

# The Signal

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club



VOLUME 32. ISSUE 2

JULY 2014



Member since June 1988

**NEXT MEETING**  
**July 17**  
**6:45 p.m.**

**NEXT MONTH**  
**Deadline for**  
**August Issue**  
**August 1, 2014**

**MEMBERSHIP**  
**130**

## ATTENDANCE PRIZE

Travis Johnson won the Attendance Prize. Maybe next meeting it will be **YOU!**

Will your name be drawn on

**July 17?**

You have to be present to win!

## **BOTTLES FOR BASICS**

- ◆ Total LAST YEAR
- ◆ \$736.48
- ◆ YEAR TO DATE:
- ◆ \$148.25
- ◆ THIS MONTH:
- ◆ \$62.25



## **STEPHEN MARTELLI AND HIS WILD LIFE**

By Paul Lodge



Deer, bear, and rattlesnakes are just part of Stephen Martelli's hiking experience on the Appalachian Trail so far. Because his wallet went missing just before he left Georgia to begin his trek, Stephen is about a month behind on his schedule. He now expects to complete the trip in mid-September. In order to stay out of the hottest part of the day, he starts early in the morning and walks about fourteen miles by noon. He has increased his walking distance to about twenty miles a day.

At this writing, Stephen was in Front Royal, Virginia. No deer hunting is allowed in this area. As a result, the deer are not frightened of people. While walking on the trail, Stephen came within fifteen feet of a doe who looked at him with an expression of "What do you want?" They looked at each other for a while until the deer moved off the trail.

The blackberries are in season in Virginia and Stephen was picking some while walking along the trail. He was paying more attention to the berries than he was to the trail. When he came around a corner, he noticed the back side of a bear who was also enjoying the berries. Stephen tried to scare off the bear by hollering and making noise with a stick. The bear was not impressed. After Stephen barked like a dog, the bear moved off the trail and down the hill where he continued to eat blackberries.

The rattlesnake took a little more persuading. At the time several youngsters were on the trail which was occupied by the agitated rattlesnake. His lunge was about eighteen inches. Barking like a dog was not going to move this creature. Someone donated a T-shirt and the snake was coaxed into it and the ends were tied off. Another hiker took the snake about a half mile off the Appalachian Trail and let it go.

Stephen plans ahead so he can stay overnight in shelters or hostels along the trail. One of his best experiences so far was a \$12 breakfast at a hostel that he rated as "five-star." Some of the shelters hold as many as 25 hikers each night.

Stephen plans to take a three-day rest on July 3, 4, and 5 when he gets to Harper's Ferry. While he is there, he plans to volunteer at the Appalachian Trail headquarters. At the visitors' center, he will answer questions and share information about his experiences. This is his second trek on the trail.

He would appreciate notes or cards from club members as he moves closer to Maine on his hike from Georgia. If you decide to mail a note or card before the end of July, you should send it to the following address:



Stephen J. Martelli  
General Delivery



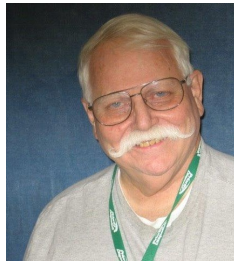
Delaware Water Gap, PA 18327

In the corner you should add "PLEASE HOLD FOR A.T. HIKER"

## MEET THE MEMBERS

By Maurice Fortin

## David Gilchrist



David Gilchrist has been married to Bonnie for 26 years. His four children, three boys and a girl, are all in their forties. He also has four grandchildren, ages fifteen to nineteen.

He is retired from International Paper, where he was involved with shipping. He would load trucks and railroad freight cars using special fork lifts designed for moving rolls and bails of paper stock. For fifteen years he was the lift truck safety instructor. We have a large paper mill on our HO layout called International Paper Company. Dave was successful in getting a \$500 grant from IP so that we could buy materials for building the structure. The paper mill first appeared on our previous layout on Canal Street Alley in Lewiston and was fourteen feet long. Dave gives credit to Larry Cannon for helping fill out the application necessary to receive the grant.

