

THE SIGNAL

THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

VOLUME 12. ISSUE 12



MAY 2011



Member since June 1988

NEXT MEETING
May 19
7:00 p.m.

NEXT
MONTH
Deadline for
June
May 27, 2011

MEMBERSHIP
119

ATTENDANCE PRIZE

Carmen Anastase's
name was drawn
and he was not
present to win.

Will your name be
drawn on May 19?
You have to be
present to win!

BOTTLES FOR **BASICS**

- ◆ **LAST YEAR**
\$487.05
- ◆ **YEAR TO DATE:**
\$496.15
- ◆ **THIS MONTH:**
\$38.25

Crew Lounge Renovation By Terry King

It started so innocently! Tom Coulombe, Jerry Johnston and I were sitting in the crew lounge talking, and I said, "Do you think that we could get this room painted?" Tom and Jerry looked around at the "early do it yourself" décor and said sure, it wouldn't take much. Yea, right!

Jerry soon started filling nail holes and doing other things that need to be done before painting. One day Ed and Brenda (aka "The Trouble Maker") came in while Jerry was working. Ed said to Tom Coulombe, "You know we could redo the wall adjoining the Library, like we did the closet in the entry way and make it look like a train station."

I looked at them and jokingly said, "Well, why not change the window to look like a station's bay window?"

Ed smiled and said, "I could build one!"

I laughed and said, "No, we do not want to make this a major project."

Later that day while I was checking my e-mail, there was one from Brenda saying, in effect, painting over that old paneling in the room will not do much to improve the looks of the room. We need to rip off the paneling and replace the wall board, in order to make the room look good. I read this and thought, "Heaven help me, this is going to take forever."



Tom Coulombe is tearing things apart with gusto,

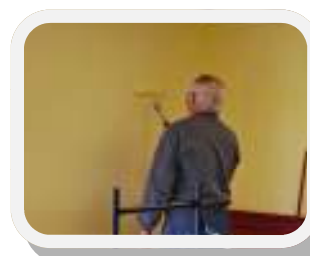
The more I thought about it I had to agree that she was right--the room would never look good with that paneling on. I replied, "Yes, I agree, but if we are going to do this we might as well do the window, if we can keep the costs down." Ed replied that he would donate the window.

Well, to make a long story short, one thing led to another and we wound up with a donated custom-built bay window, new ceiling tiles that someone else donated, wallboard and paint were

donated, then new trim for the window on the back wall and two doors were donated. Of course, if we are going to do all of this, the floor has to be refinished.

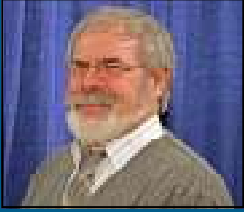
We are going to have a beautiful room at a minimal cost.

Many thanks to Jerry Johnston, Tom Coulombe, Ed and Brenda Leslie, Stephen Martelli and Larry Cannon for all of their work in getting this accomplished.



Left-Jerry Johnston painting. Right-The wall to the Library.
More pictures on page 2 and 3.

President's Corner by Richard James



"Seems like what started out as just a paint job for the crew area became a complete remodeling project. New walls, ceiling tiles, refinishing the floor. By the time of the May meeting, the room will be almost done. Thanks to everyone who helped make it happen!"

Wow . . . that's all I can say about the last club meeting! Some guessed that we had 70 plus people there, mostly club members. Terry Harper gave a great presentation on the Eagle Lake and West Branch Railroad. After a short break, we zoomed through the business meeting in record time.

I would like to thank the Nominating Committee for nominating me for a second term. I am looking forward to working with the other nominees to finish some of the ideas that were started this year.

Thank you for all that came out to work and to support the club at the train show at Mt. Ararat High School. Everyone

had a great time and everything was packed and cleaned up not much past 4 o'clock! GREAT JOB EVERYBODY!!!

Seems like what started out as just a paint job for the crew area became a complete remodeling project. New walls, ceiling tiles, refinishing the floor. By the time of the May meeting, the room will almost be done. Thanks to everyone who helped make it happen!

