

Member since June 1988

NEXT MEETING
September 18
6:45 p.m.

NEXT MONTH
Deadline for
October Issue
November 1, 2014

MEMBERSHIP
130

ATTENDANCE PRIZE

Terry King won the Attendance Prize. Maybe next meeting it will be YOU!

Will your name be drawn on

September 18?

You have to be present to win!

BOTTLES FOR BASICS

- ◆ Total LAST YEAR
- ◆ \$736.48
- ◆ YEAR TO DATE:
- ◆ \$265.03
- ◆ THIS MONTH:
- ◆ \$56.30

Donations of Used
Ink and Toner
Cartridges:
Year to Date:
\$50.00

The Signal

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club



VOLUME 34. ISSUE 4

SEPTEMBER 2014

OPEN HOUSE AT JOE LANDRY'S

By Paul Lodge

Club members have been invited to an open house to see Joe Landry's impressive Lionel layout at his home at 19 Orestis Way in Lewiston on Saturday, September 27, from 1 to 3 p.m. Joe's layout was featured on television and in the *Lewiston Sun/Journal* on October 28, 2013 and has been shown on television.

He is continuously updating his layout with new Lionel innovations. In addition to the Lionel layout, he has collections of vintage tractors and of model airplanes, trucks, and cars.

Joe Landry has been an Operation Lifesaver presenter for many years. He often gave railroad safety tips to workers at the paper mills for which he worked. Joe is also a Great Falls Model Railroad Club member.

This is your chance to have a first-hand look at this extraordinary model railroad display.

MODEL T FORDS VISIT CLUB

By Paul Lodge

On Saturday, September 6, members and friends of the Downeast Chapter of the Model T Ford Club of America visited the club as part of their "Maine-ly" tour. This annual event of Model T Ford enthusiasts visits various Maine locations as part of their after-Labor Day tour. Starting from Brunswick, they take guided trips throughout Maine. More than fifty Model T Fords participated in Saturday's tour with cars from Delaware, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Florida, as well as Maine.

In the Lewiston/Auburn area, the Model T Club members started at the Auburn/Lewiston Airport, where they stopped to see the Super Constellation Lockheed aircraft from WWII. Only 44 of these enlarged Lockheed planes were ever made, and it was the first plane of this type to fly to Europe from the United States. Only four of these planes were left; three were in Auburn and one in Florida. An attempt is being made to reconstruct one plane and use the other three for parts. All the useful parts of the plane in Florida were salvaged and brought to Maine. A special hangar was constructed to house the plane as it is being rebuilt. When the project was begun in 2008, it was expected to be completed in three years. They now hope to have the plane ready for take-off within the next year.

After admiring the work being done on the Super Constellation, the Model T group visited the Great Falls Model Railroad Club. The railroad club was holding one of its monthly operating sessions, and this gave the visitors a chance to see trains running on all the layouts. Operation Lifesaver key chains were given as a safety message and souvenir.

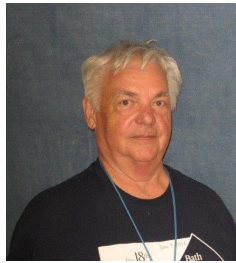
They spent more than an hour at the club before they left for Lewiston, where they visited Museum L/A and were given box lunches.

It was a thrill to see all the restored Model T Fords as they moved through town, and having these cars in our parking lot created a lot of interest from passersby.

MEET THE MEMBERS

By Maurice Fortin

Robert Willard



Bob is a long time member of GFMRRRC and a retired Sales Manager for Detroit Motor Auto Parts Manufacturing. He and Sally celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary last February. Sally is still working, and they spend much of their spare time with their grandchildren. Their daughter is the Director of the Pine Tree Camp and both Bob and Sally work at the camp.

He became interested in model railroading when his grandfather bought him his first Lionel train. His love is On30 model railroads and he belongs to a group that builds On30 modules which are often included in our model railroad shows.

Bob is an original member of the club. He is a past President and was Vice President when Paul Lodge was President. Bob is also a member of the planning committee for the 2016 Narrow Gauge Convention Committee that will be held in Augusta.

This spring Bob started the Modeling Group Forum, which meets on the fourth Thursday of each month. At their meetings, Forum members share modeling techniques they can use at the club and on their home layouts. Many of them have recently begun working on their "square foot" modeling projects. Club members are encouraged to build a one-foot-square scene that will display their modeling talents. The completed projects will be featured at our train show at the Auburn Middle School on November 1 and those attending the show will be asked to vote for a People's Choice award.



