

Member since June 1988

NEXT MEETING
December 18
6:45 p.m.

NEXT MONTH
Deadline for
January Issue
January 3, 2015

MEMBERSHIP
126

ATTENDANCE PRIZE

Rick James won the Attendance Prize. Maybe next meeting it will be YOU!

Will your name be drawn on

December 18?

You have to be present to win!

BOTTLES FOR BASICS

- ◆ **Total LAST YEAR**
- ◆ **\$736.48**
- ◆ **YEAR TO DATE:**
- ◆ **\$395.23**
- ◆ **THIS MONTH:**
- ◆ **\$40.00**

Donations of Used Ink and Toner Cartridges:
Last Month:\$16.00
Year to Date:
\$122.00

The Signal

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club



VOLUME 37. ISSUE 7

DECEMBER 2014

SURPLUS INVENTORY SALE

By Paul Lodge

On Saturday, December 13, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., the Great Falls Model Railroad Club is holding our first "Surplus Inventory Sale." The purpose of the sale is to give club members and the general public a chance to purchase model railroad items which are too numerous to bring to a train show.

About a dozen tables will be filled with items ranging from G-gauge to n-scale. Buildings, structures, track, locomotives, rolling stock and train sets will be available. Some of the items are still in their original kits.

December 13 was chosen as the date for our first Surplus Inventory Sale because it is so close to Christmas that it's an ideal time to purchase model railroad supplies as Christmas presents for children of all ages. This is also a great opportunity for club members to purchase items at reasonable prices to use on their home layouts.

SIXTH ANNUAL ExTRAINaganza

The sixth annual ExTRAINaganza was held at the club for five days on the weekends before and after Thanksgiving. Nearly fifty club members came to help or support this major club event. Almost 600 adults attended the five days of the ExTRAINaganza and about 330 children put their names on our *Train Tree*.

The G-Gauge winter scene provided the "WOW" factor as guests entered the building. Some children remembered from last year the ski slope created by Dick Clark and showed their parents how it works. Nearly all of them mentioned the addition of the dog on the snowboard. Children enjoyed free activities such as putting their name on the *Train Tree*, watching trains on the layouts and under the Christmas trees, operating Thomas the Tank Engine, and playing with the trains on the wooden Brio layout and in the younger children's play area.

When asked how they knew about our event, many said they saw the signs which Jerry Johnston and Ed Webb had put out. A newspaper article by Daryn Slover in the Lewiston *Sun/Journal* the day before the ExTRAINaganza began and his picture of John Visco on the front page of the "City" section helped us get started with a good turnout. Lewiston/Auburn's *Twin City Times* and many editions of Turner Publishing's community newspapers also gave us good publicity. Some of those who came to the event mentioned hearing the message on radio or seeing it on local cable television, our website, or Facebook.

Bob Willard set up his On30 point-to-point layout in the classroom area of the lower level. Parents who were waiting for their children to run trains as HO Guest Engineers were impressed with Bob's layout and the detailed scenery.

About 650 tickets were sold and used for the games, crafts, and Guest Engineers. The Roundhouse Roulette topped the tickets with almost 220, and there were more than 180 Guest Engineers.

In the crafts area, children decorated and ate more than 140 gingerbread and sugar cookies made by club members and friends. Other crafts included decorating spice ornaments with glitter glue and creating tri-bead candy canes and snowmen to hang on their Christmas trees at home. Over 110 ornaments were created or decorated. Operation Lifesaver coloring books and activity books were given away.

Several club members and friends decorated the building and Christmas trees on Monday, No-

(Continued on page 5)

MEET THE MEMBERS

By Maurice Fortin

Terry Obie



Terry Obie, a very active member of GFMRRRC, originally joined the club with her husband Richard who passed away about four years ago. They were married for 49 years. She has two sons: Marcel is 50 years old and Larry is 44. She is very busy with a part-time job at the Rainbow Restaurant, where she serves coffee, cleans tables, and makes sandwiches for lunch.

Richard Obie had trains at his uncle's house when he and Terry were first married. These were later set up in a room at their house. Eventually, the trains and the layout were moved to the basement. All of these trains were HO scale. After his death, many of his trains and a layout were donated to the railroad club. The Obie Yard on the HO layout was named for Richard Obie.

Terry is involved in most of the special events at the Great Falls Model Railroad Club. She usually sells tickets and greets people as they come into the club. She will do whatever is needed, and often helps with the crafts and the children's games.

Besides being active with GFMRRRC and her church, Terry keeps busy with knitting and other craft projects, including knitting mittens for school children. We often see her knitting during our regular monthly meetings and while waiting for people to buy tickets at our special events. She did a lot of the knitting for the raffle afghan with its many brightly-colored train cars. She also makes blankets which are distributed through the Kidney Foundation and to nursing homes.



