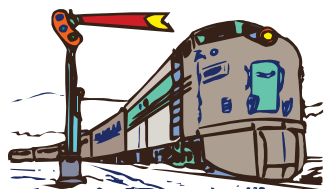




# THE SIGNAL



## NEXT MEETING

**NOVEMBER 19**

**7:00 p.m.**

## NEXT MONTH

**Deadline for  
DECEMBER**

**November 25, 2009**

## MEMBERSHIP

87

## ATTENDANCE PRIZE

**Moe Hale's name was drawn and he was not present to win a prize.**

**Will your name be drawn on November 19?**

**You have to be present to win!**

## BOTTLES FOR BASICS

- ◆ YEAR TO DATE: \$311.05
- ◆ THIS MONTH: \$26.85
- ◆ NEXT MONTH: That is up to you!

## HO LAYOUT FUND-RAISER

One recent successful fund-raising effort for our Occupancy Permit was the TOP program (Tiles of Occupancy Permit). Members have been generous in other building projects as well. According to Treasurer Tom Coulombe, an estimated \$45,000 has been spent for the building renovations so far. Much of this money has come as a result of donations and gifts to the club. Now that we have received our Certificate of Occupancy, we can concentrate on building the club HO layout.

With most of the club's money spent on the building, there is very little money left to build the HO layout. Most of the club members are aware of the financial situation. Because of the lack of funds, a donor (who wishes to remain anonymous) has offered to start a special fund-raising campaign for the club's HO layout. To help promote the program, this anonymous donor will match any contributions given for this cause. In order to encourage as many donations as possible, he has not revealed the maximum extent of his matching gift. The club, therefore, has an opportunity to double the money we donate.

The money will be used for building materials, model railroad supplies, electrical supplies, and the like. The anonymous donor wishes to match contributions for the HO layout only because HO will be the club's primary gauge for operations. Tom Coulombe, Treasurer, will accept contributions, keep a separate accounting of the total gifts for this purpose, and report the results regularly to the club.

This article is an introduction to the fund-raiser. Next month an envelope will be mailed to those who receive the newsletter so that members who do not attend meetings can partici-



N-scale layout at the club.

Photos By Terry King



participate in fund-raising for the club's HO layout.

Let's get on track and get this railroad built!

by Paul Lodge

## FUND RAISING COLUMN

This month, I'll keep it brief. The sale of surplus assets has always been a major source of fundraising for the club. Some donations also provide us with items we need to function or luxuries we can't justifiably afford.

This weekend I processed a donation that contained about a dozen and a half Weston and Merten painted figures that would cost \$2 to \$3 apiece if purchased new. Obviously, these are a

luxury, but they will enliven a scene somewhere on the new HO layout.

Your own surplus items (leftovers) can be converted to funding for the club, or sometimes those pieces and parts can become a part of the permanent character of the club. Please consider making this kind of donation or asking other people to share their surplus with us.

by Larry Cannon

# MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER MEETING

## OCTOBER 15, 2009 BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

*“Tom Coulombe reported for the Modular Committee. The club will have its annual show on Saturday, November 7, at the Auburn Middle School. Tables will be delivered on Friday, November 6, at about 4 p.m. A few members were asked to be there to help unload and set up tables for the show. On Saturday, the doors will be opened at 6 a.m. so that members can finish setting up dealer tables and the modular layout. All modules to be in the show need to be in the building by 8 a.m. so that the final arrangement can be set.”*

*“Once the drainage project is complete, club members will build a shed to house the snow blower in the winter and the lawnmower in the summer. It is expected that club members will build the shed on Saturday, October 31.”*

The entertainment for the evening was a video about the club and its activities. This tape was made several years ago before we moved into the new facility on Mill Street. It helps current members see what the club has done in the past and shows the club's previous layout in the Canal Street Alley location. Next month the opening video will present the club's building dedication as videotaped by Dick Clark, Jay Calnan, and Paul Lodge. Dale Darling took many still shots which are also included in the final video presentation.

President Stephen Martelli opened the meeting and asked for the Secretary's Report. It was approved as published in *The Signal*.

Tom Coulombe's Treasurer's Report was approved as given.

