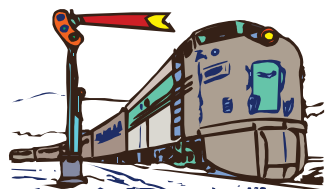




THE SIGNAL



NEXT MEETING

JANUARY 21

7:00 p.m.

NEXT MONTH

Deadline for
February

February 25, 2010

MEMBERSHIP

98

ATTENDANCE

PRIZE

Because of the Christmas party, there was no drawing.

Will your name be drawn on January 21?

You have to be present to win!

BOTTLES FOR BASICS

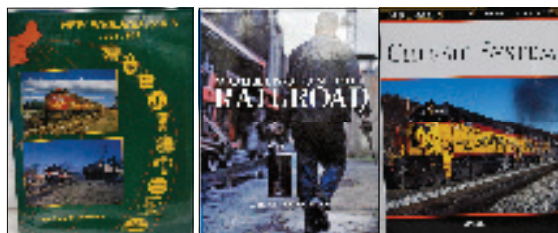
- ◆ YEAR TO DATE: \$368.05
- ◆ THIS MONTH: \$40.00
- ◆ NEXT MONTH: That is up to you!

LIBRARY

Happy New Year!

The past year has been a busy one for our library. We have received a number of large donations of books, magazines, and videos. We now have almost 500 books, 6,000 magazines, 11,000 slides, 60 videos, and a wealth of photos and research materials.

Some of the more recent books are *New England Rails* by David R. Sweetland,



Working on the Railroad by Brian Solomon, and *Chessie System* by David Ori. A number of the newest additions are on display in the library.

We do need donations of some magazines. We get *Model Railroader*, *Trains*, *Model Railroad Craftsman*, *Railroad & Railfan*, and *Dispatchers SIG*. We need *N-scale Magazine*, *Narrow Gauge and Short Line*, and other model railroad magazines that are not published by Carstens and Kalmbach. We want publications about other scales than HO. Although we do have a number of older issues of these magazines, we have no regular supplies of their current issues.

A new club member has offered to start scanning our slide collection. This is welcome news as it is important to get



Paul Lodge filming Santa (Stephen Martelli) at the New Auburn Social Club Christmas Party, held at our club.

Photos By Dale Darling

these priceless images into a new format that people will be able to access. Larry Cannon has suggested that we might be able to use some of these photos to produce our own calendars in the future, another good money-raising idea.

Members George and Kathy Melvin's new book, *The Bangor & Aroostook in Color - Volume 2*, has a number of our slides in it. They are generously donating a free copy for the library and another copy to be raffled off

(Continued on page 6)

YOU CAN HELP SAVE MONEY

Newsletter publisher Terry King is requesting that all club members who have e-mail addresses contact him at tpking@roadrunner.com and ask him not to send the newsletter by U. S. mail. Many members are already receiving their newsletter through their e-mail addresses and are saving the club over \$5 each per year.

The newsletter is sent out as a PDF file and even members who have dial-up service can download the newsletter from their computer. If all club members received the newsletter via e-mail, it could save the club about \$500 a year in postage

alone. Additional money (around \$500) would be saved by not buying paper, envelopes, and printer ink.

E-mail Terry at tpking@roadrunner.com and ask him to add your name to his e-mail list to receive the newsletter.

By Paul Lodge

CHRISTMAS PARTY

A CHOCOLATE SUCCESS

“Between 60 and 65 club members, spouses, children, and guests brought a variety of foods, including chocolate. Club member Roger Allen used his candy-making talents and spent a lot of time creating trains of dark chocolate and milk chocolate. The proceeds from sales of the chocolate trains will be donated to the club. After all of the chocolate trains have been sold, the club will realize a profit of more than \$500. Thank you, Roger.”

“George and Kathy Melvin, two of our new club members, were at the Christmas Party and offered to use their new book as a fund-raising raffle opportunity at our February meeting. The new book is titled, “The Bangor and Aroostook Railroad in Color, Volume 2,” is due out in late January, 2010.”

The club’s annual Christmas Party on December 17 was a great success, measured by the number of people who attended and their enjoyment of the evening’s festivities. Between 60 and 65 club members, spouses, children, and guests brought a variety of foods, including chocolate. Club member Roger Allen used his candy-making talents and spent a lot of time creating trains of dark chocolate and milk chocolate. The proceeds from sales of the chocolate trains will be donated to the club. After all of the chocolate trains have been sold, the club will realize a profit of more than \$500. Thank you, Roger.

