



# THE SIGNAL



THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

VOLUME 13. ISSUE 6

NOVEMBER 2011



Member since June 1988

**NEXT MEETING**

**Nov. 17  
7:00 p.m.**

**NEXT  
MONTH**

**Deadline for  
December  
Nov. 25, 2011**

**MEMBERSHIP**

**116**

**ATTENDANCE PRIZE**

**Gordon Draper's  
name was drawn  
to win and he was  
present to win.**

**Will your name be  
drawn on Nov. 17?**

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

**BOTTLES FOR  
BASICS**

- ◆ **LAST YEAR  
\$496.15**
- ◆ **YEAR TO DATE:  
\$175.40**
- ◆ **THIS MONTH:  
\$41.60**

## Third Annual ExTRAINaganza By Paul Lodge

This is already the third year for our club's *ExTRAINaganza*. It has turned out to be a profitable event for the club and an activity which many families come to enjoy. By having our open house at the same time as the Shriner's *FEZival of Trees*, visitors can attend both on the same trip to Lewiston and Auburn.

Club members can participate by coming to the club and volunteering for different assignments. We need people to run trains, host our guests, work with children's activities, sell raffle tickets, and handle the club's sales of cards, T-shirts, and excess inventory. The Hobo Café will be open for snack sales to our guests and for lunch for club members.

Decorating the clubhouse for Christmas is always a lot of fun. It will be different each year because the decorating is not done by the same people every



The club modular layout at our show in Auburn.

Photo by Terry King

time. We have acquired enough artificial trees so that good-looking trees line the main floor with trains running under them.

This year we will be selecting the winning Raffle Layout ticket on Saturday, November 26, the last day of our *ExTRAINaganza*.

Club members are asked not to park in the club's parking area so

that our guests will have a place to park. Many club members park in Goodman's parking area or at Rolly's Diner when they are not open.

## Unusual Operation Lifesaver Program by Paul Lodge

On Thursday, November 10, 2011, 55 students and adults from the Hebron Station School and Brunswick High School were given Operation Lifesaver railroad safety presentations while on the Amtrak Downeaster to Boston. The Hebron students were going to the Boston Museum of Science and the Brunswick students were going to an arts center.

Between Wells, Maine, and Durham, New Hampshire, Paul

Lodge gave two Operation Lifesaver presentations, one for the Hebron Station School elementary students and the other for the Brunswick High School students. In addition to the students, there were teachers, chaperones, representatives from Train Riders Northeast, and a former Maine Central employee.

For many of the children, this was their first train ride and

they were excited. After the presentation, some of the students commented on specific items in the presentation and talked about the movie, *Unstoppable*.

This was an unusual location for an Operation Lifesaver presentation, but the children were attentive, alert, and enthusiastic throughout this activity.

*We should call this class "Dads with Children." Three youngsters are building modules with their dads.*

*"On Sunday, September 25, sixteen club members and their spouses rode the Maine Eastern Railroad excursion train from Rockland to Brunswick and back."*

## Model RR'ing Adult Ed Class by Paul Lodge

We should call this class "Dads with Children." Three youngsters are building modules with their dads. Two of the boys, Ben Dyke and Eli Christman, know each other and worked together on building their benchwork. Ed Fournier's daughter, Erin, is anxious to start the scenery, especially the plastering. She and her brother Isaac worked together on a module in the spring class and Erin enjoyed it so much she

wanted to make another one. Club member Dennis Ring from Bath, is also taking the class. He is interested in N-gauge and will work with Dick Clark and Tom Coulombe on N-gauge projects. The class started at the club on Tuesday, September 6, and the next week two additional members joined the class.

As usual, there is a lot of participation from club members who want to

help. During the first two meetings, ten club members have been available to show the students some of the benchwork building techniques.

