

The Signal

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club



VOLUME 31. ISSUE 12

MAY 2014



Member since June 1988

NEXT MEETING
May 15
6:45 p.m.

NEXT MONTH
Deadline for
June Issue
June 6, 2014

MEMBERSHIP
130

ATTENDANCE PRIZE

Gary Thibeault won the Attendance Prize. Maybe next meeting it will be YOU!

Will your name be drawn on
May 15?

You have to be present to win!

BOTTLES FOR BASICS

- ♦ Total LAST YEAR
- ♦ \$363.85
- ♦ YEAR TO DATE:
- ♦ \$736.48
- ♦ THIS MONTH:
- ♦ \$35.00



HOB0 HOLIDAY

MAY 17, 2014

By Paul Lodge



The third annual Hobo Holiday will take place on Saturday, May 17, at the clubhouse from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Guests will be able to sample Jerry Johnston's Hobo Stew, which includes his famous "secret" ingredient. A brochure about "Hobo Folklore" will be given to the families. Hobo symbols will be placed around the clubhouse, telling other hobos about potential dangers or places where they are welcome.

A scavenger hunt will require families to find items in each of the clubhouse rooms. The purpose of the scavenger hunt is to get everyone to see all the club has to offer from the library/museum to the learning center area and all of the layouts.

Railroads are private property and hobos rode the trains illegally. As a railroad club, we do not want to encourage trespassing on railroad property. A new feature this year is the Railroad Safety Quiz. A sheet with a number of questions suggested by Operation Lifesaver members will be given to each family. Throughout the building, Operation Lifesaver safety posters will be displayed with information which can be used to answer the Railroad Safety Quiz. Once the quiz has been finished, participants will have the quiz corrected. They will then be able to fill out a ticket and enter it into a drawing for a gift certificate from Governor's Restaurant or Craft Mania or a free pass to one of the participating tourist railroads in Maine.

For the children (and some adults), the popular "Hoop a Caboose" ring-toss game will be available along with the "Roundhouse Roulette" game. At another location in the building, the "Fishing Pond" will be set up. Children can go there to "fish" off the bridge to catch a prize.

Club members and guests are encouraged to dress up as hobos, railroad engineers, or conductors to help add a festive atmosphere to the Hobo Holiday. Admission to the event is only \$3, with children under 12 entering free. For those activities which offer prizes, tickets are \$1 each or seven for \$5.

There will be many opportunities for club members to help. People are needed to sell tickets for all the games and to run them. The HO layout will be available for guest engineers to run, and that can take a lot of manpower. The G-gauge and N-scale rooms will also need supervision.

This is a good fund-raiser for the club and a chance to come together and have some fun as a group.



Some of the local hobos from last year



MEET THE MEMBERS

MEET THE MEMBERS

By Maurice Fortin

Kent Waterson



Kent Waterson is a software verification engineer who has been working for Franklin Fueling Systems in Saco for the past six years. Previously, he worked for National Semiconductor as an integrated circuit designer for six years in Texas and seven in South Portland, designing components primarily associated with personal computers. He has four joint patents for implementations of a USB design. Kent lives in Hollis, a few miles from the Poland Spring bottling plant.

Kent has three children. His oldest daughter moved to Arizona two years ago for graduate school and will complete her Doctorate in Physical Therapy in February 2015. His son joined her in Arizona last summer, is working on an Automotive Technician certification, and will graduate in October. His youngest daughter lives in North Carolina and recently graduated from high school.

When he was young, Kent and his brother received an HO racetrack for Christmas and were introduced to the HO world. A friend gave him a magazine which described turning the simple racetrack into a realistic scene. This led him onto the path of learning about scenery and creating a miniature world. Since it was in HO scale, he was quickly introduced to the Model Railroad world. Although there was never money or place for a train set, the bug had bitten. It was not "if" but "when" there would be a railroad. During these years, his interests shifted to model building and detailing, but the desire for the railroad never left.

When his kids were young, most of his hobby-related activities were put on the shelf. For Christmas one year he built a railroad diorama for a grandfather, which gave him an opportunity to use some of the techniques and materials he had been reading about, but the layout was still years away.

When his eldest daughter moved to Arizona, space suddenly opened up in the house. Plans were laid for an HO scale layout in a small space in the cellar. Limited space ruled out O scale, and fading eyesight ruled out N scale. At this time, Kent joined the club and took the Model Railroad course, trying to learn as much as he could. When his son moved out, more space opened up and the small space in the cellar could now be expanded

to accommodate a medium-size layout. Kent's cellar is currently in the phase of deconstruction in preparation for the layout.

