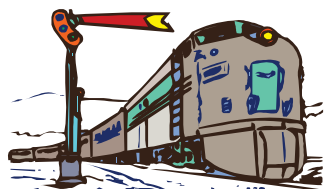




# THE SIGNAL



## NEXT MEETING

**APRIL 15**  
**7:00 p.m.**

## NEXT MONTH

Deadline for  
May  
**April 23, 2010**

## MEMBERSHIP

**103**

## ATTENDANCE PRIZE

**Richard Bibeau's name was drawn and he was not present to win a prize.**

**Will your name be drawn on April 15?**

**You have to be present to win!**

## BOTTLES FOR BASICS

- ◆ **YEAR TO DATE: \$487.05**
- ◆ **THIS MONTH: \$30.00**
- ◆ **NEXT MONTH: That is up to you!**

## MANY OPPORTUNITIES

### HO Layout Progress: One year and Counting!

I can't believe it has been a year since we finished the back room and I started building the Helix Monster in the back corner. There has been a lot of work done on the layout in the last year, and construction continues at a good pace. If you haven't checked out the layout in awhile, come on down or, better yet, give us a hand. Almost every Wednesday evening and Saturday morning you will find some activity (some more productive than others) and we are looking for all the input we can get.

If you have seen the massive fortress being built in the main room, you need to thank Irving Young for his donations of the milled lumber. Sixteen-foot lengths of beefy 2X material make the construction decisions much easier. Howard Palmer, Don Lush, and Roger Allen have been cutting it all up and pretending they are back playing with "Lincoln Logs" as they put together the new yard and engine facility peninsula.

Take a look also at the swing-out gate we are designing for the boiler room hallway. Tom Coulombe has been painting and installing the brackets for the second level and lighting valances in the main room. Larry Cannon has been laying track and wiring the staging tracks on the East End Branch Line. That is the track on the pretty blue homesote. :-> (Don't you just love donated paint!)

Meanwhile in the Helix room, Travis Johnson and Amy Rousseau have been laying cork on the East End Lower main line. Dan Collins has been laying and wiring track to connect the lower East End Branch Line to the Lower Level Main Line. The dynamic duo of Russ Hall and Gary Thibeault keep hollering "More wire!" as they have just about finished with our first DCC control panel in the Helix Room. Don't worry, guys, I have several more planned for you! <grin>

This leads me to a discussion of what's next. With all of the trestles the club owns, we are thinking about making the west end of the layout (beyond the yard peninsula) a mountainous region with valleys, streams and waterfalls. It would lend itself to logging operations in support of the mill complex which we hope to revive from the old layout and would possibly let us do some narrow gauge or dual gauge trackage at some point.



### Upper Lower Peninsular

Photo by Tom Jones

To plan the wiring and future operating logistics of these new areas, we need to name the various "districts" we are building. Early on, we decided that when looking at a train you were basically looking north. East was to your right and west was to your left. Hence, we have been calling the Blue Branch Line the "East End" of the layout. We started with the upper and lower "Helix" districts, broken into sub districts for wiring purposes. We will need to do the same for the rest of the layout. We want to know what you think we should name the various districts as we develop them. Larry Cannon suggested "Maritime" for the East End and "Appalachian" for the West End. There will have to be a couple more districts to cover the major yard and Loco facilities areas and perhaps districts for the passenger terminal and yards. We may have a steel complex, a port, and maybe mining. Of course, we could just bring in those pretty yellow Locos with coal from Wyoming's Powder River Basin for our coal needs and we wouldn't need a coal mine operation.

We should have the "bones" of the layout finished by early summer and trains running earlier than that. Start thinking about getting the car fleet up and running.

*(Continued on page 4)*

# MINUTES OF MARCH MEETING

***“The Nominating Committee has been selected to prepare a slate of officers for next year. The Nominating Committee is Larry Cannon, Irving Young, and Roger Allen. They will develop a list of names for next year’s officers and Executive Board Members and submit them at the April meeting. “***

***“Dick Clark reported that the modules will be set up for the Sanford show on April 10 and for our show in Topsham. On Friday, April 23 we will need a crew at Mt. Ararat High School in Topsham to unload dealer tables and set them up for the Saturday, April 24, show.”***

The evening’s *TRAIN TIME* program featured rail cars (aka speeders, putt putts) on the Cotton Valley Rail and Trail Club track in New Hampshire. The video includes watching club members repair a bridge before they take their rail cars for a ride.

