



THE SIGNAL

THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

VOLUME 12. ISSUE 11



APRIL 2011



Member since June 1988

NEXT MEETING

April 21
7:00 p.m.

NEXT
MONTH
Deadline for
May

April 28, 2011

MEMBERSHIP

121

ATTENDANCE PRIZE

Don Lush's name
was drawn and he
was not present to
win.

Will your name be
drawn on Apr. 21?
You have to be
present to win!

BOTTLES FOR BASICS

- ◆ YEAR TO DATE:
\$457.90
- ◆ THIS MONTH:
\$32.35
- ◆ NEXT MONTH:
That is up to you!

Trip to Bar Mills Model Works By Ed Leslie

On March 5, a group of nineteen members and guests visited Bar Mills Scale Models in Buxton. The business is housed in a replica of the Strong railroad station, which was used by the Sandy River & Rangeley Lakes Railroad. The ten-year old business has the reputation of being one of the best values in the craftsman laser-cut kit market. They started out making billboard signs and graduated into the detailed building kits you can buy today. A small family-owned business, they know their customers come first.

Owner Art Fahie and production manager Lenny Lednum did a wonderful job of showing us around. One of the first stops on the tour is a very well done On30 layout. The detail on this small layout is the best I have ever seen. There are also Bar Mills Model Works dioramas showing



Photo by Art Fahie

assembled kits of almost everything they have to offer. That, too, is just outstanding. The rest of the tour shows the steps from creating the kits and laser-cutting the pieces to their design and packaging. Watching the laser cut the basswood and paper was really interesting. And a few of

us came home with ideas for our own railroading empires.

Guest Speaker—Terry Harper by Ed Leslie

Terry Harper has spent a lot of time investigating the Eagle Lake & West Branch Railroad and climbing in, over and literally under the locomotives. He headed up the effort to jack the sinking and leaning locomotives out of the mud and reconstruct a solid roadbed. The railroad, which ceased operations in September 1933, was never chartered. The thirteen miles from Eagle Lake to Umbazooksus was constructed and operated by

Lacroix's Madawaska Co. The lower five miles from Umbazooksus to Chesuncook Meadows was built by Great Northern Paper Company. In the 1960's Lacroix sold his holdings, including the railroad, to Irving Pulp and Paper. They then deeded the tramway area to the state of Maine to become part of the Allagash wilderness.

The history of the Eagle Lake & West Branch railroad is absolutely fascinating. Terry

Harper's first exposure to it was a story penned by Jim Shaugnessy. At the time he thought, "That is it? There's no more information?" Little did he know the path that it would lead him down. We are looking forward to hearing him share his interest in this railroad with us at our April 21 meeting.

"On March 12, the G-Scale Division met at the Toot and Chug Railroad to build switches in Dick Clark's workshop. Dick was the gang leader for the project and I helped where I could. The section crew consisted of Dave Kierstead, Ray Parent, Don Lush, Howard Palmer, and Bob Russell. Dick had the workshop nice and warm when all of us arrived. Ray had stopped at Dunkin' Donuts along his way. The shop was full of good-hearted fun as the work progressed. Pizza from the local store sure tasted good for lunch as the group exchanged ideas and

G-Scale Update by Ed Leslie

joked around. Soon we were all business again (yeah, right) as we continued building the five new switches. I do think it is fair to say we all had a good day, plus we had something to show for it. Thanks Dick for sharing your talents and your workshop!

On March 12, the G-Scale Division met at the Toot and Chug Railroad to build switches in Dick Clark's workshop. Dick was the gang leader for the project and I helped where I could. The section crew consisted of Dave Kierstead, Ray Parent, Don Lush, Howard Palmer, and Bob Russell. Dick had the workshop nice and warm when all of us arrived. Ray had stopped at Dunkin' Donuts along his way. The shop was full of good-hearted fun as the work progressed. Pizza from the local store sure tasted good for lunch as the group exchanged ideas and



Thanks Dick for sharing your talents and your workshop!