Stephen Martelli reported for the Building Committee. He observed that since we have received our occupancy permit, almost everyone has taken a "vacation" from working on the building. Outside, however, the drainage project has been started. The City of Auburn is finishing a job which should have been done twenty years ago. They will bury the sewer pipe which goes through our property and is now above ground. A drainage system will also be completed to allow water to move underground instead of creating an icing problem in the winter. The city will put down stones at a depth of 18 inches to aid in drainage. After they have completed their work, they plan to pave the area which has been dug up for the project.

Once the drainage project is complete, club members will build a shed to house the snow blower in the winter and the lawnmower in the summer. It is expected that club members will build the shed on Saturday, October 31. According to Tom Coulombe, club treasurer, all the materials for the shed have been donated and there will be no additional cost to the club. In addition to housing the snow blower and lawnmower, the 8' by 12' foot shed will have enough room for the show signs and other materials which are now stored in the lower part of our building. Once those items have been moved, there will be room to install shelves for storage of other items which should be kept indoors.

Stephen noted that he has received quotes for sanding and finishing the floor, ranging in the area of \$4,000. We do not have money to complete this clean-up project for our clubhouse. Unless someone (or a group of members) can donate enough money to finish the project, the floors will have to wait until we earn enough money through our fundraising efforts.

President Martelli presented "New Auburn: A Historical Perspective" by Sharon McGivery of the Auburn Public Library detailing the history of New Auburn, including pictures of the "great fire." Members were invited to look at the documents after the meeting. (After the meeting, the articles were put on the bulletin board at the entrance.)

Travis Johnson reported that the HO layout needs ideas for industries. If anyone will develop an idea and put it on paper, it will be considered for the layout.

Tom Coulombe reported for the Modular Committee. The club will have its annual show on Saturday, November 7, at the Auburn Middle School. Tables will be delivered on Friday, November 6, at about 4 p.m. A few members were asked to be there to help unload and set up tables for the show. On Saturday, the doors will be opened at 6 a.m. so that members can finish setting up dealer tables and the modular layout. All modules to be in the show need to be in the building by 8 a.m. so that the final arrangement can be set. We have recently received Joan and Howard Preston's modules, and they will be used as part of our display. Joan plans to come to the show and bring buildings which go with the modules. All club members are asked to come to the Auburn Middle School and help sell tickets, run layouts, and watch doors which are not intended for the general public to use.

The club will display modules at the Maine State Museum in Augusta on December 3, 4, and 5. An all-scale narrow gauge show is scheduled for March at the Gray/New Gloucester High School in Gray. Travis Johnson asked if the club has been invited to the McLaughlin Gardens *Trees and Trains* program in December. A decision has not yet been made about our participation.

Paul Lodge reported on the Executive Committee meeting on October 7. He noted that the minutes are posted on the bulletin board near the entrance. Many of the items have already been reported earlier in this meeting. Lodge did report that a friend of

*(Continued on page 6)*

## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

### "SIGNIFICANT OTHERS"

I would like to say Thank You to all of the significant others in our lives in several different ways.

First, to all of the wives, girlfriends and significant others of all of our members that had a hand in the renovations of the clubhouse over the last two years. I personally know that I spent a lot of time here on this project when I could have been elsewhere with my "significant other" having fun. There were many other people that worked on this project, and they spent many Saturday and Sunday mornings, or stayed late at night to finish up, and many hours in-between when they could have been at home with their families and significant others. There must have been some very interesting conversations when they had to explain why they were working at the clubhouse instead of on their own house.



President, Steve Martelli

When this project started, I committed myself to this project and my girlfriend could not understand why. Why do I spend so much time down there working on a building that I don't get paid for? The first part of my answer to her was that I see a future for this club after I am gone and I want them to have a good start right now. The second part of that answer is that I promised the club something and I was going to see it through to the end. Then the third and last part of my answer was my promise to those significant others in my life from the past and for the future of the hobby.

The second thank you goes out to our significant others that took their time to show us what railroad-ing meant to them. For me, it was my Dad who would take me down to Asbury Park when he got the afternoon newspaper and we would see a passenger train going through or a freight switching cars on the sidings from the mainline. Or when I would ride with him to Red Bank to meet the 9:05 p.m. coming out of Newark with the late editions of several different newspapers. He would pick me up at the house at 8:30 p.m. On our way to meet the train at the Red Bank station, I would ride on the "doghouse" in the front of the Metro van that he had brought from the company he worked for. When the train was in sight,

you could see the headlight and the steam and smoke all around it while it was coming at you as that Pacific reached the station. There was something magical for a seven-year old to ride with his Dad to work and to meet the engineer and fireman of the train. It was at that time that I wanted to be an engineer some day. From the side door of the baggage car, the papers would be thrown onto a large four-wheeled cart and the train would steam away. I would watch the train until it couldn't be seen any more and my Dad would call for me to get in the truck because we were leaving to deliver the papers that we had just gotten off the train.

