



The Signal

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club



VOLUME 32. ISSUE 1

JUNE 2014



Member since June 1988

NEXT MEETING
June 19
6:45 p.m.

NEXT MONTH
Deadline for
June Issue
July 6, 2014

MEMBERSHIP
130

ATTENDANCE PRIZE

Bob Purington won the Attendance Prize. Maybe next meeting it will be **YOU!**

Will your name be drawn on **June 19?**

You have to be present to win!

BOTTLES FOR BASICS

- ♦ Total LAST YEAR
- ♦ \$736.48
- ♦ YEAR TO DATE:
- ♦ \$86.00
- ♦ THIS MONTH:
- ♦ \$51.00

2014 HOBO HOLIDAY A SUCCESS

By Paul Lodge

Nearly 35 club members helped make this year's Hobo Holiday a success on Saturday, May 17. About 200 children and adults took advantage of a rainy day to come inside the club house and enjoy the many activities which were offered to them.

As families came through the door, Bob Purington asked children to put their names on paper locomotives and pin them to a bright, colorful painting of a locomotive. At the end of the day, counting the number of paper trains tells us how many children come to our events.

Many tickets were sold so that children could play any or all of the three games designed in a carnival atmosphere. A special "Thank you!" is extended to Collette Fortin, Arthur Letourneau, and Nancy Johnson Anderson for supervising the play area and games upstairs. Their enthusiasm and love of children made the fund-raising part of the section successful.

The "Roundhouse Roulette" game proved to be the hit of the event. Another popular attraction was the "Hoop a Caboose" game. Participants not only had a chance to win a prize immediately, but they also could become eligible for a drawing for tickets to the Waterville, Wiscasset & Farmington Railway; Boothbay Railway Village; and Sandy River & Rangeley Lakes Railroad. Gift certificates were also drawn at the end of the day for Governor's Restaurant, Maine Gourmet Chocolates, and Craft Mania.

The "Fishing Pond" downstairs gave children an opportunity to "fish" for prizes. Joan Meehan, the Game Warden for the pond, allowed the fishermen to hook and release unwanted "fish" so they could try for a better one. This kept the bridge full of fishermen for quite a while. The pond had to be restocked several times during the day.

Terry King had the privilege of giving chocolate chip cookies from Governor's Restaurant to people who successfully completed the "Hobo Hunt" and the Operation Lifesaver Railroad Safety Quiz. Because we do not want to encourage trespassing on railroads, which is illegal and dangerous, we added a new feature this year. The Railroad Safety Quiz is designed for adults and encourages them to read railroad safety messages on seven different displays throughout the building in order to correctly answer the questions.

The highlight of the event was the layouts. The G-Gauge layout had three trains running at the same time all day long. Dick Clark's animated ski slope was a big hit and everyone admired the realistic skiers created by Sharon Clark. Children enjoyed operating Thomas the Tank engine. The N-scale layout ran flawlessly, using its new DCC operating system. The crew on the HO layout taught many new "Guest Engineers" as they ran their trains through the extensive layout.

Denise Purington sold tickets on the Raffle Layout and Nick Matluk collected money for the "Twelve Gifts of Christmas" raffle.

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MEET THE MEMBERS

By Maurice Fortin

ARTHUR LETOURNEAU



Arthur Letourneau is a returning member of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club. He took the Model Railroading class at Edward Little High School about twenty years ago. One of his classmates was Jerry Johnston. Art worked as a machinist at Androscoggin Paper Mill in Jay for 46 years and retired when the mill changed to Verso Paper.

Art's wife died several years ago from cancer. He has two daughters. One lives in Long Island and the other in North Carolina. He also has four grandchildren, all in their twenties.

He has loved railroading since he was a child. He told me the story about his next-door neighbor who was a railroad engineer and took him to school from Livermore Falls to Chisholm on the 470 Steam Engine. The train then continued on to Skowhegan. This brought back many memories as I played with my children on the 470 in Waterville. Art has been a member of the 470 Club in Portland and North Conway, NH.

Art prefers HO model railroading. When he was first married, he had a four-foot by eight-foot model railroad. While he was working, however, he found it difficult to keep it up. He has continued to accumulate model railroad pieces for forty years. It is all neatly stored in boxes. His girlfriend told him it was a shame to keep all of his trains in boxes, and he is now in the process of planning to build a new railroad. His favorite trains are Santa Fe, Burlington Northern, and Union Pacific.

He plans to get involved with the HO layout at the club. He wants to help with the continued construction and the Saturday sessions.

