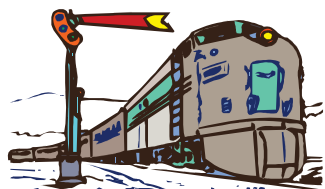


THE SIGNAL



NEXT MEETING

Oct. 21
7:00 p.m.

NEXT MONTH

Deadline for
November
Oct. 29, 2010

MEMBERSHIP

112

ATTENDANCE PRIZE

Neil Culpepper's name was drawn and he was not present to win a prize.

Will your name be drawn on Oct. 21? You have to be present to win!

BOTTLES FOR BASICS

- ◆ YEAR TO DATE: \$244.70
- ◆ THIS MONTH: \$36.25
- ◆ LAST YEAR: \$487.06

LOOKING DOWN THE TRACK

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club (the club) has come a long way since making the decision three and a half years ago to buy their own facility. That has allowed the club to expand many of its activities, number of layouts and the big advantage of an adequate sized library. It is the leading group of its type for the entire state. Let us work on this opportunity to make our club even better than it is.

Since the Executive Committee is the ruling arm of the club that has also been enlarged to make it possible for more members to serve in a position to guide and direct the club into the future. It is now time for the club to look and plan further ahead than it ever has before as a result of how it is now positioned. Our goal should be to create a plan to keep the club maintained well into the future in an efficient manner.

There are many opportunities for us to examine in order to do that. This is why the October 21st monthly meeting has been dedicated to this project. All members that can, should plan to attend and participate in this most important undertaking that is a first of its kind for this club. This is the greatest opportunity that individual club members will have to present their ideas. The Executive Committee will use this information to lead the club into the future.

By Jerry Johnston



Above, the "G" gauge backdrop painted by Paul Lodge.

Below, Bob Russell laying track.

Photos by Terry King



SCRAPBOOK PROJECT

I am currently going through files looking for old photos and articles that pertain to The Great Falls Model Railroad Club. The project is to piece together a scrapbook of history that can be placed in the library for everyone to look through. The hope is to remember friends and good times from the past. Old stories are great to have in a format all of us can enjoy.

Brenda could really use more photos with the names and dates recorded. Your help would be greatly appreciated with the old photos and infor-

mation you have tucked away in your collection of stuff. You can e-mail your documentation or jpeg photos to either Brenda Leslie or Terry King or bring them in to the club. If you have an old-fashioned photo print, bring it to the club house for Terry to scan or let Brenda borrow the print so she can scan it at home. Also, if anybody would like to donate train stickers or scrapbooking pages (12x12), they would surely be appreciated.

By Brenda Leslie

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER MEETING

“Travis Johnson reported that the HO layout group needs more help to do wiring and track laying in order to be ready for the open house after our November 6 show at the Auburn Middle School. We also want to be able to have trains running during the ExTRAINaganza at the end of November.”

“Rob Roy noted that members interested in N-scale are needed to continue the work that has been started on the layout.”

The TRAIN TIME video for the evening showed the ceremonies at Brunswick for the beginning of the Amtrak expansion project between Portland and Brunswick. An outstanding feature of the festivities and the video was the use of the specialized equipment to install the 30 miles of welded rail.

Larry Cannon noted that there was an error in the August Secretary's Report. Money received from the sales of HO equipment during the yard sale went to the general fund for the club, not to the HO layout. The report was approved as corrected.

Tom Coulombe gave a detailed Treasurer's Report and appealed to members to pledge money so that the club can pay current bills. The report was approved as given.

As Building Manager, Tom Coulombe reported that the broken siding on the street side of the building has been replaced with the help of Howard Palmer and Chuck Horton. Tom reported that he and Larry Cannon fixed a roof leak around the stand pipe near the upstairs bathroom. Irving Young is donating a cabinet on which a counter top can be added. Storage cabinets in the dock area will be created as funds become available.

Travis Johnson reported that the HO layout group needs more help to do wiring and track laying in order to be ready for the open house after our November 6 show at the Auburn Middle School. We also want to be able to have trains running during the ExTRAINaganza at the end of November.

Dick Clark reported for the G-scale group. Lattice work has been added to the lower part of the layout to improve its appearance. Benchwork for Thomas the Tank Engine has been completed. On Saturday, September 25, the G-scale group will hold a clinic on hand-laying rail and spiking the rail to different types of wooden ties. The G-scale group plans to hold a silent auction for one of the special lawn chairs made by Terry Obie. The winner will be able to select one of the six chairs available.

Rob Roy noted that members interested in N-scale are needed to continue the work that has been started on the layout.

The Adult Education Model Railroading class has ten members. They are building eight modules which will be available for the show on November 6. Some class members are helping Tom Coulombe build a corner module to be used at our shows.

Dick Clark asked module owners to let him know if they are going to bring their modules to the show in Portland on October 2. The more members who bring layouts, the fewer modules we will need to take out of the truck. Larry Cannon asked for volunteers to help sell excess inventory supplies at the show.

