



THE SIGNAL



THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

VOLUME 13. ISSUE 8

JANUARY 2012



Member since June 1988

NEXT MEETING

Jan. 19

7:00 p.m.

NEXT MONTH

**Deadline for February Issue
Jan. 27, 2012**

MEMBERSHIP

119

ATTENDANCE PRIZE

Gordon Draper's name was drawn to win and he was present to win.

Will your name be drawn on Jan. 19?

You have to be present to win!

BOTTLES FOR BASICS

- ◆ LAST YEAR \$496.15
- ◆ YEAR TO DATE: \$236.55
- ◆ THIS MONTH: \$33.55

Club Christmas Party by Paul Lodge

The annual Christmas Party was held on our regular meeting night, December 15. Members brought a wide variety of main course meals and desserts including CHOCOLATE. The evening started with Ed and Brenda Leslie's slide and video presentation of activities since last month. Some of the images were playful humorous banter, poking fun at club members' special interests. Everyone laughed when we saw a picture of Jerry Johnston with a sign which read, "If it's red, it stays in the shed!" This good-natured ribbing was enjoyed by everyone who knows about the dedication of the John Deere group versus all other farm equipment.

While the party-goers were socializing and eating, Paul Lodge played two new *TRAIN TIME* shows: "Garden Railroading in G



Our layout is progressing! See more photos inside.

Photo by Terry King

-Gauge" and "ExTRAINaganza 2011."

Club members and their guests enjoyed seeing the different train displays and the beautiful

Christmas decorations throughout the inside and outside of the building.

Meeting Postponements By Paul Lodge

If severe weather threatens on a meeting night, Tom Couombe 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.



Jerry Johnston, painting once again.

“Several club members have requested classes or clinics in modeling techniques beyond what is learned in the Adult Education Class sponsored by the club.”

“Why make a mold of a rock? There is a limited selection of molds available at hobby shops.”

Advance Modeling Work Shops by Paul Lodge

Several club members have requested classes or clinics in modeling techniques beyond what is learned in the Adult Education Class sponsored by the club. At the November club meeting, members were asked to make suggestions for the next level of modeling.

Three suggestions have been made so far: weathering techniques for rolling stock and structures, air brushing, and locomotive servicing and repairs.

Within the last year, there

have been workshops on Saturday to build turnouts for the G-gauge layout. Because of the success of that experience, it has been suggested that the Advance Modeling Workshops be held on Saturday when more club members are available. Specific dates have not yet been determined. As more suggestions are made, more detailed information will be forth coming.

In years past, The Great Falls Model Railroad Club has sponsored Clinic Days. The Clinic Days were al-

ways on Saturdays and included several options for modelers. During the day, participants could move from one clinic to another. The club charged a fee for the Clinic Day and non-club members joined in the fun.

If you have any additional suggestions for advance modeling techniques or how to present them, please let a club officer or a member of the Executive Committee know of your suggestion.

Class on making Rock Molds by Terry King

On Saturday, February 11, we will be holding a class on making molds of rocks. This will involve the use of latex rubber, so if you have an allergy to it you should not take the class.

There will be a \$5.00 fee to help defray the cost of the latex rubber and the brush needed for this class. If you wish to obtain your own supplies, Craft-Mania in Auburn is a good source. A pint of the rubber costs about \$19.95. If you bring your own supplies, there will be no fee. We will have a collection of small rocks that you can use, or you can bring your own.

Why make a mold of a rock? There is a limited selection of molds available at hobby shops. Color-rite Scenery products and Woodland Scenics are two brands that I am familiar with. Woodland Scenics has had a bad fire, so I am not sure about the availability of their products in the

future. I was at Maine Model Works and Ray & Robbins in the past few days and they both had a good supply of the Woodland Scenics rock molds. Ray & Robbins also had one Color-rite rock mold. Back to the question, why make your own rock mold? If your layout has a lot of rocks on it, you will find that you are placing the same rock in various places on the layout. A wider variety of rocks makes the scene seem more natural. Besides, isn't it great to have something on your layout that no one else has!

