



# THE SIGNAL



THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

VOLUME 13. ISSUE 7

DECEMBER 2011



Member since June 1988

**NEXT MEETING**  
**Dec. 15**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**NEXT**  
**MONTH**  
**Deadline for**  
**January**  
**Dec. 28, 2011**

**MEMBERSHIP**  
**118**

## ATTENDANCE PRIZE

Jerry Johnston and John Roberson's names were drawn to win and they were present to win.

**Will your name be drawn on Dec. 15?**  
**You have to be present to win!**

## **BOTTLES FOR BASICS**

- ◆ **LAST YEAR**  
**\$496.15**
- ◆ **YEAR TO DATE:**  
**\$203.00**
- ◆ **THIS MONTH:**  
**\$27.60**

## 3rd Annual ExTRAINaganiza by Paul Lodge

The success of the 2011 Ex-TRAINaganiza was the result of many club members working together.

The scenery partition on the G-Scale layout was effective. Having the snow-covered hill hiding the rest of the layout encouraged people to move into the meeting room quickly, thus relieving the bottleneck in the outer room. The winter decorations on the G-Scale made for a festive Christmas atmosphere. Some of the railroad cars, buildings, and structures brought in by Dick Clark and Ed and Brenda Leslie were lit. When the house lights were off, the lighting on the layout and the building interiors stood out. The G-Scale Thomas the Tank engine was popular with small children because it was at their eye level. The variety of trains brought in by the G-Scale Division interested modelers, who were impressed with the scale models of real rolling stock and motive power.

Guests remarked about how tiny the N- and Z-Scale trains are and how smoothly they run. More than 150 children became engineers on the HO layout with the help of several club members from the HO committee. Each engineer was given a sticker with the club's logo on it and the engineer's name. This was the first year the engineer stickers were used, and they were a great success.

Children and adults thrilled at



"G" layout at ExTRAINaganiza

Photo by Paul Lodge

making the train sounds on the Lionel Christmas layouts brought in by Jeff and Beth Chaffee.

During the five days of the Ex-TRAINaganiza, several new members joined the club. Over 350 children put their names on the TRAIN TREE, including about 75 children from Auburn's Community Learning Center who came to the club for a special visit.

Craft Mania manager, Lee Duguay, was presented with a certificate acknowledging Craft Mania as the club's official craft store.

Each day there was a drawing for a railroad-clad Teddy bear. Winners of the five bears were Donna Steckino, John Szutarski, Josh Caron, Dave Barrett, and David Blaquiere. Donna Steckino also had the winning ticket for the

club's Raffle Layout. Winners of the three trains under the Christmas trees were Chad Pelletier, who won the Thomas the Tank Engine set; Sam Hill, the Lionel steam engine set; and Marc Cloutier, the HO set.

On the last day of the event, Santa Claus arrived, to the delight of the children. About thirty club members and guests finished the day with a good meal at Governor's Restaurant topped off with **CHOCOLATE** cream pie.

*"Lee Duguay, manager of Craft Mania, gives club members a 15 per cent discount on all railroad modeling supplies. Club members have been frequenting the store ever since Mr. Duguay began stocking the shelves with model railroad supplies."*

*"These additional pledges help to pay for the club's major projects. You will find in this newsletter a pledge form to fill out and forward to me. All pledges will be held in strict confidence."*

## Craft Mania by Paul Lodge

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club has selected Craft Mania of Auburn as its official craft store. Lee Duguay, manager of Craft Mania, gives club members a 15 per cent discount on all railroad modeling supplies. Club members have been frequenting the store ever since Mr. Duguay began stocking the shelves with model railroad supplies. In order for Craft Mania to give discounts for club members, it has been

agreed that the club will give Lee Duguay a list of club members so that discount sales can be verified. Apparently, there have been non-club members trying to get the discount. Craft Mania has also been willing to display advertising for various club activities and shows. This association is important for club members who want local supplies, and it is good for Craft Mania to have new customers.

*The Best Craft Stores in Maine*

**CRAFT**  
*Mania*

## Pledge Drive for 2012 by Tom Coulombe

As this year comes to an end, I am asking you members if you are considering your annual end-of-year donation to your favorite non-profit. As you know the Club is a 501 (c-3) non-profit educational organization as identified by the IRS. Any donation is tax deductible on your individual income tax form.

