

# THE SIGNAL



THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

VOLUME 13. ISSUE 5

OCTOBER 2011



Member since June 1988

## NEXT MEETING

**Oct. 20  
7:00 p.m.**

## NEXT MONTH

**Deadline for  
November  
Oct. 28, 2011**

## MEMBERSHIP

**116**

## ATTENDANCE PRIZE

**No one's name  
was drawn to win.  
Will your name be  
drawn on Oct. 20?  
You have to be  
present to win!**

## BOTTLES FOR BASICS

- ♦ **LAST YEAR**  
**\$496.15**
- ♦ **YEAR TO DATE:**  
**\$133.80**
- ♦ **THIS MONTH:**  
**\$25.00**

## Modeling 191 (Getting Started) By Ed Leslie

Scratch modeling is for me one of the most gratifying aspects of model railroading. There is nothing wrong with purchased items; in fact, I have many in my operations. However, something built from scratch has its very own satisfaction when completed. No one else has one just like it and it takes on its own individuality.

Now that the main lines are operational on all three club layouts, it is time to think about the trackside scenery. The master plan for all should coordinate years, industries, and the reason for a railroad. With that said, however, the details allow room for personal innovation and scratch building. After-all, in real life, my next door neighbor has his own opinion on how his yard and home will look. How and where to get the ideas for these layouts can be a challenge, especially if the details are from years gone by.



Scenery is under way on HO layout.

Photo by Terry King

So where do you locate the fine points that you desire? How did this type of structure look and what kind of trimmings would be appropriate? Whether you are an accomplished modeler or just beginning to try your hand at modeling, the club's library is a wonderful starting place for your project. There are hundreds of books and magazines that have pictures of structures and the

details that border them as well as dimensional drawings of buildings and rolling stock. We even have prints of Maine narrow gauge rolling stock in our library. My point here is that, whether you are planning to build from scratch or construct using kits, the library can help you set the stage for your venue. Whether you want inspiration

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Movie Night by Brenda Leslie



**When: Saturday - October 29<sup>th</sup>  
2011**

**Starting at 7:00 sharp**

**Admission: A smile - and bring  
along a guest**

**Come and enjoy a thrilling tale  
of incredible friendship – enormous  
belief and tremendous  
courage. This is awesome  
inspiring action – an adventure**

**the whole family will treasure.  
Inspired by a true story.**

**Hope you all will come and enjoy.  
There will be FREE popcorn for  
all! Compliments of Hobo Café.**

*"The presenter first stepped into a BAR box-car in the 1950s as his farm family shipped potatoes and has been enthralled by the former Class 1 railroad ever since."*

*"Marden's was one of the new members. In the past, the manager of Lewiston's Marden's store has given our club special discounts for Christmas trains. The manager was at the meeting and pledges to keep our club in mind when railroad supplies arrive at Marden's."*

## Meeting Clinic by Brenda Leslie

Peter McKenney will be presenting a clinic at the next club meeting on October 20 on Prototype Themes Based on the BAR. Model railroaders have many choices to make in designing and creating their layouts. Attaining realism and operating capabilities often are large factors in their decision processes. This clinic will show how studying a prototype railroad can lead to a design that will give long-term

satisfaction, whether you choose to build a free-lanced railroad or one based upon a prototype. Using the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad (BAR) as an example, this presentation includes how to consider prototype railroads and their histories for creating themes for a model railroad layout, how to select appealing layout design elements/ concepts from a prototype, and how

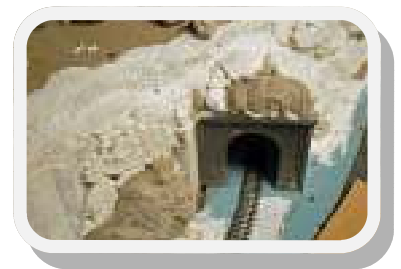
to pick an era to model. It also shows examples of research and sources to obtain ideas and information to make a layout as realistic as you would like. The presenter first stepped into a BAR box-car in the 1950s as his farm family shipped potatoes and has been enthralled by the former Class 1 railroad ever since.

## Club Spotlighted at Chamber by Paul Lodge

Five club members attended the September 8, 2011 Androscoggin County Chamber of Commerce breakfast at Martindale Country Club in Auburn. Each month the Chamber features six organizations. This month was The Great Falls Model Railroad Club's turn. Naturally, our display was the most appealing, interesting, and informative. Terry King and Jerry Johnston had selected pictures of the club and its activities and attached them to a blue tri-fold poster board. Paul Lodge brought in a colorful ExTRAINaganza poster made by Ed Leslie. HO locomotives encased in separate display cases were arranged on the table. Operation Lifesaver's television ran constantly during the morning, showing the 15-minute DVD Ed Leslie had made depicting many activities of the club. Nearly two hundred Chamber members attended the breakfast so this was a good opportunity to share information about the club and Operation Lifesaver.