Model railroading provided the opportunity to merge Kent's interests in model building with the electronics and programming of his career. He took Ed and Brenda's basswood class and is currently working on a sawmill structure for his club module. Design for the structure was drawn in a CAD program and printed out in HO scale to be used as templates. The idea of automation also gave rise to experimenting with microprocessors for control on the layout. This led him to the Arduino development platform that provided numerous potential uses. Kent demonstrated some of those uses at a recent club meeting, including a magnetic uncoupler controlled via a servo motor and an IR sensor-based speedometer. He has also completed developing a turnout control system that interfaces to the Digitrax LocoNet control system to allow control of the turnouts via a locally mounted switch, via throttle control, or via the JMRI software running on a personal computer.

Kent continues to enjoy generic model building and recently joined the Southern Maine Scale Modelers who meet in South Portland on the first Tuesday of the month. Kent's primary interest there is modeling WWII aircraft, but the club includes a wide variety of interests. One member recently showed a set of four Boston & Maine passenger cars that won a trophy at the club's annual contest last month.

Kent is heavily involved in his church and a variety of volunteer activities. He also enjoys hiking and is beginning to work on climbing the "4000 footers" in New England, a list of 67 peaks in Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire.



MT. ARARAT TRAIN SHOW

A SUCCESS

By Paul Lodge

More than 45 club members participated in the annual train show at Mt. Ararat High School in Topsham which was held on Saturday, April 26. Some came on Friday evening to help unload the dealer tables from the truck and then returned on Saturday to help set up and run the show. The Maine 3-Railers, MaiNe Track, On30, Boothbay Railway Museum, and our club all had interesting model railroad layouts for guests to see and operate.

Even though the attendance was not as high as in other years, the club still came within \$2.25 of the goal set by Tom Coulombe in his annual budget. High club member participation in these events contributes to their success and helps keep the club functioning as members continue to have fun working together for a common goal—a successful model railroad club.



Paul Lodge working at the Hoop a Caboose

WEST PARIS

OLD HOME DAYS

By Paul Lodge

West Paris Old Home Days is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, June 13 and 14. This is a great community event which a lot of families enjoy every year. In the past, Beth and Jeff Chaffee have provided the major railroad displays. Because they will not be able to do it this year, we have been asked to participate.

The event has a carnival atmosphere and will be perfect for the railroad games which the club has developed during the last two years. We will be able to use the "Hoop A Caboose," "Balloon Bag Toss," "Fishing Pond," and "Roundhouse Roulette." Tickets will be sold for use on the games and for the privilege of running trains on the modular layout. It is hoped that this can become a new revenue source for the club.

Club members can participate by selling tickets, running games, and helping to set up and run the modular layout.

The times for the two-day event are as follows: Friday from 3 to 8 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Come and have fun with West Paris families who are looking for something different to do.

A Hobo passing though last year



April Minutes by Paul Lodge



MEETING MINUTES OF

APRIL 17, 2014

After the slide presentation by Ed Leslie, the TRAIN TIME program featured trains in Massachusetts and at Boston's Beacon Park Yard.

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. The Secretary's Report from twenty years ago was summarized. The old minutes mentioned having the springs fixed on the club trailer that was finally sold this week.

Tom Coulombe gave the Treasurer's Report and noted how close we are to the revenues and expenses projected a year ago. As part of the report, Tom gave the proposed budget for the next year. The Treasurer's Report and the budget were approved as given.

As Station Master, Tom Coulombe reported that the outside lights at the corners of the club building will be upgraded to LEDs as soon as funds become available. August 23 has been selected as the date for the Auburn Mall Show. A store front is currently available for the On30 team to have their layout and clinics. The G-Gauge will set up in the center court area along with the children's games. The rental fee has been paid for the Mt. Ararat Show in Topsham, and next year a classroom will be available for clinics.

Terry King reported that there are many interesting and informative books and magazines in the library collection available for 30-day loans to club members.

Gary Thibeault noted that the HO layout is progressing with Larry Cannon building scenery in the mountain district. Turnouts and control panels are being installed. A new engine facility is under construction. He reminded members that Wednesday evenings are work sessions and that anyone interested in working on the layout can come and participate.

Ken Nettleship reported that the G-Gauge layout has all three loops working and that scenery in the winter area is progressing.

Tom Coulombe said that the N and Z-scale layouts are working and ready for the Hobo Holiday.

Bob Willard invited everyone to join the Great Falls Modeling Forum on the fourth Thursday of each month. This month they will be having brief clinics on air brushing and decaling. Following the clinics there will be a round table discussion where projects can be shared and questions asked.

Nancy Weeks submitted the slate of officers for next year. They are as follows:

President: Jay Calnan

Vice President: Roger Plummer

Secretary: Paul Lodge

Treasurer: Tom Coulombe

Librarian: Terry King

Directors: Travis Johnson, Roger Allen, Darin Long

Terry King made a motion, which passed, that nominations cease.