In addition to model railroading, Art enjoys camping. He has a fifth wheel camper. Last year he went to Tennessee with his daughter and to Florida to visit his brother. He also still enjoys skiing two or three times a year.

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Train Time videos were shown throughout the day, and some parents secretly bought DVDs to be used as birthday presents.

In the Sales Room, Terry King sold books, whistles, and surplus inventory items, which helped to make it a profitable day.

The club would like to thank the nearly thirty-five club members who came to support the club and help out during the event.

WEST PARIS OLD HOME DAYS

JUNE 13 & 14

By Paul Lodge

On Friday and Saturday, June 13 and 14, West Paris is sponsoring its annual Old Home Days. We have been invited to bring our HO modules and our games for children. We can use this event for fund-raising by selling tickets so that children can win prizes on our games. We plan to use the Roundhouse Roulette, Balloon Bag Toss, Hoop a Caboose, and Fishing Pond games. Without a ticket, children will be able to play with the toys on the play rug.

We can set up during the day on Friday. The festivities begin about 5 p.m. and the rides end at 9 p.m. We can stop whenever we feel the participation is too slow. Activities begin again on Saturday morning. The parade will begin at 11 a.m. Most activities stop during the parade. Activities begin again after the parade and continue into the evening, with fireworks after dark. We can end our participation whenever we feel it is the right time to do so.

Although we have participated in the West Paris Old Home Days with Jeff and Beth Chaffee in the past, this will be a new fund-raising event for us. The tickets we sell on the games and for guest engineers on the modular layout can help pay for club expenses. We will also be able to promote some of our other events while in West Paris. These would include our Train Fest on August 16, the Auburn Mall on August 23, and our next Model Railroading Class which starts on Tuesday, September 9.

Our club will also be able to offer free passes for three tourist railroads: Wiscasset, Waterville & Farmington; Sandy River & Rangeley Lakes Railroad; and the Boothbay Railway Village. Gift certificates will be drawn for Governor's Restaurant and Craft Mania.

This can be a fun weekend with families who may not have experienced our family-friendly train-related activities in the past. Plan to come sometime during the two-day event to help sell tickets, award prizes, or just enjoy the experience.

BOTTLES FOR BASICS ACHIEVES ANNUAL GOAL

By Paul Lodge

For the first time since we started the **Bottles for Basics**, we have surpassed our goal of \$500 in one year. From May 1, 2013, through April 30, 2014, club members and their friends who wish to help the club have donated more than 20,000 returnable bottles and cans. Some people simply do not want to be bothered with bottle redemption and we are the beneficiaries of their generosity. This fundraising project started in 2009. Even though each bottle or can is worth only five cents, together they add up to a substantial benefit for the club.

In the five years we have been collecting **Bottles for Basics**, the club has received about \$2,300 in extra revenue to help pay basic club expenses.



ED LESLIE REQUESTS NO MORE PICTURES

By Paul Lodge

For the past two years, Ed Leslie has been producing a monthly Movie Maker slide show, using pictures of club events sent to him during the previous month. This slide show has been an enjoyable feature at the beginning of our monthly meetings. Now that he is stepping down as president, Ed will no longer be producing the slide show.

He noted that one of the drawbacks of making this monthly presentation was the number of pictures sent to him, which overloaded his computer and caused long delays in being able to use the computer. Some club members send as many as sixty pictures at a time. Another reason that it takes so long to download photos is the size of each picture, based on its content and quality.

Pictures can be resized and forwarded at different quality levels. In their original size, good quality pictures are typically 3264 x 2448 pixels (px) or larger. These can vary from 2 MB (2,000 KB) to 4 MB (4,000 KB) per photo. For most computers, it takes a long time to send and receive photos and other files of this size. Most picture programs will give you the option of resizing your photos to send them as emails. This usually changes them to 640 x 480 pixels, which may be anywhere from 100 to 300 KB. These photos are still very good quality and can be used effectively for Movie Maker presentations as well as publicity pictures for news releases. Resizing to make them even smaller may result in their looking grainy when they are re-enlarged for Movie Maker or other purposes.

Rick James has volunteered to make monthly Movie Maker presentations. We do not want to overload his computer. When we send him pictures for the newsletter and for the Movie Maker presentations, we need to resize them, using the recommended email setting of 640 x 480 pixels or about 100 to 300 KB, whenever possible.

Because Ed Leslie will not be making monthly presentations, he respectfully requests that **NO MORE PICTURES BE SENT TO HIM.**



Carlene Barnies, manager of Governor's Restaurant, several members of her staff, and their families were among our guests at the Great Falls Railroad Club Appreciation Night, May 21.