At the brief unofficial business meeting, a motion was made and accepted not to have any committee reports. President Stephen Martelli greeted club members and guests and made a few announcements. Paul Lodge thanked members for their continued support with the **BOTTLES FOR BASICS** donations, which have totaled nearly \$500 so far.

During our hosting of the Maine Operation Life-saver Volunteer Appreciation Day on October 24, Stephen Martelli’s name was drawn as the winner of two tickets on the Maine Eastern Railroad from Brunswick to Rockland. President Martelli donated the tickets, an \$80 value, to the club as a fund-raising opportunity. A limited raffle was created with 20 tickets being sold at \$5 each. After all the tickets had been sold, David Gilchrist’s name was drawn as the winner. Congratulations, David, and thanks to Stephen and all the club members and guests who helped to support the club with their donations.

Dale Darling is the cameraman for the Portland Pirates hockey team. When you watch the game on television, he is the man behind the camera. At the January club meeting, Dale will contribute a raffle prize of four tickets to any home game on the Pirates’ schedule. Dale made the same offer last year. Because it was then so near the end of the season, it was suggested that we wait until this year. Thank you, Dale, for this fund-raising opportunity.

George and Kathy Melvin, two of our new club members, were at the Christmas Party and offered to use their new book as a fund-raising raffle opportunity at our February meeting. The new book entitled, “The Bangor and Aroostook Railroad in Color, Volume 2,” is due out in late January, 2010,

and will sell for \$59.95 (\$46.00, if you buy it directly from George Melvin.). Fifteen slides from our extensive archives were used in their book, and we are all looking forward to seeing it.

Paul Lodge introduced an entertaining fund-raising promotion, entitled “The Money Grabbers.” It consists of four containers, each with a different purpose. This is an attempt to attract small amounts of money from members and guests as donations to several of our club’s goals. The first container is for coins. It is called “Change is Good” and “Change for Change.” The second container, labeled “Dollars for Donations,” is for one-dollar bills. Because we do not have enough money to upgrade the floor in the meeting room, the next container is “Fives for Floor Finishing.” All the money put into the last container will be doubled by a friend of the club who wishes to get the HO layout up and running swiftly. It is called “\$10 for HO,” but contributions of any amount will be gladly accepted. Because of the noise when money was dropped into the container, “Change is Good” was the most popular container of the evening.

During the evening, Dale Darling photographed the proceedings. He also brought his light kit and backdrop to take “official photographs” of the club’s officers and Executive Committee. At the November meeting, Dale had offered to take pictures of the officers. Displaying these photos on one wall of the club will help visitors identify the “in charge” club members. Dale also volunteered to go to club members’ layouts and take pictures which can be used on the club’s website. At least one member has already invited Dale to photograph his layout.

The party was a festive occasion with all twelve of the Christmas trees lighted and the decorations still in place from the ExTRAINaganza. This has been a good season. Thank you, everyone, for an inspiring two months.

by Paul Lodge



Photo by
Dale
Darling

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



“THE NEW YEAR”

I hope that everyone had a good holiday season and got some much needed rest. I would like to start off the New Year with a list of the TOP TEN things that I hope the club can complete this year.

- 1) To finish painting the upstairs ceiling in the display area.
- 2) To refinish the hardwood floor upstairs or resurface the area with a new floor.
- 3) To be able to run a train on the HO layout from one room to the next.
- 4) To see the N scale group run a train on their layout by the end of the year.
- 5) To clean and finish the upstairs entry area.
- 6) To resurface the parking lot on the upper side of the building with a latex finish and to paint parking space lines.
- 7) To dedicate the upstairs entry area of the building to another layout. (Scale is undetermined at the time of this writing).
- 8) To apply for and receive a grant for some of our programs.
- 9) To get the second coat of asphalt on the parking lot in the reworked area.
- 10) To get the remaining items on the “To do list” from this past year completed by June so we can start a new list for this year.



President, Steve Martelli

There are more things that need to be done, but these are my top ten goals for this year. It takes money to do most of these things and our fundraising results to date have been small. We need to look at other ways of generating money from outside sources, not just from our club members directly. We will need creative ideas to make this happen. The ExTRAINaganza was a lot more successful than I ever imagined. My hat is off to Paul Lodge for coming up with the idea and seeing it through. In the coming years, we can look forward to this annual event growing bigger and bigger. We need to look for more ideas like this to help the club succeed and become a permanent part

of our lives and the community in the future.

