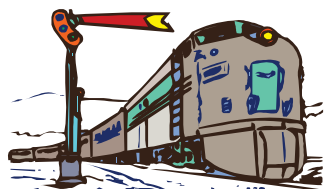




THE SIGNAL



NEXT MEETING

OCTOBER 15
7:00 p.m.

NEXT MONTH

Deadline for
NOVEMBER
October 23, 2009

MEMBERSHIP

85

ATTENDANCE PRIZE

Travis Bragg's name
was drawn and he was
not present to win a
prize.

Will your name be
drawn on October 15!
You have to be present
to win!

BOTTLES FOR BASICS

- ◆ YEAR TO DATE: \$284.20
- ◆ THIS MONTH: \$66.40
- ◆ NEXT MONTH: That is up to you!

BUILDING DEDICATION AND BBQ A SUCCESS

On Saturday, September 19, 2009, **The Great Falls Model Railroad Club** celebrated the dedication of its newly renovated building at 144 Mill Street in Auburn. Festivities included a barbecue for current and former club members, local and national politicians, and former students of the Auburn Adult Education Model Railroading Class which the club has sponsored for about fifteen years. Over one hundred guests participated in the event. Throughout the morning, club members gave tours of the building and explained club programs and activities.

Guests touring the upper level of the building saw the meeting area (which was used as a cafeteria for the day), the kitchen serving area, the extensive library, the hall with its display cases and memorial plaque, the rooms currently being used for the n-gauge and G-gauge layouts, and the excess inventory sales area. On the lower level, guests saw the classroom area, the work room section, and the amount of space available for the club's HO operating layout, which is already under construction.

Three televisions in different sections of the building showed varying aspects of the club's activities. Operation Lifesaver railroad safety videos were a hit. Another television featured programs from *TRAIN TIME*, the half-hour show produced by the Great Falls Model Railroad Club for local cable channels throughout the state. Just inside the entry to the building, a third television presented a show about the club. A bulletin board near the television featured newspaper clippings publicizing club activities. Railroad safety materials and club handouts were available on the table. Also on the table was a framed letter from Senator Olympia Snowe, congratulating the club on its accomplishments and contributions to



Steve Martelli giving dedication speech.
Photo By Dale Darling

the community.

At about noon, guests and club members were asked to meet outside for the formal dedication of the building. President Stephen Martelli thanked club members for their support, efforts, and accomplishments in renovating the building and in making preparations for the dedication. Larry Cannon was recognized for his contribution in getting the building project started during his two terms as president. **Great Falls Model Railroad Club** Secretary, Paul Lodge, read the letter from Senator Olympia Snowe to all those assembled. President Martelli then unveiled a three-foot club logo sign attached to the side of

“SWAP OR SELL” MEET

At the next club meeting on October 15, club members are encouraged to bring some model railroading supplies or railroad equipment to swap or sell. Many club members have items which are no longer appropriate for their personal railroads. They can bring these items to the club and swap or sell them to other club members who are eager to swap or sell their own surplus items.

Swap meets are a great deal of fun, especially if a

lot of members bring something to exchange. The more members who bring items, the more fun it is for everyone.

If we can remember to bring **BOTTLES FOR BASICS**, we can remember to bring some items to swap or sell. **GET INVOLVED!**

By Paul Lodge

MINUTES OF THE S E P T E M B E R M E E T I N G

“Stephen Martelli gave a report for the Building Committee. He noted that the final building review was completed on Friday, September 4. That was the day the club received the Certificate of Occupancy, which allows us to have events and activities inside the building with up to 99 people within the building.”

September 17, 2009, was the first meeting in our new facility at 144 Mill Street since we received our occupancy permit.

The video for the meeting was the TRAIN TIME show on *Gallitzin to Conemaugh Viaduct* in Pennsylvania.

President Stephen Martelli opened the meeting by asking for the Secretary's Report. A motion was made and approved to accept the Secretary's Report as printed in *THE SIGNAL*.

Larry Cannon gave the Treasurer's Report because Tom Coulombe was out of town. The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented by Larry Cannon.

