

THE SIGNAL



NEXT MEETING
November 18
7:00 p.m.

NEXT MONTH
Deadline for
December Issue
Nov. 26, 2010

MEMBERSHIP
113

ATTENDANCE PRIZE

Because of the open forum meeting there was no drawing. Will your name be drawn on Nov. 18? You have to be present to win!

BOTTLES FOR BASICS

- ◆ YEAR TO DATE: \$275.35
- ◆ THIS MONTH: \$30.65
- ◆ LAST YEAR: \$487.06

THE GREAT RACE

There have been many stories written about "The Great Race" in railroad magazines. Some of these were about well-known rivalries in railroading. These usually involved "name" passenger trains such as Pennsylvania's Broadway Limited and New York Central's 20th Century Limited.

It was this kind of drama that unfolded at the Great Falls Model Railroad Club on October 15, 2010. This race was between the "upstairs" railroads. The "N" scale Moguls and The "G" Gang. No, this was not about whose train ran the fastest, but rather who was first. First, meaning, would the "Gang" beat the "Moguls" in laying track and claim the distinguished honor of running the first train upstairs?

It was a sight to behold! Men and one lonely woman were laying track so fast that the men of the Union Pacific and the Central Pacific railroads would have beamed with pride. Even though this is not the 1800's but the twenty-first century, there was a lot at stake: the first train to run upstairs. The club record goes to the HO layout downstairs, but there was still plenty of glory to be had upstairs.

The "Gang" was working hard. You could hear spikes being driven and the murmurs of the workers. Coffee was left to get cold, snacks went uneaten, and sweat was forming on workers' brows. Meanwhile, in the next room two people



Irving Young's NYC. Photos by Terry King

labored in silence, track going down and spikes being driven. An occasional pause for a sip of soda, and then back to the task at hand.

Then a hand was placed on a power source, and a knob was turned. A light came on down the track and a locomotive moved. The green and orange Geep started to gain speed and the race was over. The Moguls had won. The glory was theirs!

(Continued on page 6)

Donations for Tortoise Switch Machines

The HO layout will need nearly a hundred more Tortoise switch machines before it is completed some years from now. The mainline under construction uses them at an amazing rate, despite the fact that Gordon Draper is working mostly alone to install them.

We are soliciting \$5 donations with a potential bonus. A member has donated the time and effort to custom paint and decal HO cars for the fund raising effort. This offering is a limited raffle for three cars, with tickets drawn for the first forty \$5 donations. You have a 1 in 13.333

chance of getting a car for your \$5 donation. The first ticket drawn gets the first choice, second ticket gets the second pick, and third gets the last car. This time all three cars are different!

Even if you do not get a car, you do get to throw the switches with the Tortoises when you operate the layout! Forty \$5 donations will give Gordon Draper a dozen more machines to install. Come help Gordon and his friends install the switches or do any other kind of work on the layout. We need donations of both time and money.

By Larry Cannon



Member #076805 00

Since 1988

“The next time the club will have a chance to continue discussion of any of these ideas will be at our January 20, 2011, meeting. The next two months are busy times for the club. Waiting until January will also give members time to consider the ideas created during the forum.”

“This is the second year the Annual Operation Lifesaver Volunteer Appreciation Day has been held at the club’s facility. Club members were available to give tours of our facility, and Operation Lifesaver presenters were impressed with the amount of progress which has been made since last year. Special thanks to the club members who provided food for the pot-luck luncheon.”

OPEN FORUM

At the club meeting on October 21, club members had an opportunity to express their interests and suggestions on three different topics related to the directions in which they feel the club should go. Mr. Robert McIntire lead the forum by explaining the procedure for the club members to follow. While the ideas from the brain-storming session were being discussed, individuals were asked to volunteer to put suggestions into action. The suggestions will be divided into long-term and short-term action plans, and more people will be asked to volunteer to implement them.

