

THE SIGNAL



THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

VOLUME 13. ISSUE 9

FEBRUARY 2012



Member since June 1988

NEXT MEETING
Feb. 16
7:00 p.m.

NEXT
MONTH
Deadline for
March Issue
Feb. 24, 2012

MEMBERSHIP
121

ATTENDANCE PRIZE

Terry King's name was drawn to win and he was present to win.

Will your name be drawn on Feb. 16?

You have to be present to win!

BOTTLES FOR BASICS

- ◆ LAST YEAR \$496.15
- ◆ YEAR TO DATE: \$236.55
- ◆ THIS MONTH: \$33.55

H0 Roundhouse Restoration by Howard Palmer

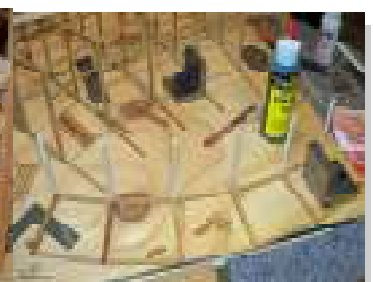
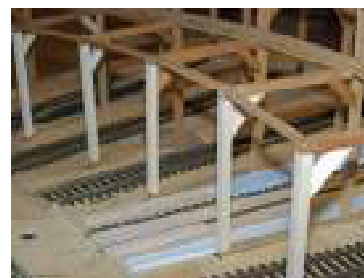
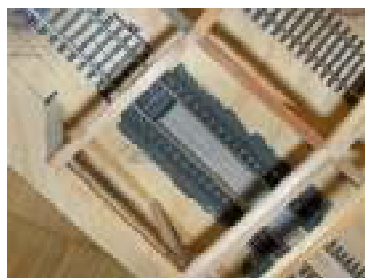
Restoration is underway for a donated H0 Roundhouse. This will be a focal point in the service facility area, along with a 130-foot turntable which is being constructed on the club's HO layout. The entire structure has been straightened and strengthened. It will simulate a New England roundhouse of the 1940's transition era. A wooden floor is being laid board by board. It is estimated it will take about 1200 boards, all cut by hand to scale, to lay the entire floor in the approximately 308-square inch structure. The roundhouse will have five service tracks, one of which will include an inspection pit. A removable roof will permit observation of the many fine details inside the building. Progress on this enjoy-



Roundhouse restoration.

able project will be shared as it moves along.

The pictures below were taken by Howard Palmer.



Joe met with Dick Clark, Paul and Frances Lodge on January 25, to instruct them on procedures for the new site. After at least one more teaching session, Joe hopes to have the new site on line in March.

New Website by Paul Lodge

Joe Marshall, Webmaster, attended the January 19 club meeting and used the computer and projector to show what the next phase of our club's website will look like.

Joe has taken the time to build the new website, using the information from our current site. The new program he is using will make it easier for club members who keep the site up to date.

Joe met with Dick Clark, and Paul and Frances Lodge on January 25, to instruct them

on procedures for the new site. After at least one more teaching session, Joe hopes to have the new site on line in March.

Paul Lodge and Travis Bragg work on the new raffle layout.
Picture by Terry King



New member Roger Plummer is working on a chip truck.
Picture by Terry King

Slide & Dine By Paul Lodge

On Saturday, January 14, the club sponsored its first *Slide and Dine* event. George and Kathy Melvin showed slides from their trips to California, featuring the Tehachapi area. George and Kathy used some of the pictures that are included in their book called *Tehachapi Today*. Those who attended the *Slide and Dine* were able to purchase the book for half price.

Terry King selected several slides from the club's collection to share with our guests. Some of the picture locations were identified by audience members, which made the slides even more interesting.

The "Dine" part of the evening was a potluck meal provided by those in attendance. While everyone was dining, Paul Lodge showed a *Train Time* program featuring Tehachapi Loop.

After the "Dine," Bruce Davison showed slides based on the days when he worked for the Claremont and Concord Railroad in New Hampshire. Because of his personal knowledge of the railroad, his commentary was personal, interesting, and informative.

Everyone who attended is looking forward to the next *Slide & Dine*.

Making Rock Molds By Paul Lodge

On Saturday, February 11, we will be holding a class on making molds of rocks. This will involve the use of latex rubber, so if you have an allergy to it you should not take the class.

There will be a \$5.00 fee to help defray the cost of the latex rubber and the brush needed for this class. If you wish to obtain your own supplies, Craft-Mania in Auburn is a good source. A pint of the rubber costs about \$19.95. If you bring your own supplies, there will be no fee. We will have a collection of small rocks that you can use, or you can bring your own.

Why make a mold of a rock? There is a limited selection of molds available at hobby shops. Color-rite Scenery prod-

ucts and Woodland Scenics are two brands that I am familiar with. Woodland Scenics has had a bad fire, so I am not sure about the availability of their products in the future. I was at Maine Model Works and Ray & Robbins in the past few days and they both had a good supply of the Woodland Scenics rock molds. Ray & Robbins also had one Color-rite rock mold. Back to the question, why make your own rock mold? If your layout has a lot of rocks on it, you will find that you are placing the same

rock in various places on the layout. A wider variety of rocks makes the scene seem more natural. Besides, isn't it great to have something on your layout that no one else has!

