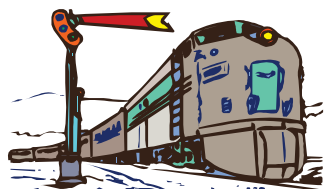




THE SIGNAL



NEXT MEETING

MARCH 18
7:00 p.m.

NEXT MONTH

Deadline for
April
March 26, 2010

MEMBERSHIP

101

ATTENDANCE PRIZE

Nicholas Fowler's name was drawn and he was not present to win a prize.

Will your name be drawn on March 18?

You have to be present to win!

BOTTLES FOR BASICS

- ◆ YEAR TO DATE: \$448.05
- ◆ THIS MONTH: \$39.00
- ◆ NEXT MONTH: That is up to you!

MARCH 20 MANY OPPORTUNITIES

What would you like to do on Saturday, March 20? There are going to be many railroad-related activities from which to choose.

Several of our club members will be involved with the **ALL SCALE NARROW GAUGE SHOW** at Gray/New Gloucester High School from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The **MAINE 3-RAILERS** will be exhibiting at the Elks Club in Augusta from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

George Melvin is hosting the **READFIELD SLIDE SHOW** at the Readfield Town Office, beginning with a social hour and pot luck supper from 5 to 6 p.m. Having guest presenters makes this event interesting. Many of them have been taking pictures for many years, and they can give an entertaining half-hour presentation on a specific subject. Presenters and their topics are as follows:

- ◆ Bill Linley of Halifax, NS, CNR on Prince Edward Island;
- ◆ Neil Richardson from Randolph, VT, Boston & Maine in the 1960s;



Jeff Bolduc

- ◆ Tim Franz of Augusta, ME, Last 20 Years of the BAR; and
- ◆ George Melvin, Readfield, ME,

THANK YOU JEFF BOLDUC, HIGHRAILER

After doing much searching, Larry Cannon was able to find a source for track, turnouts, cork roadbed, rail joiners, etc. from Jeff Bolduc, owner of *Highrailer*. The purchase of a large amount of supplies will allow the club to move forward with its HO operating layout. Steady progress is being made by the dedicated team working on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings. Come join the fun. Benchwork is going up quickly now that the helix complex is nearly complete.

by Paul Lodge

The two photos on the right were taken in Brunswick ME.

The one on the left is in Boston.



MINUTES OF FEBRUARY MEETING

“Tom gave an explanation for the large amount of money which has been spent for HO flex track, cork roadbed, and rail joiners. Jeff Bolduc, owner of Highrailer Hobby Shop, gave the

“President Martelli noted that it is time to select a Nominating Committee for next year’s officers. Larry Cannon volunteered. If there are no other volunteers, Stephen Martelli will appoint two additional members.”

The evening’s *TRAIN TIME* program featured the G-gauge garden railroads of Dick Clark, Doug Johnson, Ron DeYoung, and Ed and Brenda Leslie. Following the video presentation, the G-gauge theme was continued with three clinic presentations by Dick Clark, Stephen Martelli, and Ed and Brenda Leslie. Dick Clark used fiber optics as the basis for his presentation. He showed several different sources of fiber optics and how they can be used. Stephen Martelli displayed an inexpensive building and how he stained shingles with different colors so that he could make an attractive roof for his model. Ed and Brenda Leslie exhibited several items they have created for their garden railroad. Brenda recently modeled a delicate sleigh in high detail, including making an attractive harness for the horse which draws the sleigh.

President Stephen Martelli opened the meeting and asked for the Secretary’s Report. A motion was made and accepted to approve the minutes as published in the newsletter.

Tom Coulombe presented the Treasurer’s Report. Before it was approved, Tom gave an explanation for the large amount of money which has been spent for HO flex track, cork roadbed, and rail joiners. Jeff Bolduc, owner of *Highrailer Hobby Shop*, gave the club a good discount for this quantity purchase.

As Building Manager, Tom Coulombe gave a quick list of items finished and those to be worked on. He noted that the members building the HO club layout have the second helix almost done. The N-scale benchwork is set up and ready for the top. Jerry Johnston has finished painting the ceiling in the main hall and the meeting room. The part of the building where the G-gauge layout is located will have the ceiling and walls plastered and painted next.