Remember, there is always a crew working at the building on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to around 1 p.m. and Wednesdays from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. And, of course, from time to time there are special projects being worked on. Feel free to

stop in and help.

Be sure to mark your calendar for May 14 for family night at the clubhouse where we will be watching the movie *Unstoppable*. There have been rumors that someone will be making real popcorn there, not the air pop stuff or the microwave kind. That will have to be seen!

The annual election meeting will be on May 19. This will be the start of our 25th year as a club so there will be cake to celebrate!

May Activities By Brenda Leslie

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

Saturday, May 14 at 7:00 sharp. Featuring, a story of **Run Away Train!**

GIDGETS AND GADGETS SWAP MEET

At this month's Club meeting, **May 19**, bring in a sandwich bag of small items that could be used on a model railroad layout. We all empty our sandwich bag onto the table, then we pick and choose with new **Gidgets & Gadgets** to take back home. Use your imagination when both filling your bag at home and at the **Gidgets & Gadgets Swap Meet**. Z to G scale will be fair game. (*Think out of the Box*)

Garden on the Hill

May is the time of year that gardeners start dividing or slitting their plants. Now would be a good time to start planting flowers and shrubs on the hill at the club house. **Saturday, May 28, at 9:00 a.m.** we'll meet at the clubhouse and start planning & planting. If you have any flowers or shrubs you would like to donate, please meet with us. I just ask that you please label them.

Come Enjoy The Fun!

Top right— Ed Leslie prepares the Library wall for the wainscoting.

Bottom right— Tom & Jerry seem to enjoy tearing things apart.

Photos by Terry King



Operation Lifesaver Meeting at the Club By Paul Lodge

On Friday, April 22, the monthly meeting of Operation Lifesaver was held at the club house. Operation Lifesaver presenters in attendance included presenters from the Federal Railroad Administration, Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railroad, Pan Am Railroad, and St. Lawrence and Atlantic Railroad and The Great Falls Model Railroad Club. One of the topics discussed was the Region 1 Conference which Maine is hosting at the Ramada Inn off the turnpike in Saco. The conference is set for Wednesday through Friday, September 21 – 23. Thursday, September 22, is devoted to activities for presenters. Helen Sramek, Operation Lifesaver International president, is the tentative speaker. One of the topics is “Facts & Factoids” by Mike Leckie: What to say and what not to say in a presentation; using statistics to im-

prove, not detract from, your presentation; and an interactive session. Other topics include “Increasing Your Comfort Zone for Presentations” and “A Grab Bag of Ideas from Presenters.” All of the club members who are Operation Lifesaver presenters plan to attend the conference, and OL will pay the registration fee of \$75 for each member. Some of the presenters at the OL meeting asked if it would be possible to have a continuous loop of “Sly Fox and Birdie,” and “Tracks Are for Trains, Not for Kids.” Paul Lodge volunteered to make DVDs which will run for two hours, repeatedly showing the two shows that were requested. Walt Zaccadelli made a motion to donate \$100 to The Great Falls Model Railroad Club for their outstanding service to Maine Operation Lifesaver.



New to the Library by Larry Cannon

After reading Bob Bennett's *Model Railroad Craftsman* review of George Pitary's *Season's of Trains*.

I encouraged librarian Terry King to add the book to our collection. This is a relatively short (128 pages) collection of images of trains, taken mostly in northern New England, Quebec and New Brunswick.

It is arranged by seasons, starting with spring. It does not focus on any one railroad, but our Maine railroads are well represented. George has a

knack for picking his photo locations, and this book is an excellent reference and source of scenic ideas.

Seasons of Trains is one of our library resources that we encourage you to use. I liked the book well enough to devour it in one night and see it at as an excellent reference for modeling scenery in our part of the world in all four seasons.



The new bay window that is being custom made by Ed Leslie



Paul Lodge

Tom Jones reported for the Nominating Committee. The following names were submitted for next year's officers and directors:

President: Rick James

Vice President: Ed Leslie

Secretary: Paul Lodge

Treasurer: Tom Coulombe

Directors: (3 selected): *Howard Palmer, Roger Allen and Jay Calnan* by the Nominating Committee. The motion passed.