These molds take some time to dry. Since the mold will probably not be ready to remove from the rock before you leave the club, you should bring a box to take the rock and mold home with you.

Because of space, we need to limit the number of people to ten. Please e-mail me at tpking@roadrunner.com or call me at 576-3788 to reserve your space. If more than ten people call, we will hold another class in the near future.



Terry King, left, watches (From left to right.) Jerry Johnston, Ed Leslie and Norman Ness making rock molds. Picture by Paul Lodge



Using heat guns to dry the latex rubber, used to make rock molds.



Paul Lodge filming Rock mold making class. Picture by Terry King



January Minutes by Paul Lodge

A follow-up clinic on building with basswood will be held on Saturday, February 25. Brenda reminded members that February 18 is the Augusta show, and people with modules need to be at the Augusta Armory by 8 a.m. in order to have their modules included in the show.

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.

Webmaster Joe Marshall demonstrated the new club website he has developed. His display was projected on the wall so that everyone could see the improvements he has made. After some more work, this updated website will replace our current website. The new site will require club members to re-register after it goes on line.

The video for the evening was a TRAIN TIME show on "Trains to Selkirk" based on video shot in New York by Charles Kadyk and Paul Lodge on December 26 through December 28, 2011.

President Rick James opened the meeting.

The Secretary's Report of the Executive Committee meeting was approved as given.

Tom Coulombe's Treasurer's Report was approved.

As Station Master, Tom Coulombe reported that he has installed shelves in the work room area and in the hall next to the furnace room. A new light is to be added to the work area on the lower level. Terry King has

labeled the cardboard bins in the work room so that members can identify what we have in inventory for scenery decorations.

Brenda Leslie, Activities Director, reported that Saturday, February 11, will be movie night. Also on February 11, Terry King will lead a Saturday morning clinic on making rock molds. Brenda displayed samples of name tag which club members can order. The pin-on type costs \$5 and the magnetized name tag costs \$6.50. Brenda reported that six club members participated in the first clinic on building with basswood. A follow-up clinic on building with basswood will be held on Saturday, February 25. Brenda reminded members that February 18 is the Augusta show, and people with modules need to be at the Augusta Armory by 8 a.m. in order to have their modules included in the show. Members of the club will display modules, sell excess inventory, and sell tickets on the Raffle Layout at the Owls Head Museum on Saturday and Sunday, March 24 and 25. The "Slide and Dine" program was interesting with George and Kathy Melvin presenting slides from

their trips to Tehachapi in California. The presentation also included how their book was published. Those attending found it very interesting and entertaining. Terry King selected several slides from the club's collection, and audience members were able to identify and describe some of the locations and motive power. Bruce Davison made an excellent presentation of his slides from the Claremont & Concord Railroad.

President James reported that he has appointed Peter McKenney, Tom Coulombe, and Terry King to a committee to review the by-laws and establish a policy manual which will be presented to the club at our annual meeting in May.

Terry King noted that Gary Thibeault has taken a lot of time to sort piles of a variety of resistors.

Charles Schumacher donated a poster of the runaway train movie *Unstoppable*.

After the meeting adjourned, the Attendance Prize was drawn and Terry King's name was drawn. He selected a hat from the Federal Railroad Administration. The 50/50 drawing was also won by Terry King.



One of the Trucks that Roger Plummer has kit bashed.

Picture by Terry King

Spring Model Railroad Class Starts

by Paul Lodge

On Tuesday, February 7, our Model Railroading class started. There are seven adults and three children in this spring's class. Jay Calnan, Dick Clark, Tom Coulombe, Rick James, Jerry Johnston, Paul Lodge, Howard Palmer, and Ed Webb were the club members who greeted the new class.

This class has participants from Augusta, Bath, Readfield, Wales, Wilton, Wiscasset, and a father and daughter from Auburn. After the first class, one person has already joined the club.

Six modules will be made in this class. The new modules should be ready for our show on April 28 at Mt. Ararat in Topsham.



John Visco, center, explains his ideas for the layout to other members. Picture by Paul Lodge.



Howard Palmer and Don Lush work on the Round-house area of the layout. Picture by Terry King



How would you like this driveway in the winter? Picture by Paul Lodge



THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

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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.

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THE SIGNAL

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Address Change

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www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org or www.gfmrrc.com

Upcoming Events

February 18, Train Show Augusta Me. 10:00—4:00.

February 16, Membership Meeting 6:45 p.m.

February 25, Modeling with basswood 9:00 a.m.

March 8, Executive Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

March 15, Membership Meeting 6:45 p.m.

April 12, Executive Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m.

April 14, Sanford Show at new location. 10:00 A.M. —2:30 P.M.

April 19, Membership Meeting 6:45 p.m.

April 28, Train Show, Mt. Ararat

High School, Topsham, ME. 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

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



Jerry Johnston is installing a retaining wall in the roundhouse area of the layout.

Picture by Terry King