

The Signal

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club



VOLUME 33. ISSUE 3

AUGUST 2014



Member since June 1988

NEXT MEETING
August 21
6:45 p.m.

NEXT MONTH
Deadline for
September Issue
September 1, 2014

MEMBERSHIP
130

ATTENDANCE PRIZE

Art Letourneau won the Attendance Prize. Maybe next meeting it will be YOU!

Will your name be drawn on

August 21?

You have to be present to win!

BOTTLES FOR BASICS

- ♦ Total LAST YEAR
- ♦ \$736.48
- ♦ YEAR TO DATE:
- ♦ \$208.73
- ♦ THIS MONTH:
- ♦ \$60.48



BALLOON FESTIVAL

TRAIN FEST

By Paul Lodge



The Great Falls Model Railroad Club will celebrate the Lewiston-Auburn Balloon Festival with its fourth annual Train Fest, a two-day family fun event at the railroad club building at 144 Mill Street in Auburn. The club will be decorated with model hot-air balloons, some of which will be temporarily floating in the blue skies of all four permanent layouts.

Every member of the family will enjoy seeing the layouts in operation. As guest engineers, children can run trains on the club's extensive HO layout. Younger children will have fun operating Thomas the Tank Engine in the G-Gauge room as well as playing with other age-appropriate trains. There will be railroad-related games and activities for everyone.

Operation Lifesaver will provide railroad safety tips and materials. Model railroad supplies and *Train Time* videos will be available to buy. This two-day event begins Saturday, August 16, from 8:00 to 4:00 and concludes Sunday, August 17, from noon to 5:00.

Admission is \$3, and children under 12 are admitted free. FMI: www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org



TRAIN SHOW AT THE AUBURN MALL

By Paul Lodge



On Saturday and Sunday, August 23 and 24, the Auburn Mall management has invited us to exhibit our model railroad displays and the games we have for children. We will again have the popular mall scavenger hunt and gift certificates as prizes for activities. Club members are encouraged to help set up displays on Friday, August 22, beginning at 4 p.m. On Saturday, August 23, we plan to be at the mall from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. On Sunday, August 24, the hours for our show will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you are available to help take down the layouts, please be at the mall by 3 p.m.

We will have our popular HO modular layout. Ralph Luby will bring the G-Gauge track and staging for another spectacular, eye-catching display. Clinics will be on-going during the two-day event with Bob Willard leading the way. Our raffle layout will also be utilized during this event.

Come. Have a good time. Help with the layout, the children's games, and the Mall Scavenger Hunt.

MEET THE MEMBERS

Jim Vatter

By Maurice Fortin



Jim Vatter has been a member of GFMRRRC since November 2011. He has been married to Rita for twelve years. He is a truck driver for A. Duie Pyle and annually participates in the Maine Motor Transport competitions in Bangor where he has won trophies twice.

His interest in model railroading began with his grandfather's Lionel trains. When Jim was six years old, his grandfather set up an English Bowser train to run around the Christmas tree.

At present he has O scale trains stored in boxes and would eventually like to build a G scale garden railroad outdoors. His current layout at home is HO and covers seven and one half feet by twenty-two feet in an L shape. Based on a route from Pennsylvania to Buffalo, this layout will eventually be expanded into a U shape.

Jim is involved with the HO layout at the club. He is busy building the Riverton section of the railroad. He is also helping Darin Long and Travis Johnson set up and run the railroads on the layout. He recently wrote three articles for The Signal called "Operating the Great Falls Railroad". These articles described in detail how the railroads run on the layout and all that is involved, including stops at the various towns and some of the scenic details passed by the train in a typical run.

He and his wife Rita enjoy gardening. They have a flower bed and a large vegetable garden with which they are trying to become self-sufficient. Jim also enjoys reading science fiction.

TOM and CARMEN COULOMBE

HOST SUMMER PICNIC

By Paul Lodge

On Saturday, July 19, the club's summer picnic was held at the home of Tom and Carmen Coulombe on the Pond Road in Lewiston from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Club members and their families come together for this annual event to relax and run trains.

Tom opened his layout during the day, and a number of club members took advantage of the opportunity to enjoy operating trains on his layout.

The Pot-Luck Picnic was supplemented by Nancy Weeks, using her traveling kitchen from which to serve food and drinks.



