



Member since June 1988

NEXT MEETING
January 21
6:45 p.m.

NEXT MONTH
Deadline for
January Issue
January 30, 2016

MEMBERSHIP
127

ATTENDANCE PRIZE

Carl Butland
won the Attendance
Prize.
Maybe next meeting
it will be YOU!
Will your name be
drawn on
January 21?
You have to be

**BOTTLES FOR
BASICS**

- ◆ Total LAST YEAR
- ◆ \$700.23
- ◆ YEAR TO DATE:
- ◆ \$490.00
- ◆ Last MONTH:
- ◆ \$79.00

Donations of Used
Ink and Toner
Cartridges:
Last Month: \$8.00
Year to Date:
\$155.00

The Signal

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club



VOLUME 19 ISSUE 8

JANUARY 2016

THE WW&F RAILWAY

INTRODUCES RENOVATED ENGINE #9

By Paul Lodge

The Wiscasset, Waterville & Farmington Railway has renovated Engine #9, its 1894 steam locomotive built by the Portland Company. The WW&F has been working on this locomotive for almost ten years. The boiler was rebuilt with the help of craftsmen from the Boothbay Railway Museum. Saturday, December 19, was the first time the locomotive had been run in about eighty years. There were many photographers from the major railroad magazines trying to get pictures for future articles.

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club was contacted to make a video of the historic event. Dick Clark, Jerry Johnston, and Paul Lodge made arrangements to be in Alna and videotape all the trains running on the WW&F that day.

Trains ran from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Because it gets dark so early in mid-December, the last train was a "night train." It was reported that about 1,600 visitors attended this year's Victorian Christmas, which was a new record for the WW&F.



In about 1990, Harry Percival learned of the existence of Engine #9 and a flat car. For many years, they had been stored in a barn in Connecticut. He was able to persuade the owner to let the engine be restored and used on the WW&F. While the Great Falls Model Railroad Club was renting space on Canal Street Alley in Lewiston, Mr. Percival was conducting a fund-raising tour and came to the club to talk about his remarkable discovery. His enthusiasm and dedication to the project was the basis of the WW&F museum. He built a home on his property on the original main line in Alna and inspired a group of volunteers to start rebuilding the two-mile portion of the railroad which exists today.

To find out more about the WW&F, visit their web site at wwfry.org.

MANY MEMBERS AT THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

By Paul Lodge

About fifty club members and their guests attended this year's Great Falls Model Railroad Club annual Christmas Party. This is the largest number of members we have ever had at the party. Many of the Christmas decorations for the ExTRAINaganza were still displayed around the building, but others had been removed to make space for the Surplus Inventory Sale on December 12. Members enjoyed the layouts and two *TRAIN TIME* videos about the Wiscasset, Waterville & Farmington Railway's Victorian Christmas from December 18, 2010. This was an introduction for this year's Victorian Christmas which was held on Saturday, December 19, at the WW&F museum in Alna.

Because there were so many members at the party this year, there was a wide variety of foods available from which to choose. While at the party, several people visited the library and went into the Company Store and bought items.

This was the first Christmas party for a lot of our newer club members, and everyone enjoyed the food and the entertainment.



Miss Penobscot Valley 2016 Junior Princess, Kayleigh Levesque of Buckfield, helped take down ExTRAINaganza Christmas decorations as part of her public service project.



SECOND SURPLUS INVENTORY SALE

AT THE CLUB

By Paul Lodge

During the week of December 7, Tom Coulombe transported to the club approximately forty boxes of model railroad supplies from storage at his barn and displayed these items on about a dozen tables. Available for sale were Lionel, G-gauge, HO Scale, and N Scale locomotives and rolling stock. In addition, there were transformers, power packs, track, and structures of all kinds. Some of the structures had been reconditioned by the Retired Renovators group. The Company Store offered train sets, clothing, jewelry, cookie cutters, calendars, and other items for sale.

On Saturday, December 12, the doors were opened at 8 a.m. It was estimated that about eighty percent of the people who came during the day were non-club members. As a result of our flyers at hobby shops and the Topsham show, many of the people came from the coastal area who had never been to the club before. After looking at the surplus items for sale, they toured the building and the club's layouts.

One of the purposes of the sale was to give club members and visitors an opportunity to see what is available from the club surplus inventory. At a show, we cannot afford to rent enough tables to display all of our inventory.

Treasurer Tom Coulombe indicated that income from the Surplus Inventory Sale will be used to pay local taxes and to put some aside for emergencies.

Thanks to all who helped make this fund-raising event a success.



CHRISTMAS DISPLAY AT THE FOSS MANSION

By Paul Lodge

For the past three years, the club has contributed to the Christmas decorations at the Foss Mansion on Elm Street in Auburn. The Foss Mansion was donated to the Woman's Literary Union many years ago and is used for several community activities.

Each year the Woman's Literary Union raises funds for its activities with a Christmas tour of its beautiful two-story building.

Different businesses and civic groups are asked to participate by selecting a room and decorating it for Christmas. The Great Falls Model Railroad Club has been asked each year to decorate a Christmas tree and have a train running under it. After the Ex-TRAINaganza Paul Lodge and Tom Coulombe brought a tree from the club and set it up near the front entrance to the building. Tom decided this year to use one of his trains, featuring a Great Northern locomotive, of course.

The display was a favorite of children and adults alike. A sitting bench was available near the tree, and many visitors sat and watched the train under the attractive, well-lit tree.