May Minutes by Paul Lodge

MEETING MINUTES OF

MAY 15, 2014

President Ed Leslie showed his last Power Point presentation of pictures taken of club events since last month. The evening's TRAIN TIME program featured the trains "Hugging the Hudson" in New York.

Two changes to the club's constitution and by-laws were voted upon and approved. Both adults who join as part of our family membership plan can now have equal voting privileges. The Board of Directors was officially expanded from two to three people. We have traditionally had three directors instead of two, so this change was made to reflect what we have been doing.

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. He also gave the annual report, which allowed him to compare last year's proposed budget with numbers that were actually spent in all the categories. At the beginning of the last fiscal year, it was anticipated that we would have a \$10,000 shortfall for the year. Because of generous additional pledges and contributions by club members and increased sales of excess inventory, we ended the year with a surplus of about \$1,000.

As Station Master, Tom Coulombe reported that two DOT signs have been made by Marquis Signs and taken to the Maine Department of Transportation in Scarborough by Paul Richards. They will be installed as part of one of the DOT's summer projects. Tom noted that panels have been installed and painted on the HO layout to hide unsightly benchwork and that additional fascias have been installed. The floors on both levels were thoroughly cleaned and washed for the Appreciation Night and the Hobo Holiday.

Paul Lodge gave a presentation on expectations for the Hobo Holiday, including some new railroad safety challenges for adults. A sign-up sheet was distributed so that members could sign up to help run the games and raffles and supervise the different layouts.

There has been some interest in visiting the Seashore Trolley Museum again this year. Members were asked for a show of hands to gauge the interest. About a dozen people indicated they would like to go on a Saturday still to be determined.

Terry King mentioned that there are still a number

of VHS tapes available at very reasonable prices.

Travis Johnson reported that during the summer season the regular operating sessions will be held on the following Saturdays: June 21, July 12, and August 2.

Ken Nettleship said that lower loops one and two have been ballasted in the winter scene area. They used medium growers chicken grit for the ballast and it looks good. Dick Clark brought in several ski figures which his wife Sharon had made. They add interest to the scene and uniqueness which no one else will ever have.

In the N- and Z-Scale room, the trains have been converted to DCC. The industrial area still needs more buildings. Anyone who wants to build some structures for the industrial area is welcome to help.

Bob Willard invited members to come to the club on the fourth Thursday of each month from 7 p.m. to about 9 p.m. for the Modeling Group Forum. The group shares ideas and information on all kinds of topics. This month will feature decaling and "square-foot" modeling.

Bryce Weeks has been chosen as the spokesman for the youth group. He reported that the youth group will be divided into two divisions: The group for ages 10 to 18 has already begun and the 5 to 9 group will be started next year. One of their purposes is to engage the younger kids in modeling.

On the Sunday after Hobo Holiday, we have a birthday party at the club from 1 to 3 p.m. Another birthday party is scheduled for June 7 from 1 to 3 p.m.

Terry King asked that members remember to leave their name tags after every meeting.

Ed Leslie talked about what was on his workbench. He displayed a Union Pacific steam locomotive which he has had since he was a youngster and told how it inspired him in the model railroad hobby. In order to keep it simple, Ed also showed how he made buildings from sheets of paper in order to create scenes on his layout.

President Leslie expressed his appreciation for members who volunteered to demonstrate or display items for the "Out of the Boxcar" and "What's on Your Workbench" part of the club meetings for the past two years. In addition to learning about the topics, we also learned more about the club members who gave the presentations. Ed Leslie also publicly thanked Nancy Weeks, who has taken it upon herself to clean the kitchen and bathroom areas on meeting nights.

The election of officers for next year was the next order of business. A motion was made and accepted that nominations cease. The secretary was directed to cast one ballot for

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the following slate of officers:

President: Jay Calnan

Vice President: Roger Plummer

Secretary: Paul Lodge

Treasurer: Tom Coulombe

Librarian: Terry King

Directors: Roger Allen, Travis Johnson, Darin Long

Gary Thibeault was the 50/50 raffle winner. Bob Purington won the attendance prize and selected a National Train Day T-shirt.

New president, Jay Calnan, adjourned the meeting.

GREAT FALLS MODELING FORUM MEETS

By Paul Lodge

On the fourth Thursday of each month, the Great Falls Modeling Forum meets at the club at 7 p.m. The purpose of the forum is to share modeling ideas on topics of interest to the members who participate.

