

THE SIGNAL



THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

VOLUME 14. ISSUE 3

AUGUST 2012



Member since June 1988

NEXT MEETING
Aug. 16
7:00 p.m.

NEXT MONTH
Deadline for
September Issue
August 31, 2012

MEMBERSHIP
117

ATTENDANCE PRIZE

Three names were drawn and Ken Nettleship was present to win.

Will your name be drawn on **AUG. 16?**
You have to be present to win!

BOTTLES FOR BASICS

- ◆ LAST YEAR \$320.86
- ◆ YEAR TO DATE: \$87.4
- ◆ THIS MONTH: \$17.00
- ◆ \$17.00

Meet the Members by Maurice Fortin

Roy Gove has been a member of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club for about 22 years. When he started, the club was meeting at the Auburn Fire Station. He presently spends about six months in Florida, which cuts down on the time he can spend with the club.

Roy is a family man. He is married and has three sons, seven grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren with one more on the way. Of his three sons, one is still interested in trains.

Roy worked as a bank examiner for the state and retired as a deputy superintendent. For over 50 years Roy has been active with the Shriners, having served as the Secretary Recorder for 32 years.

He has been involved with model railroading since he got out of the service in 1956. As a child he



had a Lionel train with his dad, which he was allowed to run at times. He presently enjoys HO scale railroads. His first layout was on a four foot by eight foot table. His present layout covers thirty-two feet on one wall and a total of 100

feet overall. He enjoys building and running his railroad, but putting in the scenery is not his favorite part. He has also built layouts for his grandchildren, which they really enjoy.

DO YOU HAVE CONTACTS? BY Paul Lodge

If you are one of the thousands of people who like to go yard sales, maybe you can be on the lookout for a mannequin or two. You might also have some contact with another source. We could use a mannequin to attract attention for our special events. It could be dressed as a hobo for Hobo Holiday, an engineer for

Trainfest, or Santa for the ExTRAINaganza.

Because the mannequin would be outdoors in all kinds of weather and might even be vandalized or stolen, we want one that we can afford to lose.



The first class will be held at the club on Tuesday, September 4, starting at 6:30 p.m.

Model Railroad Class Starts by Paul Lodge

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club will continue its tradition of two Auburn Adult Education model railroading classes a year. The first class will be held at the club on Tuesday, September 4, starting at 6:30 p.m. One interested person from Waterville has already called to ask about the class so that she and her grandson can join. They had

attended the Hobo Holiday and want to continue with the railroading hobby.

At the first class meeting, we usually have a good turnout of club members who come to support the class. Club members have been extremely helpful in teaching the class, and we hope they will continue for this new group of interested model railroaders.

The Model Railroading class helps

satisfy one of our responsibilities as a 501c(3) Educational Foundation non-profit organization, and many of our club members were first introduced to the club by taking the model railroading class.

For Sale

Have you ever wanted a steel mill?

The club has a Walther's steel mill for sale for \$400.00 or best offer.

Contact Tom Coulombe for a complete list of buildings and accessories. Tom's contact information is on the back page.



RIDING ON THE GHAN By Bill Carson

Editor's Note: Club member Bill Carson and his wife Pat have spent the past year working with a missionary group in Timor, Indonesia. Since they had to spend time outside of Indonesia to renew their visas, they have made two trips to Australia.

In December of 2011, Pat and I were in Darwin, Australia, for the Christmas holidays. Darwin is the northern-most city in Australia and the northern terminal for the Ghan Railroad, the north-south route through Australia to Adelaide. Although our schedule would not permit a ride on the Ghan, I had hoped to see it and take pictures, but a railroad bridge south of Darwin had collapsed the day before with a freight train on it.

With the headline "Flood Chaos," the front page of the local newspaper showed a long freight train with several of the forward cars tipped over and others submerged in the Edith River. Heavy rains had caused serious flooding, damaging the bridge that just a few hours earlier had been inspected and given an all clear signal. The Ghan would have been traveling that route soon after, but it was stopped in Katherine, which is south of Darwin about four hours by train. Passengers to Darwin were transported the remaining 200 miles by bus at that time and until March, when repairs on the section of the railroad be-

tween Katherine and Darwin were completed.