I would like to thank those members who have given generously in our annual pledge drive this year. As I illustrated at the annual meeting in May, the pledge drive makes up one third of our revenues. This coming year (2012) will be our fifth year of the first five-year plan to help offset the initial costs of remodeling and maintenance of the building.

We are grateful to those who have contributed in the past, not only with labor but with monetary contributions to support our ongoing activities. Some have contributed directly to specific projects when asked; others have contribut-

ed materials to help in building the layouts in the club. The success of the train show at the Auburn Middle School and the tremendous response for the ExTRAINaganza have been very encouraging this year.

As I report at each monthly meeting, the revenues generated from dues, train shows, raffle layout, and donated materials are supporting the normal operations of the club. These additional pledges help to pay for the club's major projects. You will find in this newsletter a pledge form to fill out and forward to me. All pledges will be held in strict confidence.

Thank you,  
Thomas A Coulombe,  
Treasurer



### PLEDGE FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

—

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

In 2012 I wish to contribute \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the operation of the club. I will make my contribution in \_\_\_\_\_ installments payable (Monthly, Quarterly, Semi-annually, or annually).

**Please return your pledge to Tom Coulombe, Treasurer, The Great Falls Model Railroad Club, 144 Mill St. Auburn, Me 04210**

Your contribution will allow us to continue to grow and provide more services to our members and the community.

## Slide & Dine By Brenda Leslie

### SLIDE & DINE

featuring George and Kathy  
Melvin

All are invited to a "Slide and Dine Night" at the club house on January 14 at 5:00 pm. George and Kathy Melvin will be our featured guests, presenting a slide show. George has been photographing railroad pictures since he was a teenager. In 1967 George became a station agent for the Maine Central Railroad and worked at a variety of locations on the MEC line. In 1996 he became a dispatcher for the St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railroad, which had taken over the Grand Trunk Railway in 1989. George and his wife Kathy have photographed trains from New Brunswick to California.

Terry King, the club librarian, will also be presenting a few slides from the late Waldo Kingston collection. This wonderful collection was donated to the Great Falls Model Railroad Club in February 2007. Gordon Draper has scanned the slides for our future

use. (*Thank you Gordon!*) The time has come to share some of those slides from CP, BAR, MEC, CN and GTW.

There is no charge for this evening's entertainment. Bring a dish for Pot Luck and please feel free to bring a friend.

If you would like to participate in the variety show, please bring five slides with you.

The evening schedule is as follows:

5:00 -- George and Kathy will be presenting slides

6:00 -- Pot Luck & Socialize

7:00 -- Terry will be presenting slides

8:00 -- "Show and Tell" your five slides



## Club Hosts Community Learning Center by Paul Lodge

After an outstanding article in the *Lewiston Sun/Journal*, Lucile Merin of Auburn's Community Learning Center contacted the club to make arrangements to have students in Auburn's after school program visit the ExTRAINaganza. Each of the Auburn elementary schools has an afternoon program to help students with school work and to give them as many cultural experiences as possible.

Arrangements were made to have students from Walton, Washburn, Park Avenue, Sherwood Heights, and East Auburn visit our club. Once the students arrived, they were divided into three groups. One group went to the first level to see the HO layout and Beth and Jeff Chaffee's portable Christmas layouts. A second group watched the G-Scale trains and went to the room with the N-Scale and Z-Scale layouts. The third group had an Operation Lifesaver railroad safety program, which included a safety video appropriate for their age level: 9 to 11 year olds. Each group stayed in one area for about twenty minutes then moved to the next station. Two schools came on Monday from 4 to 5 p.m. during our regular hours for the ExTRAINaganza. Because not all the schools could come on the same day, several club members came to the club on Tuesday, November 22, from 4 to 5 o'clock so that two additional schools could see the layouts. The largest school, Park Avenue School, will come on Friday, December 9, to see the layouts which will still be decorated for the Christmas season.

The one hundred students and chaperones were impressed with the layouts and the Operation Lifesaver presentations. This may be the first year of a tradition for the Community Learning Center students.

## Building with Basswood By Brenda Leslie

Ed and Brenda Leslie would like to invite you to a workshop at the club house.

Come and learn how to build an HO scratch building with basswood, Saturday, January 14, 2012 at 9:00 a.m.

There will be two structures for you to pick from. There

will also be a small fee under \$5.00 for wood.

