will your name be drawn on May 16?**  
**You have to be present to win!**

**BOTTLES FOR BASICS**

- ◆ **Total LAST YEAR \$320.86**
- ◆ **YEAR TO DATE: \$363.85.**
- ◆ **THIS MONTH:**
- ◆ **\$44.65**

# THE SIGNAL

## THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

VOLUME 19. ISSUE 12



MAY 2013

**EARLY FINANCIAL HISTORY**  
**of the**  
**GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB**  
{Part one}

**Larry Cannon**

**In the Beginning:**

The earliest financial history of the railroad club was that there were no finances! The charter members contributed time, effort, gasoline and tolls to exhibit their modules at local shows. We later started \$5 per year dues to get contact information for members, pay postage when needed, and create a sense of obligation so members would want to get some benefit in return for their dues. It worked!

After depending on members to supply corner modules, we decided that we had an interest in the club owning at least four corners. We learned some valuable lessons building club corners in Larry Cannon's barn in North Auburn, for example: You can melt foam with a blow torch to create scenery, but you can't always get dependable results. Badminton rackets are the ultimate, but messy, defense against June bugs. We could now have a full modular setup as long as transportation was available.

Subsequently, David Bernier, one of our junior members, found out that we could occupy space in the former Bookland location in the Promenade Mall for a token rate. Seating for meetings was arranged by Ray Viere and Larry Cannon, who obtained cast iron folding seats being thrown out of Bates College's Cage, which was under renovation at that time. The boom for the "Derrick" car that we display at shows came from one of the drawers at the Bookland checkout station and a creative (twisted?) imagination.

Modules and about everything else the club wished to transport were moved in members' vehicles, including an Isuzu truck owned by member and Auburn paramedic Rodney Daniels. Because the truck had a van body, Rodney also used it to attend and camp at motor-cycle meets, his other hobby. Gas money, rent and a desire to do more led to our first fund raising efforts.

**Early Fund Raising:**

Early fund raising started with the first club cars. Undecorated 40-foot boxcar red Athearn boxcars were decaled by members and sold to anyone who was interested. These still show up occasionally at train shows and in donations to the club. We also held raffles with a variety of items donated by members.

One of our earliest permanent fund-raising efforts began when a Bates College faculty member gave Larry Cannon a 4- by 8-foot HO layout on a sheet of 3/4" plywood. Larry and Frank Barron cleaned up the layout, bought a new Athearn locomotive and sold tickets on our first raffle layout. That success started a fund-raising effort that is still continuing.

That first raffle layout taught us that a 4-foot by 8-foot layout was too big to haul around and the plywood was too heavy. The present design evolved from the fact that three 4-foot by 64-inch layouts could be produced from two sheets of Homosote. The hunt for used material to build raffle layouts led to a larger fund-raising source.

Initially, we were contacted by several people who wanted to sell model railroad materials. With a rather limited budget, we were not prepared to purchase items on any scale beyond our own needs. At that point we did not have our own show, nor did we rent sales tables at other shows. When told we were a non-profit club, people began donating materials or were willing to sell for more deeply discounted prices. We raised enough money to buy our first trailer, which allowed us to transport club corners and some other modules. Now we could count on having all four corners at a display and not come up one short!

## MEET THE MEMBERS

## ED LESLIE

By Maurice Fortin



Ed Leslie, our president, has been married to Brenda for twenty-eight years. They have one son, who does not participate in model railroading except when he comes home to visit. Ed recalls a recent visit when he and his son went out to play with the trains at 9:00 a.m. and did not come in until dark. Ed is employed at Sabre Yachts as the Quality Assurance and Quality Control Officer. He has recently accepted the lead role in the Facilities and Maintenance Department with which he has been involved for some time.

Ed's interest in model railroading began when he was five or six years old and received a Marx 027 train set. He still has this train in its original box. He dabbled in HO scale when he was young. As a single person he built an N scale layout covering approximately 8 feet by 35 feet. Once he got married, he had to scale back. In 2000 he and Brenda built a new home and Ed started his garden railway.

Ed was introduced to the Great Falls Model Railroad Club in 2007 when he met Paul Lodge at McLaughlin Gardens. That year Ed and Brenda were managing the garden railroad in the McLaughlin barn for their annual "Trees and Trains" event. They also met other members of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club who were operating our raffle layout there. Ed liked what he saw. Club members were friendly, up front, and honest. He has been an active member since then.

Ed's main interest is in G scale and his outdoor layout at home covers 30 feet by 50 feet. He is active in the G scale layout at the clubhouse. Ed and Brenda also have an N scale coffee table layout.