MODEL RAILROADING CLASS

STARTS SEPTEMBER 2, 2014

By Paul Lodge

The fall semester of the Great Falls Model Railroading class starts Tuesday, September 2, at 6:30 p.m. at the clubhouse. For the past few years, we have had youngsters in every class. Many of them are now members of the club and involved in the Future Master Model Railroaders for 10- to 15-year olds.

This class is advertised through the Auburn Adult Education program and is taught at our clubhouse at 144 Mill Street in New Auburn. The Great Falls Model Railroad Club has been teaching the class for more than twenty years. Participants are encouraged to build a 2- by 4-foot module, which teaches students all the skills they need to have in order to construct their own home layouts.

A large majority of club members have taken the class and then joined the club. All club members are invited to come to the class on Tuesday nights between 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. to help



GREAT FALLS MODELING FORUM

JULY MEETING

By Paul Lodge

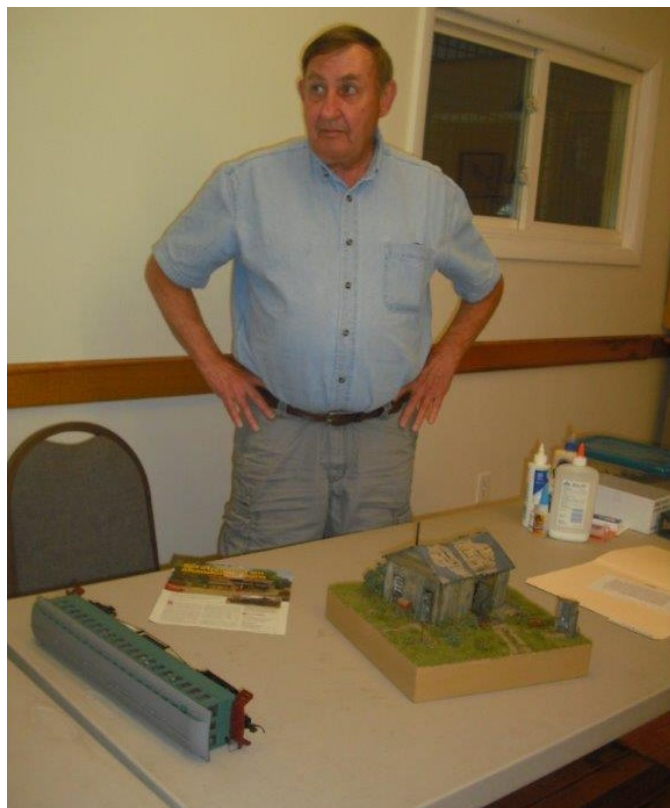
On the fourth Thursday of each month, the Great Falls Modeling Forum meets at the club at 7 p.m.

In July about a dozen club members shared ideas for scenery modeling. Bob Willard and Gregg Ouellette displayed different methods of modeling stone. Gregg carved stone in Styrofoam, and Bob Willard used plaster.

Jerry Johnston is developing a tool for laying realistic roads. He exhibited his road-laying technique to those present.

Kent Waterson is building a square-foot model and demonstrated hand-laying track on the display. Other members are also working on their square-foot scenes which will be exhibited at the club's show at the Auburn Middle School on Saturday, November 1. Ballots will be distributed so that those attending can select the "People's Choice" award for the square-foot modeling contest.

Anyone interested in building a square-foot scene for the contest can pick up a piece of pre-cut Styrofoam at the club. No advance registration is needed. Just bring your display to the Auburn Middle School show on Saturday, November 1.



July Minutes by Paul Lodge



MEETING MINUTES OF

JULY 17, 2014

The evening's *TRAIN TIME* program featured the recovery efforts after the Guilford train wreck at West Paris in 1998.

President Jay Calnan 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 efforts are being made to purchase winter fuel while the price is low.

Gary Thibeault reported that the HO layout is progressing with more scenery being done and switches being wired.

Bob Willard reminded members that the Modeling Forum will meet on Thursday, July 24. Anyone interested in building a square-foot display for the club's November show should see him to get a base on which to put the exhibit.

President Calnan asked for volunteers for the August 21st meeting for "Thinking Out of the Boxcar" and "What's on Your Workbench." Gary Thibeault volunteered to bring something from his "Workbench."

Everyone was reminded that the club picnic was to be held at Tom Coulombe's on Saturday, July 19. Train Fest will be held at the club on Saturday, August 16, from 8:00 to 4:00 and Sunday, August 17, from noon to 5:00. The club will have a special show at the Auburn Mall on Saturday, August 23, from 10:00 to 6:00 and Sunday, August 24, from 10:00 to 4:00. Set-up at the Auburn Mall will begin at 4:00 p.m. on Friday. Members are encouraged to help with all of these events and publicize them with family and friends.