Stephen Martelli gave a report for the Building Committee. He noted that the final building review was completed on Friday, September 4. That was the day the club received the Certificate of Occupancy, which allows us to have events and activities inside the building with up to 99 people within the building. Our next project is to build a shed for storage of items which cannot be left inside the building and a place for Jerry Johnston's

tractor/snow blower which he uses for our winter needs. Stephen also noted that the city is planning to begin work soon on the new street drains and the sewer pipe which comes through our property.

Travis Johnson spoke for the Layout Committee, noting that trains will be running on the helix during the dedication and BBQ on Saturday, September 19.

The modular group from the club plans to set up a display at the MaiNe Tracks Portland show on Saturday, October 3, at the East End Community School on 195 North Street in Portland.

The Auburn Adult Education Model Railroad Class has nine participants who are building six modules. Two of the students found out about the class from our website. Hopefully, the modules will be ready for display at the club's show on Saturday, November 7, at the Auburn Middle School.

Stephen Martelli reported that Tim Horton's is donating coffee for the dedication and BBQ on Saturday, September 19. Leroy Walker, Auburn Parks and Recreation, is providing trash barrels to

(Continued on page 6)

CLUB MEMBERS ATTEND OPERATION LIFESAVER CONFERENCE

“Operation Lifesaver presenters share railroad safety information with elementary and secondary school students, emergency responders (EMT, fire and police departments), professional truck drivers, driver education classes, snowmobilers, ATV operators, and other groups which have reason to be near railroads.”

On September 10 and 11, 2009, **Great Falls Model Railroad Club** members Jay Calnan and Paul Lodge attended the Operation Lifesaver Region 1 Conference at the North Conway Grand Hotel in New Hampshire. The purpose of the conference is to update Operation Lifesaver presenters with new information and materials available for making railroad safety presentations and exhibits for different target groups. Region 1 includes all the New England states plus New York and New Jersey.

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The volunteer organization was started in 1972 by the Union Pacific Railroad. In one year they reduced fatalities on the railroad by about fifty percent. Because of the dramatic reduction in crashes and fatalities, it was decided to offer the program in

other states.

When Amtrak expanded its service from Boston to Portland, thousands of presentations were made to school children and other people along the Amtrak corridor in Maine and New Hampshire. A similar effort is now under way for the corridor between Portland and Brunswick.

by Paul Lodge



Denise Purington selling raffle tickets at open house. Photo by Dale Darling

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



I want to start by saying **Thank You** to all of you for attending and helping out with our dedication ceremony and yearly BBQ. It was a **HUGE** success!!

As always, the planning stage is in a "fog" until some concrete ideas are put together, such as which guests to invite or who to invite. I wanted the cities of Lewiston and Auburn to take part in the festivities. I had invited both Mayors and all of the City Councilors, the Auburn City Manager and Economic Development Director, State Senators and local Representatives. Former members, previous Model Railroad Class members, and donors were added, making the list that much longer. About a hundred people were invited. As you know, you never get a one hundred percent turn out from any invitation list, but we did get around sixty percent of those who were invited.

Added to the club members, we had about one hundred people walking through the clubhouse. I was disappointed that neither city mayor attended, nor did all of the city councilors. They missed a great chance to see what we have and to understand that we are not just a bunch of guys running trains around. State Senator Margaret Craven and County Commissioner Elaine Makas did attend and were amazed with what we have and do for the community around us. We had received letters and emails from Senators Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins, State Representatives Peggy Rotundo, Dick Wagner and others stating that they would not be able to attend but sending their regards and best wishes for the club and attendees. The next time you are at the clubhouse take a look at the letter from Senator Snowe hanging near the entrance; it is a really nice addition to our collection of articles and accolades. Enclosed in this news-



President, Steve Martelli

letter you will find a copy of the Dedication speech. The Twin City Times for September 24 had very nice article by Rachel Morin with pictures of the festivities. Take a look and you'll enjoy.

