

The Signal

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club



VOLUME 20. ISSUE 1

JUNE 2013



Member since June 1988

NEXT MEETING
June 20
6:45 p.m.

NEXT MONTH
Deadline for
July Issue
June 29, 2013

MEMBERSHIP
125

ATTENDANCE PRIZE
Jerry Johnston won
the attendance prize.

Bob Purington won
the 50/50 raffle.

Will your name be
drawn on **June 20?**
You have to be
present to win!

BOTTLES FOR BASICS

- ♦ Total LAST YEAR
- ♦ \$363.85
- ♦ YEAR TO DATE:
- ♦ \$43.00
- ♦ THIS MONTH:
- ♦ \$43.00

SECOND ANNUAL HOBO HOLIDAY 2013 EDITION

Paul Lodge

On Saturday, May 18, The Great Falls Model Railroad Club held the second annual Hobo Holiday at its club house at 144 Mill Street in New Auburn. Families came to enjoy the many activities provided by the club for the children's enjoyment.

Outside the building, families could sample the Hobo Stew at the Hobo Jungle. As they entered the building, children were given railroad hats provided by Amtrak or Operation Lifesaver (a railroad safety organization). Children wrote their names on colored locomotives and pinned them to a large painting of a steam engine. Handouts provided a recipe for Hobo Stew and information about hobo folklore and the traditional signs hobos drew on trees or buildings to communicate warnings and other secret messages with each other.

The Hobo Hunt was a scavenger hunt that required participants to visit all of the rooms at the club. A small prize was given to those who successfully found all the items, which included the Golden Spike display, the lobster cloud, a hobo jungle on the HO layout and a display featuring Owney, the Mail Pouch Pooch.

Everyone enjoyed the club's four permanent layouts: the large G-gauge, the tiny Z-scale, the N-scale, and the HO. Children were encouraged to run Thomas the Tank Engine on its small G-Gauge layout. On the lower level of the building, guest engineers were paired with club members to help operate trains on the extensive HO layout. The guest engineers received official ID badges with their names and the words "Junior Engineer" printed on them. Raffle tickets were sold on the club's HO traveling four- by five-foot raffle layout, which was running all day long.

At the "Fishing Pond," children stood on a specially constructed bridge and fished for prizes. Using a fishing pole with a fishhook, children were able to catch a prize of toys placed inside a net bag.

The Hobo Salon provided children with several options. They could have their faces painted with appropriate hobo or railroad symbols, have a Hobo Hairdo, and/or have their fingernails painted and decorated.

A very popular place for the younger children was the play area. Many toy trains were placed on a rug where children could sit and play while parents watched from nearby chairs. Many parents took pictures of their children who pretended to be train engineers by putting their heads through the hole of a board that was painted to look like a locomotive.

In the Crew Room outside the library was a container filled with HO wheel sets. Participants tried to guess the number of wheel sets, and the person with the closest number won a \$20 gift certificate to Craft Mania.

In the "Hoop A Caboose" ring-toss game, two of the five cabooses were designated as special winners. After ringing the Governor's Restaurant or the Craft Mania caboose, children would put their names and telephone numbers on tickets and drop them into a container to become eligible for a drawing for \$20 gift certificates donated by Governor's Restaurant and Craft Mania.

During the day, a video of the Wiscasset, Waterville and Farmington Railway was shown so that guests could see pictures of the railroad. The WW&F had donated enough free family passes, which were raffled off. At the end of the day, names were drawn for the WW&F passes and the gift certificates donated by Governor's Restaurant and Craft Mania. Nadine Massey and her son Adam of Lewiston won the WW&F family pass. Anthony McGilvray of Portland received the gift certificate from Craft Mania. The Governor's Restaurant gift certificates were won by Heidi Gagnon of Poland, Corinne Berta of Auburn, and Don Holmes of Auburn.

MEET THE MEMBERS

ED LESLIE

By Maurice Fortin



Our club hobo, Jerry, is the proud father of three sons and a daughter and has eight grandchildren. His daughter lives in Newfoundland. When Jerry is not involved with the club, he finds great joy in activities with his family and grandchildren. His children have sometimes called when they have trains they no longer need or want and have given them to Great Falls Model Railroad Club. Jerry is a retired chemist with the paper industry. He worked for many years with Boise Cascade, Great Northern Paper, and others in different parts of the country.

Jerry grew up in Lincoln, Maine, and saw his first train in the hardware store. When his boys came along, he got them an HO train set. In 1983 he began to collect HO trains and cars. He moved to New Hampshire in 1986 and then went to Atlanta, Georgia, where he built his first HO layout. When the family moved back to Maine in 1994, he brought his layout back with him. He gave the table to a neighbor and started a new layout. At this point he took the model railroading class offered through Auburn Adult Education Program at Edward Little High School and has been with the club ever since. The Rocky Ridge Railroad, Jerry's HO layout at home, started as a 15- by 19-foot configuration and has spread out to cover about 750 square feet.