Getting back to the ExTRAINaganza, we had great attendance after our picture was on the front page of the Lewiston Sun Journal. We had a chance to talk to the photographer/reporter at both the ExTRAINaganza and our show at the Auburn Middle School. When we contact him about a club activity in the future, we hope he will be able to give us publicity before the event so we can get full benefit from it. This will help with our fundraising and our bottom line. I would like to see some sort of article or picture in the paper each month. I am still meeting people who don't know that we even exist, and

this way people in the community will learn that we are here.

During this past month the Auburn Public Library had their Christmas Party at our clubhouse. The people who came had a great time and enjoyed themselves immensely. I heard many stories about their contact with trains as a young person, either playing with a model railroad or riding on a passenger train. This event opened the door to let more people know about our library and the amount of train-related information that we have available. After the holidays I have a meeting planned with the Executive Director of the library to discuss ways we can work together in the future. This is a great avenue for all of us. I will keep you informed as to what happens as it develops.

In closing, if you have an idea about doing something that will help the club or a project that you think needs to be considered, please feel free to talk to me or any member of the Executive Committee. We will never know about the idea until you “spill the beans” and share it with the rest of us.

Keep your wheels on the tracks and have a great New Year,

Stephen

“It takes money to do most of these things and our fundraising results to date have been small. We need to look at other ways of generating money from outside sources, not just from our club members directly. We will need creative ideas to make this happen. The ExTRAINaganza was a lot more successful than I ever imagined. My hat is off to Paul Lodge for coming up with the idea and seeing it through.”

2010 ANNUAL FUND BEGINS

“We have gotten past nearly all of the building expenses needed to make our building “livable”. We have put our hobby “on hold” for two years to remodel the building. We need to cover operating expenses, reduce our mortgage, and get back to our reason for being.”

The Annual Fund pledges are an extremely important part of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club operating budget. Over the past three years these contributions have been at least one third of all donations.

Annual fund pledges come from members who are able and willing to dig into their personal resources to give cash or pay for things the club needs in order to continue. These gifts allow us to keep membership dues affordable and enable us to spend less time raising money and more time promoting and enjoying the hobby of model railroad-ing.

We have gotten past nearly all of the building expenses needed to make our building “livable”. We have put our hobby “on hold” for two years to remodel the building. We need to cover operating expenses, reduce our mortgage, and get back to our reason for being.

I ask *all* of you to consider an annual fund gift. This does not mean pledging money you can’t afford to give. It means giving what you can, whenever you can, to offer more support than the very minimal amount we have set as annual membership dues.

Some people may ask, “Why not just increase the membership fee?” It is not that simple. Some people cannot really afford much more than the current fee without detracting from the enjoyment of the hobby or giving up life style choices elsewhere. However, a number of these people with limited financial resources are there when it comes time to raise money from outside the membership or to do what it takes to let the club avoid a significant expense. These people are contributing more than the money they might be able to provide.

What we are asking is that people who have the financial resources also help.

Here are some goals:

- Meet any shortfall in revenues to cover operating expenses.
- Reduce debt at least \$1,500 more than the required mortgage payments.
- Provide at least \$1,500 in support to layout construction.
- Fund building improvements of at least \$1,000.

What size capital campaign will it take to do this? Bare bones: \$10-12,000. Is that doable? Only if *you* contribute, and if you

help us tap any community donors who will also donate. Based on past performance, we have at least half the support we need to make that goal. It can be done.

By Larry Cannon

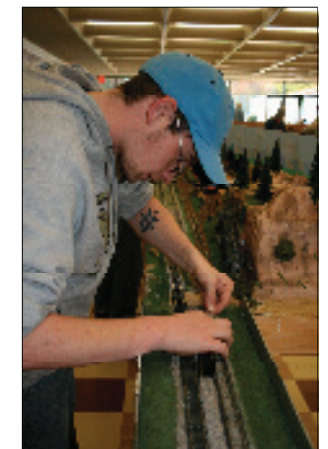
MEMBERS AT WORK



Tom Jones & Larry Cannon working on new layout.



Jerry Johnston working on track at our November train show.



Don Lush also working on the track at the show.

RAFFLE WINNER



Brenda Leslie holds the box of raffle tickets as Kristen Perry of McLaughlin Garden holds the winning ticket.

