

The Signal

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club



VOLUME 23. ISSUE 4

SEPTEMBER 2013



Member since June 1988

NEXT MEETING
September 19
6:45 p.m.

NEXT MONTH
Deadline for
October Issue
October 4, 2013

MEMBERSHIP
125

ATTENDANCE PRIZE

Ken Nettleship won the attendance prize.

Terry Obie won the 50/50 raffle.

Will your name be drawn on September 19?

You have to be present to win!

BOTTLES FOR BASICS

- ◆ Total LAST YEAR
- ◆ \$363.85
- ◆ YEAR TO DATE:
- ◆ \$279.50
- ◆ THIS MONTH:
- ◆ \$42.60



THIRD TRAIN FEST EVENT A SUCCESS Paul Lodge



On Saturday, August 17, the Great Falls Model Railroad Club celebrated the Lewiston-Auburn Balloon Festival with its third annual Train Fest. A good turnout of about forty club members came to the Train Fest to help run trains and supervise children's activities.

As they entered, children wrote their names on paper hot-air balloons and pinned them to a homasote board painted with a sky and hill backdrop. For this event, a variety of brightly colored balloons floated on the backdrops of the layouts upstairs and down to add to the Balloon Festival atmosphere. The building was decorated with model hot-air balloons, many of which were made of paper, including some that demonstrated the possibilities for a craft project. Paper balloons were available for children and adults to color and then glue to a recycled DVD before taking them home.

About fifty colorful Governor's Restaurant balloons were hung from netting above the craft tables. "Baskets" were attached to make them look like hot air balloons. Each basket contained a Reese's Peanut Butter Cup. These balloons were used as prizes for children who displayed skills at the Balloon Bag Toss game by getting at least two of their four bean bags through holes in the brightly painted scene. Everyone who played got a free lollipop and players could choose a toy from one of the prize baskets for every bag that went through a hole. Each of the holes in the Balloon Bag Toss Game had a label giving the player a chance to enter a drawing for an additional prize: a gift certificate for Governor's Restaurant or Craft Mania or a family pass to either the Wiscasset, Waterville & Farmington Railway or the Boothbay Railway Village. Winning tickets for these prizes were drawn at the end of the day.

In the Hobo Café, Nancy Weeks displayed and served the food she and other club members had brought for those who were working at the event. That lunch was good!

The Bubble Blast activity outside the building let families use special wands to create beautiful clusters of colorful, long-lasting bubbles. Julie and Racine Bruce took turns working outdoors with the Bubble Blast and coming inside to help with face painting.

(Continued on page 2)



MEET THE MEMBERS

Stephen Martelli

By Maurice Fortin



Stephen Martelli has three children and three grandchildren. He makes his living as a welding inspector and expects to retire in about two months.

He became interested in trains and model railroading when his father bought him a Lionel train set at Christmas when he was two years old. From this they built a 4- by 8-foot layout which grew to five 4- by 8-foot tables in a "U" shape in their basement. They had many engines and cars for this layout.

In October 2002 Stephen moved to Auburn. After some research, he learned about the Great Falls Model Railroad Club. He spoke with Jerry Johnston and soon became a club member. Stephen was a member of the Board of Directors from 2004 to 2007, Vice President in 2008, and President in 2009. He was instrumental in getting the club's Certificate of Occupancy by talking to Auburn building and fire inspectors and finding what was needed to conform to the city's regulations. He spent many hours helping with additional renovations of our present clubhouse. While he was president, the club received its Certificate of Occupancy.

Stephen's favorite type of railroad is the G-gauge. He does not presently have a railroad set up at home, but he has many engines and cars in boxes. He was involved with the establishment of the G-gauge Division at The Great Falls Model Railroad Club.

He is an Operation Lifesaver Authorized Volunteer and does many railroad safety presentations for that organization.

Other interests for Stephen include hiking. He will be leaving in March 2014 to hike the entire Appalachian Trail for the second time. As he does this, he will keep a record of all the train interactions with the trail. This should make a great Thursday night presentation when he returns.

Steven asked me to tell everyone that he has a direct "hot line" to the guy at the North Pole to help get Santa to our annual ExTRAINaganza open house.

(Continued from page 1)

Children ran trains on the club's HO layout as "Guest Engineers." In the G-gauge room, Dave Kierstead displayed his carnival rides on the Thomas the Tank Engine layout. Because it was at eye level for even the younger children, they were as fascinated with the carnival as the adults were.

Operation Lifesaver provided railroad safety tips for adults and coloring books for children. *TrainTime* shows were running throughout the day on the television near the craft tables and became entertainment for parents who were waiting for their children to complete craft projects, play the Balloon Bag Toss game, or have fun with the age-appropriate trains in the children's play area. For the first time, this included our special wooden Brio train layout built at a child's height.

About 150 adults and 100 children enjoyed the Train Fest, and our 40 members and spouses seemed to enjoy themselves as well.



HAVE YOU CHANGED ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBERS?

Paul Lodge

It happens more frequently these days. People buy new telephones and receive a new telephone number at the same time. If this happens to you, please let us know so we can change the information on our membership list. We want to be able to let you know of upcoming events and other information.

