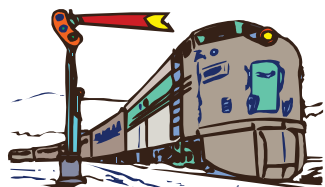


THE SIGNAL



NEXT MEETING

FEBRUARY 18
7:00 p.m.

NEXT MONTH

Deadline for
March

February 26, 2010

MEMBERSHIP

96

ATTENDANCE PRIZE

Skip Flagg's name was drawn and he was not present to win a prize.

Will your name be drawn on February 18?

You have to be present to win!

BOTTLES FOR BASICS

- ◆ YEAR TO DATE: \$409.05
- ◆ THIS MONTH: \$41.00
- ◆ NEXT MONTH: That is up to you!

CRAFT MANIA OWNER ATTENDS MEETING

Lee Duguay, owner of Craft Mania in Auburn, attended the January 21st club meeting to explain his goals for providing model railroad supplies. He hopes to be able to help modelers purchase supplies locally instead of going out of town for needed items. He can also special order any modeling supplies which are not already in stock. This attempt to expand his craft supplies to include items for model railroaders gives us an opportunity to support our local businesses who are trying to help meet our club's needs.



Lee Duguay

Photo By Dale Darling

Mr. Duguay thanked Rob Roy for his assistance in ordering supplies which would be appropriate for our modeling needs. You will find model railroad supplies in Aisle 11 at the store.

Craft Mania is located across from the Flagship Cinema in the Auburn Plaza, the shopping mall on outer Center Street just beyond Arby's. When you go over to see the model railroading items he has in stock, look at the other crafting supplies that may also be useful in our hobby.

by Paul Lodge

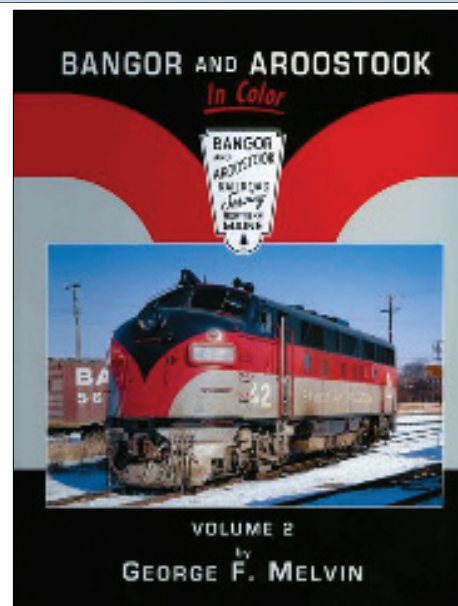
NEW BAR BOOK TO BE RAFFLED AT FEBRUARY MEETING

George and Kathy Melvin will be at our February 18 meeting to raffle off their newest book, *The Bangor and Aroostook Railroad in Color, Volume 2*, which they are donating to the club as a fundraiser. This new book includes 15 pictures selected from our club's library of slides, and the club is given credit for them in the list of sources in the book.

Although the book normally sells for \$59.95, it will be sold to club members at our February meeting for just \$46. Those who do not win the raffle will have a chance to purchase the book and have it autographed at the same time.

Come and support the club and the Melvins.

By Paul Lodge



MINUTES OF JANUARY MEETING

“President Stephen Martelli opened the meeting and asked Lee Duguay to speak to the club members. Mr. Duguay owns Craft Mania in Auburn and has stocked his store with HO model railroad supplies. He invited club members to purchase items from his store. If there are articles he does not have, he can order them. It is good to have a local store with basic modeling supplies”

“Dale Darling announced that four Portland Pirates tickets valued at \$60 were being raffled off during the meeting. Rob Roy sold raffle tickets at \$2 each. (Later in the meeting the winning Raffle Ticket was drawn and the winner was Bob Purington.)”

The evening's *TRAIN TIME* program featured the Victorian Christmas trains on the Wiscasset, Waterville and Farmington Railway. Video was taken by Tom Coulombe, Ed Leslie, and Paul Lodge on December 19, 2009, at Alna, which is located about five miles from Wiscasset.