Tom Jones reported for the HO Layout Committee. He noted that the North Coast Engineering (NCE) control cabinet has been completed. Some sub bus wiring is in and transformers are being considered. Some of the sub roadbed has been laid in the new area.

Paul Lodge of the Education Committee reported that the current Adult Education Class has 12 students, and they are building 9 modules for the April 24 show at Mt. Ararat.

Dick Clark, Chairman of the Modular Committee, noted that the doors for the Augusta show will open at 7 a.m.

Bob Willard announced the 3rd Annual All Scale Narrow Gauge Show to be held at the Gray/New Gloucester High School on March 20 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Bob listed a large variety of clinics which will be available and layouts which will be featured at the show. He also displayed three different model trees which can be made for the larger scales of trains.

Larry Cannon followed up on his article in the newsletter making an appeal for the Annual Fund Campaign.

Secretary Paul Lodge read a letter sent by the Gorham Historical Society (GHS), thanking Dick Clark for his help with the electrical problems on their layout last summer. The GHS had e-mailed the club requesting help, and the message was forwarded to several club members. Dick and his wife Sharon made arrangements to visit the Gorham layout. It took about three hours to get the layout up and running again. Thanks, Dick and Sharon, for making the club look good. The GHS thanked the club by sending \$25 for a membership.

President Martelli noted that it is time to select a Nominating Committee for next year’s officers. Larry Cannon volunteered. If there are no other volunteers, Stephen Martelli will appoint two additional members.

George Melvin had donated his new book, *Bangor and Aroostook Volume 2*, to the club to be raffled at this meeting. Neil Culpepper was the winner of the book. Thanks to the members and guests, the club netted \$105 from the raffle of the book. Although George had planned to be at the meeting to sell copies of his book to club members, he had a bad cold was unable to come.

The name selected for the evening’s Attendance Prize was Nicholas Fowler. He was not in attendance so the prizes will be available again next month.

The meeting adjourned and members were able to buy the chocolate trains which Roger Allen had made and donated as a fundraiser.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Here We Grow Again!

Over the past several weeks I have had trouble trying to find a subject to write about for this month's column. Then I heard someone on the radio talking about the population growth in the State of Maine. "That's it!" I said. "I'll write about the growth of the club over the past several years."

When I joined the club in January, 2002, it was located on Canal Street Alley in Lewiston and I was member 52 at that time. As of Saturday, February 27, I was informed that we now have 101 members. In just a few short years we have almost doubled the size of our group and we have tripled the size of our facilities. In the old clubhouse our layout was 27 feet by 55 feet in the shape of a "W." Our new layout will cover from 1,900 to 2,000 square feet instead of 1,485 square feet. The old layout had two duck-under that were needed to get to the control panel and the staging yard. I hated to have to go under the table all of the time to get to the control panel. Our new layout has been designed by Tom Jones & Co. of Brunswick, Maine, and the idea of the duck-under has been kept to a minimum. There is only one place that has a hidden area with a staging yard that needs a duck-under. Thank you for thinking about our knees and backs when you design the new layout.

The new layout will also be more stretched out than the old layout, which was quite compact. Even though the layout is more of a shelf layout in Layout Room #1, it leads into a nice table area on the east end of the layout. Going in the opposite direction, we have a shelf coming out of Layout Room #1 and heading to the west end of the Main Room, where it turns into a table with a large area for modeling. This is a great combination to test our talents to the max in modeling buildings, scenery, and structures.

As for the N-scale layout, those guys are still working on their benchwork and getting ready to put the top on the benchwork and then lay track. This layout will be twice the size of the N-scale layout at the old clubhouse, and it will have more to offer in train operation. This will keep more members busy when we finally get a green light for operating.

The final area is in and near the front entry. The G-

scale people are still working out details for approval and hope to have a G-scale layout in the coming months. In my opinion, this would be a great addition for the times when we have an Open House and other activities and it may also lead to our gaining additional members. The more we have to offer in the beginning, the more we will get in the end.

Our "home" has grown not only in physical size and membership but also in what we have to offer to our club members and the surrounding community. We certainly have much more to offer the community now than when we were in Lewiston.



President, Steve Martelli

Our library is more than ten times bigger than before. Terry has worked hard to get everything organized and to keep updating our files. Our old library was confined to two shelving units that were about four feet wide and a little over six feet tall. If you grabbed the wrong

box from the top shelf, you had either a heavy box on your nose or a mess on the floor with the contents stretched out in the only walkway, where somebody was heading to the workshop at that moment. We now have shelves that are easy to get at and two aisles with room to walk around the other way if someone is working in the aisle.