Other interests for Ed include volunteering at Norm's O Scale in South Casco. He and Brenda are helping Norm to build his dream two-rail O scale layout. Ed also enjoys restoring tractors. He has fully restored a 1941 Allis Chalmers tractor. Much to his relief, Brenda has tolerated this. He has also restored a rare 1937 unstyled "L" John Deere.



THE SIGNAL

HOBO HOLIDAY  
MAY 18

Paul Lodge

Club members are busy getting the club house in tip top shape for the upcoming Hobo Holiday event. Clutter is being picked up, parts of the facility are being repainted, and plans are being made for children's activities.

All the layouts are being improved for the event. Special children's activities are being planned. A new feature this year is the *Hobo Salon*, which will offer finger-nail manicures with designs and Hobo Hairdos, as well as the traditional face painting.

"Catch a Caboose" is a new ring-toss game that children will enjoy along with "Fishing for Prizes" off the ramp bridge. The hobo jungle will have a kettle of hobo stew for guests to try. A scavenger hunt will encourage guests to look for items throughout the club building. Hobos were known for creating sketches with special codes to tell other hobos about the features of a town, and some of these designs will be displayed around the building.

Operation Lifesaver will provide railroad safety materials for guests, explaining the dangers of trespassing on real railroad property.

Again this year Governor's Restaurant of Lewiston is donating whoopee pies, cookies, and gift certificates. Several tourist railroads have donated tickets which will be raffled off. The winning numbers will be drawn at the end of the day.

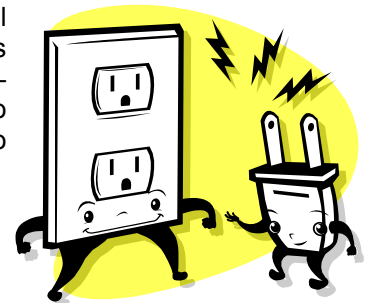
## POWER TEAM

Paul Lodge

For the second year, several club members have become part of the Power Team by making a financial pledge to the club beyond their annual dues. The Power Team was created to help provide extra funds for paying the light bill, which averages about \$150 a month. A poster at the club lists the names of members who have pledged to help pay the power bills. Some months show one name, which means that person (or family) has donated \$150. Lines with three names indicate that these members have donated \$50 each. Lines with six names show that each member has pledged \$25. Pledges do not need to be paid immediately. Some members pledge to pay \$10 a month to the cause.

The annual dues are deliberately kept low so that anyone who wants to be part of the club can belong, but the dues provide money for only about one-third of the club's expenses. We want to be an "inclusive" club not an "exclusive" club. This means we need to find other ways to help the club pay its bills.

All members are invited to join the Power Team. There are still two months left without names. It is hoped that you will contact Treasurer Tom Coulombe and pledge to help fill in one of the last two months.



## FIRST BACKDROP PAINTING CLASS

Paul Lodge

On Saturday, April 13, the first "Backdrop Painting for the Reluctant Painter" class was held at the club from 9 a.m. to noon. Paul Lodge and Steven Wright showed the class different techniques for painting backdrops. Terry King, Steve Hall, Bryce Weeks, Jay Calnan, Travis Johnson, Nick Matluk, and Dennis Ring participated in this initial class.

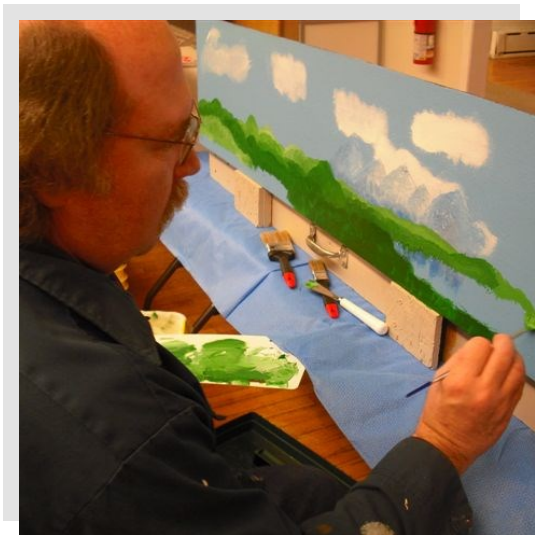
The class started with a demonstration of how to blend dark blue sky into a light blue horizon using two different shades of blue. Blue backdrops were provided for the painting class. The completed backdrops can be used on club modules at railroad shows.

Painting tools appropriate for the class were purchased by those who did not already own them. The club's official craft store, Craft Mania, provided some of the tools at a good discount.

