



The Signal

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club



VOLUME 39 . ISSUE 9

FEBRUARY 2015



Member since June 1988

NEXT MEETING
February 19
6:45 p.m.

NEXT MONTH
Deadline for
February Issue
March 3, 2015

MEMBERSHIP
132

ATTENDANCE PRIZE

Ed Webb won the Attendance Prizes.
Maybe next meeting it will be YOU!
Will your name be drawn on **February 19?**
You have to be present to win!

BOTTLES FOR BASICS

- ◆ Total LAST YEAR
- ◆ \$736.48
- ◆ YEAR TO DATE:
- ◆ \$535.23
- ◆ THIS MONTH:
- ◆ \$50.00

Donations of Used Ink and Toner Cartridges:
Last Month: \$12.00
Year to Date: \$170.00

THIS YEAR'S WEST SPRINGFIELD SHOW

By Ralph Luby and Tom Coulombe

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club displayed a 32- by 34-foot G-gauge layout at this year's West Springfield show sponsored by the Amherst Railroad Society in Springfield, Massachusetts, on January 24 and 25. This is the largest model railroad show in the USA and is spread over 380,000 square feet (8 ½ acres) of indoor space.

The large Great Falls Model Railroad Club layout was set on three levels with sixteen trains running at the same time. Many club members helped to transport, set up, and monitor the layout during the two days of setup and the two days of running the show.

Over 1,000 feet of track and roadbed were provided by Dick Rubin and Ralph Luby. Dick and Ralph also provided ten long freight and passenger trains. These included a 12-car Bangor & Aroostook "State of Maine" potato car train, a 20-car Santa Fe ABBA freight with construction equipment, a New York Central ABBA with a 19-car grain and tank car train, a 7-car Heavyweight passenger train, and many other long freights.

Five Great Falls Model Railroad Club members made the 14-hour drive from Michigan and brought seven more G-gauge trains with them. These members included Rick Breitzman and Dick Serreyn who brought two Denver and Rio Grande Western trains and several remote-controlled egg-liners. Greg Franko brought his 12-car New York Central Pacemaker box car train, along with a 6-car Jurassic Park train complete with animals, and a 7-car Thomas Engine train. Bill Weidendorf had a 12-car Coca Cola box car train, and a 3-engine White Pass coal train with 14 cars. Gordon Perrin provided track alignment and extensive train information throughout the show.



Club members from Maine who helped with the displays included Jerry Johnston, Carmen Anastase, Travis Johnson, Dennis Collins, Ralph Luby, Tom Coulombe and his brother Tony. Ed and Brenda Leslie, who were with Norm's O-Scale display from Casco, and Roger Plummer helped take down and pack the extensive layout on Sunday evening. Nancy and Bryce Weeks supplied the group with food, which included Italian sandwiches, cookies, and a wonderful apple pie.

Western Massachusetts had five inches of snow on Saturday, which affected attendance. On both Saturday and Sunday many families came with children, and many of them got a chance

(Continued on page 5)

MEET THE MEMBERS

By Maurice Fortin

Ed Webb

Ed Webb is a bachelor who grew up in Winthrop. He has three brothers and two sisters. His life's work has been as an electrician and a carpenter. He also worked as a fisherman and especially enjoyed working as a forklift operator. Over the years he has developed arthritis in his back and knees, which is not allowing him to work full time.



When they were young, Ed's older and younger brothers had trains, but he did not. In his 20's he found and rescued a brand-new Lionel set which was a little smoke-damaged. He set it up on the floor and watched it go around in circles. He has now traded it off. The last piece was the locomotive, which he gave to Gabriel Garcia, who was then a young member of the railroad club.

Ed became seriously involved with model railroading when he visited a GFMRRRC train show at the Augusta Amory. Since then he has been involved with the club for over seven years. He enjoys the HO scale railroads and has been active with the Great Falls layout, working on the Grand Trunk yard and the framework for the Mountain Division. He is now spending a lot of his spare time repairing, restoring, and rehabbing HO modules which have been donated to the club. He considers himself a "rivet counter," trying for accuracy in the details.

