

Member since June 1988

NEXT MEETING
October 16
6:45 p.m.

NEXT MONTH
Deadline for
November Issue
November 1, 2014

MEMBERSHIP
119

ATTENDANCE PRIZE

No One won the
Attendance Prize.
Maybe next meeting
it will be **YOU!**

Will your name be
drawn on
October 16?

You have to be
present to win!

**BOTTLES FOR
BASICS**

- ◆ Total LAST YEAR
- ◆ \$736.48
- ◆ YEAR TO DATE:
- ◆ \$307.63
- ◆ THIS MONTH:
- ◆ \$42.60

Donations of Used
Ink and Toner
Cartridges:
Last Month: \$28.00
Year to Date:
\$78.00

The Signal

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club



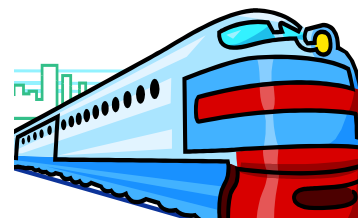
VOLUME 35. ISSUE 5

OCTOBER 2014



ANNUAL TRAIN SHOW AT AUBURN MIDDLE SCHOOL

By Paul Lodge



On Saturday, November 1, the Great Falls Model Railroad Club is sponsoring its annual train show at the Auburn Middle School from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This annual event brings modelers to Auburn from around the state who come to appreciate the various operating layouts on display and to buy model railroad items from dealers from Maine and other New England states. More than eighty tables of products will be available.

The Auburn Music Association will again provide refreshments during the day. This is one of the largest fund-raising events in which the Auburn Music Association participates.

As usual, there will be layouts for our guests to see and run. A play area with railroad-related items will be available for children to enjoy.

A new feature this year will be the "Square-Foot Modeling Exhibit." Club members have been building individual models which require the construction of a scene within a square-foot space. A ballot will be provided for guests to select their favorite model. At the end of the day, the model with the most votes will be given the "People's Choice" award.

Members are asked to come to the Auburn Middle School on Friday, October 31, to help unload and set up dealer tables. Those who wish to bring modules for the club layout can also bring them in Friday between 4 and 6 p.m. Everyone who wishes to have a module in the show needs to bring it to the Auburn Middle School by 8 a.m. on Saturday, November 1.

This is one of the biggest fund-raising events for the club, and a large number of club members have always helped to make it a success. We hope you will come and be part of this special event.



MEET THE MEMBERS

Rick James



Rick James is a family man. He has been married to Terry for 31 years. They have two daughters, one son, and a grandson who was born in September. Congratulations! Rick has been employed for a year as a Customer Service Representative for Argo Marketing.

He rediscovered model railroading about ten years ago when he attended a model railroad show at the Auburn Middle School. As a boy in New Jersey, he had a Lionel train. Rick is a Past President of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club and is currently the newsletter editor.

His major interest in model railroading is the HO scale. Rick has lots of rolling stock and track at home. It is not yet laid out, but he assures me this will happen.

Rick is involved with the HO layout at the club. He has been labeling switches as well as doing electrical work. He is also active with the Saturday Operating Sessions. He came up with the idea for guest engineers for the children, which has been well received.

Besides model railroading, Rick has been a ham radio operator for fifteen years. With his ham radio skills, he has been a volunteer with the Dempsey Challenge, the TD Bank North "Beach to Beacon" road race, New England Forest Rally, Trek Across Maine bike ride, and many walk-a-thons over the years. He also works with the Androscoggin EMA on the C.E.R.T. Team. Rick was a member of the Jaycees for over twenty years, working on many community events and serving on the board of directors of the Liberty Festival for five years.

He and his wife Terry went on a cruise to Hawaii this past year. Five years ago they went to Alaska, where Rick had lived for five years while his dad was stationed there. When not playing with trains or radios, Rick loves to go camping with his wife, enjoying the great state of Maine.



SIX THOUSAND AND COUNTING!