President Stephen Martelli opened the meeting, recognized guests, and asked for the Secretary’s Report, which was read and accepted.

Tom Coulombe gave the Treasurer’s Report which was approved as read.

As Building Manager, Tom Coulombe reported that the conference table has been delivered to the club and is being used. Stan Tetenman has contacted the owner of the Goodman Company next to the club and gotten permission for us to park in their parking lot on Saturdays and after 5 p.m. on weekdays when no one is working there. The N-Scale group has the benchwork up and now needs plywood, homasote, and a track plan. The G-gauge group has met, and more details for their proposed layout will be forthcoming. The library computer needs a two terabyte drive for processing the 11,000 slides which are being scanned into the computer by Gordon Draper. The HO layout is moving along, with a portion being built for the yards. The driveway has been swept. The show signs which were in the work room area have been moved to the shed. Jerry Johnston and Tim Tyce have been continuing the plastering necessary in the front room next to the meeting room.

Tom reported for Larry Cannon that the annual fund drive has received several pledges and over \$1,000 has been received.

Jay Calnan brought maps of railroads in Maine. The maps are for sale at \$1 each, with proceeds going to the club. In addition to the maps, several N-scale buildings were available for sale to the club members. Any items left will be sold at the shows. Money made on the N-scale sales will help buy supplies for the N-scale layout.

Dick Clark reported that the modules will be set up for the Sanford show on April 10 and for our show in Topsham. On Friday, April 23 we will need a crew at Mt. Ararat High School in Topsham to unload dealer tables and set them up for the Saturday, April 24, show. There is a possibility that the gym may be in use on Friday afternoon, and that we would need to wait until Saturday

morning to set up the dealer tables.

Travis Johnson reported on the progress being made on the HO layout. A peninsula has been constructed to make space for yards. Wiring in the helix has been started and test runs of trains have been made. Club members will continue to install cork roadbed and track.

Dick Clark explained the proposed G-gauge layout so that members could see the concept. He reported that the design is not final and that methods of financing the project are still under consideration.

Paul Lodge reported for John Robertson that Accurail still does custom printing of club cars. The cost of each HO car will likely be between \$12 and \$14. The club can choose from the cars which Accurail makes available.

President Stephen Martelli has contacted Chip Morrison of the Lewiston/Auburn Chamber of Commerce to find out how the club could benefit from membership in the Chamber.

Club members were asked how many would like to buy a club vest when a new order is submitted. The vests are worn at shows to promote the club and to help identify club members. About a dozen members indicated they are interested in buying a club vest.

President Martelli has been contacted by Peter Bushway of the Auburn Parks and Recreation about providing a summer program at the club for children in the Parks and Recreation program.

The Nominating Committee has been selected to prepare a slate of officers for next year. The Nominating Committee is Larry Cannon, Irving Young, and Roger Allen. They will develop a list of names for next year’s officers and Executive Board Members and submit them at the April meeting. Additional nominations can be made before the final vote at our Annual Meeting on May 20.

Dale Darling asked if any radio contacts have been made concerning advertising for the club’s Topsham show. He was told that no one had made any radio contacts.

*(Continued on page 6)*

# THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



## ***Nomination Time!***

The past year has gone by fast and it's that time of year again, nomination time. The election will be at the Annual Meeting in May. To prepare for the election, the nominating committee will provide a slate of officers for us to vote on.

The President chooses the Nominating Committee if there are no volunteers. This year the Nominating Committee will consist of the following people: Larry Cannon, Roger Allen and Irving Young. I would like to thank these gentlemen for stepping up and doing this job.

This year's committee consists of a good balance of old and new members. Larry was one of the founding members of the club. Roger had been a member several years ago and rejoined the club a couple of years ago. The "youngster" on the committee is Irving Young. He has been a member for about six months and wanted to get his feet wet with the operation of the club in some way. He is also the vice-spokesman for the G-scale committee. Boy, is he getting some quick lessons on the operation of the club!

The Nominating Committee will pick a slate of people for the membership to vote for. This does not mean that these are the only people for whom we can vote. Any member in good standing can nominate another person from the floor at either the April or May meeting. The slate of nominees will be put before the members at the May meeting and then a vote will be taken. After the vote is counted, the new Board will be determined at that time. Good luck to all who are up for election.