These molds take some time to dry. Since the mold will probably not be ready to remove from the rock before you leave the club, you should bring a box to take the rock and mold home with you.

Because of space, we need to limit the number of people to ten. Please e-mail me at tpking@roadrunner.com or call me at 576-3788 to reserve

your space. If more than ten people call, we will hold another class in the near future.



We will have new skirting for our modular layout. Shown above is the skirting that will be on the corners.

Thanks to Brenda Leslie for thinking of this and making it happen.

Slide & Dine By Brenda Leslie

SLIDE & DINE

featuring George and Kathy Melvin

All are invited to a "Slide and Dine Night" at the club house on January 14 at 5:00 pm. George and Kathy Melvin will be our featured guests, presenting a slide show. George has been photographing railroad pictures since he was a teenager. In 1967 George became a station agent for the Maine Central Railroad and worked at a variety of locations on the MEC line. In 1996 he became a dispatcher for the St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railroad, which had taken over the Grand Trunk Railway in 1989. George and his wife Kathy have photographed trains from New Brunswick to California.

Terry King, the club librarian, will also be presenting a few slides from the late Waldo Kingston collection. This wonderful collection was donated to the Great

Falls Model Railroad Club in February 2007. Gordon Draper has scanned the slides for our future use. *(Thank you Gordon!)* The time has come to share some of those slides from CP, BAR, MEC, CN and GTW.

There is no charge for this evening's entertainment. Bring a dish for Pot Luck and please feel free to bring a friend.

If you would like to participate in the variety show, please bring five slides with you.

The evening schedule is as follows:

5:00 -- George and Kathy will be presenting slides

6:00 -- Pot Luck & Socialize

7:00 --Terry will be presenting slides

8:00 -- "Show and Tell" your five slides.

Editor's note:

This article did appear in the last issue, but I felt that it should be run a second time.

Layout Continued



The Layout is Progressing Photo's by Terry King



Club Member in Timor by Frances Lodge

Traveling the 60 miles to Soe, another mountain town, took three hours one way and Pat commented, "The switchbacks here are really something."

Club member Bill Carson is now receiving his e-mail copies of *The Signal* in Kupang, a provincial capital in Timor, Indonesia. Bill and his wife Pat will spend a year there working with a Bible translation ministry through Wycliffe Associates. After a 15-hour flight from Atlanta to Seoul, Korea, and a 7-hour flight to Bali, Indonesia (where they stayed overnight), they had a 2-hour flight to Kupang. Since they had crossed the International Date Line and there is also a 12-hour time difference, they arrived in Kupang on Monday, September 12, at 12:40 p.m., which was 12:40 a.m. in Maine. Nearly every two weeks Pat sends a newsy e-mail letter to friends and financial supporters back home in which she gives details about their work and describes the scenery and cultural differences in food, clothing, customs, and transportation.

Bill and Pat had expected to manage Lasianna, a guest house for visitors, and they have been to the site of the foundation. Until Lasianna is built, they are staying in the guest room at the Translation Center and hosting visitors there. In his November 27 e-mail Bill explained that the company "which was needed for progress to continue" had now been registered, adding, "The application and plans have been submitted to the government for the construction permit." Doesn't that sound a little bit like trying to remodel the railroad club house?

Bill's experience at the Bible Bookstore in Auburn has been useful in their work of inventorying, organizing, displaying and

selling books that have been translated into some of the many languages in that area. Although they have occasionally sold these translations at conferences attended by as many as 4,000 people, they have also brought books to many outlying towns and nearby islands. Some of their interesting travels have been to mountain towns. Lelogama, which is about 30 miles northwest of Kupang and high in the 7,000 foot mountains, is at least four hours away. Traveling the 60 miles to Soe, another mountain town, took three hours one way and Pat commented, "The switchbacks here are really something." She also described a four-day visit to the island of Rote, located in the Timor Sea at the junction of the Indian Ocean. Although the ferry ride takes three and a half hours, the trip took six hours as the tide was too low for them to leave the harbor right away. The return trip was faster since they took a smaller ferry.