Wyatt & Angelina
Tardif at the
Train Fest

Wyatt Tardif with
Terry Obie at
the Train Fest



SEACOAST DIVISION MEETS

AT CLUB HOUSE

By Paul Lodge

On Saturday, August 2, the Great Falls Model Railroad Club hosted the quarterly meeting of the Seacoast Division of the National Model Railroaders Association. About forty modelers from around New England were on hand to share and learn more about the world's greatest hobby. Several model railroad clubs were represented at the meeting, with the most members coming from the Eastern Maine Model Railroad Club, North Conway Model Railroad Club, and the Great Falls Model Railroad Club.

Achievement Program awards were given to Bill Gaver, Chip Faulter, and Dave Sias.

Programs were provided by Dwight Smith and Bob Bennett. Dwight Smith used a Power Point program with 78 slides to show his HO scale 1950's "Northern Vermont Railway." Even though Dwight started the layout in 1940, he has made additions and changes over the years to keep the layout fresh and inviting.

As a fund-raiser, The Eastern Maine Model Railroad Club has developed a laser-cut kit based on the 1898 Maine Central Railroad station in Cherryfield, Maine. The kit was available at the meeting for a special price. Bob Bennett had used the kit and critiqued it for a national model railroad publication. Bob displayed the finished product and explained some of the modifications he had made to make the building even better. It took an estimated thirty hours for Bob to construct the building from the kit.

One of the emotional moments of the meeting was when Neil Falby presented a book to the Great Falls Model Railroad Club in appreciation for help he had received from some of the club members.

Jerry Johnston provided a number of appetizing dishes for the attendees as they broke for lunch. After the lunch and meeting, guests were invited to an operating session at the club and at Larry Cannon's layout in Lewiston.

The new Great Falls Model Railroad Club youth group, Future Master Model Railroaders, helped other club members provide assistance to the guests as they ran trains on the club's HO layout.

AUBURN MALL TRAIN SHOW AUGUST 23 AND 24

By Paul Lodge

Starting on Friday, August 22, Ralph Luby and a crew of other club members set up four loops of track for a G-gauge display at center court of the Auburn Mall for the weekend of August 23 and 24. During the weekend, Thomas the Tank Engine ran on a separate table inside the four loops. Seeing the four different trains running at the same time attracted a lot of attention from adults and families with children. Some of the children were allowed to operate the trains. Other children were allowed to give one of their toys a ride on one of the cars in the train. The mall provided about two dozen tables and tablecloths for the layout and other special exhibits.

On Friday night and Saturday morning, several club members set up the HO modular layout in another area of the center court of the mall. The Great Falls Model Railroad Club children's games were also part of the weekend train show. Children could play the "Roundhouse Roulette," "Balloon Bag Toss," or "Hoop a Caboose" games provided by the club. Tickets were sold so that children could play the games, win prizes, and enter a drawing for free train passes. Railroads which provided passes were the Boothbay Railway Village, Mt. Washington Cog Railway, Sandy River & Rangeley Lake Railroad, Seashore Trolley Museum, and the Wiscasset, Waterville & Farmington Railway.

Tickets were sold on the club's raffle layout and the "12 Gifts of Christmas" raffle.

Operation Lifesaver had a television showing railroad safety messages and gave away free materials to parents and children.

As in past years, the Auburn Mall Train Show Scavenger Hunt was an option for mall goers. Those completing the hunt had their names placed in a drawing for one of two \$25 gift certificates to any store in the mall. An additional \$10 gift certificate was purchased by one of the mall employees and donated for another prize. Because some people do not have enough time to go to all twelve stores, the hunt this year was divided into two six-store segments, with six on the east end of the building and six on the west end. Participants who completed both parts could put two tickets into the drawing. The stores participating included Part 1: Kay Jewelers, Sweets & Treats, Family Time, Nail Trix, Pac Sun, and Claire's. Part 2 included Papa Gino's, Radio Shack, Bam, Game Zone, Glamour Us, and Photo Finish. Something related to railroads was placed in each store for people to find.

Many club members including members of the Future Master Model Railroaders Committee, helped during the two-day event. Flyers were given to many people who are interested in model railroading and may attend other events at our club house.

TRAIN FEST WEEKEND A SUCCESS

By Paul Lodge

On Saturday and Sunday, August 16 and 17, the Great Falls Model Railroad Club hosted its annual Train Fest. Dates for this open house correspond to those of the Lewiston/Auburn Balloon Festival. Jerry Johnston and his crew placed Train Fest signs along the roads leading to the club house. A high percentage of those attending the event indicated they came because they saw the signs.