Some members have also moved without letting us know the new address. Please contact Paul Lodge about any changes in address or phone numbers. He can be contacted at (207) 966-3641 or at paul lodge@gwi.net.



DID YOU KNOW?

Paul Lodge

The Great Falls Model Club has a "Presidential Train" which was run on the club modules at train shows for many years. The train is made up of long passenger cars painted in the club's color scheme of blue, white, and gray.

It is powered by an A and B unit Baldwin RF-16 shaknose diesel. This unique diesel design makes for a magnificent passenger train.

On each car is printed the name of a past club president and the years he was president. The number of the car corresponds to the sequence in which he was president. Car number one is for the first president, two for the second, etc. The final car on the train is an observation car with the word "Presidential" written on it.

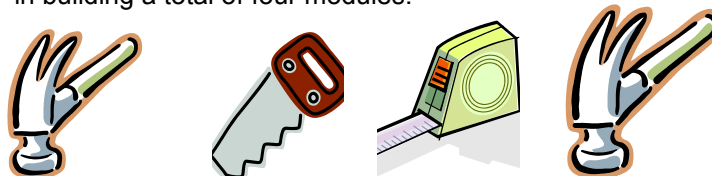


FALL MODEL RAILROADING CLASS

Paul Lodge

On Tuesday, September 3, the fall session of the Model Railroading Class started at the club. As part of the Auburn Adult Education program, this course has now been offered for more than twenty years by the Great Falls Model Railroad Club. For many years, classes met in various locations inside Edward Little High School and at Merrill Hill School on Western Avenue in Auburn after it was renovated in the 1990's. Since our club building at 144 Mill Street received its occupancy permit in 2008, classes have met at the club. For the first time, this has given class members an opportunity to store materials on site during the days between classes. The club has received requests for our course outline and syllabus from groups interested in starting their own classes.

This fall's class has five members who are interested in building a total of four modules.





August Minutes by Paul Lodge

MINUTES OF AUGUST 15, 2013 MEETING

Before the meeting started, club members were treated to a slide presentation made by Ed Leslie showing many pictures from the picnic at Paul Lodge's house on Saturday, August 10. The evening's *TRAIN TIME* program featured the video of the "Trains from Nowhere to Nowhere."

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 reported that driveway sealer has been donated to use on the parking area. The sealing is to be a stop-gap measure until we can afford to make more extensive repairs.

Gary Thibeault reported that the HO layout will be operate as a continuous loop so that trains can be run without interruption. Guest engineers will be able to operate trains for five minutes intervals and then another person will take over. The original guest engineer will be able to get back in line and run trains again for another five minutes. Gary also indicated that turnout control panels are still being installed. Stephen Martelli is continuing to put up backdrops and fascias which will be painted by Paul Lodge.

Ken Nettleship said that Dick Clark has developed the ski slope which will be running for the Train Fest. The ice shed for the pond ice-cutting part of the layout has been built and is on the layout. Dave Kierstead has volunteered to exhibit his carnival display on the G-Gauge layout for the event. Some rolling stock will be brought by Dick Clark.

Tom Coulombe reported that the N-scale layout has some new buildings and that DCC should be installed by November.

Paul Lodge gave an update on activities to be used for the Train Fest. Balloons from Governor's Restaurant have been blown up and are

hanging from netting in the meeting room. In the basket under each balloon is a Reese's Peanut Butter Cup, and these balloons will be used as prizes for the Balloon Bean Bag Toss game. Craft Mania donated hangers from which the balloons hang. Governor's Restaurant and Craft Mania have also donated \$20 gift certificates to be used as drawing prizes. Boothbay Railway Museum and Wiscasset, Waterville & Farmington Railway have also donated family tickets to their tourist railroads, which will be used for drawing prizes. Club members were asked to come and help run the different activities, which also include the "Bubble Blast" and the children's craft area.

Tom Coulombe reported on the progress being made for the Auburn Mall Train Show on Saturday and Sunday, August 24 and 25. The club will be able to set up on Friday evening. The modules will be set up in the center court, and a vacant store front will be used for the On30 display and clinics. Club members were asked to bring a modeling project to work on while visitors observe. The children's games created by the club will be used at this event.

Terry King showed the club's bumper stickers, which he immediately began to sell for \$2 each.

Dick Clark reported that his G-Gauge outdoor layout will be open to the public on Saturday, August 24, during Greene Village Day.

Paul Lodge gave a presentation for the "Did You Know?" portion of the meeting. (See more detailed information in another part of the newsletter.)

Terry King displayed an oil tank scene he had painted for the "Think Out of the Boxcar" segment of the meeting.

For the "What's on Your Workbench?" part of the meeting, Bob Willard and Ed Leslie gave a dual presentation on tree making, using two different methods.

Terry Obie won the 50/50 raffle.

The Attendance Prize was won by Ken Nettleship and he took a John Deere hat.

The meeting adjourned.