## Maine Eastern RR Club Ride by Paul Lodge

On Sunday, September 25, sixteen club members and their spouses rode the Maine Eastern Railroad excursion train from Rockland to Brunswick and back. Before the train left Rockland, Maine Eastern Railroad Manager Gordon Page checked to see how many people had paid the extra money to ride in the "high rent" district. There was only one couple and they indicated that they did not mind if we joined them. Mr. Page then said that we could sit in any car on the train, including the first class car, and most club members chose that option.

Great Falls Model Railroad Club members and additional riders invited by Paul Lodge from his Edward Little High School Class of 1958 made up about eighty percent of the riders on the train.

The train left Rockland at 10 a.m. and arrived in Brunswick about noon. During the layover, most of the passengers

went to the park along Maine Street in Brunswick and had a hot dog at the famous Danny's Food Stand on the mall. It was a clear, sunny day with the temperature at 80 degrees. After the hot dogs, most people wanted an ice cream to finish the meal, but the ice cream stand was closed. Ken Jackson and Paul Lodge went to Hannaford's across the street from the park, where Ken purchased two dozen ice cream sandwiches and Klondike bars and brought them back to the mall. Those who had stayed in the park, as well as those returning from window shopping, all had a treat.

Even though September 25 was a little early for fall foliage, there was a lot of color along the route. The train passes over several picturesque rivers and streams. The two major drawbridges are always interesting experiences. The long bridge between Edgcomb and Wiscasset connects a small island to the mainland. The Carlton Bridge between Woolwich and Bath

parallels the new Route 1 automobile bridge on one side and provides a close view of Bath Iron Works on the other side.

The train left Brunswick at 2 p.m. and arrived back in Rockland at 4 p.m. Eight club members and spouses enjoyed their evening meal at the Sea Basket, which is across the street from Big Al's in Wiscasset.

The trip on the Maine Eastern Railroad was enjoyed by everyone. It was relaxing to sit and talk (or sleep) in the spacious cars.



## Operation Lifesaver Conference By Paul Lodge

### CLUB MEMBERS ATTEND OPERATION LIFESAVER CONFERENCE

Dick Clark, Tom & Carmen Coulombe, Jay Calnan, Phil Clough, Maurice Fortin, Stephen Martelli, and Paul Lodge attended the biennial meeting of Operation Lifesaver's District 1 Conference in Saco, Maine, on September 22 and 23. The conference brings together OL volunteers from all of New England, New York, New Jersey, and Canada. State coordinators share new ideas for distributing railroad safety messages. Operation Lifesaver presenters have an opportunity to demonstrate techniques and props which work for them in explaining railroad safety to different groups. This worthwhile two-day event helped OL presenters think about different and better ways to deliver the railroad safety message to a variety of groups.

A number of speakers addressed those attending the conference. The featured speaker was a spe-

cialist in delivering presentations. He spoke about ways to capture the audience's attention and keep them from "drifting" to personal thoughts. Federal Railroad Administrators, railroad police, and the national head of Operation Lifesaver were all speakers at the conference, sharing a number of new and different ideas which OL presenters need to be aware of. A major topic for Operation Lifesaver presenters is trespassing. Fatalities from trespassing on railroad property now outnumber collisions with vehicles.

We should be proud of our club's participation in Operation Lifesaver. Eight club members are currently certified to give OL presentations. The state of Rhode Island has only four certified presenters, and New Hampshire has only 13. Maine has 33, and eight of them are from The Great Falls Model Railroad Club. Other club members have also expressed interest in becoming certified to share the very important message of railroad safety.



The above switch stand was donated to us by member Skip Flagg of Brewer. Member Greg Geagan of Orrington donated the new tie that the switch stand is setting on.

This switch stand once stood in the MEC yard in Bangor, and then at a restaurant next to Hollywood Slots in Bangor.

## Craft Mania-Club's Official Craft Store By Paul Lodge

At the Executive Committee meeting on Thursday, November 10, Terry King made a motion, which passed, to make Craft Mania the official craft store of the club. Lee Duguay, the store manager, has model railroad equipment and scenery materials in stock. Club members are given a 15 percent discount on items bought there.