My Dad had shared with me from the time I was two years old the love of electric trains at home and the need of trains for work to be completed. Now, many years later, I am showing my girlfriend's grandson what trains are all about; and at two years old he has a wooden train set that he plays with almost every time he comes over to the house. He also likes to see my big trains running at the clubhouse and has been to several train shows; while at one, he was photographed for TV.

For the third reason, all of us need to take time out and show someone else, no matter what age they are, what trains are about. For us as a club and for the hobby to continue into the future, it needs to be shared with others, just like my Dad shared with me. You may find that the 62-year old who lives next to you is sitting home a lot and has interests similar to yours that you didn't know about; or the bratty little four-year-old calms down when you spend time with him running trains around your layout a couple of times a week. For the rest of their lives, these people will hopefully have happy memories of that time just like I do of mine, because you planted that seed of interest by sharing. Take some time this next week and share with someone those interests that you have had for all of those years. Look for that interest to grow in someone else, and hopefully they will say thank you to you. It's well worth it when they do.

(Continued on page 6)



*"First, to all of the wives, girlfriends and significant others of all of our members that had a hand in the renovations of the clubhouse over the last two years. I personally know that I spent a lot of time here on this project when I could have been elsewhere with my "significant other" having fun. There were many other people that worked on this project, and they spent many Saturday and Sunday mornings, or stayed late at night to finish up, and many hours in-between when they could have been at home with their families and significant others."*

*"For the rest of their lives, these people will hopefully have happy memories of that time just like I do of mine, because you planted that seed of interest by sharing. Take some time this next week and share with someone those interests that you have had for all of those years. "*

## DICK CLARK TO THE RESCUE

*“Dick Clark took up the challenge and contacted Mr. Rajala. On Tuesday, October 27, Dick spent about three hours in Gorham fixing the electrical problem. The layout had been wired for both DCC and analog operation. When the person who installed the DCC system left, no one in the Gorham Historical Society understood how to correct the electrical problem. Now that Dick has converted the system back to analog, two trains can run continuously as a display layout for visitors to enjoy.”*

Reuben Rajala, from the Gorham (New Hampshire) Historical Society, e-mailed the club on October 10 and to ask for help in fixing the electrical system of their model railroad display. The model railroad layout, which is located in one of the box cars on the railroad siding by the park in Gorham, depicts the Mountain Division of the Boston & Maine Railroad.

Dick Clark took up the chal-

lenge and contacted Mr. Rajala. On Tuesday, October 27, Dick spent about three hours in Gorham fixing the electrical problem. The layout had been wired for both DCC and analog operation. When the person who installed the DCC system left, no one in the Gorham Historical Society understood how to correct the electrical problem. Now that Dick has converted the system back to analog, two trains can run continuously as a display layout for visitors to

enjoy.

Reuben Rajala sent Dick an e-mail thanking him for the help. Reuben and a new GHS member will attend our club’s model train show on November 7, and arrangements will be made to have the Gorham Historical Society become a member of the club.

by Paul Lodge

## DRAINAGE PROJECT IS ALMOST DONE



Left, just starting.  
Right, almost done.  
Photos by Terry King



## ExTRAINaganza FOR CHRISTMAS

During the last two weeks of November, **The Great Falls Model Railroad Club** is planning to provide model train enterTRAINment at its facility in New Auburn. Days and times are as follows:

- ◆ Saturday, November 21, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- ◆ Sunday, November 22, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- ◆ Monday, November 23, 4 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- ◆ Friday, November 27, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- ◆ Saturday, November 28, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

On Tuesday, November 24, the displays will be open for club members and their guests, including company sponsors. Guests and their children will be able to see model trains of

various gauges running on scenic kated layouts. One special area will provide trains with which children can play. To help parents enjoy their stay, food and beverages will be available in the club’s “Dining Car,” located near the children’s play area.