In April we returned to Darwin. We needed to go to Alice to complete a project and the most logical way to get there was by riding on the Ghan. Baggage check-in must be completed an hour before the scheduled departure. Each passenger is allowed to check two items weighing 20 Kg (44 lbs.) free. Only hand luggage needed during the trip is allowed on board during the trip. Four levels of service are available on the Ghan: red, gold, platinum and private car. For the complete trip, Darwin to Adelaide, the cost ranged from \$750 to \$3000, and it was even higher for the private car. From Darwin to our destination in Alice Springs, the cost was a little over half. The Red service included coach seating, similar to that on an airline, but much more spacious. There was snack service in a separate car along with table and seating. A rest room was available on each end of the coach cars, and one of the facilities included a shower.

The train consisted of 25 carriages and three motorail carriages. Motorail carriages allow passengers to take their automobile from the beginning to the end of their trip. If there had been a need for carrying freight, those carriages would have been part of the train, but we had none. Some trains are

made up with as many as 49 carriages. Between the first of April and the end of October, the dry season, two trains run weekly. During the rest of the year, the wet season, only one train operates each week.

The Ghan railroad received its nickname from the Afghans who ran the old-time camel communications network in the Australian outback. Camels were more suited to traveling over the rocky and sandy terrain of central Australia than were horses. Camels and their handlers were imported into the area from Afghanistan. Today the camels are not needed because of the Ghan railroad and they are used for tourist attractions.

Construction of a railroad from Adelaide to Darwin was begun in 1878. The early tracks were narrow gauge, 3' 6". The railway from Adelaide to Alice Springs was not completed until 1929. After much debate, construction of the road to Darwin was begun in 2001, using standard gauge (4' 8 1/2") track. Complete service from Adelaide to Darwin was inaugurated in 2004. Australia's railroad system includes three other routes in addition to the Ghan Route. The Indian Pacific Route runs from Perth in the southwest to Sydney on the east coast. The Overland Route goes from Adelaide to Melbourne in the south, and the Southern Spirit Route proceeds from Melbourne north to Brisbane.





On Saturday, August 4, club members are invited to bring box lunches and meet at the Trolley Museum in Kennebunk. Members are asked to be at the museum at 10 a.m. so that we can get in as a group for \$7 apiece. On August 25, the annual club picnic will be at Tom and Carmen Coulombe's

July Minutes by Paul Lodge

MINUTES OF JULY 19, 2012 MEETING

Before the meeting started, club members were treated to a slide presentation made by Ed Leslie, showing pictures of club activities since the last meeting. The evening's *TRAIN TIME* program featured trains at Tehachapi Loop in California. Charles Kadyk from Pennsylvania was in attendance and showed some of his video from You Tube. Everyone appreciated the show about the rail grinder.

President Ed Leslie opened the meeting and asked for committee reports.

Tom Coulombe reported that personal rolling stock or locomotives left at the club need to be marked by the owner and listed with Tom so that everyone will know to whom they belong. If anyone does not want their personal items used at the club when they are not present, they need to take those items home with them.

Terry King reported that he would like help in putting together the Train Fest event during the balloon festival on August 18. Rick James' daughter will be available again to do face painting.

The June Secretary's Report was

approved as published in the newsletter.

Tom Coulombe gave the Treasurer's Report and it was approved as given.

As Station Master, Tom Coulombe gave a report about personal rolling stock and locomotives as approved by the Executive Committee. The electrical outlet and air conditioner plug have been repaired. There is some track lighting for sale. Two club members have volunteered to help with yard work. Phil Clough donated to the club a well-known replica of a steel mill which has several buildings. Because there is not enough room on the club's layout for all the buildings, some of them can be purchased as excess inventory. The value of the buildings available is between \$400 and \$700.

As Activities Director, Brenda Leslie mentioned the Pancake Breakfast scheduled for Saturday, July 21. Proceeds from the breakfast will help provide funds for club expenses. On Saturday, August 4, club members are invited to bring box lunches and meet at the Trolley Museum in Kennebunk. Members are asked to be at the museum at 10 a.m. so that we can get in as a group for \$7 apiece. On August 25, the

annual club picnic will be at Tom and Carmen Coulombe's house in Lewiston.