Whenever there is any cooking at the club, Jerry is involved. He provides food at the Hobo Café for club members who need to stay at the club all day for special events. How did he get the idea for the hobo? While Jerry was in Pennsylvania with Paul Lodge and several other members of the *Train Time* Team videotaping trains, he was left at a large curve in Tyrone. There he met a couple in their 50's and during their conversation learned that the gentleman had been a professional hobo for twelve years. From that time, the hobo theme became part of Jerry's activities at the club. Many of the dishes he prepares are from hobo recipes. His new pickup truck even has "HOBO" as its license plate.

He helps on the HO layout at the club and spends many days working on the scenery. He is also involved in all club activities by putting out signs, plastering and painting walls, taking care of

the Bottles for Basics project, or just doing what is needed. His tractor is used in the winter to snow blow the club's driveway and in the summer to mow his lawn.

To help the club financially, Jerry is involved with Paul Lodge and Tom Coulombe in a fund-raising project which includes a learning activity to solicit donations to the Great Falls Model Railroad Club. A major goal of this learning process is to find ways to make the club more attractive to donors.

Whether Jerry's contributions to club activities are visible or he is working behind the scenes, he is a valuable asset to the club.

EARLY FINANCIAL HISTORY of the GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

Larry Cannon
[part two]

Important Changes:

Two actions were pivotal in shaping the club and charting its direction. Wally Chase and Al Thurston had for several years organized an annual model railroad show at various location in Auburn. When Wally and Al gave us the opportunity to assume the responsibility for the annual Auburn show, we had a serious annual fund-raising event. The decision to pursue IRS nonprofit organization status, 501(c)(3), was as much work for Terry King and Larry Cannon as running an annual show. It yielded far less money immediately, but it has proven to be as important to club fund-raising efforts as the shows have been.

Donations to the club are now tax deductible as a result of our non-profit status.

As you listen to our Treasurer's reports, a continuing item reported is surplus asset sales. Those numbers are a partial representation of the importance of those tax deductible donations. Nearly all of the books, magazines, slides and other items in our library were donated. In addition, selling duplicates donated to the library has provided the money for nearly all of the library materials purchased, except our NMRA membership.

The G, HO, and N scale permanent layouts have been built in large part with donated materials. All three layouts have benefited from material donated for their use or to be sold for their benefit. Except for one limited fund-raising campaign for track and turnouts for the HO layout, a substantial portion of necessary purchases for each layout was paid for with the sale of materials donated specifically to benefit the construction of that layout.

The Impact of Nonprofit Status:

As the club absorbed these changes and our bank account began to increase, we purchased a new larger club trailer and expanded our participation in shows and events; but we were still a modular club. We had long since lost the use of space at the Promenade Mall. Our meetings were "mobile" and held at a variety of locations. Renting space for a fixed layout seemed feasible with revenue from our show, the annual raffle layout and surplus asset sales, and increased dues from a growing membership.

However, we had not acquired just money. Over a period of

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approximately five years, we had accumulated an inventory of track, turnouts and other materials sufficient to start most of the Canal Street Alley HO layout. We had to pay for renovations and bench work. Almost simultaneously with the start of the rental at Canal Street Alley, Larry and Laura Hart from Bangor, who knew Terry King, decided to donate much of their collection of HO and N scale to the club.

The club had been planning to rely on using members' rolling stock for the layout. Larry Hart's extensive collection minimized that need, and the excess materials added to the club's reserves. At this point Larry Cannon used his banking expertise to move the GFMRRRC surplus into an investment account. Within a year, the club received another very significant donation of an HO layout and materials that had belonged to Robert Spate.

While not much of the Spate collection was used at Canal Street Alley, the materials are still being used to build the current HO layout. Sales of the surplus items added to the club's investment account, which was used to help fund the down payment on our current Mill Street location and to pay for building renovation and layout construction expenses.

The Hart and Spate donations were key to the Great Falls Model Railroad Club financial success. They have also led to additional donations because other donors feel we have used them wisely and in accord with donor wishes.

Going Forward:

We continue to attract and maintain donors for very important reasons: 1) We minimize handling costs and waste in order to make good economic use of resources provided. 2) We do our best to add value to donated resources through creative reuse, maximizing value when resale is necessary, and shopping for the optimum value when using cash. 3) The product of donations is available to the public for viewing and consumption via membership, reasonable admission fees to special events and various free opportunities. 4) The people who interact with donors and the public are respectful, courteous, helpful, and honest.

ANNUAL CLUB PICNIC AT LODGES IN AUGUST

Paul Lodge

Every year club members are invited to a summer picnic. At this informal gathering, you can relax, socialize, and meet with members of other families who may not attend other club events. The pot luck meal is always tasty and there is more than can be eaten in one sitting. So we eat all day long.