On October 10, we are planning to have a shed building party. We will need extra hands so we can get this done in one day. If you have some free time, please stop by and lend a hand. This will be our last large outside project for the year.

In recent weeks I have been watching a half-hour program on Sunday mornings named "Tracks Ahead." It is on Public Broadcasting (PBS) starting at 10:30 a.m. They have both model and prototypical railroads in all parts of the U.S. in three 10-minute segments. This week they had a G-gauge layout in Arizona with 4,000 feet of track. Then they went to Delaware to ride on a tourist train and finished in Las Vegas, Nevada, with an O-gauge layout based on a layout constructed by Lionel in New York City in the 1950's. Check it out; I think you'll find it an interesting program.

I haven't said thank you to this one member very much, if at all. He has constructed display cases, set the kitchen cabinets and fixed other projects along the way. His name is John Visco. Thank you, John, and keep up the good work.

Keep your wheels on the tracks,

Stephen

"On October 10, we are planning to have a shed building party. We will need extra hands so we can get this done in one day. If you have some free time, please stop by and lend a hand. This will be our last large outside project for the year."

WE DID IT! CONTINUED

the building near the entrance.

After the dedication, everyone was invited to eat hamburgers and hot dogs prepared by club members on the outdoor BBQ grill. Many guests took the food into the building where tables and chairs were set up for eating. Soft drinks, chips, desserts, and other goodies were also available for the luncheon. Jerry Johnston, Tom Coulombe, and Rick James prepared the food and delivered it to the kitchen area inside the building. A great deal of socializing took place at the dinner tables with guests and club members greeting each other and catching up on their activities.

Many club members helped make the day run smoothly by taking responsibility for different projects. Greg Mease and Bob Purington helped with parking at

various nearby locations so that everyone could get into the club. Denise Purington sold tickets on the Raffle Layout.

Terry King, the club's librarian and archivist, led guests through the library and also sold items from the excess inventory display case. Many of the club's extra model railroad magazines were given away. Terry had also created interesting "Before and After" photo displays at several locations throughout the building, showing improvements in those areas from the beginning of the renovations to the present.

Tom Jones, Travis Johnson, and Amy Rousseau ran trains on the helix, which is part of the club's

"Many club members helped make the day run smoothly by taking responsibility for different projects. Greg Mease and Bob Purington helped with parking at various nearby locations so that everyone could get into the club. Denise Purington sold tickets on the Raffle Layout."

NEW LIBRARY ADDITIONS

“Their next book, which is at the printers now, is about the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad and has fifteen slides from our collection.”



The Great Falls Model Railroad Club library has just received *Classic American Railroads Volume III* by Mike Schaffer.

Mr. Schaffer is a former editor for Kalmbach Publications. This well-written book, published in 2003, covers thirteen railroads, including the Maine Central and the Canadian National. Each of its 155 pages has photos taken by the author, Jim Boyd, and Jim Shaughnessy and from the Jerry Angier and the 470 Club collections. Nearly all of the photos are in color and cover a wide range of each railroad's history, including the many color schemes of each railroad. This is a book that you will not want to put down.

For you three-rail fans, we have two books by David Doyle, *Collector's Guide to Classic 0-*



Gauge Trains and O'Brien's *Collecting Toy Trains*, published in 2006 and 2007. The *Collector's Guide* is more of a price guide, while O'Brien's goes into more detail. Both of these books have numerous illustrations and will be invaluable for identifying those finds that you come across at the train shows.

The last of our new additions is club member George Melvin's *Maine Central Railroad in Color Vol. III*. The first two volumes in this series have yellow and green jackets; this one has a maroon jacket. As with all of George's books, this one has great photos, many of which have never been published before. The book contains a lot of history, including many photos of the Lewiston/Auburn area.

What is next? George and Kathy Melvin are now publish-

ing their own books, which are being printed at Penmor Lithographers in Lewiston. Their next book, which is at the printers now, is about the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad and has fifteen slides from our collection. We will let you know when it is available.

Remember, as a member you can check a book out of our library for up to thirty days.