March 19th Activities By Paul Lodge

Many club members attended the O-Scale Model Railroad show at the Elks Lodge in Augusta on Saturday, March 19. Paul Lodge and Jerry Johnston set up the club's Raffle Layout and Tom Coulombe's N-Scale layout. Bryce Weeks helped Jerry run Tom's N-Scale layout. Bob and Denise Purington came to sell tickets on the Raffle Layout. Bob Willard rented a table and sold model trees and some buildings.

Bill Carson and his grandson attended, and Irving Young and Pauline Kolbe found items to add to their model railroad collection. Ed Webb stayed most of the day.

There were several layouts set up by the Maine 3-Railers club. One of the big hits of the show was the automatic log loading and unloading facility. The Flying Yankee ran on the large O-Scale layout along with some articulated steam engines.

After the train show, Paul Lodge and Jerry Johnston went to Readfield to help George and Kathy Melvin set up for the evening's slide show sponsored by the Melvins. There were presenters who showed slides of short lines in Eastern Canada and around the United States. George and Kathy made an excellent slide presentation honoring the late John Ames, who was an important contributor to one of George's books. People came from great distances to see the slides. One couple came from New Brunswick.

This is an enjoyable, different type of experience for railroad enthusiasts.

"Many club members attended the O-Scale Model Railroad show at the Elks Lodge in Augusta on Saturday, March 19. Paul Lodge and Jerry Johnston set up the club's Raffle Layout and Tom Coulombe's N-Scale layout. Bryce Weeks helped Jerry run Tom's N-Scale layout."

HO Layout Surplus Materials Sales By Larry Cannon

Now that the mainline is nearing completion and we have finalized how the two larger yards will be laid, we can begin to part with some of the excess materials we have accumulated for possible use. The decision to hand lay the two larger yards on Homosote results in some excess boxes of 25 three-foot lengths of cork roadbed that are available for \$30 per box. There are approximately six boxes available. We also have some extra packages of Code 83/100 metal and insulated rail joiners and Anderson turnout linkages.

Tom Jones has been building Fast Tracks turnouts with the Code 83 Micro Engineering rail we had in inventory, virtually eliminating the need to use the Code 100 nickel silver turnouts from the old layout. There are approximately one hundred #6, #5 and smaller

turnouts available. They are priced at \$7 for those that are like new, and \$5 for the few that require cleaning or additional spiking or have a few missing ties.

All proceeds from the sale of these materials will be used to buy the turnouts and electronics we need to complete track work and wiring or to buy metal wheel sets for the club's car inventory. A recently completed inventory of the cars shows that the number has grown considerably since we left Canal Street Alley. Although some may be "thinned," we have over 500 cars, most of which require metal wheels to minimize track cleaning on the layout. These wheels will cost us slightly over \$2 per car.

This is an opportunity for club members to stock up on layout building supplies at reasonable

prices and to support the HO layout. We will be selling the materials at Wednesday night and Saturday morning work sessions and at the April monthly meeting before offering to sell the rest at our Topsham show.



Activities Agenda by Brenda Leslie

- ❖ **April 21** Guest Speaker - Terry Harper Eagle Lake & West Branch RR
- ❖ **May 14** Saturday @ 7:00 - Movie Night @ the club house – featuring “Unstoppable”
- ❖ **May 19** “Gidgets” & Gadget swap
- ❖ **June 25** Leslie’s Rail Fan Day
- ❖ **July 29, 30, 31** Camp Out @ Eagle Lake & West Branch RR – stay tuned in
- ❖ **August 27** Club picnic @ Hobo’s
- ❖ **Sept 10** Dick Clark open house



Jerry Johnston's layout
Photo by Terry King



Paul Lodge

"Members who are interested in running for any office or for the Executive Committee should contact Bob Purington of the Nominating Committee. At the April meeting, the Nominating Committee will give its report. Elections will be held at the annual meeting on May 19."

January Minutes by Paul Lodge, Secretary

Something new was tried at this month's meeting. Ed & Brenda Leslie had created a fifteen-minute program, featuring activities in which club members have participated during the last month. It was very well received. Ed and Brenda are asking members to send them pictures which they can use for next month's installment. Ed would like to make this a regular feature of our monthly meetings.