It has been an honor to be your president for the past year. I would like to mention some ideas and aspirations that I would like to see the club attain in the coming years.

- ◆ To have Seminars or Roundtables about twice a year with speakers from the aftermarket and manufacturers in the modeling world.
- ◆ To bring in new members from the business community and for them to sponsor parts of the

layout such as a street, storefront, city block or a town for a fee set to how big an area they sponsor.

◆ Once we have the layout up and running, it would be great to see the clubhouse open to the public once a month for a few hours on a Saturday for a small fee so they can see the progress.

◆ To have the Clubhouse at least 75 percent paid off in ten years. Having the mortgage paid off would make it easier for all of us, especially those in the treasury and fundraising departments. It will take many ideas and a lot of hard work from all of us between now and then.



President, Steve Martelli

◆ Once we have the layout up and running, it would be great to see the clubhouse open to the public for a small fee once a month for a few hours on a Saturday so they can see the progress and enjoy watching the operations.

◆ And the last idea for now, more signage on the outside of the building so the public can find us easier.

Next month I will give you some more ideas and aspirations that I would like to see the club accomplish.

April is a busy month for our club because we have two train shows two weeks apart. The first one is in Sanford on April 10. Because we have to travel a little over an hour each way, it makes a long day for all of us. The second one is about a half hour away at Mt. Ararat High School in Topsham. We sponsor this show and, in my opinion, it is our biggest of the season. We will need help from about eight people to unload the tables and chairs the night before the show. We will need everybody available on the morning of the show for setting up and in the afternoon for taking down the tables and chairs when the show is over. Please be prepared to help out when the time comes. The more hands there are, the easier it is for all of us.

Keep your wheels on the tracks,  
Stephen

***"The President chooses the Nominating Committee if there are no volunteers. This year the Nominating Committee will consist of the following people: Larry Cannon, Roger Allen and Irving Young. I would like to thank these gentlemen for stepping up and doing this job."***

***"We will need help from about eight people to unload the tables and chairs the night before the show. We will need everybody available on the morning of the show for setting up and in the afternoon for taking down the tables and chairs when the show is over. Please be prepared to help out when the time comes. The more hands there are, the easier it is for all of us."***



# MANY OPPORTUNITIES

*“In the near future we will also be trying to hand lay some of our yard tracks. We have 600 feet of rail to play with, along with thousands of spikes and a couple KD spiders. We hope to conduct a non-meeting night series of clinic work sessions for those interested in learning more about the process. If any members are experienced in this regard, we need your participation. Talk to Larry Cannon if you can help.”*

*(Continued from page 1)*

We will shortly need a committee to oversee a fleet maintenance program as well as an inventory of club and personal equipment operated on the layout. Before going full DCC, we will want all equipment in good operating condition and meeting a minimum set of standards (following NMRA standards and good operating practices).

In the near future we will also be trying to hand lay some of our yard tracks. We have 600 feet of rail to play with, along with thousands of spikes and a couple KD spiders. We hope to conduct a non-meeting night series of clinic work sessions for those interested in learning more about the process. If any members are experienced in this regard, we need your participation. Talk to Larry Cannon if you can help.

Well, that is about it for now. Put on your thinking caps and let's discuss your thoughts for the layout and ideas for place names at the next meeting. I have an idea! What do you think of Armour Yellow, and grey with red stripes for the Layout Room's accent colors? Seriously!

By Tom Jones



**The Building Crew Hard at Work.** Photo by T. King



**Future Passenger Yard Area.** Photo by T. King



**Future Mountain**

Photo by Tom Jones



**Furnace Room Gate Area**

Photo by Tom Jones



**Work Area**

Photo by Tom Jones



**East Branch**

Photo by Tom Jones

## UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

### Unique Opportunity

Our dues structure for a regular membership is \$25 per year or \$100 for five years. The HO Layout Committee is offering a unique opportunity for two people to purchase dues for five years, make a donation to the HO layout costs, and receive a valuable addition to their home layouts. There are two large sections of hand laid HO Code 100 yards from the Ruscyck donation that will not be used for the club's new HO layout. For \$150 you can purchase five years' dues and receive your choice (first come, first serve) of

these yards with an estimated value of \$25 to \$50 each.