Ed regularly participates in Saturday work sessions and operating sessions. He also helps to supervise guest engineers during special events.

Other interests for Ed include movies and delving into the history for projects on the layout.

GEORGE HERRICK OLDEST MEMBER DEAD AT 99

By Paul Lodge

George Herrick, Sr., the oldest member of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club, passed away on Monday, January 29, at the age of 99. He resided at Barker Mills Arms across the street from the clubhouse. As a club member, George came to the club many times to see how we were progressing and to donate items in which he thought we might be interested. He was particularly pleased to be able to donate the John Deere train set which is on exhibit in one of our display cases.

About two years ago, the Lewiston *Sun/Journal* had a feature article about George. It included the fact that he was still bowling regularly on one of the bowling teams at the Sparetime Recreation alleys in Lewiston. He was born on November 7, 1915, and graduated from Oxford High School in 1934. During World War II, George served in the U.S. Army Air Corps. He often spoke about his experience as an airman.

George was a 60-year member of the Tranquil Masonic Lodge in Auburn, and a 50-year member of the Kora Shrine. He was also a leader of the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts, and a big fan of the Boston Red Sox.

Thanks for the memories, George.

WMTW-TV FEATURES CLUB ON

"HOME TOWN MAINE"

By Paul Lodge

While many club members were in West Springfield for the annual train show of the Amherst Railroad Society, the club received an inquiry from Norm Karkos of WMTW-TV, Channel 8, who asked about doing a feature on the Great Falls Model Railroad Club for a segment on *Home Town Maine*. He called Paul Lodge on Friday, January 23, and made arrangements to come to the club as soon as he could set a time with his photographer. The next day he set the date as Monday, January 26, at 10 a.m.

Home Town Maine is a show on Channel 8 which highlights many of the state's well-known local business and recreational facilities. Norm had recently featured Simones Hot Dog Stand in Lewiston.

Club members were notified by email about the visit. Several school districts had a teacher workshop on that day. As a result, three of our junior members were already at the club running trains when Norm Karkos arrived with his videographer, Frank Rios. Terry King, Ray Houlihan, Ed Webb, John Visco, and Paul Lodge were interviewed by Mr. Karkos during their more than two-hour visit. Junior members Joseph Gilbert, Mike Jalbert, and Stanley Golob were interviewed and made great subjects while they were running trains on the HO layout. The parents of Stanley and Mike, Beckie Golob and Diane Jalbert, were also interviewed.

Terry King was able to show the library and talk about our collection of books, magazines, timetables, slides, and other collectibles.

Norm Karkos indicated that he had been at the club for one of our events and noted that we have made a lot of progress since then.

The show about the club aired twice on Channel 8. On Saturday, February 7, it ran at about 7:15 p.m. On Monday, February 9, it aired again at about 5:50 p.m. during their regular 5:30 newscast.



Larry Cannon

Dr. Wallace Viles had a medical practice located in his home on Main Street in Turner. As a hobby, he had an HO layout in his basement, which was probably influenced by legendary model railroader John Allen. Dr. Viles built imaginative and highly detailed bridges and trestles of all kinds from basswood that was pegged together with round toothpicks. We have been told many of his patients enjoyed seeing his work.

His layout began about a foot off the basement floor and rose over three feet in height in a series of mountains, rivers and towns with scenery made of mortar mix. In February 2005, thanks to a donation by the John Davis family, members of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club managed to separate and salvage many of Dr. Viles' creations from the original layout.

As a tribute to Dr. Viles and John Allen, we display a selection of Dr. Viles' efforts from more than fifty years ago when many of today's modeling materials were not available. These men helped model railroading become the hobby it is today. Please enjoy the work of this talented man.



BIRTHDAY PARTIES AT THE CLUB

By Paul Lodge

On Sunday, January 11, two birthday parties were held at the club. One started at 10 a.m. and went to noon, and the other was held from 1 to 3 p.m. During the day there were more than thirty children from the ages of one to fifteen. Because of the variety of games we have available, all age levels were able to have fun during the parties.