In the model railroad section, Mr. Duguay allows us to display our flyers for shows and special events such as the ExTRAINaganza. Many club members have purchased items at Craft Mania and we want to encourage others to frequent the store also.

A special certificate acknowledging Craft Mania as our official craft store will be presented to Mr. Duguay sometime during the ExTRAINaganza.

*The Best Craft Stores in Maine*

# CRAFT Mania



Paul Lodge

**“Reporting on the layout progress, Travis Johnson said the wiring for the main line on the HO layout is almost complete. He indicated a need for additional terminal strips. There is a sign-up sheet for club members to volunteer to work on different aspects of the next phase of building the layout. Terry King asked that a decision be made as to the ballast color so that scenery work can be continued. On Saturday, November 12, club members interested in running DCC trains will have a chance to operate trains on the layout.”**

## October Minutes by Paul Lodge, Secretary

Because Peter McKenney was our special guest for the evening, the business meeting was postponed until last. The usual opening video was not shown in order to allow enough time for Peter McKenney to present his program about the history of the Bangor & Aroostook Railroad.

Vice President Ed Leslie opened the meeting and asked for the Secretary's Report. It was approved as published in the newsletter.

Tom Coulombe gave the Treasurer's Report, and Terry King made a motion to approve it.

Station Master Tom Coulombe reported that Ed Webb has installed the outdoor outlet and the light in the closet. Stephen Martelli has welded the base with wheels for the table saw in the work room to make it easier to roll the saw out from under the bench where it is stored. On Saturday, October 15, the switch stand was placed on railroad ties at the east end of the building. Mike Reed is going to acquire some rail on which to place his donated speeder.

Brenda Leslie, Activities Director, reported that Saturday, October 29, will be a movie night at the club. A family movie has been chosen for the evening. Jerry Johnston asked for additional help in the Hobo Café during the event. On January 14, George and Kathy Melvin will provide the entertainment for a "Slide and Dine" night at the club.

Terry King reported that the tables for the November 5 train show will arrive on Friday at 4

p.m. and will be set up on Saturday morning at 6 a.m. All modules to be used at the show need to be at the Auburn Middle School before 8 a.m. so that the final arrangements of the layout can be completed. Dick Clark asked that club members notify him if they are going to bring modules so that plans can be made. There will be four new modules from the current adult education class.

Decorations for the ExTRAINaganza will be put up on Monday and Tuesday, November 14 and 15, in time for the November club meeting and the ExTRAINaganza. Club members are encouraged to come and help enjoy the activity.

Dick Clark announced that his G-gauge layout on Barrel Shop Road in Greene will be open to the public for Halloween on Monday, October 31.

Paul Lodge summarized the Executive Committee Report as follows:

Reporting on the layout progress, Travis Johnson said the wiring for the main line on the HO layout is almost complete. He indicated a need for additional terminal strips. There is a sign-up sheet for club members to volunteer to work on different aspects of the next phase of building the layout. Terry King asked that a decision be made as to the ballast color so that scenery work can be continued. On Saturday, November 12, club members interested in running DCC trains will have a chance to operate trains on

the layout. This trial run is scheduled so that any problems can be corrected before the ExTRAINaganza open house starts on Saturday, November 19.

Ed Leslie reported that the G-gauge layout will be "winterized" for the ExTRAINaganza during the next few work sessions. The group plans to put a partition across the layout so that visitors cannot see the entire layout when they first enter the room.

Brenda Leslie reported that work on the N-scale layout has included scenery for a beach and a mountain.

Terry King reported that the advertising information for the November 5 train show and the ExTRAINaganza has been forwarded to Lynda Snyder for the radio spots. The \$100 fee for this advertising has been donated by a club member.