President Stephen Martelli opened the meeting and asked Lee Duguay to speak to the club members. Mr. Duguay owns Craft Mania in Auburn and has stocked his store with HO model railroad supplies. He invited club members to purchase items from his store. If there are articles he does not have, he can order them. It is good to have a local store with basic modeling supplies.

A motion was made and accepted to approve the December Secretary's Report as published in the newsletter.

Tom Coulombe gave the Treasurer's Report, which was approved as given.

As Building Manager, Tom Coulombe noted the progress that has been made since the last meeting. Tim Tyce has finished painting the ceiling in the upstairs hall area and the walls and ceiling in the N-scale room. The N-scale team has painted the walls blue as background sky scenery for their layout. More materials have been transferred from Tom's barn to the downstairs area. The HO layout is progressing with the east end helix being worked on. Tom Jones hopes to have trains running by late spring or early summer on this part of the layout. We are looking for the DCC control units which were removed from the layout in Lewiston. They were packed and put in a "safe place" so they would not be ruined by cold or moisture. (Since the January meeting, the "safe place" was found. We now have the DCC control units.)

Siding has been put on three sides of the shed. When the weather gets warmer, the doors need to be re-leveled. There is a water drainage problem near the shed which will need to be fixed in the spring. Tom asked Phil Clough to give advice when the time comes. Tim Tyce and Larry Cannon will try experiments on the upstairs floor to see if it can be made to look good.

Future shows in which the modules will be used include the following: February 20 in Augusta, April 10 in Sanford, April 24 our show in Topsham. The Maine Narrow Gauge group will hold its show on March 20 at Gray/New Gloucester

High School in Gray.

A location has been selected in the meeting hall for the Bulletin Board and Terry King will maintain it.

Our next Adult Education Model Railroading Class will start on Tuesday, February 9. We will also use Tuesday nights to renovate the club's modules and corners and the Raffle Layout.

Stephen Martelli reported that The Red Hat Society and the City of Auburn will be promoting our club on their websites. We will send these groups our monthly newsletters.

Please e-mail Terry King with your name and e-mail address if you want to receive the newsletter by e-mail instead of the more expensive regular mail.

Jay Calnan distributed copies of the new telephone tree which President Martelli had asked him to develop.

Dale Darling announced that four Portland Pirates tickets valued at \$60 were being raffled off during the meeting. Rob Roy sold raffle tickets at \$2 each. (Later in the meeting the winning Raffle Ticket was drawn and the winner was Bob Purington.)

Larry Cannon reported that the club needs between \$10,000 and \$12,000 a year to maintain the building and its activities. The annual dues do not cover the expenses. Some club members are donating additional money beyond their annual dues. At this point, Larry announced that the club receives \$7,220 in annual pledges. We are almost up to our goal of \$10- to \$12,000.

Before the meeting adjourned, the Attendance Prize winner was drawn. The winner was Skip Flagg from Brewer, who was not at the meeting.

Tom Jones had prepared a Power Point presentation about the history leading up to the current DCC method of train control. After the history lesson, Tom demonstrated DCC by controlling two locomotives on the same track. He answered many questions concerning DCC. His presentation was well organized and informative. Members appreciated his effort and his fine exhibit.

Next month, Dick Clark will give a demonstration on fiber optics.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The first month of the New Year is already gone! Boy, does time fly. It's now time for the train shows of the winter and spring that I enjoy the most every year. The Big E hosted another winner of a show at the end of January, but I was unable to attend this year. With three large buildings full of displays and layouts, it's way too much for anyone to see in that short period of time or to talk with or listen to all of the representatives from the major manufacturers of the modeling industry.

My personal way of seeing a train show this large is to have a list of "to do's" or "to see's" ahead of time.

Next, I take each building and give it a time limit, depending on the size of the building. Then I go to see the exhibits that interest me and leave the others alone. Yes, I do miss a lot, but something has to give. At the end of the day, if there is any extra time, I'll either go back to see the displays that held a special interest

earlier or go to one that I hadn't seen. I hope this helps you for the next big show that you visit; it has worked for me in the past. Hope you have a great time at your next big show.