**Pre-registration required by December 31, 2011.**

Here is a list of tools and supplies you will need.

- Elmer's Wood glue
- X-ACTO knife or a chop it
- Sand paper

- HO model railroad ruler
- Small clamps or a magnetic gluing jug



Paul Lodge

**“ADVANCE MODELING WORKSHOPS:** Club members and others at the train show suggested that we should have classes for advanced modeling beyond the basic modules. Club members were asked to give suggestions for the workshops at the conclusion of the meeting. Suggestions made later were weathering, air brushing, and locomotive repair and service.”

## November Minutes by Paul Lodge, Secretary

Before the meeting started, club members were treated to a slide presentation made by Ed Leslie showing pictures of club activities since the last meeting. In order to have enough time to view the Christmas decorations, an expected long meeting, and some members who wanted to finish some work on the layouts, there was no *TRAIN TIME* video at this meeting.

President Rick James opened the meeting and the Secretary's Report was approved as published in the newsletter.

Tom Coulombe gave the Treasurer's Report which was read and accepted.

Paul Lodge gave a report from last week's Executive Committee meeting.

Tom suggested the following budget amounts for the remainder of our fiscal year ending in May: HO, \$500; G-gauge, \$250; N-scale, \$200; and Library, \$250.

**STATION MASTER REPORT:** As Station Master, Tom Coulombe noted that Ed Webb has installed the outdoor electrical outlet on the porch of the ramp. Ed and Brenda Leslie have made the new table for the television. A St. Lawrence & Atlantic employee has notified us that the railroad is replacing its cross bucks because of new FRA regulations which require reflective material on both sides, and he thinks he can give us one that would be thrown away. Ed Webb is planning to put in the outdoor outlet on the east end of the building. Rick's father has offered to let the club use Christmas balloon-type lawn figures which need electricity.

**ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR REPORT:** Brenda asked if some of the club

material could be made available to give to guest speakers on the day they provide a program for the club. She suggested using the club pins or anything else appropriate. Brenda reported that 29 club members attended the dinner at Governor's Restaurant after the Auburn Middle School show and that she sent a thank-you card. She plans to invite club members to meet at Governor's again on November 26, the last day of the ExTRAINaganza. On Tuesday, November 22, the Kora Temple Shrine *FEZtival of Trees* will be open from 5 to 7 p.m. for Chamber of Commerce members. On January 14, George and Kathy Melvin will be our guests to lead a "Slide and Dine" evening of entertainment based on some of their extensive library of railroad slides. On May 17, Peter McKenney will follow up on his previous Bangor & Aroostook presentation with a program on Modeling the BAR.

**TRAIN SHOW WRAP UP:** Based on the survey that was taken at the entrance of the Auburn Middle School on Saturday, November 5, many people found out about the show from the signs. It was recommended that we put more time into making additional signs for our public activities. Other items on the survey were also discussed. One suggestion for running the layout was to have one line running constantly and have the second line available for children to run. The Auburn Music Association's food menus were a success for the dealers who did not have to leave their displays to find some-

thing to eat. Rick James thanked all those who helped at the annual train show. More than fifty club members and their families participated in the event.

**ADVANCE MODELING WORKSHOPS:** Club members and others at the train show suggested that we should have classes for advanced modeling beyond the basic modules. Club members were asked to give suggestions for the workshops at the conclusion of the meeting. Suggestions made later were weathering, air brushing, and locomotive repair and service.

**MEETING POSTPONEMENTS:** It was suggested that we should notify the television stations if a monthly meeting is called off because of the weather. Tom Coulombe, as Station Master, will call the television stations to postpone any meeting to the following Thursday (the fourth Thursday). Club members who have e-mail will also receive e-mail notices.

**LAYOUT REPORTS:** Tom Coulombe reported that Frank Knight has been helping with the N-Scale layout and has succeeded in getting the trolley line running. Dennis Ring has completed building the N-scale round house. Other scenery improvements have also been made to the mountain and stream, and an industrial area has been developed. The G-gauge layout has had a scenery barrier installed and buildings with lights have been added. The G-gauge group plans to operate the layout with a Train Engineer controller. Travis Johnson noted that the HO committee held a meeting before the club meeting on November 17. The group needs to

*(Continued on page 5)*



## Minutes Continued

(Continued from page 4)

select a committee chairman. On the HO layout, Terry King, Jerry Johnston, and Stephen Martelli have been working on the scenery. Two additional boosters will be available to run the layout. It was found that the trains were drawing 18 volts of electricity when the maximum should be 15 volts. It was noted that four additional boosters should be purchased at \$45 each.