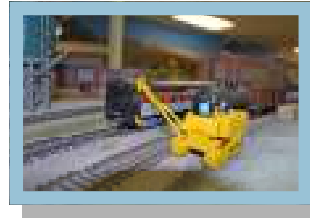
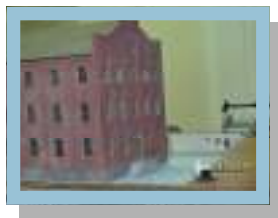
President Leslie asked for updates on the club's layouts. Travis Johnson is now working nights and there was nobody to give any updates on the HO layout. Ken Nettleship reported that the G-gauge layout group has begun building an elevated part of the layout which is expected to be completed for the ExTRAINaganza. Maurice Fortin has completed another N-scale building for that layout.

Paul Lodge reported that the Auburn Mall event went well and thanked all the members who helped make the event successful.

Ken Nettleship volunteered to talk about "What's on Your Workbench." He described how he built several N-scale structures. He showed a covered bridge, water tank, and coaling tower built from bass wood.

Bob Willard gave this month's "Thinking Outside the Boxcar" presentation. He demonstrated how to make tree stumps that look as though they have been cut down. He showed weights he uses while constructing a building. He also demonstrated a grab iron jig he made from styrene.

Bob Willard won the 50/50 raffle again and Ken Nettleship won the Attendance Prize.



August Plans By Paul Lodge

Activities Director, Brenda Leslie, is announcing several activities for club members in August.

- ◆ On August 4 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., the Seashore Trolley Museum in Kennebunkport is hosting a "Ride back in time." The cost of \$7.50 per person will provide all day admission, unlimited trolley rides on the 3 ½ miles of track,

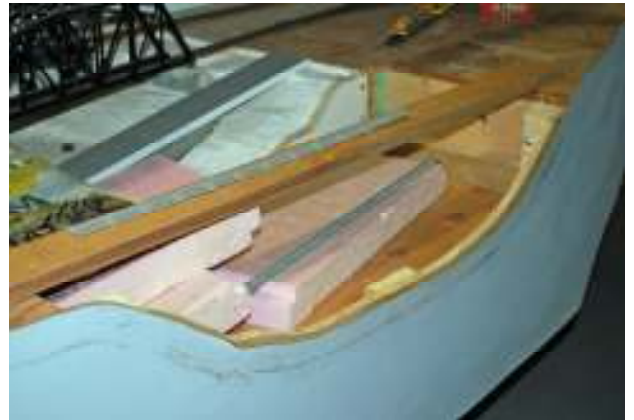
access to museum displays, and guided tours of the trolley barns and the restoration shop. Their trolleys, some as much as 100 years old, come from the United States, Canada, Europe, and Australia. Club members can bring lunches to eat at their picnic tables.

At the monthly club meeting on August 16, you can make your own ice cream sundae for \$3.

- ◆ On August 25, Tom and Carmen Coulombe are hosting the annual club picnic.

Tom and Carmen are asking members to e-mail them, telling what food you plan to bring to share for the pot luck meal.

Layout Photos by Terry King





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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Upcoming Events



August 4, Day Trip to Seashore Trolley Museum 10:00 to 5:00 p.m. \$7.00 each

August 9, Executive Committee meeting 7:00 p.m.

August 16, Membership Meeting 6:45. Make your own Sundae @ \$3:00 each.

August 18, Train Fest, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., 144 Mill St., Auburn, Me.

August 19, Train Show, Everett Arena, Concord NH

August 25, Club picnic at Tom & Carmen Coulombe's.

September 13, Executive Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m.

September 20, Membership Meeting. Spaghetti Dinner at 5:00 p.m. \$5.00 each. Meeting 6:45, with slide show by members after meeting.

September 22, Operating Session 9:00 a.m.

September 29. Day trip to Hartmann's Hobby Shop in Intervale, NH. **10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** \$20.00 each, includes museum, rides and luncheon.

October 6, Visually Impaired Project guests.

October 11, Executive Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m.

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

October 20, Scratch Building Class & Operating Session 9:00 a.m. Slide & Dine at 5:00 p.m.

November 3, Train Show, Auburn Middle School 10:00—3:00.

November 8, Executive Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m.

November 15, Membership Meeting and Pie Auction. 6:45 p.m.

November 17, Eastern Maine Model Railroad Club Train Show in Brewer 10:00—3:30

November 17-19 & 23-24,

ExTRAINaganza.

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