President James asked for additional nominations. *Travis Johnson* was nominated as a director. Nominations then ceased.

April Minutes by Paul Lodge, Secretary

From 6:45 to 7:00 p.m., club members were entertained by Ed Leslie, who presented a series of pictures of club activities since the last meeting. The photos were taken by a number of club members and organized by Ed and Brenda Leslie, who had added music in appropriate places. Ed Leslie presented the pictures in an interesting fashion.

About sixty-five club members and friends attended the meeting with guest Terry Harper. Ed and Brenda Leslie had asked Terry to make a presentation to the club about the Eagle Lake and West Branch Railroad locomotives left in the northern Maine woods. In late July club members are planning a three-day trip to the site. To allow enough time for Terry to make a full presentation, there was no video program before the meeting. Time was allowed for questions after the Power Point presentation.

President Rick James opened the meeting and greeted the guests who had come to the special meeting. Club member Charles Kadyk, who was visiting from Pennsylvania on his birthday, was honored as everyone sang "Happy Birthday."

The Secretary's Report was approved as published in the club newsletter.

Tom Coulombe gave the Treasurer's Report and an-

swered a few questions about expenses paid by the club. The report was approved as given.

Tom Coulombe also gave the Station Master's Report. He noted that the storage area at the entrance has been completed with the help of Ed and Brenda Leslie, who designed the wall to resemble a railroad depot. Tom asked club members to come Saturday to help with outdoor spring cleanup activities. The Crew Lounge will be cleaned out so that the walls can be painted before the next meeting. Tom requested that club members meet in Topsham on Friday, April 29, at 4 p.m. to help set up tables and modules for our Saturday show at Mt. Ararat High School.

President James reported that enough of the club hopper cars have been sold so that a new batch of HO cars can be designed and ordered with the club's 25th Anniversary logo.

Activities Director Brenda Leslie reported that there will be a "Gidget and Gadget" swap at the May meeting. She asked club members to bring a bag of items they no longer want. Those who bring items will place them on a table and then be able to collect items which others have brought. On Saturday, May 14, we will have "Movie Night" at the club, featuring *Unstoppable* with Denzel Washington.

There is a sign-up sheet for those interested in going to the Eagle Lake and West Branch site on July 29, 30, and 31. This will include a two-mile hike and overnight camping. On another list club members are asked to write the name of their home railroad layout and tell what gauge it is.

Members representing the different scales reported on their progress with the club layouts. Tom Jones asked for more members to come and help on the HO layout on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings. Tom feels that in about four to six more sessions, the main line will be finished. Wiring of the main line should be completed in July. The bench and equipment have been moved to the other side of the workroom to allow room for the Port Division. Three ten-foot portable modules will be constructed so that they can be taken to shows and used as part of a show layout. Tom Coulombe reported that the N-scale layout is progressing. A trolley line has been laid and the group is making plans to paint the backdrop.

Tom Jones reported for the Nominating Committee. The following names were submitted for next year's officers and directors:

President: Rick James

Vice President: Ed Leslie

(Continued on page 5)

Terry Harper & the Eagle Lake & West Branch RR by Ed Leslie

The forgotten locomotives left behind in the north woods of Maine have always had a mysterious side to them. Their history and the people who worked the area could have been lost forever if Terry Harper had not taken an interest. To do the research and interview people who were there has become a lifetime passion for him. And as time had taken its toll, and the locomotives were nearly rolling over, Terry spearheaded the project to get them upright onto the tracks again.

I found Terry on the WW&F (Wiscasset, Waterville & Farmington RR) web-site discussion forum. I knew this guy had more information than I had seen or heard before. He readily agreed to come to The Great Falls Model Railroad Club and do a presentation, but he said he needed a couple of months to put it together. And put it together he did. He injected personal stories that made the history come alive. To a crowd of over fifty people at our April 21 club meeting, Terry showed pictures never before seen in public. He also separated truth from folklore on several different points. Other than Terry's

voice, there was dead silence in the club house as the story of the Eagle Lake and West Branch Railroad unfolded.