Our "Café" area in the old clubhouse was confined to about a 30-inch by 96-inch area and we now have an area that is the size of a small room in a house. Boy, have we grown!

To all of you, keep up the good work. Whenever I bring a person in for a tour, they say, "You've done such a wonderful job here." It's a real compliment to everyone who has worked to build all of this. So keep up the good work, guys and girls. It shows and it is appreciated not just by me and the other club members but also by the public.

Keep your wheels on the tracks,

Stephen



"As of Saturday, February 27, I was informed that we now have 101 members. In just a few short years we have almost doubled the size of our group and we have tripled the size of our facilities."

"To all of you, keep up the good work. Whenever I bring a person in for a tour, they say, "You've done such a wonderful job here." It's a real compliment to everyone who has worked to build all of this."

“Denise Purington and Phil Clough sold more than a hundred dollars worth of raffle tickets on the new layout.”

AUGUSTA SHOW A SUCCESS

More than two dozen club members attended the Doll House and Model Train show sponsored by the Whitefield Lions Club on Saturday, February 20, at the Augusta Armory. Many of the club members were there by 7 a.m. and set up the modules very efficiently. Trains were running nearly a half hour before the doors opened at 10 a.m. Other members came later in the day to help take down the modular layout. Thanks to everyone for your help and participation.

Sales of whistles, hats, DVDs and excess inventory items were brisk on all fronts. Denise

Purington and Phil Clough sold more than a hundred dollars worth of raffle tickets on the new layout.

by Paul Lodge



Top, Jerry Johnston and Rebecca & Andrea Holman.

Right, some of our members hard at work.



Photos by Dick Clark

ANNUAL FUND CONTINUED

I have made my pleas for annual fund support in two previous newsletters. I await your collective response. The significant donors from the past have renewed their commitments to help meet our operating expenses. A few new commitments have been made, but more help is needed.

Unless there is a meaningful increase in annual fund contributions, the result will probably be some combination of increased dues, membership service requirements, or a constant barrage of fund raising efforts to make up the deficit. Of the three, membership service requirements are the most attractive option; but we need money, too. If everybody else did collectively what the top 20 donors of money and time accomplish, we wouldn't need either an increase in dues or more fund raising activities than we are doing now. If you can't afford to donate money, donate time.

If you have any degree of modeling skills, helping to repair or rejuvenate sales inventory can multiply its sales value. We could use help every year building the layout, repairing rolling stock and buildings, and selling them. Selling tickets for the raffle layout is also an important fund raiser. Paul Lodge could use another sales person on the

modular layout pitching whistles, hats, the adult education program, and club memberships.

We need people who will take on regular cleaning and maintenance tasks at the club. Just because Tom Coulombe has been named Building Manager DOES NOT make him the janitor! Despite the fact that major construction is complete, we still have to seal driveway cracks, repair siding on the building, and finish painting the interior and some exterior surfaces. Summer lawn mowing and exterior clean-up could use two or three volunteers.

We really need a person to do publicity who is not already involved in other things. We already have people updating the website, producing show flyers, and doing adult education write-ups. How about somebody with the experience and/or creativity to submit articles regularly to newspapers and other media?

If you can afford to contribute the time, you may be able to help the club earn or save money. You may be able to take on a responsibility that will help to improve the appearance of the clubhouse. You may have a valuable skill that the club needs. Whatever time and talents you can give will be appreciated. Your efforts will benefit the organization.

by Larry Cannon

“If you have any degree of modeling skills, helping to repair or rejuvenate sales inventory can multiply its sales value. We could use help every year building the layout, re-

LARGE ADULT ED CLASS THIS SPRING

The club's Auburn Adult Education Model Railroading class is larger than usual this spring. Twelve students are making nine modules. Many of the students travel a long way to take our class. A list of some of the cities and towns will give you an idea of the extent of the area from which they are coming: Windham, Skowhegan, Westbrook, Portland, Scarborough, Bowdoin, Poland, Auburn, and Lewiston. We have a father/daughter and a mother/son combination this time. It is great to have families take the class and enjoy building something together.