**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:** Terry King, Tom Coulombe, and Jerry Johnston attended the Chamber of Commerce meeting on November 10. Flyers for the ExTRAINaganza and free passes were provided to Chamber members. Two *TRAIN TIME* videos were donated for the drawing.

**NAME TAGS:** Brenda Leslie passed around a sample name tag which would cost about \$5 each. Tom Coulombe said he would check on prices for name tags which would include our club's logo.

**POST OFFICE DONATION:** A special exhibit about Owney the Railroad Dog was displayed at the main post office in Portland. A special stamp was created to honor the dog. A display with several pictures of Owney and a full sheet of Owney stamps were donated to the club by the Portland post office. Brenda Leslie has made an attractive display with the pictures.

**FIREMEN'S FUND:** Stephen Martelli has forwarded a letter to the Auburn Firemen's Fund requesting a financial donation to the club to benefit the children we serve through our open houses. Stephen was hoping that they would donate a train which we could raffle at the ExTRAINaganza or some other event. It was suggested that the donation could be given in honor of the late Rodney Daniels, who was a member of our club and an Auburn

fireman.

**HELLO-WEEN:** The New Auburn businesses sponsored *Hello-ween* to show the community what businesses are available in New Auburn. It was considered a success. About 500 children and adults and 26 businesses participated.

**TABLE SAW SAFETY SWITCH:** One of the most dangerous pieces of equipment we have in the building is the table saw. If someone had been using the saw when there was a power failure, there was a question whether the saw would automatically turn on when electricity was restored. It was felt that a "kill switch" needs to be installed.

**CRAFT MANIA:** At the Executive Committee meeting, **Terry King made a motion that Craft Mania be the official craft store of The Great Falls Model Railroad Club.** The motion passed. Craft Mania gives club members a 15 percent discount on railroad items bought at the store. They also publicize our events in the aisles selling model railroad supplies. Tom Coulombe explained that a list of club members will be given to Craft Mania so that only club members can get the discount. Apparently, some customers have claimed to be members of the club so they can get the 15 percent discount.

**DONATION CONTAINERS:** Instead of having several donation cans around the building for different purposes, it was suggested that we should have one attractive donation container for all purposes. Using an acrylic box for the donations would improve the appearance over what we are using now. Being able to see money in the container also encourages further donations. Terry King purchased an acrylic donation box which is now in use.

**TOYS FOR THE CHAMBER:** The Chamber of Commerce requests toy donations each year for local children. We donated an extra

train set. Tom Coulombe said that our club was the first to bring a donation to the Chamber office on Lisbon Street in Lewiston.

**CLUB CARS:** There are ten club cars still available. They represent any profit we might make from the cars. Tom has decaled the cars, assembled them, and put Kadee couplers on them. Completed cars will sell for \$30 each.

**TEDDY BEARS:** Teddy bears were purchased with the idea of raffling them off at different open houses. We will be raffling one bear each day of the ExTRAINaganza.

**WISH LIST:** In order to use our new flat screen television, we need a DVD player (we have only a VHS player). Rick James recommended a Blue Ray player which will play both Blue Ray and current DVDs.

The skirts for the modules at our shows are about twenty years old. At the Executive Committee meeting, it was suggested that we purchase new skirting. Because this is a large investment, Brenda Leslie suggested that we start by purchasing enough blue cloth to do the four corners and have the club logo printed on them with white lettering. Terry King volunteered to check with the person who does our vests to see if putting our logo on the over-sized cloth is possible. After doing further checking, Tom Coulombe was able to purchase two bolts of blue cloth for about \$200. The cloth will be cut into 12-foot lengths, which will cover three 4-foot modules. The modules and the new skirts will have Velcro attached to them so that we will no longer have to use the push pins.

**DISCOUNT COUPON PASSES:** Terry King made discount coupon passes similar to the ones provided to us by Governor's Restaurant. Governor's can give these coupons to their guests so that adults can get into the ExTRAINaganza for \$1 less (\$2 instead of \$3).