Trees & Trains at McLaughlin Gardens will be held on the first two weekends in December. Ed and Brenda Leslie are requesting that club members help set up the layout on the last two Saturdays in October (October 23 and 30). Although that seems early, it prevents setting up displays in the colder weather.

The five dates for the ExTRAINaganza have been set as November 20, 21, 22, 26, and 27. The Executive Committee has voted to purchase an ad in the Shriner's Festival of Trees newspaper insert. Some members plan to develop a Great Falls Model Railroad coloring book for the event. We hope some of our younger members will help us decorate Christmas trees and suggest additional activities. Candy for the ExTRAINaganza can be obtained at very reasonable prices by buying candy left from Halloween promotional displays at many stores. Members were asked to buy candy and donate it to the club for the ExTRAINaganza.

Dick Clark thanked the club members for their help at his home during Greene Village Day activities. He estimates that about 20 members and more than 200 people came to his layouts. Dick announced that his next event will be Saturday and Sunday during the Halloween weekend.

Jerry Johnston, Terry King, and Paul Lodge attended our first Androscoggin Chamber of Commerce meeting at the Hilton Garden Inn on Tuesday, September 14. Our club will be featured at the Chamber breakfast in November. We will need about 300 business cards and club brochures so that each person attending the breakfast will have a copy.

(Continued on page 6)

SET UP AT McLAUGHLIN GARDEN

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club is partnering with McLaughlin Gardens for this year's model railroad display as part of their tenth annual *TREES & TRAINS* event. Ed and Brenda Leslie have been handling the event alone for the past few years. They need help. The Great Falls Model Railroad Club members recently voted to help sponsor the event as part of our club's educational program. Since the first exhibit, The Great Falls Model Railroad Club has featured our raffle layout there and has often held the raffle drawing there.

We expect to contribute this year by helping Ed and Brenda Leslie set up the G-scale layout in the historic barn at McLaughlin Garden. Dates selected for setting up were originally the last two weekends in October—WHILE IT IS STILL WARM. Because of another club commitment, however, club members will be asked to come on October 30 beginning at 9 a.m. to help set up tables, lay tracks, and test trains. If enough people come to work, the layout and scenery should be completely set up in one day.

The McLaughlin Garden *TREES & TRAINS* exhibit will be open on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday on the first two weekends in December: 3, 4, 5, and 10, 11, and 12. The exhibit will be open on Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The winning ticket on the club's raffle layout will be drawn on Sunday, December 12, at McLaughlin Garden.

By Paul Lodge

HALLOWEEN WEEKEND

On the evenings of October 30 and 31, Dick Clark is inviting the community to see his Halloween-decorated G-scale outdoor layout. He plans to have special Halloween features which will be different from the display used during Greene Village Day.

Dick says people usually start coming at about 5:30, before it gets too dark. The last people view the layout at around 7:30 p.m. Therefore, club members can plan to arrive between those two times and help Dick or participate in the Halloween shenanigans. Come and have a scary-good time!



Brenda Leslie working on the "G" gauge layout.



'Dick says people usually start coming at about 5:30, before it gets too dark. The last people view the layout at around 7:30 p.m.'



BEFORE AND AFTER



Conway Scenic Railroad Station, before restoration and after. Pictures from our Kingston collection.



Ex **TRAIN** *aganza*

THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

(www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org) invites you to come to 144 Mill Street, Auburn, Me 04210 to see trains. Fun activities are planned for our youngest guests. The club house will be decorated for Christmas and trains of different sizes will be running throughout the building for everyone's enjoyment.

DAYS, DATES, AND TIMES

Saturday **November 20** 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Sunday **November 21** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Monday **November 22** 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Friday **November 26** 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Saturday **November 27** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

A variety of train sets under the Christmas trees will be raffled off with the drawing on Saturday, November 27.

Activities for children will include watching trains, decorating cookies and ornaments, and a play area with trains. Food and snack items will be available.

A \$2 donation per adult is requested to help with ongoing building renovations. Children under 12 admitted free.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Exciting times are upon us now for all Great Falls Model Railroad Club members! We have all types of events coming in the next three months and there is a way for everyone to get involved in something you will enjoy.

The first event is the train show in Portland. This is their second year and I'm sure it will be even better than last year, although it will have passed by the time this newsletter comes out. The Dempsey Challenge will be going on the same weekend, with a run Saturday and the bike ride on Sunday. This year there will be 6,000 riders. I will be riding in a support van so I will leave Saturday's Portland show early to set up my radio in the van.

Next is the open forum night. We will be having a moderator come in to help lead the discussion after a brief business meeting. There will be no TRAIN TIME video, but there will be some light snacks. The idea behind this meeting is to get input from the general membership on what direction they would like to see the club head during the next few years. As a club we have grown and the Executive Board feels that

we may need some new ideas on how to make this happen. This is not a night for going over past years' events and happenings, but an opportunity to move forward with new ideas! Think of how we can improve club so everyone can enjoy it more!