By Terry King

I bet you did not know that I could count that high.

So, six thousand what? Six thousand photographs mounted in eighteen 11" x 11" photo albums. That effort took 24,000 photo mounts at \$1.99 per 250, or 96 boxes of mounts at a cost of \$191.04. We have eighteen photo albums that we purchased at \$7.99 for \$143.82 plus about another \$143.82 for extra pages and a few other odds and ends. This means that we spent around \$500.00 to preserve the photographs. I do believe that our Treasurer, Tom Coulombe is glad that I am done.

Does the end justify the means? I believe so. We have a lot of photos from the early to mid-point of the last century and maybe one or two from the end of the 19th century.

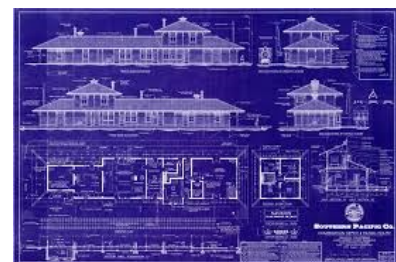
We have one album of pictures of freight cars that were in Maine in 1952. Most of these were taken in Lewiston, at the Bates Mill and up around Holland Street. Many people have asked me how they can know if a certain car is appropriate. Check out our photo archive.

Member John Visco was happy to find pictures of MEC's Lewiston Lower, including the roundhouse and passenger station and Mill #5 under construction.

We have more recent pictures that are just as fascinating. We have pictures of the St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railroad's first building, a wood and plastic shack, covered with snow during their first year of operation.

We have albums of MEC & B&M, BAR, CN-GT -SL&L, New England railroads and non-New England railroads. Any of the pictures can be taken out of an album by the Librarian and scanned for you or printed out. Having a picture printed out in a format of 8 x 11 will give you better detail.

If you find a picture of a building that you would like to model, there is a good chance we have a blueprint of it. We have seventy blueprints of buildings and rolling stock. We have the blueprints of the station in Lewiston on the upper line. Not the station that is there today, but the one before it, that burned down.



JOE LANDRY HOSTS CLUB

By Paul Lodge

On Saturday, September 27, about twenty club members and friends visited Joe Landry's extensive Lionel layout in Lewiston. Visitors took a lot of pictures of Joe's newest DCC-operated layout tucked into his basement. Before running all the trains at once, he ran several trains individually so that guests could hear the sound produced by the different types of engines. In addition to the railroad layout, which had a dozen trains running at the same time, Joe has several display cases of model automobiles, trucks, and airplanes.

Trying to describe the layout would not do it justice. You need to see it personally to really appreciate the workmanship and the time needed to get this layout to the outstanding level that Joe has achieved.

Homemade cookies and coffee were available for his guests. On a large-screen TV, Joe had one of his favorite train shows. It was the 1993 edition of the trains in Cajon Pass at the same location from which some of our *TRAIN TIME* shows were filmed.

Thank you, Joe, for inviting the club to experience your wonderful layout.

GREENE VILLAGE DAY

AT DICK CLARK'S

By Paul Lodge

On Saturday, September 13, Dick Clark invited club members to his annual Open House during Greene Village Day. Dick's Toot 'n Chug float was a highlight of the town's nine o'clock parade. After the parade, guests started arriving at Dick's house to see his outdoor G-Gauge garden railroad. By the end of the day, more than 140 people had signed his guest book.

Terry Obie greeted people and sold tickets on the club's raffle layout. Many children enjoyed playing the "Balloon Bag Toss," "Hoop a Caboose," and "Roundhouse Roulette" games which were brought to the event. Dick Clark had helped design and build some of these games.

During the day about thirty club members came to help and to see the family-built structures and the G-Gauge trains. Some club members brought their own locomotives to run on Dick's layout. An interesting new scenery feature was the horse barn and corral created by Dick and Sharon and named for their granddaughter, Paige McArthur.