Pictures were taken during both days and sent to *Uncle Andy's Digest* where they were published in the September issue. As usual, many families with young children attended the event, ran trains, and played games.

Tickets were sold at the door so that children could play the "Roundhouse Roulette" and "Balloon Bag Toss" games. Many children used one of their tickets to become a "Guest Engineer" on the HO layout or to decorate balloon-shaped cookies to eat. A variety of prizes could be won by those who played the games. Railroads which provided passes used as prizes were the Boothbay Railway Village, Mt. Washington Cog Railway, Sandy River & Rangeley Lake Railroad, Seashore Trolley Museum, and the Wiscasset, Waterville & Farmington Railway. Governor's Restaurant & Bakery provided balloons as well as chocolate chip and peanut butter cookies. From Main Street in Auburn, both Maine Gourmet Chocolate and Top It Frozen Yogurt Bar provided gift certificates.

Several club members helped in the HO layout room to guide the trains of "Guest Engineers" through the layout. Many of the club members who helped were from the club's Future Master Model Railroaders Committee.

Hot air balloon-shaped cookies were available for our guests to decorate using frosting provided by Rick James. Even though we have had cookie decorating at other events, this was the first time we have had hot air balloon-shaped cookies for the children. The tables used for the cookie decorating were placed under a "sky" full of balloons provided by Governor's Restaurant. The "basket" under each hot air balloon contained a Reese's Peanut Butter Cup. The balloons were used as prizes for the games and people could also buy one with a ticket.

At about noon, Nancy and Bryce Weeks and Jerry Johnston provided a lunch for the club members who came to help with the event.

(Continued on page 5)

August Minutes by Paul Lodge

MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 21, 2014



The evening's *TRAIN TIME* show featured the trains at Horseshoe Curve in Altoona, Pennsylvania. The video was taken 25 years ago when Conrail was the primary railroad on the curve. Tom Coulombe also showed a slide presentation of the recent Train Fest.

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. Tom noted that we have a cash flow problem, which he hopes will be solved as we have more club events in the fall.

As Station Master, Tom reported that he will be picking up a pallet of LGB engines, rolling stock, and buildings which have been donated to the club. The club house was recently used for the quarterly meeting of NMRA's Seacoast Division. North Coast Engineering has been very helpful in supporting their DCC control cabs when problems have occurred. They have extended their helpfulness by giving us a dealer number to call so that fixes may be made over the telephone, which saves shipping costs and time in getting units repaired. A new powered lawnmower has been donated to the club. On Saturday and Sunday, January 24 and 25, 2015 several members will be representing the club at the annual train show in West Springfield, Massachusetts.

Gary Thibeault reported that dual switch machines and more fascia have been installed on the HO layout.

Bob Willard invited members to come on the fourth Thursday of the month to learn more about modeling. Last month Jerry Johnston exhibited his road-making equipment. Others showed how to carve walls in plaster and pink insulation foam.

There was a discussion about setting up modules and children's games for the Auburn Mall train show to be held on Saturday and Sunday, August 23 and 24.

Gary Thibeault gave a demonstration of a through switch used on the HO layout as the exhibit for the "What's on Your Workbench?" segment of the meeting. His display included how he used a double-pole, double-throw switch to accomplish the desired result of switching two turnouts at the same time using one switch.

The 50/50 Raffle was drawn and Jim Vatter was the winner. Terry King won the Attendance Prize and selected a Dale Earnhart cap.

The meeting adjourned.

TWELVE GIFTS OF CHRISTMAS

By Jerry Johnston

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club is holding a special fund-raising raffle this year in addition to our usual layout raffle. This raffle is quite different in that each ticket purchased will have **12 chances** to win any one of the prizes. If a ticket wins, it will be re-entered for all remaining drawings. The drawings are scheduled for Saturday, November 22, the last day of the ExTRAINaganza.

Prizes include a choice of an HO-scale diesel engine, a \$50 gift certificate to Governor's Restaurant or a \$50 gift certificate to Craft Mania. If you win a gift certificate and prefer cash, Jerry Johnston will purchase the gift certificate at face value and give you cash instead of the certificate.

Tickets are \$5.00 each or five for \$20.00. There is no limit to the quantity purchased.