**RAFFLE LAYOUT:** In recent years, the winning ticket for our Raffle Layout has been drawn at the McLaughlin Garden's *Trees and Trains*. Since that event will not be held this year, the winning Raffle Layout ticket will be drawn on November 26, the last day of the ExTRAINaganza.

**MAINE STATE LIBRARY:** On Friday and Saturday, December 2 and 3, a small modular layout will be set up in the foyer at the Maine State Museum. We will be there from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday. On Saturday, we will be there from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. We will set up our display on Thursday, December 1.

Dick Clark donated the housing for a locomotive bell, without the bell. If anyone can find a locomotive bell to

(Continued on page 6)



## THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

144 Mill Street  
Auburn, Me 04210

207-576-3788

e-mail [gfmrrc@ne.twcbc.com](mailto:gfmrrc@ne.twcbc.com)

**Our new e-mail address.**

### An Educational Foundation

#### MEETING POSTPONEMENTS

If severe weather threatens on a meeting night, Tom Coulombe will notify local television stations that the meeting will be postponed until the following week. This would make it the fourth Thursday of the month instead of the third. Club members who receive the newsletter via e-mail will be notified by e-mail about the postponement.

## OFFICERS:

#### President:

Rick James - 784-1266  
[n1wfo@roadrunner.com](mailto:n1wfo@roadrunner.com)

#### Vice President:

Ed Leslie - 265-6547  
[mrandsrsdeere@maine.rr.com](mailto:mrandsrsdeere@maine.rr.com)

#### Secretary:

Paul Lodge - 966-3641  
[paulldodge@gwi.net](mailto:paulldodge@gwi.net)

#### Treasurer:

Tom Coulombe - 784-5962  
[ctcoulombe@aol.com](mailto:ctcoulombe@aol.com)

#### Directors:

Roger Allen-783-2129  
Jay Calnan-783-1719  
[jayceeltc@live.com](mailto:jayceeltc@live.com)  
Howard Palmer - 729-5998  
[drsmker@aol.com](mailto:drsmker@aol.com)

#### Webmaster:

Joe Marshall - 344-7099  
[joe@del-stardotstar.com](mailto:joe@del-stardotstar.com)  
Assistant Webmaster:  
Frances Lodge - 966-3641  
[paulldodge@gwi.net](mailto:paulldodge@gwi.net)

#### Activities Director

Brenda Leslie  
207-265-6547  
[mrandsrsdeere@maine.rr.com](mailto:mrandsrsdeere@maine.rr.com)

## THE SIGNAL

*The Signal* is published twelve times per year by The Great Falls Model Railroad Club.

Copyright December 2011

#### Editor:

Terrence King  
[tpking@roadrunner.com](mailto:tpking@roadrunner.com)

#### Proofreader:

Frances Lodge  
[paulldodge@gwi.net](mailto:paulldodge@gwi.net)

### Address Change

If your mailing or e-mail address changes please notify Terrence King at  
[tpking@roadrunner.com](mailto:tpking@roadrunner.com)

[www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org](http://www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org) or [www.gfmrrc.com](http://www.gfmrrc.com)

## Upcoming Events



**December 8**, Executive Committee meeting. 7:00 p.m.

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

**December 17**, Victorian Christmas at the WW&F

**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.

**January 28 & 29** Springfield MA train Show at the Big E

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

## Christmas Party

by Paul Lodge

The traditional club Christmas Party will be held on the third Thursday of December: December 15. Despite what you hear from Paul Lodge, this is not a **CHOCOLATE** party. **Bring your favorite dish to share with other club members.** This is more of a pot luck occasion than it is a **CHOCOLATE** event. **Come enjoy the good food and experience the Christmas atmosphere in this non-CHOCOLATE affair.**

**The club has a large quantity of paper plates so members are asked not to bring any additional paper supplies, eating utensils or cups.**

## Minutes Continued

(Continued from page 5)

be donated, Dick suggested that it could be used to get club member's attention to start meetings.

At the conclusion of the meeting, several names were drawn for attendance prizes. John Robertson and Jerry Johnston were winners of two attractive calendars donated by Bob Purington.

A reminder that next month's meeting is the Christmas party. Everyone is encouraged to bring your favorite food items for a pot luck supper. Bring friends, CHOCOLATE, and your Christmas spirit to our annual party.

The meeting adjourned.