I feel very fortunate that we had this chance to meet Terry. One gentleman drove all the way down from Mapleton to see this presentation and many folks from the WW&F came as well. If you were not at the last club meeting, you missed the opportunity of a lifetime. However, Paul Lodge videotaped the presentation and will be working with Terry to put together a Train Time Video about the Eagle Lake & West Branch Railroad.

A thank you goes to those who brought refreshments that evening. Your support really does make a difference.



Scenic Committee by Jerry Johnston

I am proposing to co-ordinate and lead a group to do scenery work on the HO layout. Some of you may have heard me discuss this to some extent. The time has come to actually start this group working on the first stage. That will consist of design work, planning for materials, and obtaining people to do the specific work involved. Training will be provided on an as-needed basis for any work being done.

The timing of any scenic work at any location will appropriately be approved by the team that is constructing the layout and laying the track. We will then start scenery work in that area at that time.

This will be an exciting chance to become involved and to do hands-on work for all types of scenery from grass to rocks to trees to mountains and beyond. I guarantee that this will be a positive and rewarding experience. We want all people who are interested, and we will have work for everyone from novice to fully experienced. Most of all, there is plenty of challenge in doing scenery work on this layout as it presents some unique situations.

If you are interested, I would like to hear from you at any time. I also would like to hold an organizational meeting on Wednesday night, May 18, at 7 p.m. at the clubhouse. See you there.

Minutes Continued

(Continued from page 4)

Secretary: *Paul Lodge*

Treasurer: *Tom Coulombe*

Directors: (3 selected): *Howard Palmer, Roger Allen and Jay Calnan* by the Nominating Committee. The motion passed.

President James asked for additional nominations. *Travis Johnson* was nominated as a director. Nominations then ceased.

Terry King presented several pro-

posed changes to the club constitution to bring it in line with our current practices. Each person was given a copy of the proposed changes and copies will be mailed or e-mailed to members who were not at the meeting. After Terry explained the purposes for the changes and the additional dues structure proposals, Jay Calnan made a motion, which was accepted, to approve the additions and changes. After all the members have been notified of the proposed changes through the mail, a vote will be taken at the next meeting to approve or reject the motion for

the changes.

Stephen Martelli reported that a Berwick man in ill health needs help on his live steam outdoor layout. Three people have already volunteered and Stephen is looking for four to six more people to help with the project. He asked interested members to see him after the meeting to help set up a schedule.

The Attendance Prize drawing was held and Carmen Anastase's name was drawn. Since Carmen was not in attendance, the prize will be held over to next month.

Jay Calnan reported that \$62 had been collected for the 50/50 raffle. Don Bryant from the Stanley Steamer Museum in Kingfield won the 50/50 raffle and donated his proceeds back to the club. He received a round of applause for his generous contribution.

The meeting adjourned.



THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

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Upcoming Events

May 14, Movie Night 7:00 p.m. Featuring a movie about a run away train.

Free Movie & Free popcorn!

May 19, Annual meeting –Elections & 25th anniversary cake. 7:00 p.m.

May 19, "Gidgets & Gadgets Swap Meet. 7:00 p.m.

May 28, Garden on the hill. 9:00 a.m.

Aug 20 & 21, 25th Anniversary Open House. 8:00 a.m.

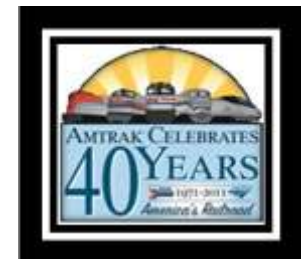
July 16, Seacoast Division meeting at

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club.

July 29,30,& 31, Camping trip to West Branch & Eagle Lake Railroad.

Aug. 27, Club Picnic at Jerry Johnston's home. More details next month.

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



The new club cars are almost gone!
They are only \$20.00 each.

Photo courtesy of Accurail.

