

THE SIGNAL



NEXT MEETING
December 16
7:00 p.m.

NEXT MONTH
Deadline for
January Issue
Dec. 27, 2010

MEMBERSHIP
117

ATTENDANCE PRIZE

Stephen Martelli's name was drawn and he was present to win!

Will your name be drawn on Dec. 16?

You have to be present to win!

BOTTLES FOR BASICS

- ◆ YEAR TO DATE: \$320.35
- ◆ THIS MONTH: \$45.00
- ◆ LAST YEAR: \$487.06

MEET GORDON DRAPER "TURTLE MAN!"

If you haven't met Gordon Draper, let me introduce you. Gordon has been a member of the club for about a year now and resides in Bowdoin, Maine. Working night shift at the post office, Gordon has had the flexibility to volunteer daytime hours at the club. I was impressed when he approached me and wanted to get involved with the HO layout and learn the wiring aspects of DCC. We were just beginning to install and wire Tortoise turnout controllers on the Helix Division, and Gordon asked if he could help and learn how it was done. That was all I needed. After showing him an example of a tortoise install, Gordon took the lead and has installed all the main line tortoises on the Helix and Maritime Divisions and now is an integral part of our Electrical Squad. Blame it on me, but I am officially giving him the nickname of "Turtle Man!"



Gordon Draper

Photo by Tom Jones

forget to address him with his proper title, **Mr. "Turtle Man!"** :>)

By Tom Jones

Gordon has also volunteered to assist Terry King with a large library project. The club has been donated a large number of train slides and Gordon offered to scan them into computer files and help catalog them. Being in a computer file will make them much easier to view by club members. I just learned from Frances Lodge, that all five of the pictures we used for the club's Christmas cards this year were chosen from the hundreds of slides that Gordon had already scanned, and his work made this fund-raising project possible. Thanks, Gordon!

At home, Gordon has recently obtained the railroad rights to a vacated bedroom. A fan of the Portland Terminal Railroad, Gordon is in the early stages of creating his home empire and is designing a multi-deck room-sized layout. Gordon is also an NMRA member and active in the local Seacoast Division, which covers Maine and New Hampshire. If you haven't met Gordon, please do so the next time you see him and don't



Gordon Draper

Photo by Tom Jones

GREAT FALLS TV HAS VHS PLAYERS FOR SALE

Great Falls Television Station at Central Maine Community College has upgraded all of its VHS recorders to new equipment. They have more than a dozen high-quality commercial VHS player/recorders for sale at prices between \$20 and \$40. Anyone who still has a library of VHS tapes can benefit from purchasing one of these recorders at a low price.

Contact Phil Larlee at Great Falls Television 755-5424 to get more information about the recorders.

Incidentally, Great Falls Television was the first station to air *TRAIN TIME* about ten years ago.

By Paul Lodge



Member #076805 00
Since 1988

“A future project is to seal the roof, which has been leaking during recent heavy rain storms. It is estimated that it will cost over \$3,000 to fix the roof’s leaking problems.”

“Gordon Draper is not far behind them, installing Tortoise controllers on the mainline turnouts. (For more on Gordon, read the short bio entitled “Turtle Man.”

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER MEETING

The evening’s *TRAIN TIME* program featured the Wiscasset, Waterville & Farmington Railway narrow gauge railroad during last year’s special Victorian Christmas event. The WW&F will hold the event again this year on December 18 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Rides on their narrow gauge railroad are free to visitors on that day. Club members were encouraged to attend the event as a “fun day” on the railroad.

After the Victorian Christmas video, Richard Varney gave a demonstration of “Paper Tole,” a method of creating 3-D decoupage. Since we have been at 144 Mill Street, Dick has donated several of his framed paper tole pictures of trains to The Great Falls Model Railroad Club. Some are hanging in the library and some are in the sales area. The techniques Dick demonstrated for making framed pictures can also be used to create scenery backgrounds for model railroads.

Rick James opened the meeting and asked for the Secretary’s Report. A motion was made and approved to accept the Secretary’s Report as published in the newsletter.

Tom Coulombe gave the Treasurer’s Report. As part of the report, Tom gave information about the financial success of the club show at Auburn Middle School on November 6. The Treasurer’s

Report was approved as given.

As Building Manager, Tom Coulombe noted improvements which have been made since last month. The chair rails have been installed in the meeting room, shelving has been put in place in the entrance area, the siding has been power washed, and all the club layouts will have trains running on them for the ExTRAINaganza. A future project is to seal the roof, which has been leaking during recent heavy rain storms. It is estimated that it will cost over \$3,000 to fix the roof’s leaking problems.