David's interest in trains started at an early age when he received an American Flyer Circus Train in 1951. That was followed by another set in 1956 and another for his thirteenth birthday in 1958.

His interest became directed to micro trains, which we now know as N scale trains. When he was first married, he had an N scale layout on a four-foot by six-foot piece of cardboard. Since then he has started to build several layouts. Although he has never completed one, he hopes one day he can.

In 1989 David saw the GFMRRRC set-up at the Auburn Mall which stirred his interest. He began hanging around the Freight Station, which led to his collecting N scale cars and engines. His collection now includes over 3000 pieces. If anyone is interested, by the way, he is thinking of selling his N scale collection.

David has taken the Model Railroading class. His interest has shifted to HO scale and he now runs his engines on the club layout. His collection of HO scale cars and engines is also quite large.

Bob Willard and his On30 models have inspired David to purchase equipment and supplies necessary to build a layout using On30 materials. At our Auburn Mall show last summer, David displayed some of his rolling stock on Bob's layout.

Besides model railroading, David is a very busy man. He is an Elder in the Mormon Church and is very

active in several lodges of the Free Masons and in the Androscoggin Amateur Radio Club. He was a volunteer with Operation Lifesaver, but had to give it up because of health reasons.

## WEST PARIS OLD HOME DAYS

By Paul Lodge

On Friday and Saturday, June 13 and 14, members of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club attended the activities of West Paris Old Home Days. On Friday morning, Tom Coulombe, Paul Lodge, Jerry Johnston, and Phil Clough set up a modular layout inside a small school in the middle of the events area. The children's games were also brought and included: "Hoop A Caboose," "Balloon Bag Toss," "Fishing Pond," and "Roundhouse Roulette."

Unfortunately, Friday's activities were cancelled because of rain. Saturday was also predicted to have rain, but it turned out to be sunny all day. The children's games were moved to the driveway outside the school and attracted attention to the building where the layout was housed. Inside the school we also had the raffle layout and an Operation Lifesaver railroad safety display.

On Saturday other club members came to help supervise the activities. In addition to the members who sat up the layouts and games on Friday, Jay Calnan, Art Letourneau, Bob and Denise Purington, Bryce Weeks, and Travis Johnson came to help.

About fifty children wrote their names on paper locomotives and pinned them to a scene painted on a sheet of homasote. They also had the option of taking a paper Amtrak engineer's hat, and a lei.

As we were preparing to leave at 5 p.m., more families were arriving for the evening events. It seemed that the best time for family traffic was in the morning after the 11 a.m. parade and late afternoon and evening. The time from 1 to 4 p.m. was very slow.



## CLUB DOT SIGNS INSTALLED

By Paul Lodge

The Maine Department of Transportation has installed the roadside signs that indicate the club's location. One of the signs is on Main Street across the street from the retaining wall of pictures. A second sign is located on the River Road (Route 136) about a block before the turn onto Mill Street which is across from the Rollerdrome.

The signs had to be approved by the state and the City of Auburn. Dan Marquis of Marquis Signs made the signs for the club. Tom Coulombe made arrangements with the different government agencies and had the signs printed. The completed signs were taken to the Maine Department of Transportation in Scarborough in May and were installed at the end of June. The cost of the two signs was paid by donations from two club members.



## GREAT FALLS MODELING FORUM MEETS

By Paul Lodge

Bob Willard led the Great Falls Modeling Forum on Thursday, June 26, by talking about modeling with styrene. He showed examples of different techniques to make doors and windows by building layers of styrene.