In addition to watching trains, visitors will see lighted Christmas tree displays, featuring model train sets. Photographs will be taken of children and/or adults with our club’s conductors and engineers, and the club will be able to make Christmas cards from those photographs. Santa may even have time to make an entrance at the ExTRAINaganza.

A special feature of the event is the raffle of five individual train sets displayed under the Christmas trees and donated by vari-

ous companies. Raffle tickets will be available so that attendees can take a chance on winning the train sets. Two tickets can be purchased for \$1, ten tickets for \$3, and twenty tickets for \$5. The winning tickets will be drawn on Saturday, November 28, at the conclusion of the ExTRAINaganza event.

Gail Rea, from The Freight Station, will be available to sell new train sets for those looking for Christmas presents or for a train under their tree.

TRAIN TIME videos will be available for purchase and will be shown during the event for the pleasure of those who enjoy watching trains. Railroad safety messages will also be part of

(Continued on page 5)

*“Gail Rea, from The Freight Station, will be available to sell new train sets for those looking for Christmas presents or for a train under their tree.”*

## CLUB LIST TO BECOME PART OF NEW MEMBER PACKET

The Executive Committee is preparing a New Member Packet for people who join the club. The packet will include a list of names, addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses of club members. As new members have joined the club, all members have periodically received updated lists. The Executive Committee was concerned that some members may not wish to have their information given to all club members. **IF YOU DO NOT WANT YOUR NAME PUBLISHED AS A MEMBER OF THE CLUB, PLEASE CONTACT PAUL LODGE (966-3641) SO**

### THAT YOUR INFORMATION CAN BE BLACKED OUT OF THE FINAL LIST.

The New Member Packet will also include a video of the club's activities and print-outs of the club's purpose, Constitution and By-Laws, current officers and special committee members, and past presidents. There will be a copy of the club brochure, business-card-size club activities promotion cards, information about our library and *Train Time*, and an article entitled "Beware." A reference will be made to the club's website, where new mem-

bers can find out about the club's extensive history and current activities.

If you have a suggestion of additional items which should be included in the New Membership Packet, please contact Paul Lodge, (966-3641).

Enough copies are being made so that each current member can have a packet with all the material listed above except for the video.

By Paul Lodge

***"IF YOU DO NOT WANT YOUR NAME PUBLISHED AS A MEMBER OF THE CLUB, PLEASE CONTACT PAUL LODGE (966-3641) SO THAT YOUR INFORMATION CAN BE BLACKED OUT OF THE FINAL LIST."***

## BUSY DAY SEPTEMBER 12, 2009

On Saturday, September 12, some members of the **The Great Falls Model Railroad Club** members were involved in activities at the Auburn Mall and at the Greene Village Day. Other club members continued to work on renovations at the clubhouse in preparation for the building dedication open house.

The *Fall Community Fair* at the Auburn Mall had invited local

### ExTRAINaganza Cont'd

*(Continued from page 4)*  
the program, courtesy of Operation Lifesaver.

Children will get into the event free if accompanied by an adult. Adults are asked to donate \$2 apiece, which will help pay for building renovations. Visitors will be encouraged to visit the Shriners' "FEZtival for Trees" at the Kora Temple on the corner of Sabattus Street and Main Street in Lewiston. That is an experience everyone should have.

not-for-profit organizations to display videos, pamphlets, and other handouts. Jerry Johnston, Paul Lodge, and Bob Purington sold raffle tickets, hats, and whistles. They also distributed materials about railroad safety from Operation Lifesaver.

During Greene Village Day, Dick Clark opened his home to those interested in seeing his outdoor G-gauge layout. Dick entertained about a hundred guests and gave out flyers about our up-coming show on November 7. A lot of "first timers" visited Dick's layout this year. The event was posted on the websites of **The Great Falls Model Railroad Club** and

the Maine Garden Railroad Society. Dick remembers greeting eight MGRS members along with their spouses. They were amazed and impressed with Dick's G-gauge layout and had lots of questions. Scott Gould from the MGRS took pictures and will publish them in *The Iron Horse*, their club newsletter. Stephen Martelli ran some of his G-gauge trains on Dick's layout and other club members (Bob Purington, Larry Cannon, and Jerry Johnston) arrived to support Dick's effort.

by Paul Lodge

*"During Greene Village Day, Dick Clark opened his home to those interested in seeing his outdoor G-gauge layout. Dick entertained about a hundred guests and gave out flyers about our up-coming show on November 7."*

### CLUB INVOLVEMENT IN OPERATION LIFESAVER

Jay Calnan and Paul Lodge, volunteers for Operation Lifesaver, made presentations about safety around railroads to those in attendance at the New Gloucester Public Safety Awareness Day on Saturday, October 17. The Public Safety Awareness Day was part of New Gloucester's annual Community Fair, which also included a farmer's market, car show, crafts, music, hayrides, chicken barbecue,

and fireworks on Saturday night.