Nancy Weeks brought two dishes of food for the participants to eat at the break. One was like an omelet with eggs and ham, the other was a blueberry sheet cake. Terry King provided a box of Dunkin' Donuts.

After the class, Terry King made some suggestions for ways to improve the experience for the next class.

Saturday, June 1, from 9 a.m. to noon is the date selected for the next "Backdrop Painting for the Reluctant Painter" class. Enrollment will be limited to eight students.



## MT. ARARAT SHOW

Paul Lodge

On Saturday, April 27, more than 45 club members came together to provide a successful train show for nearly 350 paying customers. On Friday, April 26, about a dozen members helped unload 100 tables and set them up for the dealers. Contents of the club truck were also unloaded. Excess inventory items were sent to three different locations in the gymnasium. Because some of the items are on consignment, the sales need to be kept separate for accounting purposes.

It was interesting to note that many of our guests came as a result of our participation in the Owls Head show in Rockland in March.

The club's HO modular layout included new modules from this spring's adult education class. Ed and Brenda Leslie displayed their beautifully designed HO modules, including his Bridgton Junction Railway and her Aroostook County layout. A new feature this year was the monorail layout brought by Ralph Luby and Dick Rubin. Children were encouraged to run one of the three trains on the monorail system.

In addition to the Great Falls Model Railroad Club layouts, there were several model train displays for the guests to view: the Maine 3-Railers, MaiNe N Scale, Matt Sharp's Sn2, the Boothbay Railway Museum layout, and Bob Willard's On30 narrow gauge.

When the train show was over, club members took down the tables and helped mop the floor. After the work was done, about a dozen club members met at the Fairgrounds Café in Topsham and enjoyed a meal together.





# April Minutes by Paul Lodge

## MINUTES OF APRIL 18, 2013 MEETING

Before the meeting started, club members were treated to a slide presentation made by Ed Leslie showing many pictures from the show at Owls Head and Rochester, New Hampshire. The evening's *TRAIN TIME* program was postponed to give more time to our guest speaker, Robert Kenderdine of Stewart Hobbies.

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.

**Station Master's Report:** Tom Coulombe reported that two towel dispensers have been installed in the bathrooms. Goodman's provides the towel dispensers and sells the paper rolls for the devices. Using the rolls will cost about the same as the individual paper towels we have been using. In the upper bathroom, the fan has been added to the automatic system of turning on the lights. Two additional lights have been placed in the lower level to light the layout in the mountain division. A new 12-gallon hot water tank has been installed, and the 30-gallon water heater will be used only when more water is needed. The floor on the lower level will be painted from Monday through Wednesday, May 6, 7, and 8.

**Library Committee:** Terry King reported that two new books have been added to the library, George Melvin's *Bangor and Aroostook Stations* and a book about the Lionel factory.

**Nominating Committee Report:** Rick James, chairman of the nominating committee, has contacted people in order to make a slate of officers. He did not have a name for Vice-President.

**Show Reports:** Terry King attended the Maine 3-Railers' show in Augusta and sold a large quantity of Lionel equipment. Tom Coulombe gave a brief explanation of the Owls Head show in Rockland. The show in Rochester, New Hampshire, was not well attended and it was suggested that we should not attend that show next year.

**Topsham Show:** Tom Coulombe noted that about one hundred tables will be delivered to the high school at 4 p.m. on Friday, April 26. He asked members to come help unload and set up the tables. Modules can also

be brought in at the same time. Terry King asked members to take flyers and posters to display at businesses in the Brunswick and Topsham area.

**Cottage Industry:** In response to Jerry Johnston's call for "cottage industry" items that the club can sell, Terry King displayed and distributed railroad spikes painted and decaled for various railroads. Club members were invited to purchase their favorite railroad spikes.

**Backdrop Painting Class:** Paul Lodge drew attention to the sign-up sheet for those who would be interested in taking the "Backdrop Painting for the Reluctant Painter" class to be offered on Saturday, June 1.

**Layout Progress: G-Gauge:** Ken Nettleship reported that Dick Clark has built an animated ski area for the G-gauge layout. It needs a motor large enough to run the animation before it can be installed. Saturday, May 4, and Wednesday evenings are scheduled for work sessions. A G-gauge switch has been donated to replace a switch that was not functioning properly.

**HO Gauge:** Tom Coulombe reported that two 25-foot reels of LED lights have been purchased for the HO layout. Terry King suggested that some of them could be used to light the "cave" area on the layout. Paul Lodge was given credit for doing a lot of painting under the HO layout and on the backdrops. There was a reminder of the operating session scheduled for Saturday, April 20.