This year the annual club picnic will be held on Saturday, August 10, at the Lodges' home in West Minot. The event will start at 10 a.m. and go until the last person leaves.

There are extensive flower gardens. Nature walks in the woods may include splashing in the brook and visiting the site of the old sawmill owned by Frances' grandparents. The brook is not deep enough for swimming, but anyone who would enjoy wading should wear shoes in the water as protection from rocks.

Yes, there is also an HO layout in the upper portion of the barn.

Members are encouraged to bring friends and pets, lawn chairs, and food to share.

Plan ahead for August 10, and come to enjoy each other's company.



DID YOU KNOW?

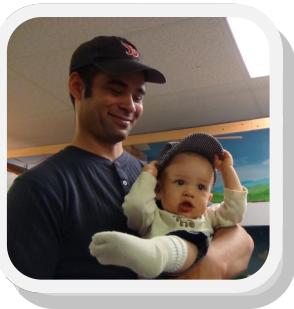
Paul Lodge

At the club meeting on May 16, Terry King talked about the origins of the club's extensive library. In 1991, John Swayze donated his book and magazine collection to the club. Because the club had no permanent location, the collection was temporarily stored in the workroom in Paul Lodge's barn. In 1992, Larry Hartt from Bangor, an acquaintance of Terry King, donated his collection to Terry for the club.

When the club rented the space at Canal Street Alley, a small section was allotted to the collections we had received and it was named the Hartt/Swayze Library. By the time we moved to our current location, we had about 1,000 magazines and 20 books.

Stephen Martelli was successful in acquiring some book racks from the Auburn Public Library and Larry Cannon made additional shelves.

Terry reported that the library currently has valuable research materials with more than 1,000 books, 8,000 magazines, 14,000 slides, 600 time tables, 50 blueprints, and diagrams of several stations, including those of the Lewiston Lower and Upper stations. Because we are a 501c(3) nonprofit organization, we have received many tax-deductible donation from individuals and estates.





May Minutes by Paul Lodge

MINUTES OF MAY 16, 2013 MEETING

Before the meeting started, club members were treated to a slide presentation made by Ed Leslie showing club activities in March and April. The evening's *TRAIN TIME* program featured ballasting the track on 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*.

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

As **Station Master**, Tom Coulombe reported that the 15-gallon water heater has been installed. The 30-gallon water heater will be used only when there are events at the club. The savings in electricity use is noticeable since we have been using the smaller water heater. The lower level floor and the stairs have been painted. Tom Coulombe has built two cabinets for housing rolling stock not needed on the HO layout. Medium and large club vests have been made for members who would like to buy one. Denim aprons for use by the HO group during operating sessions are available for \$15. The club logo patch has been sewn on the apron, which has pockets for cards and pencils. Club members who come to work on the layout may be asked to help with the outside work (mowing the lawn and weed-whacking the hillside) so that Tom is not the only one working outside.

Fund-Raising Committee: Jerry Johnston announced that a letter is being drafted which will be sent to all club members appealing for financial pledges to help keep the club solvent. We want this to be an inclusive club and not an exclusive one. That means the dues should be low enough so that everyone can afford to be a member. The \$30 annual dues, however, pay for only about one third of our expenses. Additional funds are needed to pay for the mortgage, taxes, and the fixed expenses of electricity, fuel, water and sewage, and upkeep.

Chamber of Commerce: Jerry Johnston reported that he plans to attend a Chamber seminar on learning how to use social media and how to use the website more efficiently.

Cottage Industry: Stephen Martelli has acquired some rail from the Mountain Division of the Maine Central Railroad. The rail will be cut into slices that can be built into book ends and boot-cleaning devices.

Library: Terry King reported that a new book has been added to the library. He noted that the library has research materials with more than 600 time tables and 1,000 books. The library keeps growing with donations and purchases.

Club Layouts: Gary Thibeault asked for more help in running the HO trains for Hobo Holiday. Ken Nettleship said that the G-gauge ski area is being developed and that Dick Clark is looking for a motor large enough to move the skiers down the hill. Ray Houlihan, Nick Matluk, and Chuck Bagley will run the N- and Z-Scale trains during the Hobo Holiday.

Election of Officers: Rick James reported the slate of officers and directors. He noted that no one has been named for the position of vice-president. There were no nominations from the floor and the Secretary was directed to cast one ballot for the slate of officers, who are as follows:

President: Ed Leslie
Vice President:
Secretary: Paul Lodge
Treasurer: Tom Coulombe
Directors:
Roger Allen
Jay Calnan
Travis Johnson

Family Night at Governor's Restaurant: Tom Coulombe announced that the club has been asked to participate in Family Night at Governor's Restaurant. June 6 will be the next time the club will have a display at Governor's. (See the article elsewhere in the newsletter.)