Photo by Paul Lodge

McLAUGHLIN GARDEN EXHIBIT 2009

For the second year in a row, the *TREES AND TRAINS* exhibit at McLaughlin Gardens in South Paris was held on two consecutive weekends, December 5-6 and 12-13. Jeff and Beth Chaffee participated again this year with three different layouts. Their newest layout features Lionel trains on two levels and includes an outdoor camping scene. Jeff and Beth also set up their N-scale layout, on which three trains can run at once. Their Amtrak train was a big hit with the children as it sped along the lowest level. On the third layout, On30 trains could be seen passing through a whimsical winter-decorated town, consisting of ceramic buildings from Hallmark and other sources purchased through the years at after-Christmas sales.

Ed and Brenda Leslie worked with Kristen Perry, McLaughlin's Director of Horticulture, to set up the large G-gauge layout in the historic old barn. Fortunately, they were able to complete the work during the warm

weather of November. This extensive layout features scale-model railroad-related structures from many towns in the Oxford Hills area. With minor changes over the years, this layout has been the major feature of the *Trees and Trains* exhibit since it began nine years ago.

During the four days of the event, Jerry Johnston and Paul Lodge sold *TRAIN TIME* DVDs and tickets on the Raffle Layout. On the last day of the event, Kristen Perry drew the ticket for the winner of The Great Falls Model Railroad Club HO Raffle Layout. This year the winner was 77-year-old Dotty DeLoach from Freeport. She bought the winning ticket in October at the New Gloucester event in which the club participated through its involvement with Operation Lifesaver, a non-profit railroad safety promoter. Mrs. DeLoach has grandchildren who are very anxious to see and play with their "best" Christmas present.

By Paul Lodge

VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS AT THE WW&F

On Saturday, December 19, the Wiscasset, Waterville and Farmington Railway Museum hosted a day of free train rides, sleigh rides, and a bonfire from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Club member John Robertson, who was a conductor on the train rides, has been a faithful volunteer for the WW&F for many years. The day was sunny and there was snow on the ground, which made for great photography and enjoyment of the sleigh, pulled by a matched pair of white horses.

Tom Coulombe and Paul Lodge took video of the event for a future *TRAIN TIME* show, as did Ed Leslie, G-gauge enthusiast and volunteer from McLaughlin Gardens. Because

of good publicity, there were more than 300 passengers during the day, including club members Bob and Denise Purington. The trains made several trips, providing many opportunities to photograph the train moving through the woods and doing a run-around at each end of the trip.

Ed Leslie was accompanied by his wife, Brenda, and Kristen Perry, McLaughlin's Director of Horticulture. Even though the day was cool, it was still warmer than it had been inside the barn at McLaughlin Garden's *Trees and Trains* exhibit the previous weekend.

By Paul Lodge

SOCIAL CLUB AT OUR CLUB

The New Auburn Social Club held a Christmas Party for its members and their families on Sunday, December 20, at The Great Falls Model Railroad Club building. Leroy Walker, New Auburn Social Club President for the past four years, rented our facility because he felt it would provide a "safer" environment for the children. At the social club, adults expect to be able to smoke and drink as part of their entertainment.

Several families enjoyed our hospitality, especially when Santa Claus showed up. There were activities and gifts for the children, including Operation Lifesaver railroad hats and "Sly Fox and Birdie" coloring books.

Bob and Denise Purington sold several chocolate trains made by Roger Allen. Irving Young operated the G-gauge layout, and Richard Bibeau set up and operated his N-scale layout. Dale Darling and Paul Lodge took photos and video of the event.

This was another opportunity for members of our community to see the club house and become aware of our purpose.

By Paul Lodge

1/16/10 The next Seacoast Division meeting will be held on January 16, 2010 in South Portland, Maine at The First Congregational Church, 301 Cottage Road, South Portland, Me. All are welcome.

"During the four days of the event, Jerry Johnston and Paul Lodge sold TRAIN TIME DVDs and tickets on the Raffle Layout. On the last day of the event, Kristen Perry drew the ticket for the winner of The Great Falls Model Railroad Club HO Raffle Layout. This year the winner was 77-year-old Dotty DeLoach from Freeport"

"Because of good publicity, there were more than 300 passengers during the day, including club members Bob and Denise Purington."



The Great Falls Model
Railroad Club, Inc.