The next few months are filled with train shows. Our club will be heading to the Augusta Armory on February 20th for the Lions Club Doll House and Train Show with a train display and sales tables. This is one show that I can't miss. The dollhouse items fit right in with the G-scale that I model.

During March and April there are shows in the surrounding New England area to attend if you want to take a weekend away from home. You can get details off the web by entering "Model Train Shows in New England". This will give you a list of shows to start with and then you can decide which one to go to.

One show in the local area is the Narrow Gauge Train Show on March 20 at the Gray-New Gloucester High School on Route 26. They will have all narrow gauge trains on display as well as sales tables.

The club will be going on April 10 to the Sanford

Lions Club show at the Sanford Armory on Route 111. At this show we will have our modular layout display and sales tables of surplus items.

On April 24, the club will be busy with our own show in Topsham at Mt. Ararat High School. There will be about ninety tables of vendors selling their wares and several train displays of various scales.

This should keep you busy with all of the model trains on display for you to look at and items for sale. Your own "to do" list may get longer after all of these shows.



President, Steve Martelli

In my last column I listed the top ten items I would like the club to get done this year and I am glad to say that we have already put a dent in the list. After some much needed rest, Tim Tyce came in and quickly finished painting the upstairs ceiling in the display area and the ceiling and walls in the N-

scale area. Way to go, Tim. Thanks a lot for your hard work in getting this done. Jerry is starting to patch the ceiling where the electrical outlets were. The N-scale group have painted the walls with a base coat of blue for their background and started to assemble the bench work for the layout. They are using a snap-together framework that was donated to us two years ago. It looks like they might have a train running on their layout by the end of the year. Also, Tim has been talking to Tom Coulombe about cleaning the hardwood floor upstairs with a bleaching agent and sealing it for now. This will be good until we have enough money to resurface it fully.

Whether we can get the remaining items on the "To do list" from this past year completed by June, only time will tell. But, we have a good start already for this year. Thank you to everyone for your help in getting the work done in our renovation and building processes.

Keep your wheels on the tracks,

Stephen



"...Tim Tyce came in and quickly finished painting the upstairs ceiling in the display area and the ceiling and walls in the N-scale area. Way to go, Tim. Thanks a lot for your hard work in getting this done."

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2010 ANNUAL FUND BEGINS

“We would like to pay down our debt as quickly as we can afford, and we want to get some trains running for the enjoyment of club members and the public.”

2010 Annual Fund

In last month’s newsletter and at the January club meeting, I explained why it is necessary to have a membership fund raising drive each year. We keep dues low so that anyone who has the passion and character to participate in this hobby can be a member. Would that we could have the energy and the audience to support the club on dues and funds raised by train shows, other public events, and smaller fund raising efforts.

The fact of the matter is that we also rely on the generosity of those members who can dig a

little deeper to support the club. We have some basic expenses to cover and a few smaller improvements that we should make to preserve the building. We would like to pay down our debt as quickly as we can afford, and we want to get some trains running for the enjoyment of club members and the public.

We need a reasonably dependable source of funds to do this. Revenues from the shows and from sales of donated materials that we will not use for club activities can and do fluctuate. With a core of support we can weather those fluctuations. This is why it is extremely important

that as many of us as possible add to the club’s financial support.

If there is “too much money” it will not be spent on bonuses to “fat cat bankers” and the like! Either it will be spent on things the club really should do to make sure we and the public can enjoy our hobby and our facility or it will help us get out of debt to reduce future expenses. Please make an Annual Fund donation and expand our core of support.

by Larry Cannon

PLEDGE FORM

GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB ANNUAL FUND PLEDGE

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP CODE _____

In 2010 I wish to contribute \$_____ for operation of the club. I will make my contribution in _____ installments payable _____ (monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, annually).

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

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

CHRISTIAN SERVICE BRIGADE AT THE CLUB

On Saturday, January 19, the Great Falls Model Railroad clubhouse was the site of a program for the Christian Service Brigade of the East Auburn Baptist Church. Sam Whittemore, the adult leader of the group, requested an opportunity to visit the club with the eight- to twelve-year old members of the Brigade. Sam had taken the club's Model Railroading class several years ago. After visiting the club during our Open House in September, he felt it would interest his youth group.