Ed Leslie had cut one-foot squares of Styrofoam to be used for the one-foot modeling contest. Those in attendance were encouraged to take a square and develop a scene on it. Completed models will be used at the November 1 club show at the Auburn Middle School as a "People's Choice" contest. There was also a discussion about using the same one-foot square modules at the Narrow Gauge Convention in 2016. Bob Willard and Greg Ouellette are in charge of the modeling contest for the Narrow Gauge Convention.

Darin Long and Ed Leslie brought examples of LED lighting and explained how the lighting could be used in signs, buildings, and street lighting. The use of fiber optics also became part of the conversation.

Several miscellaneous topics were also discussed during the evening. Come on the fourth Thursday of any month to learn more about modeling techniques.







# June Minutes by Paul Lodge

## MEETING MINUTES OF

June 19, 2014

The evening's *TRAIN TIME* program featured the special passenger train videographed in 1997 on the St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railroad. The American Association of Private Car Owners had gathered 27 privately owned passenger cars for their trip from Chicago to Maine. A train with many of the same cars will be coming to Maine again this year on September 21. The video was shown to create interest in forming a group to video the new train in September.

New president Jay Calnan opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and having visitors introduce themselves. They were Zip Kellog, Mike Wescott, Tammy Girardin, and Mike Paine.

President Calnan asked for the Secretary's Report. A motion was made and accepted to approve the report as published in the *Signal*. Secretary Paul Lodge read highlights from the club meeting 20 years ago. It showed how different, yet similar, the activities of the club were then.

Tom Coulombe gave the treasurer's report, which was accepted as given. He appealed to members to pay their pledges for the Utility Team. The club needs cash to pay taxes, a mortgage payment, and other expenses. Because we do not have any fundraising events until August, the cash balance is low. Collecting the pledges will help create cash to pay the approximately \$2,500 summer expenses.

As Station Master, Tom Coulombe reported that more fascias have been installed on the HO layout and will be ready for painting shortly. It has been suggested that wainscoting be installed in the entrance. Tom also reported that the DOT signs have been delivered to the DOT in Scarborough and will be installed on their schedule. During the winter the vinyl siding was damaged by ice dropping from the roof. Tom has replacement pieces which will be used to replace the broken siding. On the roof, the rubber edging has started to cup, and water gathers in pools. Tom plans to cover the cupping with edging he has on hand. Molding and mop boards have been donated to the club and will be used on the upper level to replace the damaged door moldings and mop boards.

Tom Coulombe reported that the Seacoast Division of NMRA will hold its meeting here on Saturday, August 2. They will be invited to participate in the oper-

ating session scheduled for the same day. Several members of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club are also members of the Seacoast Division.

As Librarian, Terry King reported that he is currently working on putting about 6,000 photographs into albums. He noted that we have some pictures of the Bates Mill #5 lot before the building was constructed. There are also pictures of the turntable which was located in the Bates Mill area.

Stephen Martelli sent a letter telling of his progress and a map of the Appalachian Trail so we can chart his progress. (See separate article elsewhere in this newsletter.) Before his trip began, Stephen reported that his wallet went missing. That delayed the start of his trip by about four weeks. According to his letter, on May 27 he was passing through Atkins, Virginia.

Travis Johnson announced that the HO operating sessions for the summer will be held on June 20, July 12, and August 2. The youth group from 10 to 14 years of age has selected their official name: Future Master Model Railroad Committee. Daniel Huckins has been selected as the committee's spokesman. Their meetings are held after the HO operating sessions.

Ken Nettleship reported that the G-gauge group will be holding a tree-making session to benefit the layout.

Tom Coulombe noted that the N-scale layout is now being run on DCC.

Bob Willard announced that the Great Falls Modeling Forum meets on the fourth Thursday each month. He plans to have one-square-foot pieces of Styrofoam at this month's meeting. Members will be able to make a square-foot model of anything they desire. The finished square-foot models will be displayed at the club's show on November 1 at the Auburn Middle School. Visitors to the show will be able to vote for their favorite display. The winner will have bragging rights until the next contest.