Did You Know: Terry King talked about the origin of the club's library. (See the report elsewhere in the newsletter.)

What's on Your Workbench: Ken Nettleship displayed a scratch-built structure which will be used as an ice house on the G-gauge layout winter scene. Next month Bob Willard will show what's on his workbench.

Out of the Boxcar: Larry Cannon demonstrated how special scissors used for scrapbooking can be used in model railroading. He showed how the pinking shears can be used to cut thin Styrofoam to make stair risers. Other scissors can be used to make ornamental designs for ginger bread house decorations. Stephen Martelli volunteered to talk next month about his Appalachian Trail trip and how he plans to relate it to railroading.

Paul Lodge Honored: President Ed Leslie presented Paul Lodge with a pin in appreciation for his work with the Great Falls Model Railroad Club.

50/50 Raffle: Bob Purington won the 50/50 Raffle.

Attendance Prize: Jerry Johnston's name was drawn for the Attendance Prize and he selected the Bangor & Aroostook Railroad 100-year anniversary bumper sticker. Jerry worked for a time for the BAR.

FAMILY NIGHT AT GOVERNOR'S

Paul Lodge

Governor's Restaurant in Lewiston, our official restaurant, has invited the club to be part of their Family Night activities on the first Thursday of each month. Every Thursday night is Family Night and the child's meal is only ninety-nine cents. This price advantage encourages a large number of families to go to Governor's, and their management tries to feature special activities which will be attractive to children.

On May 2, Paul Lodge and Tom Coulombe brought the club's raffle layout, Tom's N-scale layout, and a Time-Saver layout for children to see and use. Children were given Operation Lifesaver engineer hats, coloring books, and/or activity books. These gave the children several entertainment options while they were waiting for their meal.

Thursday, June 6, from 4 to about 8 p.m. is the next date for the club to sponsor the Family Night activities. There will be an attempt to do something different each month. We can use *TRAIN TIME* shows, "Hoop A Caboose," the bean bag toss, and our fishing pond ramp and bridge for future Family Nights. Club members who participate receive a free meal from Governor's menu.

Tom and Paul used the first Family Night to distribute flyers for the club's Hobo Holiday. Throughout the month leading up to May 18, Governor's displayed the sign for our Hobo Holiday and gave our flyers to their customers. They also donated three \$20 gift certificates for prizes at the Hobo Holiday and provided some of their famous chocolate chip cookies.

COMPUTER POWER SUPPLY USEFUL ON CLUB LAYOUT

Paul Lodge

Norway-Paris Community Television (NPC-TV) has donated two used computer power supply units which can be used to provide electricity for LED light strips. These units have a high-grade filtered power supply that will help make the LED lights last longer. The internal fan which cools the power supply units is very quiet.

Tom Coulombe has already installed a set of LED lights on the N-scale layout and another set has been installed in the "cave" section of the HO layout. The club would like to have more computer power supply units to use for additional lighting. If you have an opportunity to obtain the power supply units for free, get as many as you can. We will use them.

BIRTHDAY PARTY AT THE CLUBHOUSE

Paul Lodge

On Saturday, May 28, from 1 to 3 p.m. about ten children between the ages of 3 and 7 enjoyed a birthday party at the clubhouse. Some of the children had previously been to the club for one or more of our special events.

The children and parents enjoyed a tour of the building. They saw the G-gauge steam locomotive run through the mountain and were able to operate Thomas the Tank engine. Travis Johnson was waiting for them as they came into the N-scale room. He had an N-scale train moving through the towns and scenery for them to see. Travis then took the guests to the HO scale layout on the lower level. Two of the children had run trains on the layout when they attended our ExTRAINaganza last fall. They were excited to see the layout again and show it to their friends.

After viewing the club's layouts, some of the smaller children had a great time playing with the toy trains on the rug. They all enjoyed trying to "Hoop A Caboose" and were very good at the bean-bag toss. Parents took many great pictures of the children who were looking through the hole in the train Dick Clark had painted on a board. All the children posed for a group picture in front of the locomotive on which children usually pin their names during the Hobo Holiday.

After Evan Lavoie opened his birthday presents, he blew out the candles on his birthday cake, which was decorated with a toy Thomas the Tank Engine.

Extra events like this help the club pay some of its bills. The club charges \$25 an hour. Club members are encouraged to invite friends to rent the club building for birthday parties and other events.





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



June 13, Executive Committee meeting

June 20, Membership Meeting

June 22, Operating Session

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

August 17, Train Fest

August 10, Club Picnic

November 2, Train Show:
Auburn Middle School

November 23-25 and
29-30: ExTRAINaganza



So, What's cooking Jerry?



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