As the 14 boys and 8 adults entered the building, the boys were given railroad hats donated by Operation Lifesaver. After spending several minutes watching Stephen Martelli's impressive

G-gauge layout, the group continued their tour of the building. They were taken through the library and sales area and the N-scale room. Then they went downstairs, where several club members were working on the HO layout.

After explaining the club's Adult Education Model Railroading program, Paul Lodge exhibited and displayed modeling supplies which are used on our modules and layouts. The boys had many questions and spent nearly half an hour in the classroom area.

Upon returning upstairs, the group sat at tables in the meeting hall, where Paul Lodge gave them an Operation Lifesaver presentation about railroad

safety. They watched a railroad safety video geared for their age level. They were then divided into four groups, and given a handout showing pedestrian and trespassing scenarios around railroad tracks. Each group was asked to identify seven different safety problems shown in the brochure.

The Christian Service Brigade was started many years ago when the Boy Scouts of America rejected Christian ethics in favor of political correctness. The East Auburn Baptist Church dropped their Boy Scout affiliation and started their Christian Service Brigade to replace it.

by Paul Lodge

"Sam had taken the club's Model Railroading class several years ago. After visiting the club during our Open House in September, he felt it would interest his youth group."

PROGRESS ON HO LAYOUT

A dedicated group of club members have been constructing the HO club layout. With the leadership of Tom Jones, several builders have worked on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Their goal is to have trains running by late spring or early summer.

by Paul Lodge



Photos by Dale Darling



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We are on the web!
[Http://www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org](http://www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org)
lub.org

An educational foundation



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THE SIGNAL

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**HARTT—SWAZEY
LIBRARY**

The library has received a large donation of magazines and a few books from member Don Damour.

Thanks to Don, we now have several copies of *Narrow Gauge Gazette* and *Main Line Modeler* as well as *Railroad Magazine*. These issues of *Railroad Magazine* date back to 1936 and most of them are in very good condition. Don also provided a few years of *Railroad Stories* from the 1930's, all of which are in good, to very good condition.

Railroad Magazine and *Railroad Stories* have a lot of interesting stories in them. Some of these are true, but most are works of fiction written by people who seem to have worked on railroads. They are very entertaining and, I feel, worth reading.

Don also gave us a few copies of *Railroad Trainman's Journal*, which was published by the Trainman's Union. These were printed in the late 1800's! Most of them are in very good to excellent condition as you can see by the attached photo.



He also donated a few copies of *The Railroad Man's Magazine* which were published around 1914 to 1916 and are in good shape.

I want to thank Don for giving us some very unusual and rare magazines. Don realizes that all of us are not getting any younger and the way to preserve our collections is to donate them to an organization such as ours, where they will be preserved, hopefully forever.

We have also received our free copy of George and Kathy Melvin's new book on the Bangor and Aroostook. This book includes fifteen slides from our collection, and George was very generous in his thanks to us in the foreword of the book. This book is arranged a little differently from his other books. Instead of grouping the pictures by region, he has arranged them in a timeline. You will find our slides in the front of the book. I for one like this arrangement, as the history flows to the present as you turn each page. As you may have read in Paul Lodge's article on the front page of *The Signal*, George and Kathy have generously donated a copy of their book for us to raffle off at

our next meeting on February 18th. Thank you, George and Kathy!

by Terry King

FOR SALE

We have a correspondence course on running a steam locomotive from ICS in the 1940's..
\$25.00 + shipping and it is yours!



**CALENDAR OF
EVENTS**

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

February

- 9 Auburn Adult Education Model Railroad Class. First session starts at 6:30 p.m.
- 18 Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 20 Train Show—Augusta Armory 10:00 a.m.

March

- 18 Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 20 Narrow Gauge Train Show New Gloucester High School—Route 26 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

April

- 10 Train Show, Sanford 10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
- 15 Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 23 Table set up 4:00 p.m.
- 24 Train Show, Topsham 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.