Dick and Sharon Clark would like to thank all the club members who helped with their Greene Village Day Open House.

MANY DONATIONS RECEIVED

IN SEPTEMBER

By Paul Lodge

September was a busy month for the club in receiving donations. Nick Fowler, Tom Bamford, Bob Hood, David Emery, and Larry Ward all made donations of books, trains, bench work wood, and scenery materials.

Nick Fowler, a club member from South Portland, donated about ten boxes of "like-new" books, many of which were added to the library. Tom Bamford from Belfast donated additional books, engineering diagrams, and other collectibles. David Emery from Yarmouth gave the club a lot of scenery materials which are always needed at the club.

An interesting feature of some of these donations was the way we were contacted. Tom Bamford's donation was a result of his being a long-time member of Operation Lifesaver (OL). Fred Hirsch, State Coordinator for OL, suggested the donation be made to the Great Falls Model Railroad Club.

David Emery sold a lot of his train collection to Peter Apposal of Maine Model Works in Falmouth. Peter then recommended that David donate the rest of his supplies to the club.

Bob Hood is a good friend of Joe Landry. Bob Hood is getting ready to move to California and has sold all of his locomotives and rolling stock to an auctioneer. Joe suggested that Bob donate the remaining layout materials to the club. Club members spent parts of five days cleaning out Bob's layout room.

The LGB donation of track, rolling stock, and buildings from Larry Ward of Belmont, Massachusetts, came about as a result of one of our open houses. A friend of Larry's came to the club for the Hobo Holiday event and then recommended that Larry donate his collection to the club.

These donations are appreciated because they can add to the club by becoming part of our library, museum, or layouts. The additional income from excess inventory sales also helps us keep the dues low.



September Minutes by Paul Lodge



MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2014

The tradition of having a slide show of activities since the last meeting was continued. More than 200 slides were shown of club members participating in different events since last month, including Dick Clark's Open House during Greene Village Day and the Model-T Ford Club visit to the railroad club.

The evening's *TRAIN TIME* show featured BNSF trains in the twenty miles of Cajon Pass in California.

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 was on vacation so the Treasurer's Report was given by Terry King. It was approved as given.

As part of the Station Master's report, Ed Webb was given credit for mowing the lawn. It was noted that the oil tanks need to have a new bobbin installed so that the delivery man does not over-fill the tank, resulting in a spill in the parking lot.

Terry King reported that about ten boxes of books were received as part of a donation by Nick Fowler from South Portland.

Several up-coming events were mentioned. Two operating sessions are scheduled. The regular operating session will take place on Saturday morning, September 20. A special Wednesday night session is scheduled for September 24, with the room lights off, and using only the lights on the layout. On Thursday, September 25, the Great Falls Modeling Forum will meet with an open agenda.

On Saturday, September 27, Joe Landry is having an open house so the club members can see his extensive Lionel layout.

On Saturday, December 13, the club plans to have a surplus asset sale. This is primarily for club members, but the general public will also be invited.

Jay Calnan reported that the American Association of Private Car Owners would have a train arriving in Portland on September 25 with about thirty vintage passenger cars.

The Androscoggin Amateur Radio Club will hold training sessions at the club on Mondays and Fridays from 6 to 9 p.m. They will meet from October 13

through March 20. Rick James and Travis Johnson will be participating in the training sessions. They plan to have a relay station set up for our ExTRAINaganza in November. It will be part of the Androscoggin Railfan Net.

For the "Thinking Out of the Boxcar" portion of the meeting, Larry Cannon displayed his prize-winning Beer Can tank car. About fifteen years ago it won "Thumb's Award" as the "People's Choice" at the National Convention of the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA). Larry also explained the NMRA achievement program. He displayed his certificates from some of the categories: Master Builder--Motive Power, Cars, Scenery, Model Railroad Civil Engineer, Golden Spike Award, Prototype Models, and Model Railroad Author. When asked, Larry estimated that he invested a total of between five and six thousand hours to become a Master Model Railroader.