The topics selected for the forum were Organization and Building, Fund Raising and Membership, and Layout Operation. Tom Coulombe, Paul Lodge, and Dick Clark were assigned to separate locations to lead the discussions and record the ideas. Club members were divided into three groups, and every group spent about fifteen minutes at each location participating in the brain-storming sessions. Club members were asked not to debate the pros and cons of any of the ideas during the individual sessions.

The next step is to develop sub-committees com-

posed of Executive Board members and members to come up with draft proposals outlining the important parts of the three different subjects. At the January club meeting, the Executive Board will present the draft proposals and the members will put “dots” on the proposals they feel are the most important. The Executive Board will then consider the proposals and make appropriate recommendations depending on the current by-laws/constitution that would be affected.

The next time the club will have a chance to continue discussion of any of these ideas will be at our January 20, 2011, meeting. The next two months are busy times for the club. Waiting until January will also give members time to consider the ideas created during the forum.

The items developed during each of the three sessions are not being published in the newsletter because of the volume. Those who were not in attendance can e-mail Paul Lodge and he will send you a copy. Copies will also be made available at the club.

OPERATION LIFESAVER VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DAY

On Saturday, October 23, Operation Lifesaver presenters from Maine met at The Great Falls Model Railroad Club for their Annual Volunteer Appreciation Day. Operation Lifesaver is an international volunteer organization dedicated to informing individuals and groups about railroad safety. Those in attendance received additional railroad safety information and presenter training from Norma Griffiths, Presenter Trainer from Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railroad and Mike Grizkewitsch from the Federal Railroad Administration.

On Saturday, September 18, Norma Griffiths and Mike Grizkewitsch certified seven Great Falls Model Railroad Club members as qualified railroad safety presenters after a one-day workshop held at our club building. Our newly certified Operation Lifesaver volunteers are Dick Clark, Greene; Phil Clough, Bridgton; Tom Coulombe, Lewiston; Maurice Fortin, Portland; David Gilchrist, Lewiston; Brenda and Ed Leslie, Casco;

and Stephen Martelli, Auburn.

This is the second year the Annual Operation Lifesaver Volunteer Appreciation Day has been held at the club’s facility. Club members were available to give tours of our facility, and Operation Lifesaver presenters were impressed with the amount of progress which has been made since last year. Special thanks to the club members who provided food for the pot-luck luncheon: Tom Coulombe, Ed and Brenda Leslie, Jerry Johnston, Dick Clark, Maurice Fortin, Jay Calnan, Paul and Frances Lodge, and Stephen Martelli. Irving Young did an excellent job of coordinating the luncheon and other refreshments.

State Operation Lifesaver Coordinator Fred Hirsch awarded prizes to everyone who attend-

(Continued on page 3)

SET UP AT McLAUGHLIN GARDEN

On Saturday, October 30, seven members of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club met at McLaughlin Garden in South Paris to set up the G-scale layout to be used for the *Trees and Trains* exhibit on December 3, 4, 5, and 10, 11, 12. October was selected for the set up because the weather is usually warmer at this time of the year. December can be very cold in the barn.

Tables were set up, track was laid, and some scenery materials were used to get the display started. Ed and Brenda Leslie have spearheaded *Trees and Trains* for several years. This is the first year the club has volunteered to help them set up. In addition to Ed and Brenda Leslie, Beth and Jeff Chaffee, Bob Russell, Paul Lodge, and Irving Young helped. The trains were ready to run after about four hours of work in the barn.

The club will share some of its artificial trees and railroad art to help create more Christmas spirit during the two-weekend event. As we have for the past several years, club members will display our raffle layout during the *Trees and Trains* weekends, and the winning raffle ticket will be drawn there on the final day of the event.

Kristen Perry, horticulturist for the garden, prepared lasagna for the volunteers. At about noon the volunteers stopped to eat. A banquet table had been prepared with vegetables, bread, and lasagna.