As new business, a suggestion was

made to start collecting used printer ink cartridges so that the club could get credit for recycling them at Staples. The credit can be used to buy supplies for the club. (See article TIPC)

The drawing for the Attendance Prize was won by Art Letourneau. Bob Willard won the 50/50 raffle.

The meeting adjourned.

TIPC

FOR THE CLUB

By Paul Lodge

What do you do with your used printer cartridges? At the entrance to the club is a collection box for used **T**oner and **I**nkjet **P**rinter **C**artridges (**TIPC**: pronounced "**TIPS**"). Club members are encouraged to donate used printer cartridge from any manufacturer. The cartridges will be taken to Staples for recycling, and the club will get a \$2 credit for each one.

The Staples credit can be used by the club to purchase supplies for the club's newsletter, including printer inks and toner.

Traveling to take care of your used printer cartridges can be time-consuming and a nuisance. Bring them to the club for recycling and help provide supplies for the library's printer.



STEPHEN MARTELLI JULY UPDATE

By Paul Lodge

On Wednesday, July 23, Stephen Martelli phoned from Delaware Water Gap, Pennsylvania, on the edge of the Delaware River. His next scheduled stop was in New Jersey.

Stephen had hiked 23 miles the day before he called and 20 miles the day before that. He and two other hikers, all using metal poles, were caught in a heavy thunder shower at the ridge line of the mountain; but their only damage from the storm was that they got soaked to the bone. The rocks in that area were so sharp they had chewed up his boots in just three weeks. Fortunately, he has a sponsorship by OBOZ Footwear, and a new pair of boots was on the way.

During his recent planned stop in Harpers Ferry, he was looking forward to a beautiful 4th of July fireworks display over the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers. He was disappointed that there were no fireworks. They weren't canceled because of the weather; the town just decided not to hold them because of safety concerns.

In Port Clinton, PA, Stephen had counted 64 cars on a coal train being pulled slowly up a steep grade with two helper engines at the back. (I forgot to ask how many locomotives were on the front.)

His major wildlife episode this month has been meeting a mother porcupine and her baby on the trail about two feet away from him. While he was taking a video of the baby, the mother took off and left Stephen babysitting the young porcupine. By tapping the youngster gently with his walking stick, he discovered that even baby porcupines have strong tails for defense.

Stephen hopes to complete his hike of the Appalachian Trail in late September, with scheduled stops in Maine at Andover, Stratton, and Monson. He will have hiked the entire length of the trail, a distance of 2,181 miles, going through 14 states from Georgia to Maine.

He would appreciate notes or cards from club members as he moves closer to his final destination. If you decide to mail a note or card before the end of August, send it to the following address:

Stephen J. Martelli

General Delivery

Glenclyff, NH 03238

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

OPERATION LIFESAVER

DISPLAY AT BATES COLLEGE

By Paul Lodge

Club members Dick Clark, Tom Coulombe, and Paul Lodge represented Operation Lifesaver in providing railroad safety information to public school nurses during their conference at Bates College on July 14 through 16.

One of the purposes of the Operation Lifesaver presence at Bates was to encourage school nurses to advocate for railroad safety programs in their schools. School nurses are often responsible for providing wellness programs for students and school personnel. By making this contact, they have become more aware of the importance of railroad safety. Operation Lifesaver Authorized Volunteers are available to the schools to provide safety programs for students, teachers, and school bus drivers.

Operation Lifesaver also provides speakers to businesses, nonprofit groups, and other organizations. The Great Falls Model Railroad Club has several authorized volunteers ready to share information about railroad safety. If you would like to become part of this important program, or would like to have an Operation Lifesaver volunteer speak to a group to which you belong, contact Paul Lodge for more information. (Telephone: 207-966-3641)





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

If your mailing or e-mail address changes please notify Terrence King at
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www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org or www.gfmrrc.com

Upcoming Events



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 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 6

August 24, Auburn Mall Train show
10 to 4

August 28, Modeling Forum 7 p.m.

September 2, MODEL RAILROADING
CLASS 6:30 p.m.

September 11, Board meeting

6:30 p.m.

September 18, Membership
Meeting 6:45 p.m.

September 25, Modeling Forum
7 p.m.



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

Remember about the club raffle tickets!!!!