THE BREWER SHOW

By Paul Lodge

During the first weekend of the ExTRAINagaza on Saturday, November 22, Tom Coulombe, Terry King, and Larry Cannon met Travis Bragg in Brewer for the annual Maine Eastern Model Railroad Club show. The Great Falls Model Railroad Club rented six tables and had one of the best sales days ever at the show. Sales were good for Lionel equipment, HO engines and cars, and N-scale engines and cars. Larry Cannon had a successful day selling some of his personal model railroad items at the "Silent Auction."

Members of the Maine Eastern club expressed concern about losing vendors. Some dealers have closed their businesses and others have passed away. We hope this disappointing trend does not continue. The opportunity to purchase items at the shows keeps modelers coming back. Vendors are a vital part of the model railroad hobby, and our model railroad shows need good vendors.

STEPHEN MARTELLI

LOOKING FORWARD TO COMING HOME

By Paul Lodge

Stephen Martelli recently called to let club members know that he hopes to be back in Auburn sometime in February. While on his Appalachian Trail hiking trip, he contracted Lyme Disease, and he has been out of commission ever since. He will know results of his next blood test about January 5. If he gets an okay at that time, he will be free to leave New Jersey and come back to Maine.



Train Tree first day



Augustus & Tavin White, winner of Thomas the Tank Engine



2014 RAFFLE LAYOUT WINNER

By Paul Lodge

On Saturday, November 29, the winning ticket was drawn for the raffle layout. Michael Chambers and Stephanie Doyle bought their ticket at the train show at Mt. Ararat in the spring. They were extremely excited to win the layout and drove to Gray from their home in York to pick it up. Michael was reluctant to buy a raffle ticket because he said he never wins anything. Stephanie encouraged him to purchase a ticket, and Michael is enthusiastically happy that he did. After the show at Mt. Ararat, Michael was inspired to start building his personal layout at home.

Michael is a maintenance supervisor at an elementary school in York, and Stephanie is in marketing. They are expecting a baby in May, just in time for our Hobo Holiday. They have not yet visited the club, and they are looking forward to seeing our layouts.

The raffle layout was used for many functions during 2014. It was featured at shows in Augusta, Topsham, and Auburn; at club events (Hobo Holiday, Train Fest, EX-TRAINaganza); and at Governor's Restaurant on the first Thursday of each month for their Family Night.

Congratulations, Michael and Stephanie, for winning the 2014 Raffle Layout.





MEETING MINUTES OF

NOVEMBER 20, 2014

A Power Point slide show of club activities in October and November was shown from 6:45 to 7:00 p.m.

The evening's *TRAIN TIME* showed a club trip to George Selios' "Franklin and South Manchester" HO railroad in Peabody, Massachusetts. His model railroad layout, which is set in the Depression era, has been featured in several magazine articles. George Selios also produced one high-end HO kit a year, lived off the proceeds, and used the time to build the railroad.

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 the outside lights have been installed. The club should get some reimbursement from Electricity Maine for installing the new energy-saving lights.

Paul Lodge led a brief discussion about the upcoming ExTRAINaganza. Decorating for the event took place on Monday, November 17. Sign-up sheets were available for members to volunteer their time at the show. Cory Golob will be setting up a radio station at the club on one of the days of the event with the purpose of expanding our network and inviting people to join us. Stephen Martelli was given credit for the Lewiston *Sun/Journal* newspaper article by Daryn Slover about the up-coming ExTRAINaganza. Daryn said he saw one of our signs and remembered that Stephen had told him it would be better to have an article before the event instead of after. He came right over and Terry King was here to escort him around the building. John Visco was working on the Lewiston Lower, his part of the layout, and became the feature for the article.

The club will be represented at the Maine State Museum on the first weekend in December for their "Mainely Trains" show. Set-up will take place on Thursday, December 5, with the exhibit on Friday (9 to 5) and Saturday (9 to 3), December 6 and 7.

We have been invited by Martha Feeley of the Woman's Literary Union to have a train under a Christmas tree as part of their Christmas open house at the Foss Mansion on Elm Street in Auburn on Saturday and Sunday, December 13 and 14. We can set up the tree and train after November 29.

Preparations are being made for the Surplus Inventory Sale at the club on Saturday, December 13, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tables will be set up with a variety of model railroad supplies available for club members and the general public. Train sets are being made up with the following items: locomotive, caboose, three freight cars, power pack, and track. The sets will sell for \$40. It is expected that train sets will also be available for the ExTRAINaganza. Ray Parent has been successful in selling some G-gauge items

on the Internet.

The Wiscasset, Waterville and Farmington Railway will have their Victorian Christmas on Saturday, December 20.

The Seacoast Division of the NMRA is planning a two-day layout tour for September 19 and 20, 2015. This tour will not be open to the general public. It is a "trial run" for layout tours during the 36th National Narrow Gauge Convention in Augusta on September 7 through 10 in 2016. Members of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club have volunteered to help out during the national event. For the "trial run" in 2015, we are hoping to have two or three volunteers at each layout to help the host with security and operations. The Great Falls Model Railroad layout will be available for tours from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Because of the size of the state, the layout tour will be divided into two parts, a northern and southern tour. They expect to have about 90 clinics running morning and evening in six rooms at their Augusta convention site. The Seacoast Division will be meeting in December to make further plans.