On Thursday, October 22, Paul Lodge gave an hour-long railroad safety presentation to professional truck driving students at the Oxford Hills Truck Driving School in South Paris.

*(Continued on page 6)*

*"New Gloucester Public Safety Awareness Day on Saturday, October 17. The Public Safety Awareness Day was part of New Gloucester's annual Community Fair, which also included a farmer's market, car show, crafts, music, hayrides, chicken barbecue, and fireworks on Saturday night."*

The Great Falls Model  
Railroad Club, Inc.

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**We are on the web!**  
[Http://www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org](http://www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org)  
**lub.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)*  
the club (who does not want to be known) is willing to match any donation for the club's HO layout. An article was supposed to have been put in this month's newsletter, but it did not make it. The club has already received \$150 for the layout, and several members have donated lumber and supplies. If any member will give the receipt to Treasurer Tom Coulombe, the money spent will become part of the donation to be matched by the club's friend. There is concern that members who have already donated money above the regular annual dues of \$25 will split their donation and ask for a part of it to be put to the HO layout fund-raiser. Members who have pledged the extra money are asked not to take money away from the building fund in order to put it toward the HO layout.

New Member Packets are being developed. One of the items to be placed in the packet will be the club's membership list. The list includes each member's name, telephone number, and e-mail address. Members of the Executive Committee suggested that if any members do NOT want their names included on the list, they should notify Paul Lodge. Any unwanted information can be blacked out of the final list.

Members present were given some details about the Christmas **ExTRAINaganza**. This will be a fund-raiser and fun time with all those interested in trains. We will try to coordinate our dates with those of the Shiner's FEZtival of Trees.

Tom Coulombe has placed an events calendar in the Work Room area on the lower level. The purpose of the calendar is to list the dates on which club members have requested use of the building so that conflicts will not occur.

Jay Calnan has accepted the task of developing a Telephone Tree to be used in case of last-minute information which needs to be dispersed quickly.

Larry Cannon observed that the swine flu epidemic can be dangerous to many of our club members. He recommended that anyone who is sick should not attend club functions in order to protect the rest of the friends in the club.

President Martelli asked the visitors to introduce themselves. There were two fathers with their sons at the meeting. It was noted that the club's website is working to introduce the club and its activities to prospective visitors and donors.

**Minutes Continued**

The Attendance Prize name was drawn. Moe Hale of Biddeford was not present to select a prize.

The meeting adjourned.

Larry Cannon presented a clinic using bendable straws. The portion of the straw which bends can be painted to be used as corrugated pipe and the rest of the straw can be painted blue or green to represent gas line pipes.

**PRESIDENT'S CORNER CONTINUED**

*(Continued from page 3)*

Last, but not least, on October 31 we are planning to have a shed building "Halloween" party and we will need "extra hands" so we can "scare" each other into getting this job done in one day. If you have some free time, stop by and "lend a hand." This will be our last large outside project for the year.

Keep your wheels on the tracks,

**OPERATION LIFESAVER  
CONTINUED**

*(Continued from page 5)*

Operation Lifesaver Volunteer Appreciation Day was held at **The Great Falls Model Railroad Club** on Saturday, October 24. Volunteers received gifts and prizes, including license plate frames, mugs, cups, T-shirts, and tickets on the Downeaster and the Maine Eastern Railroad. Jerry Johnston organized the luncheon, which included baked beans and barbecued hamburgers and hotdogs. Stephen Martelli and Rob Roy helped with the cooking and serving.

Club members who are interested in finding out more about Operation Lifesaver and its services should contact Paul Lodge (966-3641) for more information about the program.

**CALENDAR OF  
EVENTS**

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

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

**19 Meeting 7:00 p.m.**

**Don't forget that we are working on the building every Wednesday night starting at 6:00 p.m., and Saturday Mornings at 9:00 a.m.**