We are asking that all club members purchase at least one ticket to help defray operating costs for the club. To purchase tickets and receive your ticket stub (s), see Jerry Johnston at a club meeting or operating session or send your money, name and address to:

Jerry Johnston: 554 Brighton Hill Rd. Minot, Maine 04258

For Info call 966-2932





GRIZZLY BEAR IN HIBERNATION

By Paul Lodge

Checking Stephen Martelli's blog on August 31 gave us an unpleasant surprise about his progress on the Appalachian Trail hike. His latest entry at grizzlybearfrom-maine.blogspot.com was dated August 19 and is summarized below.

"Today is August 19th and in my original plan, I was to be done with the Trail in just two more days, August 21st to be exact. Because of losing my wallet, I started late. Then I had some bad weather and an ankle problem. Now I have to add the final topping to the cake, Lyme disease.

"Yes, that's right, I have Lyme disease just as the mileage and time were getting better and the end was near. I felt lousy and the pain in my back was so excruciatingly terrible at night that I could not sleep for days on end. Once the doctor diagnosed the problem correctly and got me started on the antibiotics, I started feeling better within a few days when I was finally able to sleep for a few hours at a time. The pain in the back is still there and will be for another few days or until I run out of medication, whichever comes first.

"I will be back on the trail at the end of the month and will rejoin my friends in Gorham, New Hampshire, and lead them to the final dance at the "The Big K" (Mt. Katahdin). Then I will go to where I dropped off and fill in the remaining part that I had not hiked before.

"So until then, I will be resting and recouping till I feel better and then pack everything up and go north with everybody else for the final state."

In answer to our emails, Steve wrote on September 2: "I am still resting here in Jersey at a friend's house since August 8th. I am going back to the doctor on Wednesday to see if I can get a GO, so I can get back on the trail again."

On September 6, he wrote that he would be staying in New Jersey to continue treatment and recuperation. "My hike is over because I contracted Lyme disease and will not be hiking any more this year. I completed 1,450 miles which is Pawling, NY, and will pick up there in the spring with a couple of my other hiking friends that did not finish this year either."

(Continued from page 3)

Train Time shows ran continuously throughout the weekend and were available for sale.

Another new feature added this year was "The Great Balloon Chase." This was a scavenger hunt using hot air balloons as the images to find throughout the building. In the G-Gauge Division room were specialty balloons with Thomas the Tank Engine, a fish, and a clown. In the N-scale room, one of the balloons featured our "ExTRAINaganza" logo. In the HO layout room, the Energizer Bunny balloon was a favorite. After successfully finding all ten balloons, guests concluded the hunt in the library area where they received a Governor's chocolate chip or peanut butter cookie.

Tickets were sold on the annual raffle layout and the "12 Gifts of Christmas" raffle.

For the first time, we held the event on Sunday as well as Saturday. Even though fewer people attended, it was worth having the extra day for additional income. On Sunday morning one of the hot air balloons flew over the clubhouse so low that we could hear the people talking to each other.

Additional income was made on Sunday by selling excess inventory at a train show in Concord, New Hampshire. Tom Coulombe, Terry King, and Jerry Johnston provided the manpower for the Concord show.

As one of the major fund-raisers of the club, the Train Fest was a success because so many of the club members came to help during the two-day event.

Thanks!

FUTURE MASTER MODEL RAILROADERS ATTEND OPERATING SESSION

By Jerry Johnston

The Future Master Model Railroaders Committee (FMMRRC) recently held an operating session at the Rocky Ridge Railroad layout owned by Jerry Johnston of Minot, Maine. It was fun and successful as this group held their first operating session on Jerry's 800 square foot layout.

Two future operating sessions are presently planned for the FMMRRC at the Rocky Ridge Railroad. The dates are Sunday, October 26, and Sunday, December 28. Operating hours are 1 to 4 p.m. All attending are welcome to arrive any time after noon. For directions, call 966-2932.

Several members of the Future Master Modelers helped at the Train Fest and at the Auburn Mall show in August. Their expertise in guiding guest engineers at both events was greatly appreciated. Setting up and taking down the club layouts at the Auburn Mall was faster and more efficient thanks to their participation.



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



September 11, Board meeting
6:30 p.m.

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

September 20, Operating Session 9-Noon

September 24, Operating Session **6 p.m.**

September 25, Modeling Forum 7 p.m.

October 4, Operating Session 9 a.m.-Noon

October 9, Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.

October 16, Membership
Meeting 6:45p.m.

October 18, Operating Session, AM –Noon

October 23, Modeling Forum 7 p.m.

November 1, Train show at the Auburn
Middle School

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

Some of the Model T Ford drivers
checking out the club layout