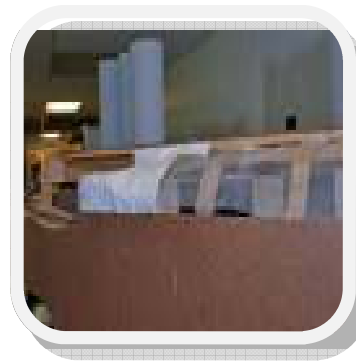
After the breakfast, new Chamber members were introduced. Marden's was one of the new members. In the past, the manager of Lewiston's Marden's store has given our club special discounts for Christmas trains. The manager was at the meeting and pledges to keep our club in mind when railroad supplies arrive at Marden's.

Once the program was completed, drawings were made for items donated by Chamber members. Terry King and Tom Coulombe were lucky winners. Check with them and ask them what they won. The other club members who attended were Rick James, Jerry Johnston, and Paul Lodge.



Above, scenery work on HO layout.

Photos by Terry King



## Open House At Dick Clark's By Paul Lodge

Nearly twenty members of The Great Falls Model Railroad Club attended Dick Clark's Open House on Saturday, September 10. About 125 visitors signed the guest book. In addition to Dick's G-Gauge Toot n' Chug Railroad, there were several layouts for children to play with, the club's raffle layout, Operation Lifesaver handouts, and a wonderful open-roofed doll house.

Traditionally, Dick has held his Open House during September's Greene Village Day celebration. This year the town cancelled the event since they could not find anyone to head up the event.

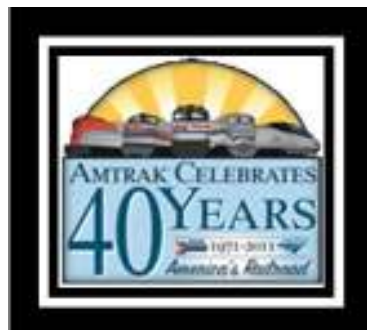
Dick's family helped build and set up the many buildings and special scenes for his outdoor layout. Dick and Sharon's daughter, Angela, built a "climbing wall"; and granddaughter, Abigail, created figures of people who were shown climbing the wall. Abigail also built a garden hot house with appropriate plants and miniature items to go with it. Mudslide Pond, featured near the front of the layout, is always a popular attraction.

Several club members brought

their G-gauge equipment and ran it on Dick's layout. Ray Parent brought his Freedom Train and ran it on the upper level. Ed Leslie ran a Forney and the special passenger car he had built from scratch. Howard Palmer and Don Lush brought a Climax and a Shay locomotive and ran them with rolling stock they had also brought. Ken Jackson videotaped the event so that he could edit the footage and air it on Norway/Paris Community Television.

Denise and Bob Purington successfully sold tickets on the club's Raffle Layout.

Some club members brought food to share with each other along with the food provided by Sharon and Dick Clark. The weather was beautiful and all the visitors enjoyed themselves.



## Modeling 101 Continued

*(Continued from page 1)*

and information for one of the club's three layouts or for your personal layout at home, our library is a great resource. There is even information to help you get started on learning how to model.

Terry King, the club librarian, knows what I like to look at and will often place a book or magazine in my hand, saying, "Ed, you need to look at this." Many

times I sign it out for a month and ponder the possibilities that I might use. Stop in yourself and talk to Terry and let him know what you are interested in. From the foundations of bench work to realistic rail operations, the club's library has the best resources in the State of Maine. I know from my own experiences, Terry will do his best to listen and find the information that you are looking for. The reason that Brenda and I joined the club was not only for the comradery of club members, but also for the extensive library it offered.

So you have the highball on your track to modeling! Make the first stop a visit with Terry King and the library of The Great Falls Model Railroad Club. I look forward to meeting you in the Crew Lounge, sipping a cup of coffee and looking over ideas for our next projects.

Ed Leslie (experimental modeler)







Paul Lodge

"Five club members attended the Chamber of Commerce monthly breakfast meeting on September 8. Terry King reported that the club donated two train whistles for the event. One whistle was given to Chip Morrison, Chamber President, and the other was put into one of the gift bags which each participant receives. Jerry Johnston noted that it costs \$125 a year to be part of the Androscoggin Chamber of Commerce. We are able to spread word of our club to approximately two hundred Chamber members at each of their monthly breakfasts. There are also other communication tools available to the club."