For your \$150 you get five years' paid dues; an HO layout section (worth \$25 to \$50) for your home layout; and a \$25 tax-deductible donation to the club (split between HO layout costs and general operations of the club). That's five years' regular membership dues, a layout section and a \$25 donation to the club. This offer is only available to the first two members who decide to take advantage of this opportunity.

by Larry Cannon

## BOTTLES FOR BASICS

Remember to bring your returnable bottles and cans for our **BOTTLES FOR BASICS** fundraising project. We hope to top \$500 this first year. All those nickels add up, don't they? Thanks for all the **CANtributions**. Every little bit helps!

By Paul Lodge



A Pan Am rental unit in Greene on 2/15/10 Photo by T. King

*“For your \$150 you get five years’ paid dues; an HO layout section (worth \$25 to \$50) for your home layout; and a \$25 tax-deductible donation to the club (split between HO layout costs and general operations of the club). That’s five years’ regular membership dues, a layout section and a \$25 donation to the club. This offer is only available to the first two members who decide to take advantage of this opportunity.”*

## G-SCALERS UNITE

A group of members have joined forces to build a G-Scale layout for the Great Falls Model Railroad Club. In our meetings we have shared our ideas and have come up with a basic plan. One of the main concerns was to have curves that are large enough so that large G-scale equipment can be operated easily. Also very much on our minds was the idea of keeping the layout low so that our younger members and visitors can really see. A small separate oval is also planned where Thomas the Tank Engine would feel most at home. Whereas the layout is planned to be in the long narrow room upstairs, getting it all in is very tight. Room for viewing comfortably and maintaining traffic flow really has played a major role in our design progress. The group also recognizes that when folks come in the door, this will be the first thing they see. Our goal is to provide a layout that is very inviting and pleasing to the eye. We have agreed that we would like to have only scratch-built buildings when completed, but temporary store-bought items may grace the line in the beginning. If you are interested in being a part of this project, contact Dick Clark (group leader) at 207-946-5304 or [tootchug@roadrunner.com](mailto:tootchug@roadrunner.com)

raisers would be gratefully appreciated. And, of course, an outright donation will always be accepted.

By Ed & Brenda Leslie

G Scale Layout Committee meeting. From top to right, Stephen Martelli, Irving Young, Ed Leslie, Steve Hall, Brenda Leslie & Dick Clark. Photo by Terry King



Like any project, funds are needed to make things happen. Your support as we do fund



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An educational foundation



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**THE SIGNAL**

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Paul Lodge, Larry Cannon, Ed & Brenda Leslie, & Tom Jones

**MINUTES CONTINUED**

(Continued from page 2)

Jay Calnan donated to the club a copy of a pencil drawing of Locomotive 470, which was the last steam engine to run in Maine and is now on display in Waterville. He asked that the drawing be framed and displayed at the club.

The Attendance Prize winner was Richard Bibeau. He was not in attendance so the prize will be carried forward to next month.

The meeting adjourned and members were invited to see the progress around the building.

**TRAIN TIME BEING AIRED IN NH**

Channel 13 in Newmarket, New Hampshire, recently started showing *TRAIN TIME* every Saturday evening on their local access cable channel. One of the viewers called Paul Lodge to talk about riding trains in the early 1940s. Another called to say he enjoyed seeing the trains in Pennsylvania because he was from there. Chris Williams, the manager of Newmarket's Channel 13, e-mailed Paul to let him know their channel had started airing the show. Paul was able to tell Chris that he had already received two telephone calls from the Newmarket audience.

Manager Williams gets the shows from the Rockland distribution center created for local cable access channels. Philanthropist Robert Nichols has arranged distribution so that cable companies can download a variety of shows for their stations at little or no cost. As of the end of March, the available *TRAIN TIME* shows have been downloaded 824 times.

By Paul Lodge



**DO YOU GET YOUR NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL?**

According to Terry King, nearly half (48 out of 101) of the club members have signed up to receive *The Signal* by e-mail. This saves the cost of postage, paper, ink, and Terry's time. If you have a computer and would like to help the club save money, notify Terry by e-mail and have him add your name to his list.

By Paul Lodge

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

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

**April**

- 10 Train Show, Sanford 10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
- 14 Executive Committee 7:00 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.

**May**

- 12 Executive Committee 7:00 p.m.
- 20 Meeting 7:00 p.m. Elections - Refreshments

Gary Thibeault and Russell Hall hard at work on wiring for our layout.

Photo by Paul Lodge