Address:
144 Mill Street
Auburn, Me 04210

Phone: 207-933-2477
Cell: 207-576-3788
E-mail: tpking@roadrunner.com

We are on the web!
[Http://www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org](http://www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org)

An educational foundation



OFFICERS

President:
Stephen Martelli—795-6948
thegman@roadrunner.com
Vice President:
Robert Roy—782-7492
rroy38@roadrunner.com
Secretary:
Paul Lodge—966-3641
paulodge@gwi.net
Treasurer:
Tom Coulombe - 784-5962
ctcoulombe@aol.com
Directors:
Rick James—784-1266
n1wfo@roadrunner.com
Jay Calnan—783-1719
jayceelte@live.com
Tim Tyce—623-3302
tyce@roadrunner.com
Webmaster:
Joe Marshall—344-7099
joe@del-stardotstar.com

THE SIGNAL

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Editor:
Terrence King
tpking@roadrunner.com

Correspondents:
Paul Lodge, Larry Cannon

**LIBRARY
CONTINUED**

(Continued from page 1)
at our next regular meeting on January 21 (a \$59.95 value).



We have just purchased a laser printer which will save us around \$500.00 per year, and this issue is printed on it.

Our library is becoming a rich resource of information that will prove invaluable for those of you that want to

research your favorite railroad.

By Terry King

**FALL ACTIVITIES
OF THE CLUB**

In other articles in this newsletter, you will find details of the different activities in which club members have participated this fall. On November 21-23 and 27-28 we held our first annual ExTRAINaganza. About 500 adults and 300 children visited our clubhouse. Operation Lifesaver supplied train hats for every child as well as coloring books, magnets, railroad safety brochures, and railroad trading cards. The club earned between \$1,500 and \$2,000 on this event.

On November 21, the first day of ExTRAINaganza, Larry Cannon, Tom Coulombe, Travis Bragg, and Terry King were in Brewer for the Eastern Maine Model Railroad Club show, where they sold some of the club's excess inventory.

On December 2, Jay Calnan and Paul Lodge used the Raffle Layout and Operation Lifesaver materials to entertain children at Auburn City Hall who were waiting for the Parade of Lights and the arrival of Santa Claus.

In Augusta on December 4 and 5, the club's HO modular layout and Tom Coulombe's N-scale layout were used for the annual train event at the Maine State Museum. During the two-day event many club members came to participate: Larry Cannon, Bob and Denise Purington, Jay Calnan, Tom Coulombe, Rob Roy, Travis Bragg, Stephen Martelli, Jerry Johnston, John Robertson, and Tim Tyce. The popular Maine 3-Railers also participated at the Museum.

**CALENDAR OF
EVENTS**

Every Saturday, Work Session 9:00 a.m.

January

12 Operation Lifesaver, Lewiston Bus Drivers.

21 Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

February

9 Auburn Adult Education Model Railroad Class. First session starts at 6:30 p.m.

18 Meeting 7:00 p.m.

20 Train Show—Augusta Armory 10:00 a.m.

Stephen Martelli is one of the volunteers at the Auburn Public Library. On Sunday, December 6, the Auburn Public Library used our club house for their Volunteer Appreciation Day. Nearly 20 volunteers were recognized for their service. The volunteers toured the building, watched trains running, and visited the club's library. During the social part of the event, several volunteers received honorable mention.

McLaughlin Garden was the next exhibit on our schedule. Jerry Johnston and Paul Lodge used the Raffle Layout, TRAIN TIME DVDs, and Operation Lifesaver materials for the display in the barn on December 5-6 and 12-13.

The club's Christmas Party on December 17 was a great success with nearly 65 members and guests attending.

On Saturday, December 19, Bob and Denise Purington, Tom Coulombe, and Paul Lodge visited John Robertson at the Wiscasset, Waterville and Farmington Railway Museum in Alna for the Victorian Christmas activities. Ed and Brenda Leslie helped Tom and Paul with the videotaping of the event for a future TRAIN TIME show.

The New Auburn Social Club rented the clubhouse for a Christmas Party for members and their children on Sunday, December 20. Santa was a big hit with the children who attended the party.

We hope you are frequently checking the club's website for photos of club activities and schedules of upcoming events. You will also find links to four Great Falls Model Railroad Club postings on You Tube, featuring photos by Dale Darling, Neil Culpepper, and Paul Lodge. You do not need to login or register in order to read the articles, see the photos, or use the links. (www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org)

by Paul Lodge