At last month’s meeting club members met in brainstorming sessions to offer suggestions on three different topics. In order to give everyone a chance to express their ideas on each topic, members rotated into three areas led by facilitators Dick Clark, Tom Coulombe, and Paul Lodge. Dick, Tom, and Paul have asked for volunteers to prioritize the suggestions and will meet with their volunteers at times convenient for each group. The prioritized lists will be brought back to the club membership in January for further discussion.

Several club members bought and wore the new Great Falls Model Railroad Club T-shirts designed and sold by Jerry Johnston. These T-shirts will be

(Continued on page 6)

GANDY DANCERS BUSY ON MARITIME DIV. OF HO LAYOUT

The HO crew is making great progress on the wiring of the Maritime Division of the HO layout. Travis Johnson, Gary Thibeault, and Russ Hall have been busy pulling bus wires and dropping feeders from every three-foot section of track as well as every turnout in the division. Gordon Draper is not far behind them, installing Tortoise controllers on the mainline turnouts. (For more on Gordon, read the short bio entitled “Turtle Man.”

Wiring of the Booster Cart for the division is also well under way. The cart which houses the NCE power booster, power supply and sub-bus circuit breakers necessary to run trains on the division has been built. Command and ground wires have been run from the Command Station Cart in the Helix Division. Hopefully, by the time you read this we will be running trains across the river that separates the two divisions.

And speaking of the river (it needs a name by the

way), Howard Palmer, Don Lush and Larry Cannon have just finished the extension of the river right-of-way. This will enable a much needed truck bridge to be built over the river, serving the industries on either side of the bridge. Now granted, we don’t know what those industries are yet—but you get the picture. Come on down and help figure out the much-needed merchandise that will have to be shipped on the railroad from here.

The railroad is peeking out of the back room. The track door across the emergency exit has been completed and sub-roadbed is being laid towards it from the end of the Helix Division. The lower level Diesel Loco facility has been defined on this stretch as well as the beginnings of a container transfer industry (I hear Travis Johnson cheering!).

It is also good to see long time member John
(Continued on page 3)

FIRST OL PRESENTATIONS

Stephen Martello recently gave his first Operation Lifesaver presentation. On November 10, Stephen Martello talked about railroad safety to twelve members of the Auburn Public Works Department at Hasty Memorial Armory building in Pettingill Park. In the late 1980s, by the way, we had train shows at the same Armory.

Stephen also gave a presentation to youngsters at the Auburn Public Library on Saturday, November 13.

On Tuesday, November 16, Tom Coulombe made his first Operation Lifesaver presentation at the Oxford Hills Truck Driving School. The class consisted of nine students and the teacher. Club member Paul Lodge, a veteran OL presenter, was there to evaluate Tom's presentation. Club member Dave Gilchrist was there to observe as he still has to make his first presentation.

Tom used a lap top computer and the projector to give the railroad safety presentation to the truck driving students.

If you are associated with any company, public safety group, or first responders who would benefit from a railroad safety presentation; call Paul Lodge (966-3641) so a club member can volunteer to give the presentation.

by Paul Lodge



GANDY DANCES CONTINUED

(Continued from page 2)

Visco back at the club. John, as some of you know, has a good eye for scenery; and we hope he will leave his mark on our masterpiece-in-the-making. John has begun installing the backdrop behind the lower freight yard, which will be started after the holidays.

We are getting a pretty good cadre together in the basement. Thanks also to Ed, Chuck, Roger, Tom C. and others I may have forgotten to mention, the railroad is making good progress. Next time I hope to lay out a rough time line for the work we hope to accomplish in 2011. Come and be a part of the process. It is your club!

By Tom Jones

RAILROAD-RELATED CHRISTMAS CARDS STILL AVAILABLE

Christmas cards with a train-related theme are still available for sale at the club's Christmas party meeting on Thursday, December 16. Friends and relatives who receive one of these cards from you will know who it is from before opening the card. These special cards can be a keep-sake of an historical time in railroad history. Most of the cards depict trains which ran sixty to seventy years ago.

Proceeds from the cards will go towards helping to pay for the club's necessary roof repairs of about \$3,000.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

COME TO THE CLUB'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Traditionally, the club has reserved the December meeting to socialize and have a pot-luck Christmas party. Everyone usually has a favorite dish to bring and we look forward to a good variety of food. To ensure that there are appropriate healthy desserts, Paul Lodge suggests that members bring CHOCOLATE to top off the meal.