TRAIN SHOW AT AUBURN MALL

Paul Lodge

On Saturday and Sunday, August 24 and 25, the Great Falls Model Railroad Club held a model train event at center court inside the Auburn Mall. More than thirty club members set up and displayed many of the club's HO scale modules as well as their own modules. Travis Johnson used his display to provide the DCC power for the layout. Children were allowed to run trains during the two-day event. Steam engines and diesels were used to entertain the visitors.

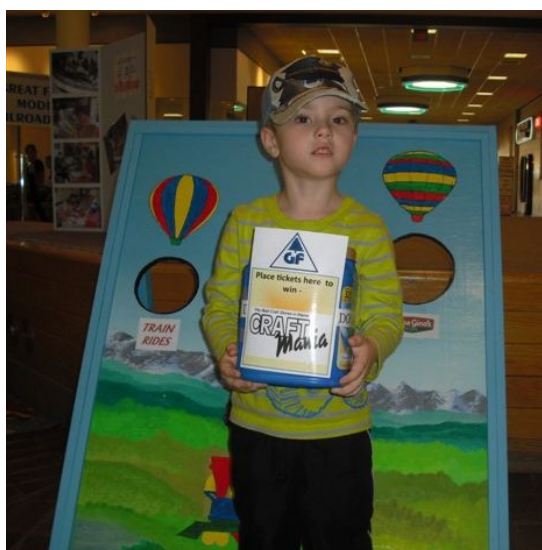
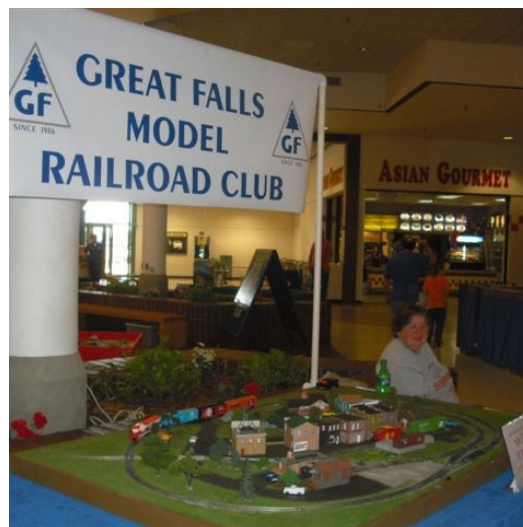
In one of the empty store fronts next to the center court, Bob Willard set up an On30 display. Visitors to the mall could stop and watch tree-making techniques at clinics exhibited at a table inside the store. The On30 display included many examples of the completed trees.

Children's activities were located in the center court near the stage. The club's toy trains were available for small children to play with. The new Brio wooden train layout was set up in the same area. Two games were used for family fun. Parents as well as children enjoyed the bean bag toss game. Getting a bean bag through a hole provided the player with an opportunity to enter a drawing for a gift certificate for Papa Gino's or Craft Mania, or a family pass to the Boothbay Railway Village or the Wiscasset, Waterville & Farmington Railway. Several mothers were heard saying, "Get it into 'Craft Mania.'" The "Hoop A Caboose" game was run in a similar way. Caboosees had a label which would allow a hooped caboose winner to put a ticket into the drawing for the prizes.

A dozen mall stores participated in a scavenger hunt. The Auburn Mall provided five \$10 gift certificates which could be used in any of the stores in the mall and were given as prizes. Railroad items were displayed inside the stores, and sales associates signed the Scavenger Hunt list after participants found the items. Families brought this completed list back to center court, filled out a drawing ticket, and placed it in a box. At the end of the show, winning tickets were drawn, winners were contacted, and gift certificates were mailed to the winners. The following stores participated: Kay Jewelers, U. S. Cellular, Sweets & Treats, Jokers, Nail Trix, Pac Sun, Claire's, Papa Gino's, Radio Shack, Cards--R--N, Glamour Us, and Photo Finish. Everyone who was asked if they had gone into a store they had never been in before said, "Yes."

Operation Lifesaver's display included a television showing railroad safety messages for children. Handouts were available, with coloring books, activity books, and trading cards for children and railroad safety pamphlets for adults.

Club members enjoyed watching mall visitors have fun with the different activities provided for them at the Auburn Mall by the Great Falls Model Railroad Club.





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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Address Change

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www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org or www.gfmrrc.com

Upcoming Events



September 12, Board Meeting

September 19, Membership Meeting

September 21,
Operating Session

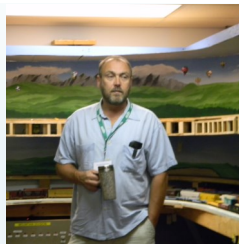
October 10, Board Meeting

October 17, Board Meeting

October 21, Operating Session

November 2, Train Show:
Auburn Middle School

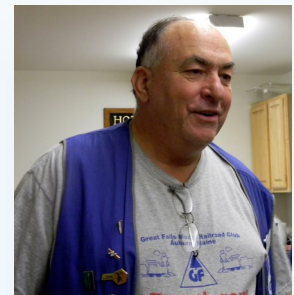
November 23-25 and 29-30: ExTRAINaganza



I told you I could run more trains than you!



Travis is speechless



Now! Now! Boys, Do you need a real dispatcher down there?

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