Many of the guests had not been to the club before and they were amazed at the facility and the trains. As a result, additional parties will be planned for the future.

On Sunday, January 18, club member Mike Jalbert had his birthday party at the club. About twenty-five children and adults enjoyed watching trains and playing the bean bag toss and the "Hoop a Caboose" games. As a club member, Mike was able to show some of his friends how to run trains on the HO layout. Darin Long and Jay Calnan worked with Mike to run the HO trains. This was the first visit to the club for several of these adults also. We had met some of them at Governor's Restaurant on Thursday Family Nights.



January Minutes by Paul Lodge



MEETING MINUTES OF

JANUARY 15, 2015

A Power Point slide show of club activities in December was presented. The show also included pictures of the building renovations from 2008 to 2012 and the dedication ceremonies in 2009. The evening's TRAIN TIME show featured trains in Pennsylvania videotaped by Jerry Johnston, Tom Coulombe, and Paul and Frances Lodge.

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's Treasurer's Report was approved as given. Tom talked about reducing consignment obligations by using some of the funds from the Surplus Inventory Sale.

As Station Master, Tom Coulombe noted that birthday parties at the club are becoming more frequent. We had two parties on the same day recently, and more are planned. Club members were asked to help supervise future birthday parties. During the cold weather, Tom is keeping the heating thermostats set at 60 degrees. It is easier on the furnace to reheat the building when it starts at 60 degrees. In order to save more money on the electricity bill, new T5 fluorescent lights will be installed on the lower level as soon as funds become available. The retaining wall needs to be repainted because the paint is peeling.

Travis Johnson pleaded with members to come to the twice-monthly operating sessions. He noted that he would like to have two people for each train. Novices will be accompanied by experienced engineers until they feel confident in running trains on the layout.

Ken Nettleship sent a note explaining recent work done in the G-gauge engine house yard. He asked people who leave items for them to leave a note indicating who donated it and the purpose for its use. Some of the aluminum track has been replaced with brass track.

Bob Willard reported that the Modeler's group did some weathering at the last session. They meet on the fourth Thursday every month at 7 p.m. All modelers are invited to come share and learn.

Paul Lodge read a letter from the Androscoggin Home Care & Hospice thanking us for the \$50 gift in memory of Mike Reed. Paul also acknowledged the donations made by club members in pledges for the Utility Team and the Bottles for Basics fundraiser. In December for the first time, more than \$100 worth of bottles were turned in. That represents 2,000 returnable bottles and cans. Keep them coming! Larry Cannon made a proposal to create a memorial gift in the name of Michael Reed. He noted that two donors wish to offer \$500 challenge donations to help reduce the club's mortgage. Once the first \$500 is matched, an attempt will be made to match a second \$500. The second match will cover anything up to \$500. If both are fully matched, a \$2,000

mortgage payment will be made. The donation challenge is good until April 15.

A steam locomotive was exhibited at the club. It was a donation by Mike Reed. The locomotive will be finished and restored. A display case will be made for the engine and a plaque honoring Mike Reed will be placed on it.

Peter Cole won the 50/50 raffle and donated half of his winnings to the matching fund for the \$500 Mike Reed fund challenge. Ed Webb's name was drawn for the Attendance Prize. The meeting adjourned.



MONEY MATCH FOR MIKE

By Paul Lodge

At the January monthly meeting, a proposal was made for club members to pledge money in Mike Reed's name to help reduce the mortgage on the club building.

Several different times, Mike had expressed concern about the large amount of debt the club had acquired in buying our building. Two club members have created a money-matching plan to raise up to \$2,000 to be paid on the mortgage in Mike's name. The matching challenge will work in two parts. Five hundred dollars will be given to the club after members have pledged \$500. With that match, the mortgage will be reduced by \$1,000. An additional \$500 will be given when club members pledge an additional \$500. If members do not complete the second \$500, money will be donated to match whatever is pledged up to \$500.

We have 15 years left to pay on the mortgage. Payments on the principal will help reduce the number of years we will need to pay.

The money-matching challenge will continue until the middle of April.

(Continued from page 1)

to start and stop some of the long trains. Parents were very thankful with great comments; some said, "This made the child's day."