The TRAIN TIME show for the evening was the second part of the Victorian Christmas videotaped by Tom Coulombe, Ed Leslie, and Paul Lodge on December 18 at the Wiscasset, Waterville & Farmington Railway.

Larry Cannon gave a decaling demonstration, using one of the new club cars. The cars came with number decals which can be added to the club hopper so that each car will have a unique number.

President Rick James opened the meeting and asked for the Secretary's Report. It was read and approved.

Tom Coulombe gave the Treasurer's Report. He compared some of our actual figures with the amount budgeted in order to show club members that we are working within our means. He indicated that we have had two major expenses within the last month. We paid \$3,290 for the roof repairs and made a \$1,000 deposit on the camera security and alarm systems which were installed recently. The Treasurer's Report was approved as given.

As Station Master, Tom Coulombe reported that new signs have been placed around the

upstairs part of the building. They were made by Dick Clark and installed by Tom. There are signs for "Station Master," "Crew Lounge," "Library," and "Dining Car." A special sign for the "Dining Car" was created by Brenda Leslie and reads "Hobo Café" in honor of our chef Jerry Johnston (also known as "Hobo"). Many pictures which the club has collected have also been put on the upstairs walls and the stairwell. Work will soon start on the storage closet in the entry area. Wood and lighting will need to be purchased for the project.

Brenda Leslie, Activities Director, reminded club members of the Eagle Lake & West Branch Railroad activity set for July 29, 30, and 31. Bring your tent and sleeping bag, and enjoy the fun. Brenda also reported that next month's meeting will include a presentation by Terry Harper, a historian for the Eagle Lake Railroad.

Members who are interested in running for any office or for the Executive Committee should contact Bob Purington of the Nominating Committee. At the April meeting, the Nominating Committee will give its report. Elections will be held at the annual meeting on May 19.

Dick Clark, who normally organizes modular layouts for shows, was not at the meeting so Tom Coulombe asked how many members will be attending the Owl's Head Museum show on March 26 and 27 and bringing modules. On Saturday, March 19, we will have our raffle layout and Tom's N-scale layout at the O-Scale

show in Augusta. We will also participate in the Sanford show on April 16. Our club is sponsoring the show at Mt. Ararat in Topsham on April 30. Tom reported that we still have about twenty tables to sell.

Dick Clark hosted a Saturday switch-building clinic on March 12 at his workshop in Greene. Several club members attended and the group built seven hand-laid switches.

Rick James reported that he will look into having the club sponsor a "Slide and Dine" event at the club house. This usually involves inviting three or four photographers and suggesting to them a theme for the event. It is hoped that this could also be a small fund-raiser for the club by charging for the "Dine" part of the activity.

Terry King reported that he has mounted more than eleven hundred photographs from our collection. He noted some of the features of the collection and invited club members to use the information.

Brief reports were given on the progress of the club layouts. Travis Johnson reported that the third and last electrical box for the HO layout is being made and is about fifty percent complete. Track laying is still progressing in the yard and on the Mountain Division. He expects the main line to be completed soon.

Tom Coulombe said the N-scale group expects to start scenery soon and that a trolley line has been incorporated into the layout.

The G-scale group is building hand-laid switches for the layout.

Rick James reported that as soon

(Continued on page 5)

Two-day Event at Owls Head by Paul Lodge

On Saturday and Sunday, March 26 and 27, several Great Falls Model Railroad Club members participated in the Owls Head Transportation Museum's second annual modelers' show.

Other exhibits included model airplanes, boats, cars, and radio-controlled models to excite all those who attended. The remote-controlled helicopters were a big hit.

Larry Cannon and other club members sold excess inventory from our railroad supplies and several models of boats and planes we had received.

Club members set up our modular layout display. Brenda Leslie included her two modules depicting her home and farm in Aroostook County. Ed Leslie took advantage of the event to use his steam-powered locomotive at another club's layout. Bob Willard had an On30 display, and Tom Jones demonstrated the making of turnouts.