At the conclusion of his Station Master's report, Tom informed the group that he has stomach cancer and is scheduled for an operation on December 3. Everyone wished him smooth sailing.

Gary Thibeault reported that the HO layout track has been cleaned and is ready for the ExTRAINaganza. Ken Nettleship noted that more trees have been added to the G-gauge layout and the track has been cleaned.

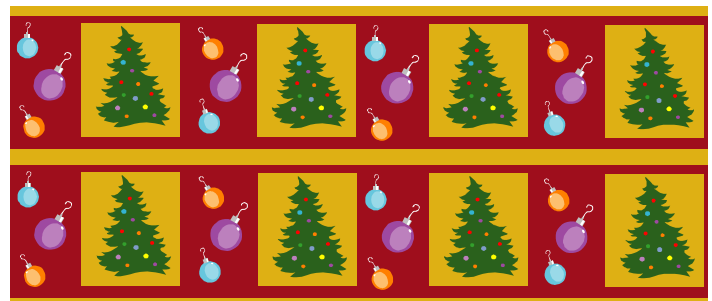
Bob Willard reported that the Modeler's Forum had a successful "Square Foot Challenge" at the annual train show at the Auburn Middle School. Bob won the "People's Choice" award for his square-foot display of a rock-crushing scene. Ken Nettleship and Kent Waterson also had outstanding displays for the "Square Foot Challenge." Two of these displays were exhibited at the meeting.

For the "What's on Your Workbench?" portion of the meeting, Larry Cannon explained about the research he has done for a CN & CV railroad station. He displayed two sides of the station which he has built as a result of his research.

As another feature to end the meeting, Paul Lodge and Larry Cannon explained the DARE project in which the club was involved for many years.

The 50/50 raffle was won by Dave Gilchrist. Rick James won the Attendance Prize and chose an HO boxcar.

The meeting adjourned.



(Continued from page 1)

vember 17. Three of the trees were used to display trains for a special raffle. On Saturday, November 29, the last day of the event, drawings were held for these trains, the club's HO raffle layout, and a colorful crocheted train afghan made by Terry Obie, Rita Vatter, and Terry James. Many books and surplus inventory items were sold, including five train sets which had been made up from surplus inventory. The train sets included track, locomotive, caboose, three freight cars, and a power pack.

Club members were encouraged to give out family passes for the event. Guests had received some of these passes from the Auburn Public Library, Governor's Restaurant, individual club members, and Ed and Brenda Leslie at Norm's O-Scale business in Casco. It was good to be able to suggest Norm's O-Scale business as a place where our guests could go to buy model railroad supplies.

Governor's Restaurant and Bakery distributed free passes and publicized the event with our handouts and large display sign. They also donated chocolate chip cookies to be used during the event.

The success of the sixth annual ExTRAINaganza is due to all the club members and friends who helped and supported this event. **Thank you.**

Surplus Inventory for sale



John Visco decorating HO area



DECORATING THE CLUB FOR CHRISTMAS

By Paul Lodge

On Monday, November 17, about a dozen club members and friends adorned the clubhouse with festive Christmas decorations in preparation for the ExTRAINaganza and club meetings. Jerry Johnston has been storing the Christmas supplies at his home since last year. Ed Webb, Paul Lodge, and Jerry packed two vehicles and brought them to the club house. The early-season snow storm that day helped everyone to get into the Christmas spirit.

Once the cars were unloaded, the boxes were opened and members took assignments and began decorating the inside of the building. Larry Cannon helped "reconstruct" the artificial Christmas trees and others took on the project of decorating them with lights, garlands, and colorful Christmas balls. New members Peter Cole and Paul Dugas hung lights and garlands throughout the upper level. Terry Obie helped set up and decorate trees. Paul Lodge's granddaughter Christie and her friend A.J. creatively decorated two trees, one on the landing in the stairwell and another in the main hall. They also "packaged" picture displays in the main hall.

Jerry Johnston made sandwiches for the crew at about noon and the fun continued until about 1 p.m.

Larry Cannon setting up trees





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



December 11, Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.

December 13, Surplus Asset Sale
8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the club.

December 14 Birthday Party
at the Club 1 – 3

December 17 Modeler's Forum 7:00

December 18 Club Christmas Party 6:45

December 20 Victorian Christmas,
WW&F 10:00

January 3 Operating Session
Future Master Modelers 12:00

January 8 Board Meeting 6:30

January 15 Membership Meeting
6:45

January 17 Operating Session

January 22 Modeler's Forum 7:00

January 24 & 25 West Springfield
Show

February 10 Model RR Class begins
6:30 – 8:30

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