Terry King noted that our club's name has been added to Google's map so that interested people can find us using Google Maps or Google Earth. Ed and Brenda Leslie had contacted Google to inform them that the name of the business they had on their map at our location has changed and the site is now The Great Falls Model Railroad Club.

Rick James, Tom Coulombe, Terry King, and Brenda Leslie attended the Chamber of Commerce meeting on October 13. Flyers for the train show were put into the gift bags received by all those who attended the Chamber meeting.

*(Continued on page 5)*



## Work on Layouts Continues by Terry King



The scenery is progressing, thanks to Jerry Johnston, Stephen Martelli and Terry King and the rest of the HO committee.

The N scale layout is also progressing with the help of Tom Coulombe, Brenda Leslie and Frank Knight.

## Minutes Continued

(Continued from page 4)

Jay Calnan brought the Calling Tree which was developed several years ago. Jay asked if the Calling Tree needs to be updated. It was noted that the purpose of the tree no longer exists. Most club members can now be contacted at their email addresses, making the Calling Tree unnecessary. It was suggested that if a meeting needs to be called off because of weather, the three major local television stations should be notified of the postponement to the next week.

Terry King asked for mileage reimbursement for himself and Tom Coulombe for the trip to Keene, New Hampshire, during which a substantial amount of magazines, books, and modeling supplies were collected. **Ed Leslie made a motion, which was accepted, to reimburse Terry and Tom for their mileage.** The question was asked, "Who pays for putting gas in the club truck?" The answer is: the person using the truck puts gas in it.

A question was asked about the Library Committee. Terry reported that nothing has been done yet.

He is waiting for more members to indicate their interest by writing their names on the sign-up sheet.

Terry King reported that the tables for the November 5 show are not selling as fast as usual. He is confident that more tables will be sold before the show. Terry also noted that Tom Coulombe is planning to make arrangements later this month for the Mt. Ararat show in April. Terry said that a few members will be attending the Brewer Show, which falls on the first day of the ExTRAINaganza.

Travis Johnson asked to have the skirts used on the modules at shows available to hide wiring under the HO layout during the ExTRAINaganza. Stephen Martelli also volunteered to use several feet of his modular skirting if it is needed.

Stephen Martelli was encouraged by the committee to pursue talking to the Auburn Fire Department about their union's Firemen's Fund. Stephen would like to make arrangements for the Firemen's Union to donate money or trains which we can use as raffle prizes during the ExTRAINaganza. A sign would be placed under the Christmas tree indicating that the Fire-

men's Union donated the train. In turn, we can provide Operation Lifesaver presentations for the Fire Department.

On October 29, the United New Auburn Association is planning Halloween programs for local children. Thirty New Auburn businesses are participating. Stephen Martelli suggested that we could sell tickets on the Raffle Layout at one of the New Auburn locations. Paul Lodge was asked to provide the Raffle Layout and he agreed. Phil Clough volunteered to help at the event, which will run from 1 to 4 p.m.

Ed Leslie distributed a drawing of a stand he would like to build for the new television. After some discussion about materials to be used, Ed was given permission to build the stand according to his plan and to use whatever materials he feels are appropriate.

At the Executive Committee meeting, Roger Allen patiently explained the "Pot-of-Gold" concept for the 50/50 raffle he has suggested for the monthly meeting. Since Roger was working Thursday night, he was unable to explain this concept to the club, and the present format will continue to be used.

Gordon Draper won the Attendance Prize and took a hat with "Rocky Mountain" on it. The 50/50 raffle was won by Jerry Johnston.

The meeting adjourned.



## THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

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**Our new e-mail address.**

**An Educational Foundation**

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## THE SIGNAL

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## Upcoming Events

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

**November 17**, HO committee meeting 6:00 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.

**December 8**, Executive Committee

meeting. 7:00 p.m.

**December 15**, Club Christmas Party and short meeting. 6:45 p.m.

**January 12**, Executive Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m.

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

**January 19**, Meeting 6:45 p.m.

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



Work on the "G" layout continues.