Members are encouraged to bring guests. The pot-luck Christmas party starts at the regular meeting time of 7:00 p.m.

It is likely that trains will be running somewhere in the building. During the ExTRAINaganza, the G-scale group had trains running on three tracks. There were N-scale and Z-scale trains running in the N-scale room. A great deal of progress has been made on the HO layout, which has had as many as six trains running at the same time.

Come enjoy the fellowship, check the progress on the layouts, and remember to BRING CHOCOLATE!

by Paul Lodge.



"Proceeds from the cards will go towards helping to pay for the club's necessary roof repairs of about \$3,000."

"We are getting a pretty good cadre together in the basement. Thanks also to Ed, Chuck, Roger, Tom C. and others I may have forgotten to mention, the railroad is making good progress."

ExTRAINaganza

“More than fifty club members attended or helped during the two-weekend event. Members sold raffle tickets on the trains around the three largest Christmas trees and on a paper tole three-dimensional decoupage picture showing a set of Guilford locomotives on a railroad bridge. Other members sold tickets on our raffle layout and ran trains on the HO, Lionel, G-gauge, On30, N-scale, and Z-scale layouts. Another crew helped children decorate Christmas tree ornaments and gingerbread cookies. Jerry Johnston fed club members and any guests who wanted our cuisine.”

Many families came to see trains at the Second Annual ExTRAINaganza in November. Three hundred twenty children wrote their names on their free “train tickets” and pinned them to the “Train Tree.” The four- by eight-foot cork-covered plywood was completely decorated with colorful locomotives bearing the children’s names. In addition, nearly six hundred adults paid the \$2 admission.

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The club house was brightly lit with Christmas tree lights on the trees and around the layouts. People entering the club were treated to a Christmas song and friendly greetings from “Douglas Fir,” a small artificial Christmas tree with a sensitive motion detector. While parents paid the price of admission, children were fitted with cardboard railroad engineer hats, courtesy of Operation Lifesaver. Most children also left the ExTRAINaganza with free railroad safety coloring books and activity books provided by Operation Lifesaver.

The club’s new railroad-theme Christmas cards, ExTRAINaganza T-shirts, whistles, engineer hats, TRAIN TIME DVDs, and Terry Obie’s hand-crafted Christmas ornaments were available for sale.

Raffle winners were drawn on Saturday afternoon. Mickey Ryan won the 3-D decoupage train picture donated by Dick Varney, who had presented a clinic on this paper tole technique at our November club meeting. Elaine Graf won the HO layout and plans to give it to her husband who has been collecting HO items but has not yet started his layout. Rob O’Connell and Gene Grant won the Lionel train sets.

Thanks to everyone who helped to make the second annual ExTRAINaganza a success.



THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Chocolate! Someone told me to mention that word often in this article.

I would like to thank everyone who came out to help at the ExTRAINaganza the past two weekends. The transformation of the building between the meeting night and the ExTRAINaganza opening was amazing! Everyone who came to the event loved it. I was down in the basement most of the time running the HO layout, which itself had come a long way in a short time thanks to a major effort by a number of people. Hats off to the crew that made it all happen, from upstairs hanging the lights and decorating the trees to making sure trains could circle the layouts without a hitch! Special thanks go to Paul Lodge for his hard work keeping everything running so smoothly upstairs while I was playing trains downstairs. Also, thanks to Jerry Johnston for making sure all the workers' bellies were full by running the galley for the club. There were others who helped make sure we had trains to show the kids, with Jeff and Beth Chaffee bringing their personal layouts downstairs and the On30 group setting up their modules in the meeting room. Bob Willard stayed for the entire ExTRAINaganza and Dan Collins helped him with the On30 whenever he could. The HO layout had some great people making it happen with Travis Johnson, Russ Hall, Gordon Draper, Ed Webb, John Visco, Gary Thibeault, Charlie Schumacher, Conor Drouin, and the big overseer of the crew, Tom Jones. Thanks to the big G-gauge guys: Dick Clark and his crew of Ed and Brenda Leslie, Irving Young, Steve Hall, Bob Russell, Ray Parent, and Ernie Packard. And, of course, we can't forget the people running our smallest scales: Tom Coulombe, Brenda Leslie, Maurice Fortin, and Rob Roy. For the first time the N-scale room also had Z-scale trains operating. Bryce Weeks helped run trains on the HO layout and in the N-scale room. Thanks go out also to our tour guides Stephen Martelli, Jay Calnan and Terry King for showing our guests around the building. Thanks to Denise Purington, Bob Purington, and Terry Obie for selling a lot of raffle tickets. Thanks to Terry Obie, Nancy Weeks, Vicky Schumacher, Colette Fortin, Racine (Lodge) Bruce, and Julie Bruce for their work helping kids decorate Christmas ornaments and the gingerbread cookies made by Dick and Sharon Clark and myself.