By Terry King



DEDICATION SPEECH

September 19, 2009

Good Morning and Thank You for being here.

Make sure all of you get something to eat, there are Hot Dogs, and Hamburger's and drinks. Let us start by saying Thank You too our cooks, Mr. Jerry J., Mr. Tom C. and last but not least Mr. Rick James.

History of the Club

In the Beginning. The year, 1987, there were nineteen people who got together and wanted to talk and run trains. Some of those people are here today and some have past on. I would like to name some of those for you, Larry Cannon, Paul Lodge, Terry King, Bob Willard, Al Thurston and Wally

Chase and others.

Since that time, many people have past through this club and the elite have stayed, today we have 86 members strong and growing.

Those members in the beginning had enough forethought to realize that if they wanted to stay together they had to become an official organization. They applied for 501c3 status and received it in 1993. That is when the Great Falls Model Railroad Club became official. Since that time, there were many changes in the way they met. They started meeting at Edward Little High School and setting up at shows, then they met at the Lewiston Mall in an "open store front". In 1999, they rented a building on Canal Street Alley and finally the

purchase of this building here today.

Dedication of the Building

This building started as a donut shop that served the L-A area since the mid 50's and some of you here today have had those donuts at one time or another.

Then it became a Print Shop for a number of years.

Finally, it sat empty again for a number of years.

Along came our Club, we looked at the building as a group and talked to the Bank that owned it. They gave us a price and we went into the meeting stage. The Club discussed it and voted on it, we countered. After some back

“In the Beginning. The year, 1987, there were nineteen people who got together and wanted to talk and run trains. Some of those people are here today and some have past on. I would like to name some of those for you, Larry Cannon, Paul Lodge, Terry King, Bob Willard, Al Thurston and Wally Chase and others.”

CLUB TO RECEIVE TRUCK DONATION

John Marchesseault of Minot has donated his business's box truck to **The Great Falls Model Railroad Club**, a 501(c)3 educational foundation organization, which allows a tax break for the donation. The truck was formerly used in his furnace installation and repair business. The 1997 model 350 Chevrolet recently had a new motor and transmission installed. After the paper work for the insurance and registration is complete, the club can use the truck for any of several purposes.

Until the shed is built, the truck can be used to store building supplies that are not supposed to be in the building. It can also be used to take modules or excess inventory to shows. A lot of supplies which are currently being stored in Tom Coulombe's barn could be stored in the truck. When we have an-

other layout to tear down, we can use the truck to transport the layout.

One of the additional benefits of the truck donation will be the publicity which we can get from receiving the truck. Other companies or individuals will observe that **The Great Falls Model Railroad Club** is a recognized, legitimate organization

to which they can contribute. It was suggested that appreciation for the donation be shown in the form of a sign on the sides of the truck, which could read "Donated by John Marchesseault." When the truck is used on the highway, others will see the acknowledgement of the donation. It is a win-win situation, with the club receiving the truck and the business getting recognition.

*"John Marchesseault of Minot has donated his business's box truck to **The Great Falls Model Railroad Club**, a 501(c)3 educational foundation organization, which allows a tax break for the donation."*



Photo by Paul Lodge

WE DID IT! CONTINUED

(Continued from page 3)
HO layout, and explained some of the tentative suggestions for further developments of the layout. Tim Tyce operated the G-gauge layout, and Richard Bibeau ran his N-gauge layout.

After viewing Richard Bibeau's n-scale layout, George and Kathy Melvin expressed excitement about the possibility of building their own layout, using N-scale-sized buildings and equipment to represent the Norway and South Paris area. George and Kathy were invited to bring in copies of their new book, *Tebachapi Today!* Several club members purchased the attractive book, which features

outstanding railroad photographs taken in the mountains of southern California by both George and Kathy. Several members purchased the attractive book and asked the Melvins to autograph personal copies.

Dick Clark and Jay Calnan were kept busy taking pictures and video of the event. Their video will be made into a presentation which will be archived for the club library. Larry Cannon, Rob Roy, and Jay Calnan were extremely helpful in acting as guides while describing the features of the building, explaining the purposes of the club, and answering a wide variety of questions.