By Paul Lodge



Set-up at McLaughlin Gardens'

Photos by Paul Lodge



3-D CLINIC IN NOVEMBER

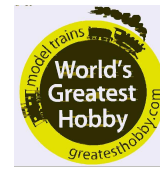
At our November 18 meeting, we will have a clinic on three-dimensional art. Many members have asked to have a clinic showing how Dick Varney makes the 3-D decoupage pictures he has created for the club. While he was in Florida a few years ago, Mr. Varney took a series of classes on paper tole (the official name for this craft) with about fifty classmates (all women). When he returned to Norway, he offered to teach 3-D decoupage. He has developed several additional techniques based on his own creative ideas. Using these techniques, he has produced some outstanding works of art, including the train pictures he has donated to the club.

He has learned how to make shadow boxes for much less money than it would cost to purchase them already made. These shadow boxes are an integral part of each project and determine its size. We will also learn how "wedges and pillows" are used in this process.

Three-dimensional pictures are something that can be added to our home or club layouts. As you watch the clinic, imagine how you can utilize this concept in your modeling.

People of any age can do 3-D decoupage as long as they have the time, patience, and perseverance to produce the result they want.

by Paul Lodge



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OPERATION LIFESAVER CONTINUED

(Continued from page 2)

ed, including spouses of the presenters. To earn the right to select a prize, each person had to correctly answer a question about railway safety or about another presenter.

After the program was completed, Operation Lifesaver presenters and club members were invited to visit Joe Landry's Lionel layout in Lewiston. Those who went were impressed by more than the layout. Joe also has remarkable collections of model cars, trucks, and planes. His newest passion, antique tractors.

Some of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club members who took the September training to become

certified Operation Lifesaver presenters have already given presentations. Maurice Fortin has made two presentations at the Cathedral School in Portland to kindergarten through fifth-grade students. Stephen Martelli has made arrangements to do a presentation for youngsters at the Auburn Public Library on Saturday, November 13. Railroad safety is one of our club's educational missions, and we should be proud of our involvement in these safety programs.

If there are any other club members who would like to become Operation Lifesaver volunteers, contact Paul Lodge. Certification classes are given based on the number of people available to warrant them.

by Paul Lodge

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HALLOWEEN AT DICK CLARK'S

“Dick reported that he has had many families coming to the event every year. In the past, a child would usually come with one parent. Because of the features of the layout, both parents now bring their children. Dick has noticed an increase in the number of people who come each year.”

Dick Clark lavishly decorated his outdoor G-scale layout for his annual Halloween open house. The driveway and paths were lined with strings of orange lights and lighted jack-o-lanterns so guests could find their way to his “haunted” display. The miniature drive-in theater was filled to capacity with paying customers in their 1950’s vintage cars who watched the *TRAIN TIME* program about the Brunswick Amtrak Expansion project on the large movie screen (a small television set). A Halloween dance was going on in the brightly lit dance hall. It was reported that the silhouette of a witch was seen as she flew past the moon on her broomstick.

The train made stops along the way so that children could get candy from one of the railcars. Because Halloween came on a Sunday this year, Dick opened the display on Saturday as well.

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Several club members visited the layout and helped entertain guests, including club president Rick James and his wife Terry. About a dozen members of Paul Lodge’s Edward Little High School class of 1958 attended the display and were treated to warm cider and home-made donuts. Thank you, Sharon, for the extra treat.

by Paul Lodge



Halloween at Dick Clark's

Photos by Paul & Frances Lodge



THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



First, I would like to thank everyone who attended the October 21 membership meeting. I hope everyone had a chance to contribute to the process that night, for I believe notes coming out of that meeting will give direction to where the club will be heading for the next few years. This is a club of more than 100 members, not just a handful as it seems at times, and every member has the right to give input on which way we should head.