The two-day event was attended by several club members: Larry Cannon, Ed and Brenda Leslie, Ed Webb, Travis Johnson, Jerry Johnston, Tom Jones, Bob and Denise Purington, Paul Lodge, Irving Young, Pauline Kolbe, Bob Willard,

Bob Russell, and Dennis Ring. The Owls Head Museum has a lot to see and experience. The large hangar at the air field has room for original and life-size replicas of planes, automobiles, and many other modes of transportation. They have an interesting and extensive permanent display of all types, including early automobiles and airplanes. It's well worth the trip to Owls Head, near Rockland, especially whenever they have one of their special shows.



Bottles for Basics Almost At Goal by Paul Lodge

The club's annual year ends in April. At this point, we have received about \$400 in our **BOTTLES FOR BASICS** fundraiser. Our goal is to break the \$500 level. Last year we received \$485 from members who gave us their returnable bottles and cans. January was a good month. We received more than \$40 in returnables.

It looks like we have a chance to reach the \$500 goal. Many club members are not in a financial position to pledge more than the \$25 annual dues. Cans and bottles, however, are items which most everyone can Contribute to help pay regular monthly expenses.

Thank you for helping us reach our \$500 **BOTTLES FOR BASICS** goal.



Photos by Brenda Leslie

Minutes Continued

(Continued from page 4)

as profit from the club hopper cars is realized, a new car for our 25th Anniversary will be ordered.

Buried here at the end of the report is the announcement that the Executive Committee has voted for a dues increase. Terry King pointed out that dues have stayed the same for more than twenty years, and it is time to increase them. It is a modest increase of \$5. The individual membership will now be \$30 and the family dues will be \$35. Student members will now pay \$8 for annual dues. The new dues structure will start in May, which is the beginning of our fiscal year.

During the meeting, Jay Calnan sold

tickets for a 50/50 drawing at the end of the meeting. This is an attempt to be sure that at least one person at the meeting goes home a winner. Our Attendance Prize is available each month. We usually have about forty club members at each monthly meeting. With more than one hundred members on our list, however, members attending the meeting have about one chance in a hundred of winning anything. The 50/50 drawing insures that someone will leave happy.

◆ The name drawn for the Attendance Prize was Don Lush. He was not at the meeting so the free items will

be available next month. Bob Russell won the 50/50 raffle.



Danville Junction in May 2000 photo by Terry King



THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

144 Mill Street
Auburn Me 04210

207-933-2477
e-mail tpking@roadrunner.com

An Educational Foundation

OFFICERS:

President:

Rick James - 784-1266
n1wfo@roadrunner.com

Vice President:

Dick Clark - 946-5304
tootchug@roadrunner.com

Secretary:

Paul Lodge - 966-3641
paulldodge@ghi.net

Treasurer:

Tom Coulombe - 784-5962
ctcoulombe@aol.com

Directors:

Roger Allen-783-2129
Jay Calnan-783-1719
jayceeltc@live.com
Howard Palmer - 729-5998
drsmker@aol.com

Webmaster:

Joe Marshall - 344-7099
joe@del-stardotstar.com

Assistant Webmaster:

Frances Lodge - 966-3641
paulldodge@ghi.net

Activities Director

Brenda Leslie
207-595-3380
mrandsrdsdeere@maine.rr.com

THE SIGNAL

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

Copyright April 2011

Editor:

Terrence King
tpking@roadrunner.com

Proofreader:

Frances Lodge
paulldodge@ghi.net

Address Change

If your mailing or e-mail address changes please notify
Terrence King at
tpking@roadrunner.com

www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org

Upcoming Events

April 9, Seacoast Division meeting,
Rochester, NH

April 10 West Lebanon, NH Train
Show, Fireside Inn
www.cvr.railfan.net/cvmrr

April 16, Model Railroad Show, San-
ford ME 10:00—3:00

April 30, Model Railroad Show, The
great Falls Model Railroad Club, Mt.
Ararat High School, Topsham, Me.,
10:00 to 3:00 p. m.

July 16 Seacoast Division meeting at
The Great Falls Model Railroad Club.

November 5, 2011 Model Railroad
Show, The great Falls Model Railroad
Club, Auburn Middle School 10:00—
3:00.

Our new car from Accurail is here.
\$20.00 each plus \$5.00 for shipping
for mail orders.

Order now! Only 17 cars left.

Photo courtesy of Accurail