Before the meeting adjourned, Roy Gove won the 50/50 raffle. There was no winner for the Attendance Prize.

GREAT FALLS MODELING FORUM

KENT WATERSON: ARDUINO CHIPS

By Paul Lodge

On Thursday, September 25, the Great Falls Modeling Forum had its regular fourth Thursday monthly meeting. Kent Waterson presented a Power Point program on Arduino chips which can be used for a variety of electronic model railroad projects.

Kent displayed two Arduino chips which can be used to sense differences in electrical current to create special effects. He showed how one of the systems can be used to determine the scale speed of a train as it passes over two light sensors. If animation is desired, the Arduino can be used to sense motion as well as light to produce a signal that will operate a servo mechanism such as a signal gate.

Kent had purchased a book of electronic projects which shows how to use the Arduino chips. After doing a number of them, he started creating projects of his own.

If any club member is interested in learning more about using Arduino chips for animation or other purposes, contact Kent Waterson. It was suggested that we offer a class for using the Arduino chip. Are you interested? Kent lives in Hollis, which is about an hour away from Auburn. Would you expect him to travel here, or would you be willing to car pool and travel to Kent's location?

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

SEPTEMBER 27: A BUSY SATURDAY

By Paul Lodge

On Saturday, September 27, club members had a lot of model railroading choices.

During the regular Saturday morning work session, Mike Reed delivered a speeder and several members helped him place it on the pedestal Ken Nettleship had made for it.

Many club members were involved in projects to help other members. Ray Houlihan hosted a Layout Moving Party at his home in Bath. He has a new home and is removing his layout from his current house. Ken Nettleship and Ray Parent helped Dave Kierstead solve problems on his outdoor G-Gauge layout.

In the afternoon, Joe Landry had invited the club to see his outstanding Lionel layout and collections.

It is sometimes difficult to let everyone know of the many activities in which club members are involved. When you come to the club, the schedule of events is written on the white board. We also try to email as much information as possible and place it on our website. In order to maintain privacy for certain club member projects, however, not all activities are listed on the website.

MIKE REED DONATES RAIL CAR

By Paul Lodge

Under the sign on the Mill Street side of the club building, Ken Nettleship created the stone work on which track was placed for a railroad display. On Saturday, September 27, Mike Reed delivered a bright yellow "Put-Put" and several club members helped him install it on the tracks. This Fairmont model MT 14 rail car was built in the 1950s and was originally owned by the Canadian Pacific Railroad.

These rail cars, also called "Put-Puts" or "speeders," were used to transport railroad employees to remote locations where work needed to be done on the tracks.

Mike has been working to restore this rail car for about four years. Most of the metal parts were sand blasted before any paint was applied. The shell of the car is made of fiberglass. Reinforcement bars were placed inside to secure the roof and back. Mike used a Caterpillar color sheet to find the correct color. Caron's Body Shop in Lewiston painted the speeder Maine Central yellow with green lettering. The Maine Central decals were made by the Sign Store on Center Street in Auburn. The rail car has been numbered 803, one of the GP7 locomotive numbers.

Mike plans to add a grill to the car and rail sweeps in front of the wheels. He is looking for a tarp to cover it during the winter.

Thank you, Mike, for the generous donation of this eye-catching railroad symbol for our clubhouse.





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

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Upcoming Events



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

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

October 18, Operating Session, AM –Noon

October 18, Operation Lifesaver Annual Meeting 10 a.m.

October 23, Modeling Forum 7 p.m.

October 25, Backdrop Painting for the Reluctant Painter

November 1, Train show at the Auburn Middle School

November 13, Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.

November 17, Christmas Decorating 10 - 2

November 20, Membership Meeting

November 22-24 ExTRAINaganza

November 28-29 ExTRAINaganza

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

Some of the action at Dick Clark's open house



Darin & Bob Long taking a break with Joe Landry at his open house