President, Rick James

setting up in the lobby again this year. It should be a great day for the public to come and view train layouts, and admission is free for everyone.

We will also be at "Trees and Trains," at McLaughlin Garden, Route 26, in South Paris. Donations are \$3 for members and children 5 years old and up; \$5 for non-members, with a \$10 family limit rate. Children under 5 get in free. At McLaughlin Garden the exhibit will be held on Friday, December 3 and 10, and Saturday, December 4 and 11 the hours will be 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. On Sundays, December 5 and 12, it will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

At the Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting last month, I had the honor of picking up the plaque that shows we are a member. Paul Lodge, Terry King, Jerry Johnston, Tom Coulombe and I distributed ExTRAINaganza and club flyers to the 300 Chamber of Commerce members present at the breakfast. Most people had not heard much about the club before we joined. As we talked to members, we got many positive comments. This is all part of the process of getting more exposure for the club in the community.

Did I forget to mention to bring **chocolate** in the last paragraph? Oh, you need to bring some to the upcoming December 16 regular monthly meeting. This is our pot-luck Christmas party and some members, okay, one member likes to see lots of **chocolate** at the party! There will be a brief meeting starting at 7 p.m., and then we will enjoy all the food that members will bring, including some **chocolate**. This is like a pot-luck meal, therefore, bring something YOU enjoy and would like to share. If this is later than you would usually eat, plan to bring a dessert to share with us.

So, while you are out getting some more **chocolate** for the Christmas party, take time to give thanks to your friends and family. Sometimes we forget to thank those around us. We tend to forget them while we hurry to get that last item on our list. Slow down and enjoy this season of giving!

*"This is our pot-luck Christmas party and some members, okay, one member likes to see lots of **chocolate** at the party! There will be a brief meeting starting at 7 p.m., and then we will enjoy all the food that members will bring, including some **chocolate**. This is like a pot-luck meal, therefore, bring something YOU enjoy and would like to share. If this is later than you would usually eat, plan to bring a dessert to share with us."*

We still have two major events to tackle this month. The first is the Maine State Museum in Augusta on Friday, December 3 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, December 4 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. We will be

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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MINUTES

(Continued from page 2)
sold only to club members, and the proceeds will go to the club.

Rick James noted that a restaurant is being planned for the Grand Trunk station on Lincoln Street in Lewiston. The club has been invited to build a model railroad display as part of a counter top in the restaurant. Someone will need to contact the owners to get more information on the proposed project. Maine Operation Lifesaver has also requested that our club build a small layout to be used as an attention getter for Operation Lifesaver exhibits and displays.

Stephen Martelli's name was drawn as the Attendance Prize winner this month, and he selected a coffee mug.

The meeting adjourned.

GOLDEN SPIKE CEREMONY

The G-gauge group is announcing that their Golden Spike Ceremony will be held at our next club meeting on December 16. It should only take a minute or two to set the Golden Spike. Bring your cameras to record this historic occasion.

Not much work will be going on with the G-Gauge section for the month of December. With the holidays, Trees & Trains in South Paris, and other activities, let's take a minute, sit back and enjoy.

Thanks to everybody who has worked on the G-Gauge layout from the beginning in March 2010 to November 27, 2010.

By November 20 at 9:00 a.m., the G-Gauge room was ready to receive many smiling faces for the first of five days of the ExTRAINaganza. The display layout had a fresh layer of snow, both rail lines were alive with trains, and the country side and villages with snow-covered trees were filled with winter time activities. Many smiles and big eyes enjoyed the view of Thomas the Tank Engine coming alive on the smaller loop.

Great job. Thank you.

Your G-Gauge Spokesperson
Dick Clark



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

December

- 4,5,11, & 12 Trees & Trains McLaughlin Garden, South Paris
- 9 Executive Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 16 Meeting & Christmas Party 7:00 p.m.
- 18 WW&Ry Victorian Christmas 11—4 free train & sleigh rides.



RAFFLE WINNERS



Elaine Graf Fayette



Rob & Declan O'Connell Cumberland



Tebble Grant Minot