## September Minutes by Paul Lodge, Secretary

After members watched Ed Leslie's entertaining Power Point show of our activities since last month, Tom Coulombe showed slides he took on his trip to Alaska with his wife Carmen. The slides featured many scenic views of Alaska, including many pictures from their train trip through the beautiful countryside.

President Rick James brought the meeting to order and asked for the Secretary's Report. Paul Lodge summarized the Executive Committee Report from the September 8 meeting. The report of the last club meeting was approved as recorded in *The Signal*.

Tom Coulombe gave the Treasurer's Report which was approved.

Tom Coulombe also gave the Station Master's Report and noted that Terry King's air conditioner will be installed in the next couple of months as soon as it is retrieved from the post office. Tom reported that a switch stand and a rail tie will be donated by a club friend from Brewer and will be installed on the club property. In order to stop some of the rain water which has been draining from the parking lot near the upstairs ramp into the HO layout room, Mike Reed has been asked to tar part of the driveway from the corner of the ramp in the direction toward the library exit door. Ed Webb has completed the wiring in the workshop area. Ed's next project will be to put a light in the closet at the upstairs entrance.

As Activities Director, Brenda Leslie reported that several club members will take the Operation

Lifesaver trip on Sunday, September 25, on the Maine Eastern Railroad from Rockland to Brunswick and return. This is a fund-raising activity for Maine Operation Lifesaver. At the club's October meeting, Peter McKenney will present a clinic on modeling structures from the Bangor & Aroostook Railroad. On October 22, Operation Lifesaver will hold its annual Volunteer Appreciation Day at our club from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Our next "Movie Night," will be Saturday, October 29. An appropriate movie has yet to be selected. On Monday, October 31, Dick Clark is opening his outdoor G-gauge layout for Halloween. Club members are invited to help.

President James asked for reports from the different layout groups. The club was notified that Tom Jones is resigning as Chairman of the HO Layout committee. Within the next year, he is planning to move back to his home state of Colorado. He will continue to attend club functions until all the details of this major move are completed. Club members have been working on the HO layout on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings. Because many members cannot attend both sessions, there are basically two different groups. To replace Tom as chairman, the Executive Committee asked if there is a person who generally attends both the Wednesday and Saturday sessions. Travis Johnson was asked to be temporary chairman of the HO Layout Committee until a permanent replacement is selected by the HO Group.

Gary Thibeault reported that the main line wiring is now complete on the lower level and that work is progressing on the upper level main line. A scenery clinic is planned for Saturday morning so that decisions can be made to be sure the scenery blends properly throughout the layout. Tom Coulombe reported that the N-scale group is working on landscaping and scenery. The G-Gauge Division will be turning their layout from summer to winter for the November ExTRAINaganza Christmas display. Dick Clark asked for volunteers to help in the transformation.

Terry King reported that he considers the Train Fest a financial success. This was the first year for the event and some changes can be made to help it be even more successful in the future. Members of the Chamber of Commerce were given free tickets when club members attended the August breakfast meeting of the Chamber.

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(Continued on page 5)

## Your Library by Terry King

In our recent gift of books and other materials from Mrs. Dupuy of Keene, NH, were quite a few plans for cars and locomotives. They are as follows:

*Model Railroader* diesel plan packages #8 and 9, which contain HO and O gauge plans for the EMD E-7, A and B units; HO gauge plans for the EMD E-6, A and B units; and color plates for freight diesels on 28 different railroads.

*Model Railroader* diesel plan packages #6 and 7, which contain HO and O gauge plans for the EMD F-3, A and B units; HO gauge plans for the EMD FT, A and B units; and color plates for freight diesels on 36 railroads.

*Model Railroader* HO plans, packages #1, 2, 3 and 4. Plan 1 has plans for a 2-8-0 Pennsylvania, 2-10-4 Santa Fe, 4-8-4 NYC (dual purpose) and a 2-8-2 C&NW freight locomotive. Plan

2 has plans for the following passenger locomotives: 4-6-2 B&M; 4-6-4 Santa Fe; 4-8-2 Western Pacific; and a 4-4-4-4 Pennsylvania. Plan 3 has six freight cars, including an automotive box car (Santa Fe), an AAR box car, a PRR gondola, a stock car, a well car, and an AAR composite hopper. Plan 4 has six cabooses, including NYC, UP, M&P, Frisco, and NP.

We also have plans from Kentron Corp. These include a West Side Lumber Co. Heisler in O and HO, a narrow gauge Shay (Mich.-Cal. Lumber Co.)