Ralph Luby is the modeler for the display. After creating a design, he engineers the track and makes the pedestals. Because of the great amount of effort and time it takes to prepare for the show, Ralph said this will be the last year in which he will participate as the lead member. This was the third year the club has attended the show with a different exhibit each year. After Dick and Ralph joined the club, they helped get New England exposure for the Great Falls Model Railroad Club. Last year our exhibit won the "Best in Show" award. Many people felt that this year's display was even better than last year.

Thanks to everyone for supporting our club and participating over the last three years.



BANGOR SAVING BANK VOTING UNDERWAY

By Paul Lodge

The Bangor Savings Bank Foundation is again offering the eight highest vote-getting non-profit organizations an opportunity to receive a grant of \$5,000, with an additional sixty nonprofits receiving \$1,000. Any Maine resident is eligible to vote for up to three different organizations when entering the Bank's website. Last year many club members used Museum LA as one of the three different organizations. In turn, Museum LA suggested that its members vote for us.

It is easy to vote. Go on line to www.bangor.com/cmm and vote for The Great Falls Model Railroad Club as a write-in nomination. (Notice that the word "The" is the first word in the official name of the club.)

Voting began February 1 and ends February 28. Encourage friends, family members, email and Facebook contacts to vote for The Great Falls Model Railroad Club online as well. Use #CMM2015 to vote on Twitter. Every vote counts.





THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

144 Mill Street
Auburn, Me 04210

207-576-3788

e-mail:

greatfallsmodelrailroadclub@yahoo.com

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:

Jay Calnan-783-1719
jayceeltc@live.com

Vice President:

Roger Plummer

Secretary:

Paul Lodge - 966-3641
paulodge@gwi.net

Treasurer:

Tom Coulombe - 240-9913
ctcoulombe@aol.com

Directors:

Roger Allen-783-2129
Travis Johnson-336-2789
slrmodlertj@aol.com

Darin Long

Webmaster:

Joe Marshall - 344-7099
joe@braintriggers.com

Assistant Webmaster:

Frances Lodge - 966-3641
paulodge@gwi.net

Librarian/Archivist

Terry King
tpking@roadrunner.com

THE SIGNAL

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Editor:

Rick James
N1wfo@roadrunner.com

Proofreader:

Frances Lodge
paulodge@gwi.net

Address Change

If your mailing or e-mail address changes please notify
Terrence King at
tpking@roadrunner.com

www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org or www.gfmrrc.com

Upcoming Events



February 7 Operating Session 8:30 to Noon

February 10 Model Railroading Class 6:30 p.m.

February 12 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30 p.m.

February 17 Model Railroading Class 6:30 p.m.

February 19 Club Meeting 6:45 p.m.

February 21 Augusta Dollhouse/Train Show 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

February 24 Model Railroading class 6:30 p.m.

February 26 Modeler's Forum 7 p.m.

February 28 Operating Session 8:30 to Noon

March 12 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30 p.m.

March 19 Club Meeting 6:45 p.m.

Retired Renovators meetings postponed until March 3.

Model Railroading Class meets every Tuesday 6:30-8:30; members welcome to help.

April 25 - GFMRRC Spring Show, Mt. Ararat, Topsham
10 a.m.-3p.m.

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

AUGUSTA TRAIN SHOW FEBRUARY 21

By Paul Lodge

On Saturday, February 21, the Whitefield Lions club is sponsoring its annual Train and Dollhouse Show at the Augusta Armory from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Our club has attended this hobby show every year since it started at this location. Many of our current club members learned about our club at this February show.

We will be displaying our modular layout and selling surplus inventory items. Our new 2015 raffle layout will be shown for the first time at this train show. Club members who wish to exhibit their modules need to be at the Armory before 8 a.m. The doors will be open at 7 a.m. so we can unload the club truck.

By combining model railroads with the dollhouse displays, guests see how both hobbies complement each other. Dollhouse people enjoy our scenery, which for them is landscaping. Many model railroaders find small items from the dollhouse hobby which work with model railroading.