By Paul Lodge



by Dale Darling

"Dick Clark and Jay Calnan were kept busy taking pictures and video of the event. Their video will be made into a presentation which will be archived for the club library. Larry Cannon, Rob Roy, and Jay Calnan were extremely helpful in acting as guides while describing the features of the building, explaining the purposes of the club, and answering a wide variety of questions."

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

Your business tag line here.



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THE SIGNAL

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Paul Lodge, Larry Cannon

MINUTES CONTINUED

(Continued from page 2)

be used outside during the September 19 event. Stephen announced that the tours would start at about 10:30 a.m., and the building dedication would be at about noon, after which the BBQ would begin.

Rob Roy announced that club member Skip Wilson, 73, has been hospitalized with pneumonia and has been taken to Togus.

President Martelli announced that there will be a “SWAP or SELL” meet at the next club meeting on October 15.

Paul Lodge distributed pictures of a one-ton box truck which is being offered to the club to use for its varied purposes. A motion was made and passed to accept the truck on behalf of the club. Heating Specialist John Marchesseault of Minot will donate the truck to the club. The truck has been repaired and is ready for an inspection sticker. Paul volunteered to pay for the insurance and registration so there will be no cost to the club. Dick Clark reported on the condition of the truck and volunteered to do the normal upkeep of oil, lube, and general maintenance. The truck will be stored at different locations depending on its use at the time.

A motion was made and accepted to have “Free Pass” cards made for club members to give to people who have made donations or other contributions to the club. Each pass would allow one person to get into one of our events free. In a way, this is a fund-raising idea. Usually, if anyone gets a free pass, they will bring someone with them who will pay. (For example, the manager of Tim Horton’s could have been given a “Free Pass” card for donating coffee for the BBQ.) Larry Cannon pointed out that the club needs to be aware that the value of the “Free Pass” would have to be subtracted from any tax-deductible donation made to the club by the company or individual giving the donation.

Dale Darling complimented those who have done so much work during the summer in order to get the building to the level of accomplishment we have achieved so far. Larry observed that the wives and girl friends of the club members need to be complimented for their patience during this summer while we were working toward the Occupancy Permit.

New member Warren Hill was introduced to the club.

Near the end of the meeting, Jerry Johnston received a birthday card from Jay Calnan after observing that Jay can always remember Jerry’s birthday because they were both born on the same day.

The Attendance Prize drawing was won by Travis Bragg of Bangor. He was not present so the prize will be available next month.

Minutes Continued

The meeting adjourned and Dick Clark gave a clinic explaining how reflective beads which are used by the state highway department could be used in model railroading. His suggestions were interesting and thought-provoking. Several members had questions about the use of these beads on the real roads. Dick answered their questions and shared photos of highway department vehicles to explain the beading procedures used on state roads. Good job, Dick!

DEDICATION CONTINUED

(Continued from page 4)

and forth talk, we took a vote. The final tally was 44-6 in favor.

We signed the papers on April 5, 2007 and on April 6th, Jerry Johnston and Myself looked inside for the first time after the signing. We looked at each other and Jerry said, “I should have voted NO” and we laughed. He said to me where do we start. So much work had to be done.

The Executive committee put a plan together. The first thing to go was the “Old” Boiler and a new boiler was put in place under the loading dock area right behind me after a lot of work. The rest of the project started to fall into place.

This project started while Larry Cannon was President, and I would like to have him up here now.

Larry, this project started under your administration and today it will be dedicated under mine. Let’s together uncover our Club’s Logo and our Club’s future.

Uncover Logo and Larry says a few words.

We say Thank You for coming and we eat. Also, say that we are giving tours as long as there are people who want to see the building.

By Steve Martelli

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

OCTOBER

3 Portland Train Show 10:00—4:00

15 Meeting 7:00.

NOVEMBER

7 Train Show—Setup at 6:00 a.m. show 10:00 to 3:00

19 Meeting 7:00 p.m.