(Continued on page 6)

## Minutes Continued

(Continued from page 4)

one of six business and non-profit organizations "spotlighted" at the September meeting at the Martindale Country Club in Auburn. Terry King and Jerry Johnston had created an attractive display featuring our club and its activities. Ed Leslie had made a 15-minute DVD of club activities which attracted Chamber members to our display. After the breakfast, the Chamber held drawings for donated items. Tom Coulombe and Terry King were winners.

In order to be in compliance with Federal regulations, Tom Coulombe explained that all monies collected from our various fund-raising activities need to be put into the club's general fund. A budget amount for each special group needs to be determined. Money from the general fund can then be allocated to the individual groups as indicated by their budgets.

Terry King reported that advertising for our November show has been sent out and checks are beginning to come in from table sales.

Paul Lodge reported that the Model Railroading Adult Education Class

has started and four modules are being made for the November train show. Three of the modules are being made by youngsters.

Tom Coulombe and Stephen Martelli will be handling an Operation Lifesaver booth at the Lewiston Armory on October 1 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This is part of a new initiative by the Lewiston and Auburn school systems to talk about healthy activities for children. Information for this event was provided to the club by John Snyder, whose wife is involved with the program.

Terry King requested that club members fill in information on a sign-up sheet to indicate what railroads they are interested in. This will help him make decisions about books and other literature for the library that will satisfy club members. Items donated to the club that are out of the interest areas of the members may be sold and other more pertinent books purchased with the money.

Jerry Johnston noted that new member John Snyder's wife, Linda, works with radio promotions. It was suggested that we develop a radio spot for the November 5 train show at the Auburn Middle School

and for the ExTRAINaganza. The Executive Committee voted to pay up to \$100 in total for the radio advertising for these events.

Some club members have asked when the building is open. Terry King said that he is usually here Monday, Tuesday, and Friday mornings. This information needs to be disseminated to club members.

Rick James reminded club members that everyone is invited to attend Executive Committee meetings on the Thursday before the regular monthly meeting. All members can participate by being recognized by the president, but only Executive Committee members can vote at those sessions.

Roger Allen has suggested a change in procedures for the 50/50 and Attendance Prize selections at our monthly meeting. He was not at the meeting to explain his suggestions.

Members at the meeting were notified that club member Skip Wilson passed away recently. Paul Lodge read an informative letter from Roy Gove's wife, explaining Roy's recent health problems and enclosing a check instead of bringing Bottles for Basics this month.

Since about one-third of our membership attends monthly meetings, the Executive Committee approved drawing up to three names for the Attendance Prize until somebody wins. Names drawn for the Attendance Prize were Ray Lagasse, Nick Fowler, and Charles Kadyk. None of them were in attendance, so the prizes will be available next month. Dick Clark won the 50/50 raffle.

The meeting adjourned.



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Our new e-mail address.

An Educational Foundation

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## THE SIGNAL

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## Upcoming Events



**October 13**, Executive Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m.

**October 20**, Membership meeting 6:45 p.m.

**October 22**, Operation Lifesaver Volunteer Appreciation Meeting 10:00 a.m.

**November 5**, Model Railroad Show, The Great Falls Model Railroad Club, Auburn Middle School 10:00—3:00.

**November 6**, Bedford Boomers RR exhibition, McKelvie Middle School, Liberty Hill Rd, Bedford, NH 10:00 a.m. —4:00 p.m.

**November 10**, Executive Committee meeting 7:00 p.m.

**November 17**, Membership meeting 6:45 p.m.

**November 19**, ExTRAINaganza 10:00 a.m.—8:00 p.m.

**November 20**, ExTRAINaganza 10:00 a.m.— 4:00 p.m.

**November 21**, ExTRAINaganza 4 p.m.—8 p.m.

**November 25**, ExTRAINaganza 10:00 a.m.—8:00 p.m.

**November 26**, ExTRAINaganza 10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

**January 14, 2012** Shine & Dine 5:00 p.m.—10:00 p. m.

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

## Library Continued

(Continued from page 5)

in O and HO scales, logging cars in O gauge, and a Fruit Growers Climax #3 in O and HO gauge.

These plans are great for scratch building or for detailing the locomotives or cars that you already have.

We also have the *Model Railroader* all-time index of prototype plans from 1934- 1992. Remember that your library has *Model Railroader*, complete from 1935 to present. If you find a plan that you need in the index, we can locate it.

We also have many blueprints of standard gauge and narrow gauge locomotives, tenders, cars, and buildings.

All of the above is just a small sample of what your library has to offer you and your family. We have a total of 997 books, including 43 in the youth section.