Members are helping so that each student has a club member to guide him or her through the building process. Instead of building their own modules, some students are helping to refurbish a few of our old modules as they learn or refine model railroading techniques. If you would like to join us in this effort, feel free to come and participate. Who knows? The week you decide to come may be the week that another club member cannot make it and you can "fill in" as a coach. Come join the fun!

by Paul Lodge

As usual, when we need help, club members show up to fill the need. Enough club mem-

BOTTLES FOR BASICS

When we started the **Bottles for Basics** fund-raising campaign last spring, we observed that it might take two and a half years to get into the habit of bringing our cans and bottles to the club for recycling. It will be a year in May. Several club members regularly bring their returnable cans and bottles when they come to club meetings. We have also had many new members who do not know of our campaign. We use the money to pay for basic expenses of the club, such as the water bill, electricity bills, kitchen and bathroom supplies, etc. During the past nine months, the club has earned over \$400 from this program. We have collected more than \$50 some months.

by Paul Lodge

"We have also had many new members who do not know of our campaign. We use the money to pay for basic expenses of the club, such as the water bill, electricity bills, kitchen and bathroom supplies, etc. During the past nine months,

FOR SALE!

We are having an inventory reduction on things we have been saving for the new HO layout that it has been decided we will not use.

New

- ◆ Kadee: B321 magnets 3 2-packs **\$10**; O scale couplers (only 3 pkgs); some under the table electric magnets
- ◆ Switchmaster: 42 switch motors @ **\$11 each**
- ◆ Various: Kemtron style switch machines.

Used

- ◆ Peco: bag of used switch machines \$25.
- ◆ TTX: older style DCC circuit breakers **\$80 for the lot.**

- ◆ Lambert: Solenoid switch machines most with contacts **\$2.00.**

See **Terry King, Tom Coulombe or Larry Cannon.**

by Larry Cannon

PICTURES

The pictures on the front page and are scanned images from the Kingston collection. We will share more in the future.

by Terry King



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An educational foundation



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THE SIGNAL

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

Copyright March 2010.

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**HARTT—SWAZEY
LIBRARY**

The library is still growing.

The library has just received another donation from club member Don Damore. He has donated books on Railroad Signals on the Maine Central and Boston & Maine railroads, which include blueprints of all kinds of signals and signs. There is a book from the Pennsylvania Railroad on how to run a steam locomotive and another on Pennsylvania signals. These books are published by the railroads. If you want realism on signals, these are for you.

We also have a DVD on the Maine Central produced by Ron Johnson of the 470 Club, which covers most of the MEC system before Guilford. This DVD is mostly in color and very well done. We now have around sixty videos and DVDs available to borrow, including this one.



We have two new books that were purchased with funds from sales of surplus library

materials. These are both on the Pennsylvania Railroad and cover steam and early diesels. I feel that it is important to have a large variety of railroads represented in the library, and I am trying to acquire more books on Pennsylvania and New York Central.

We have recently had another small donation from another member. Although I haven't had time to look at this yet, I will tell you about it next month.

Timetables:

I have started to go through the timetables that came with the Waldo Kingston collection a couple of years ago. Mr. Kingston's estate donated to us his slide collection of almost 11,000 slides, some books, photographs, railroad papers, and hundreds of timetables. A good number of these are Amtrak timetables. Although there are a lot of duplicates, there are some gems. We have employee timetables from quite a few railroads in New England and New York. We also have them from a lot of other railroads throughout the country, including many large and a few small railroads. There are also passenger timetables for a lot of these railroads.

MARCH 20 CONTINUED

Colorado and New Mexico, 1996.

There will also be a "Variety Show" with participants able to show up to ten slides.

Some club members have suggested that we can go to a train show during the day and then attend the slide show in the evening.

by Paul Lodge

**CALENDAR OF
EVENTS**

Every Saturday, Work Session 9:00 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.

20 O Gauge Show Augusta— 10a.m.—3 p.m.

21 Slide Show—5p.m.—6p.m pot luck. Contact

melvinphotos@myfairpoint.net for info

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.

Timetables can be good research materials. They can tell you the stations on a line and the time it took to travel between them. They can tell you about slow orders on bad track and unique rules on a branch. The passenger timetables can tell you about accommodations on the trains, such as whether there was a diner, a sleeper, or even first class seats. Some of these timetables are available to use as research materials now and the rest should be in a few weeks. Because of the nature of these, they will not be available for you to take home, but they can be researched at the club.

By Terry King