President, Rick James

November 6 is The Great Falls Model Railroad Club train show at the Auburn Middle School. Doors open at 6 a.m. for setup and open to the public at 10. The show runs until 3 p.m. After we pack up and clean up, there will be an open house at the clubhouse. We will need a lot of people to help at all these places that day.

This year we are taking a more active role in the "Trees and Trains" program for McLaughlin Garden in South Paris. The building of the layouts will begin this month. and the event will take place on the first two weekends in December. Contact Ed and Brenda Leslie if you wish to help with this project. After the November meeting, it's time to transform the clubhouse into a Christmas wonderland for the second annual ExTRAINaganza. This major fundraiser for the club will be held the last two weekends in November.

Of course, while all this is going on, work will continue on all the layouts in the building! Every Saturdays is a workday. The goal of the club is to have the layouts running in time for the ExTRAINaganza. Will this happen? Only with hard work by many club members. I am honored to be serving you, the members of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club this year. Please feel free to call or E-mail with your concerns or questions about the club. I'm here to serve you!

"This year we are taking a more active role in the "Trees and Trains" program for McLaughlin Garden in South Paris. The building of the layouts will begin this month. and the event will take place on the first two weekends in December. Contact Ed and Brenda Leslie if you wish to help with this project."

ExTRAINaganza T-SHIRTS AND VESTS AVAILABLE

Several club members have ordered the blue vests. The vests have been made and screen printed, and they are now ready for club members to purchase. Extra vests were made so that a few are available for members who did not pre-order one. The price of the new vests is \$22.

The second annual ExTRAINaganza is coming up at the end of November. ExTRAINaganza t-shirts have been purchased so that club members can buy one and wear it at our club show on November 6 at the Auburn Middle School. The price of T-shirts for club members is \$12: for non-club members, the price is \$15. We plan to sell them at the show and at the ExTRAINaganza. It is hoped that these attractive t-shirts will publicize our event and attract atten-

tion from people who are curious about the ExTRAINaganza.

By Paul Lodge



"Extra vests were made so that a few are available for members who did not pre-order one. The price of the new vests is \$22."

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

An educational foundation



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THE SIGNAL

The Signal is published twelve times per year by The Great Falls Model Railroad Club.

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**MINUTES
CONTINUED**

Terry King announced that the vests are being screen printed and will be ready by the weekend of September 25.

President Rick James said that gray covered hoppers with the club's logo are being ordered and should be here for the November show.

The Executive Committee has set a price of \$25 to rent the club facility for two hours. If food is provided, the minimum charge is \$6 per person.

The club building has been rented for a private birthday party for about a dozen pre-school children on Saturday, October 3.

An Operation Lifesaver presenters' class will be held at the club on September 18. On October 23, Operation Lifesaver will hold its annual Volunteer Appreciation Day at the club.

The club's monthly meeting on October 21 will be an open forum where club members will participate in sharing ideas for improving the club now and in the future. Tom Coulombe has contacted a person who will be the facilitator for the forum.

It has been suggested that the club members plan some group activities to make our experience more fun. Some of the social and recreational activities suggested were as follows: group tours at the Cog Railway in New Hampshire, Maine Eastern Railroad between Brunswick and Rockland, or the Victorian Christmas at the WW&F, and a group showing of the new movie about a runaway train.

During the meeting, raffle tickets were sold on George Melvin's book about Boston & Maine memories. Tom Hastings' name was drawn as the winner.

Neil Culpepper's name was drawn as the winner of the Attendance Prize for the meeting. He was not present, so the prizes will be held over to the next meeting.

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR CLUB MEMBERS

Last month we introduced the idea of Christmas cards featuring trains from the club's collection of slides. These Christmas cards have already been printed and packaged and will be sold at our show at the Auburn Middle School on November 6 and at the ExTRAINaganza during the last two weeks of November. You can also purchase them at the next club meeting.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Every Saturday, Work Session 9:00 a.m.
Every Wednesday Work Session 6:00 p.m.

October

2 Train Show Portland
14 Executive Committee 7:00 p.m.
21 Open Forum Meeting 7:00 p.m.

November

6 Train Show Auburn Middle School
10:00 - Set up at 6:00 a. m.
11 Executive Committee 7:00 a.m.
18 Meeting 7:00 p.m.
20 Train Show Brewer 10:00—3:00
20,21,22,27,28 ExTRAINaganza (sse Page 4)

December

4,5,11, & 12 Trees & Trains McLaughlin Garden, South Paris

DRIVING SPIKES

On Saturday, September 25, Dick Clark and the G-scale group provided a spike-driving clinic. G-scale members had already cut and stained ties created from different types of wood. At the September 16 monthly meeting, club members were invited to come and experience hand laying track. About a dozen club members came and tried their hand at spiking track to real wooden ties.

Larry Cannon had made a jig for spacing ties so that there is a uniform distance between them. Bob Russell brought a special tool which has a groove for the spike for everyone to try. Dick also demonstrated how a regular pair of needle nose pliers can be used for spiking.

By Paul Lodge