Pat tells about taking books to sell at a local teachers college where there were about 450 students. One of their co-workers, Chuck, was a featured speaker. "He spoke simultaneously in two languages, English and Indonesian and threw in phrases from eight other languages. These students are all English learners. You would have been pleased to see Bill surrounded by 6-8 guys to listen to him speak English. He did a great job of chatting and holding their attention."

Their original 60-day visas from the Indonesian government have been extended to three months. In order to renew their visas, they must first leave Indonesia for a short period of time. They will be visiting friends in Australia for three weeks starting in mid-December and will have to travel to Australia at least twice next year to renew their visas again. Bill hopes to send us information about the Australian railroads, which are a major source of transportation there.



Franklin Students Visit Club by Paul Lodge

Jon Morris, a teacher in Auburn’s Franklin High School program, contacted the club about visiting the club on November 17 as part of a special project. About a dozen students were using public transportation to learn about the community. They traveled by bus around Lewiston and Auburn, visiting areas of interest at locations where the bus stopped. Before they came to our club, they visited the Franco/American Center in Lewiston. When they got off the bus at our location, some of the students went to Barker Arms as part of their community service program and others visited our club. We were set up for our ExTRAINaganza so the layouts were decorated for the Christmas season. The students had many questions and enjoyed their 30-minute stay.



Governor’s Restaurant Contribution

By Paul Lodge

Governor’s Restaurant in Lewiston has been selected as the club’s official restaurant. Carlene Barnies, Manager at Governor’s, has provided free whoopee pies, coupons which we can give to our customers for a half-price entree on a second meal, and a place for us to advertise our club activities. They regularly run their train with a box car with our club logo on it.

After our successful November 5 train show at the Auburn Middle School, nearly twenty club members and guests went to Governor’s for a “victory” meal.

During the ExTRAINaganza, Governor’s Restaurant distributed coupons to their customers which allowed people to come to our event for a reduced price. On Saturday, November 26, at the conclusion of the ExTRAINaganza, club members again went to Governor’s to celebrate the conclusion of five days of outstanding effort.

The mutual arrangement with Governor’s has been financially beneficial for both organizations.

Adult Ed Class Starts by Paul Lodge

On Tuesday, February 7, our spring session of the Model Railroad class will start through the Auburn Adult Education Program. As usual, the class will start at 6:30 to accommodate potential younger students. This allows the class to finish by 8:30 so they can get ready for school the next day. Now that we have our own building, all the classes are taught at our facility.

Club members are invited to come and help with the classes. Most of the modules which we use for train shows were built in the Model Railroad classes. Also, many of our club members have joined the club as a result of taking the course.

We are looking forward to starting our new class. Come and join in the fun!





THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

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e-mail gfmrrc@ne.twcbc.com

Our new e-mail address.

An Educational Foundation

MEETING POSTPONEMENTS

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THE SIGNAL

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Address Change

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www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org or www.gfmrrc.com

Upcoming Events

January 12, Executive Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m.

January 14, Slide & Dine 5:00 p.m.—10:00 p. m.

January 19, Membership Meeting 6:45 p.m.

January 28 & 29 Springfield MA train Show at the Big E

February 9, Executive Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m.

February 11, Class on making rock molds. 9:30 a.m.

February 18, Train Show Augusta Me. 10:00—4:00.

February 16, Membership Meeting 6:45 p.m.

March 8, Executive Committee

Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

March 15, Membership Meeting 6:45 p.m.

April 12, Executive Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m.

April 19, Membership Meeting 6:45 p.m.

April 28, Train Show, Mt. Ararat High School, Topsham, ME. 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

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