For the Mt. Ararat show, Tom reported that dealer tables will arrive Friday at 4 p.m. Club members are asked to help unload the tables and set them up. On Saturday, the doors will open at 7 a.m. so that modules can be set up and dealers can get ready for the show.

Club members were reminded to get membership cards from Tom Coulombe. The cards are not mailed. The cards can be used for a 15 percent discount at Craft Mania in Auburn. Norm's O-Scale in Casco gives a 15 percent discount on general merchandise and a 10 percent discount on locomotives.

Nancy Weeks informed the members about the proposed plans to help youth members become more active in the club and be recognized for their contributions.

On Wednesday, May 14, from 6 to 9 p.m., the HO group is having its first operating session during a week night. That night was also chosen by the Executive Committee as Appreciation Night for people who have helped and supported the club. Formal invitations will be given to these benefactors, inviting them to come and enjoy the layouts and light refreshments. They are asked to RSVP by telephone to Tom Coulombe (240-9913) so that we will have enough food for everyone. It was suggested that any leftover food can be used for crew members at the Hobo Holiday that weekend. Jerry Johnston suggested that Hobo Stew be one of the offerings for our guests.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

Terry King made a presentation about the Xuron cutting tool used by most members for cutting rail. Coincidentally, two of our Xuron cutters broke in the same week. Terry noted that they have a life-time guarantee, and the manufacturer is in Saco. He took our cutters to Saco and got them replaced for free. If that happens again, the people at the Saco plant would like to have the broken parts returned so they can analyze the reason for their failure.

Jerry Johnston presented some ideas about making molds with inside or outside curves on them for the "Thinking Out of the Boxcar" portion of the meeting.

Larry Cannon displayed a "Salt Shed" he is making for his layout and explained the reasoning behind its construction. Larry also explained how he made the sign for his building. He bought a can of One Pie filling, photographed the label, and reduced it to HO size.

The 50/50 raffle was won by Jared Young. Gary Thibeault was present to win the Attendance Prize.

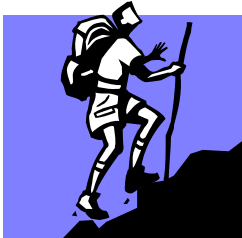
MARTELLI HIKING THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL

By Paul Lodge

He's on his way! Stephen Martelli started his "vacation" travel adventure on the Appalachian Trail in March. Terry King received a call from Stephen on his long hike, which will pass through 14 states.

If he is on schedule, he will be in Damascus, Virginia, by the end of April and will have already trekked through Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee.

Stephen has been planning this trip for about a year and has received sponsorships from several businesses. This is his second time to walk the entire 2,181 miles of the Appalachian Trail. We wish him safe traveling and a successful "vacation."



THE TICKET TRAIN

Paul Lodge

Railroad club member Dick Clark of Greene is interested in helping with unique woodworking projects that require ingenuity and the tools to make them work. The Ticket Train is the latest project designed by Paul Lodge and brought into one-of-a-kind production by Dick Clark in his well-equipped workshop. You may also have seen the Roundhouse Roulette game created with Lodge's imagination and Clark's ingenuity. These will be utilized at our Hobo Holiday on May 17 and again at other events sponsored by the Great Falls Model Railroad Club.

The "Ticket Train" boxes are designed to hold either raffle tickets or prizes for games at model railroad club activities. The tickets go into the slots easily. The tops of the locomotive, boxcar, and caboose were put on with hinges so the covers can be lifted to remove the prizes or to draw winning raffle tickets. The metal stands were made by Stephen Martelli from actual railroad rail and steel pipe. The pedestals were painted by Terry King in time for the club's 2013 ExTRAINaganza, and the completed Ticket Train boxes will add a festive mood to the events in which they are used.



Some more "workers" at last year's Hobo Holiday



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

The *Signal* is published twelve times per year by The Great Falls Model Railroad Club.

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Upcoming Events



May 8, Board Meeting 6:30 pm

May 14, Appreciation Night

Operating Session 5:30 pm to 8 pm

May 15, Membership Meeting, 6:45 pm

Annual Election of Officers

May 17, HOBO HOLIDAY

Workers: 8 am Public 10 am to 4 pm

May 22, Great Falls Modeling Forum
7.p.m.

June 7, Operating Session 8:30 to
Noon

June 12, Board Meeting 6:30 pm

June 13 –14, West Paris Old
Home Days

Friday, 3-7 p.m.

Saturday, 9 am-3 pm

June 19, Membership Meeting,
6:45 pm

June 26, Great Falls Modeling
Forum 7.p.m.

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