It was suggested that we try holding the Train Fest as a two-day event. A motion was made, and accepted, to have the Train Fest as a two-day event and to add Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. to the usual Saturday schedule of 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Paul Lodge reported on the club's participation in the West Paris Old Home Days. Friday's activities were canceled because of rain. The good weather on Saturday made it possible to set up our games outdoors. The attendance was moderate after the 11 o'clock parade and in the evening after 4 p.m. It was very slow between noon and 4 o'clock. It was felt that the financial benefit to the

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club was not worth the effort.

Tom Coulombe will be hosting the summer picnic at his home in Lewiston on Saturday, July 19, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. This will be a pot-luck event. Nancy Weeks will bring her portable kitchen, and food will be available for a donation.

For the "Thinking Out of the Boxcar," Paul Lodge explained the Auburn Fire Department's request for a model to be made of the abandoned shoe shop on Minot Avenue. The model will be nearly six feet long and two feet deep. He asked if anyone had a hollow-core door which could be used as the foundation for the building. The fire department wants to use the model to show where fire trucks should be located at the facility in case of a fire.

For the "What's on Your Workbench" part of the meeting, Travis Johnson displayed a model of SLA slug number 804 which he rebuilt from a regular locomotive. It took Gary Thibeault about three months to paint the SLA slug. Time is required to let the surfaces dry thoroughly between painting with different colors and applying decals.

On the first Thursday of each month, the Great Falls Model Railroad Club brings trains to Governor's Restaurant for Family Night when children's meals are 99 cents. Club members are invited to come and help supervise the layouts and toys.

The Concord Show will be attended by four club members on Sunday, August 17, during the Sunday part of Train Fest. We will need members to step up and help at the event.

Ray Anderson won the 50/50 raffle. Travis Johnson won the attendance prize and selected an Operation Lifesaver insulated cup.

The meeting adjourned.



## YOUTH GROUP NEWS

By Travis Johnson

The Future Master Model Railroaders (FMMRR) is the name chosen by the Great Falls Model Railroad Club members in the 10 to 15 age group. Daniel Huckins has been elected as the group's first youth leader.

The operating session schedule has changed during the summer because of other events. The FMMRR will meet on July 12 and August 2, following the operating sessions for those days.

Members of the FMMRR and their families are invited to attend the GFMRR picnic at the home of Tom Coulombe in Lewiston on Saturday, July 19. If you need directions to Tom's house, please let Co-Chairs Travis Johnson or Nancy Weeks know.

Members of the FMMRR are also encouraged to volunteer to help at the Train Fest, which will be held at the railroad club on August 16 and 17 during the Lewiston-Auburn Balloon Festival.

## CHRISTMAS IN JUNE

### BIRTHDAY PARTY

By Paul Lodge

Hunter Laplante had his seventh birthday party at the club on Saturday, June 28, even though he is still six. This was Hunter's second time having his birthday party at the club.

People who are born close to the Christmas holidays often miss out on birthday celebrations. Hunter's birthday is December 23<sup>rd</sup>. In order to make his birthday special, his mother helps him celebrate his birthday in June. According to his mother, he will celebrate his actual seventh birthday in December at the 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.

### OFFICERS:

#### President:

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### THE SIGNAL

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## Upcoming Events



**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 Carmen's 10 am to 3 pm

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

**August 2** - HO Operating Session 9 to noon

**August 2** - Future Master Model Railroaders Committee starting at noon

**August 2,** 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.

**August 14,** Board Meeting 6:30 pm

**August 16, Train Fest**  
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**August 17, Train Fest**  
Noon to 5 p.m.

All members should try to be at the clubhouse 45 minutes before the start of Train Fest.

**August 21,** Membership Meeting, 6:45 pm

**August 23** - AUBURN MALL TRAIN SHOW 10 to 4

**August 28** - Modeling Forum 7 p.m.

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

**Remember about the club raffle tickets!!!!**