One thing I heard from some groups that I feel I need to address was membership. We are very lucky to have about a dozen or so very active members who help carry on the daily business of the club, and without them we would not be where we are today. These are members that come to all the meetings, spend hours at the clubhouse working on the building or the layouts, and work at the shows and other special events the club holds though out the year. Those members are priceless and I thank them often for all the time they give to the club. But we have over 100 members, and not everyone can give their time at that level. The members that drop in to a few monthly meetings and come to help out at shows are contributing and getting what they want from the club. As president, I value those members as highly as super active members. Every member joins for a reason, and most are not sure what will get them excited about the club. We need every one of those members, for they all fill a role. Two years ago I brought the wife up to Augusta to show her what we do at the Maine State Museum every year. When 3 o'clock rolled around, it was time to pack up. She was amazed at how quickly we were out of there, in large part due to the members that came out to help that day. The next time you come to a train club event, be sure to thank everyone there, for we can't take even one member for granted.



President, Rick James

Meanwhile, things have been getting into high gear for our fall train show at the Auburn Middle School on November 6. By the time this gets to you, it will be in the books as another well run show! Upcoming next will be the ExTRAINaganza, for which Paul Lodge could use all the help he can get. Please give Paul a call if you can give him a hand for a night or two. Also coming up is the *Trees and Trains* at McLaughlin Garden in South Paris with Ed and Brenda Leslie on December 3, 4, 5 and 10, 11, and 12. This will be the first time the club will be the primary group handling the train layout there. Another event for the club this holiday season will be at the Maine State Museum on December 3 and 4, with setup on Thursday night.

With all that is going on during the next month and a half, no member of the club should be sitting at home wondering what to do!

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FILE CABINETS FOR SALE

The club has two older four or five-draw file cabinets that were part of a donation. We will accept \$20 per file cabinet or any other appropriate offer for these items.

Contact Tom Coulombe for more information.

By Larry Cannon

On my vacation this week in North Conway, New Hampshire, I visited the layout of the North Conway Model Railroad Club. It's a very nice layout, right on the property of North Conway Scenic Railroad. One member told me he comes through Lewiston/Auburn often and plans to stop by and see our layout soon.

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The Great Falls Model Railroad Club, Inc.

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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

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ExTRAINaganza

Last year about forty club members participated in making our ExTRAINaganza a success. They helped on a variety of activities. Layout operators, Christmas tree decorators, ticket sellers, greeters, food sellers, paper locomotive cut-out specialists, Christmas spirit decorators, Raffle Layout ticket sellers, child crafts monitors, children’s play area supervisors, parking lot attendant, etc. This year we are adding ExTRAINaganza T-shirt sales and Christmas card sales.

You may have heard the expression: “If you build it, they will come.” We found out last year that having a duty schedule for volunteers was NOT helpful. We will provide a sign-up sheet this year so that members can indicate the time they can be at the club, but we will not assign specific duties. Instead, club members who come to help will be given choices of activities which they can cover. We have built it; now you can come, participate, and have fun with our guests.

Members can also consider donations of special items to help make this event successful. Examples include purchasing Halloween Candy on mark-down sales after October 31, or buying tubes of frosting used to decorate cakes and cookies. We would also be glad to have you loan us Christmas decorations for inside the building.

Club members need to leave parking spaces around the building for our guests. We can park at Goodman’s next door when they are closed on Saturday



Operation Life Saver. Photos by Paul Lodge

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

November

- 6 Train Show Auburn Middle School 10:00 - Set up at 6:00 a. m.
- 11 Executive Committee 7:00 p.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
- 3&4 Maine State Museum, Augusta Set up 12/2
- 9 Executive Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 16 Meeting & Christmas Party 7:00 p.m.

THE GREAT RACE

(Continued from page 1)

I looked in on the Gang and they were still working feverishly. Then it happened. The New York Central steam locomotive was gently placed on the tracks and the power was turned on. The lights glowed on the 34-pound locomotive, a whistle sounded and then glorious sound! The NYC locomotive moved proudly, like she owned the track. Only a few minutes after the “N” scale train moved, the Gang had their train moving.

This truly was a memorable moment in model railroad history. Well, at least in Auburn, Maine, model railroad history.

What next? Who will drive the golden spike first? The Gang or the Moguls?

Stay tuned, more later.

By Terry King