This month Bob Willard introduced the benefits of many different kinds of adhesives. How many of these glues have you used? Flamingo Glue, Gorilla Glue, Sobo, Elmer's, Arlene's Tacky Glue, Titebond, Roo Glue, Ambroid, Goo, Canopy, rubber cement, double-sided tape, hot glue gun. Bob's discussion of these adhesives included recommendations for the best product to use on different kinds of materials.

Greg Ouellette displayed and talked about designing and building his "Best in Show" award-winning square-foot model. He showed pictures taken over several years of an actual structure which was losing its battle with nature. His model of that building featured a collapsing roof and heavily weathered siding. He lifted the roof to reveal the interior, which included an old automobile and lots of clutter. He explained how he creates real rust to use in "aging" his metal pieces.

Bob and Greg encouraged members to go to the Patten Lumber Museum, which is an inspiration for modelers. Several of those at the forum thought they might like to go as a group in early August.

Tom Coulombe displayed some wooden railroad car kits made in the 1930's and 1940's. He suggested that everyone at the meeting could take a kit and use it to gain experience in working with wood. Tom indicated that the club has acquired many of these old kits and more are available.

Because of Greg's square-foot modeling display, it was suggested that we encourage club members to build a display of this size which could be exhibited at our November 1st show at the Auburn Middle School. People at the show would be given a ballot on which they could indicate what they thought was the

best square-foot model. This would be a "People's Choice" award. Tom Coulombe noted that the club has a lot of detail parts which could be used for this modeling project.

When asked what topics the group would like to talk about at future meetings, the following ideas were suggested: LED lighting inside cars, electronic inspirations, square-foot projects, and chemicals used in the paper-making industry. Travis Johnson and Darin Long indicated they would be willing to do the LED topic. Kent Waterson was asked to share ideas based on his electronics background. It was suggested that Larry Cannon be asked to present his findings based on his research of chemicals used in the paper industry.

Travis Johnson asked about the concept of having a clinic day at the club. We have three locations which could be used so that speakers would not interfere with each other. One group could meet in the library, another in the meeting room, and a third in the classroom area on the lower level. No action was taken on the idea, but it was suggested that clinics could be repeated so that participants could have a second chance to see a clinic in which they are interested.

It was decided that the Great Falls Modeling Forum will continue to meet on the fourth Thursday during the summer months of June, July, and August.

SQUARE-FOOT MODELING FOR NOVEMBER TRAIN SHOW

By Paul Lodge

At the May 22 meeting of the Great Falls Modeling Forum, Greg Ouellette exhibited a model of a dilapidated building he had entered for a contest. It won "Best in Show" honors.

It was suggested that all club members be encouraged to build a one-square-foot model to be entered into a "People's Choice" contest at our train show on Saturday, November 1.

Those members present thought the square-foot model concept would be a good idea. It would create modeling interest within the club, and it includes a goal for completion of the project. This would add an entertainment value to the train show as well. Except for the different layouts at the show, there is very little modeling exhibited.

Tom Coulombe noted that the club has a lot of detail parts which could be purchased and used in the square-foot models.

This could also be used as a way for members to start modeling at home in a small amount of space. If you would like to start a project, come to one of the Forum meetings on the fourth Thursday of the month and learn more about this idea.



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



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 21, Operating Session
8:30 to Noon

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

July 5, Androscoggin Railfan Net. This is a Ham Radio meeting on the local repeater, 146.610. All club members with scanners are welcome to listen in. It starts at 7pm on the first Saturday of the month.

July 10, Board Meeting 6:30 pm

July 12, Operating Session
8:30 to Noon

July 17, Membership Meeting,
6:45 pm

July 19, Club Picnic, Tom and
Carman's 10 am to 3 pm

July 24, Great Falls Modeling
Forum 7.p.m.

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

Some of the many glues used in
the hobby



TROLLEY PARADE AT SEASHORE TROLLEY MUSEUM

By Paul Lodge

The Seashore Trolley Museum in Kennebunkport will be celebrating Founder's Day on Saturday, July 5, with a trolley parade starting at 2:00 p.m. and special events all day. Founder's Day is an annual tradition at the Seashore Trolley Museum, but this year's celebration marks their 75th year preserving mass transit history. The Seashore Trolley Museum is located at 195 Log Cabin Road in Kennebunkport, just off Route 1 between Biddeford and Kennebunk. Admission is \$8 for seniors (age 60 and up); \$10 for other adults; \$7.50 for ages 6-16; and children under 6 are admitted free. For more information, see www.trolley museum.org