MEETING MINUTES OF

DECEMBER 17, 2015

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

The evening's *TRAIN TIME* show featuring the Wiscasset, Waterville & Farmington Railway gave members who have not been to the WW&F a chance to see what the Victorian Christmas event is like. The *TRAIN TIME* video was shown after the brief club meeting and while members were enjoying the pot-luck supper.

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, including results of the ExTRAINaganza and the December 12 Surplus Assets Sale event.

As Station Master, Tom noted that the painting is done for now and that a rain gutter is ready to be installed above the double-door entrance on the lower level.

Tom also reported that on March 26 the 3-Railers Club will have a show at the Elks Club in Augusta. They plan to have a representative from Lionel, Inc., at the show to answer questions and talk about new offerings. The Owls Head Museum in Rockland will have its "all hobbies" show on either the 19th or 26th of March. At Owls Head, we will have a modular set-up and four tables from which to sell surplus inventory. Tom asked that someone step forward to coordinate our part in the Owls Head show and make reservations for anyone staying overnight in Rockland.

In making potential plans for the Norway Savings Bank arena show on June 4, Tom has obtained the name of a person from the doll house group we can contact to see if they are interested. Tom visited Ray and Robin's and noted that they have a large number of train sets to sell. He hopes that they will support our hobby show and provide advertising.

Librarian Terry King said that the 2016 club calendars are still available. He reported that Company Store sales have been good. All the jewelry that Tami Paine made has been sold, and Tami volunteered to make additional items to sell at the store.

Ken Nettleship reported that Thomas the Tank Engine is on "life support" at the moment. Efforts are being made to revive Thomas in time for the next show.

Travis Johnson reminded members that there would be an operating session on Saturday, December 19.

Benton Hayes has volunteered to redesign the business area on the N-scale layout.

Nancy Weeks and Travis Johnson presented accomplishment pins to members of the Future Master Modelers youth group. Receiving pins at the meeting were Calvin Ames, Nick Fischer, Daniel Malkowski, Bryce Weeks, Mike Jalbert, and Analise Long. Three other youth members who will receive pins were not at the meeting.

Paul Lodge reminded members that pledges for next year's Utility Team could be made during the evening. The Utility Team is divided into two groups: the Power Team (monthly electricity bill) \$150 and the Water Team (water and sewage charges) at \$30 a month. These pledges can be paid at any time during the year and will help with cash flow for these monthly utility bills.

Two Attendance Prizes were drawn at the Christmas party. Tom Coulombe was selected first and took a John Deere hat. Gary Thibeault selected a Santa Fe mug.

The 50/50 raffle was won by President Jay Calnan.

The meeting adjourned to the Christmas party.

Future Master Modelers receiving pins, left to right: Mike Jalbert, Bryce Weeks, Dan Malkowski, Travis Johnson, Calvin Ames, Nick Fischer, Analise Long



MODEL RAILROADING CLASS STARTS FEBRUARY 16, 2016

By Paul Lodge

The spring semester of the Model Railroading class starts on Tuesday, February 16, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The Great Falls Model Railroad Club has been offering this 8-week class since the 1980s. All the classes in recent years have been held at the club at 144 Mill Street in Auburn. The class is offered through the Auburn Adult Education program and is publicized in their brochure.

Many of our current club members had taken the class before joining the club. This activity is an important part of the club's educational effort and is part of our 501c(3) non-profit status as an educational foundation.

The classes have been a success because so many of our club members help with the class during the eight weeks. Members are encouraged to come on one or more Tuesday evenings and have fun helping beginners get started.

People can register for the course through the Auburn Adult Education program by calling 784-9220 or they can register the first night of the class. The registration fee is \$15. For more information about taking the course or helping students, contact Paul Lodge at 966-3641.



CLUB DISPLAYS MODULES AT MAINE STATE MUSEUM

By Paul Lodge

On Thursday, December 3, several club members set up the modules at the Maine State Library and Museum in Augusta. The Great Falls Model Railroad Club has participated in this annual Christmas time event for many years. On Friday and Saturday, the general public was invited to the library to see the different train displays and to visit the museum for free.

Club member Ron Czaja exhibited a series of historic locomotives in an attractive professional-looking display case. The Maine 3-Railers also had a large display. John Robinson represented the Wiscasset, Waterville & Farmington Railway with a layout and handouts for their Victorian Christmas event.

As usual, one of the highlights of the event was meeting people who are interested in model railroading. Flyers about the club's Surplus Inventory Sale on December 12 were available to hand out.

Many people were helped by club members who shared information about the hobby. Several visitors took club application blanks and indicated an interest in joining the club.



To all club members:

Now that the weather forecast calls for snow, the railroad club needs your help. After each snowstorm, the club parking lot will be cleared and cleaned as soon as possible. In order to do that effectively and efficiently, it is important that people do not drive on the club parking lot until the snow has been cleared and the parking lot is clean. If it is a true emergency, that is OK.

Please help us keep the railroad club parking lot empty of cars until it is empty of snow.

Thanks,
Station Master and Executive Committee



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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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



January 14 Executive Committee

Meeting 6:30 p.m.

January 21 – Regular monthly club

Meeting 6:45

The Owls Head Transportation Museum will hold their annual Model Festival on April 2nd and 3rd. If you can help with layouts or sales table, please contact Jerry Johnston at 966-2932 or

JJCHEF@MEGALINK.NET.

September 7-10, 2016,

36th National Narrow Gauge Convention
at Augusta, Me.