**N- and Z-Scale:** Club members have been building N-scale kits to be used on the layout and there are more to come. LED lights have been installed on the N-scale layout.

**Governor's Restaurant:** The club's official restaurant sponsors a family night each week with special events which will appeal to families. The Great Falls Model Railroad Club has been invited to become part of the family night events. Once a month we will feature some of our layouts or activities at the restaurant. For example, we will bring the raffle layout, Tom Coulombe's N-scale layout, the Time Saver layout, the club's ramp/bridge for the fish pond, the bean-bag toss game, Operation Lifesaver materials, and any other items which will entertain children while they are waiting for their meals.

**Club Banner:** A new 2- by 4-foot banner has been purchased and the club's name is printed on both sides. It was first used by the Androscoggin Amateur Radio Club at their show in Lewiston and it was also used at the railroad show in Rochester, New Hampshire. It has a frame so that it can be attached to a table at our show in Topsham.

**What's on Your Workbench:** Bob Willard was scheduled to do this feature, but he was attending an On30 convention. Ed Leslie filled in by displaying a scratch-built boxcar used to transport furniture. He explained how the car was constructed and how it was filled with new furniture.

**Thinking Out of the Boxcar:** Travis Johnson had volunteered to do this segment, but was still working. Ed Leslie brought a power supply from a computer and explained how it could be used to supply enough energy to adequately light the LEDs we recently purchased. Ed suggested that club members begin saving the power supply units from their computers before they are discarded.

**Did You Know?** Larry Cannon supplied a brief history of the club's financial background. He was not in attendance because he was attending the birth of his new grandchild. Paul Lodge read Larry's first installment of the financial history. As part of the report, tributes were paid to former members Ray Viere, Al Thurston, and Wally Chase.

**50/50 Raffle:** Stephen Martelli had the winning ticket for the 50/50 raffle.

**Attendance Prize:** Rick James' name was drawn as the winner of the Attendance Prize and he selected an FRA hat.

The meeting adjourned.



**CLUB HAS GUEST SPEAKER**

At the April 18 club meeting, Robert Kenderdine was our guest speaker. He was one of five partners who started Stewart Hobbies in Pennsylvania in the early 1980s. Stewart Hobbies was famous for its HO locomotives. When less expensive locomotives were later built in China, Stewart Hobbies found it difficult to compete, but they were not willing to have their locomotives built in a communist country. Eventually, Stewart Hobbies was sold to the Bowser Company.

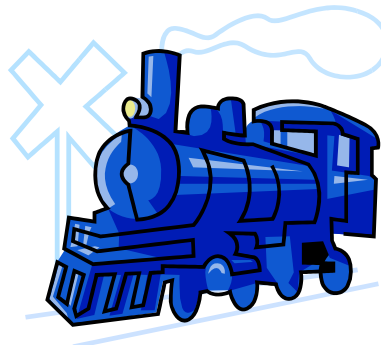
## ADULT ED CLASS TAKES LAYOUT TOURS

Paul Lodge

Because the spring semester Model Railroad-ing Class finished early, class members were able to take layout tours on Tuesday, April 16 and April 23. The first layout the group visited was Tom Coulombe's Lewiston Division of the Great Northern Railroad in the loft of his barn. When the group went to Larry Cannon's layout, he had printed handouts explaining the origin of his concept for the Otter Valley Railroad.

On Tuesday, April 23, the tour included Paul Lodge's and Jerry Johnston's layouts. Lodge's layout, the Pine Trees Lines, is also in the loft of his barn and is on two levels. The upper level, which includes a helix, is in a mushroom shape. Class members operated Jerry Johnston's Rocky Ridge Railroad and were invited back for future operation sessions. On the way to Paul's home, the class members had stopped at Center Minot to cut spirea branches to be used as model trees on their layouts.

Many of this spring's modules will be on display at the train show at Mt. Ararat in Topsham on April 27.





## 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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[www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org](http://www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org) or [www.gfmrrc.com](http://www.gfmrrc.com)

## Upcoming Events



**May 9**, Executive Committee meeting

**May 16**, Membership Meeting, Election of officers

**May 18**, Hobo Holiday

**June 13**, Executive Committee meeting

**June 20**, Membership Meeting

**June 25-29**, National O Scale Convention, Worcester, Mass.

**August 17**, Train Fest

**November 2**, Train Show:  
Auburn Middle School

November 23-25 and  
29-30: ExTRAINaganza



How is the floor sweeping coming  
Bryce?

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

