

THE SIGNAL

THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

VOLUME 13. ISSUE 1



JUNE 2011



Member since June 1988

NEXT MEETING
June 16
7:00 p.m.

NEXT
MONTH
Deadline for
July
June 24, 2011

MEMBERSHIP
121

ATTENDANCE PRIZE

Jerry Johnston's
name was drawn
and he was present
to win!

Will your name be
drawn on June 16?
You have to be
present to win!

BOTTLES FOR **BASICS**

- ◆ **LAST YEAR**
\$496.15
- ◆ **YEAR TO DATE:**
\$29.30
- ◆ **THIS MONTH:**
\$29.30

The Tall Pines Scenic RR By Stephen Martelli

At 7:00 a.m. on May 22, three members of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club, armed with a good supply of bug spray, headed for Berwick to work on an outdoor railroad of a different size. With Jerry Johnston driving and Ed Webb keeping us awake, I did the navigating.

It all started about four months ago when I sent an email to Walter Whiting, Chief Engineer of the Tall Pines Scenic Railroad, to see if the club could come down to look at his railroad and ride on it. His 3-foot scale train is the size of an amusement park ride.

About two months later Walter responded and asked me to call to discuss the details. He apologized for not replying sooner, but he had some issues to take care of first. He also said that the railroad could not be operated fully because a 10-foot section of the roadbed had washed out during the winter. The stream on the back side of the layout had gotten to the flood stage from the snowmelt. This left the rails and ties hanging in midair just like a real railroad after a flood. He was having trouble with his knees and bending down, along with some other medical problems. I figured the club would have to wait about a year until he fixed the railroad so we could see it.

We talked about his G-scale



Ed Webb, Jerry Johnston, Walter Whiting and Stephen Martelli.

trans and other trains on his indoor tracks. I mentioned the train show in Sanford and invited him to meet me there. He arrived about 10:30 when the crowds were at their greatest. We spoke briefly until I had to take care of a customer who was buying some of our surplus supplies. Walter took a seat, using his cane to steady himself, and we talked for the next half hour until he got enough strength to make it around the room.

Walter had explained in detail what was wrong with his railroad and I kept thinking about it during the rest of the day. As we were packing up to leave Sanford, I thought, "Why not bring some help and give him a hand with his trains?" On the way home I discussed the idea with Jerry, Ed, and Travis Johnson,

who had come with us. Their input was important. If they felt it was not worth the effort, I would have let the idea die and just waited for Walter to call. They agreed it would be different and it would be a good community service to help another railroader, even if he was not a member and his layout was a different scale.

I called Walter to ask if he would like some help to get his railroad going. He was most appreciative and said that he could really use our help because it was difficult for him to resolve some of the problems in his condition. We set a date for May 22. and discussed details of the trip.

We arrived about 8:30 that morning. After introductions, we

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My favorite was:
The Hobo...Let's
His....Whiskers
Sprout....It's
Trains---Not
Girls....That He
Takes Out...
Burma Shave

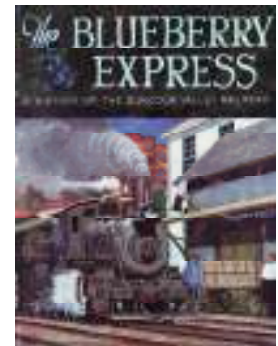
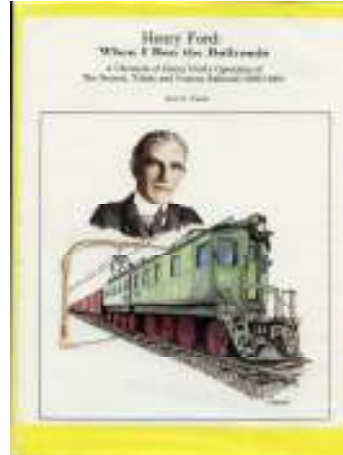
Library Findings by Jerry Johnston

One of the items I recently found in the GFMRRRC Library was a disk of advertising images by Evans Designs. The disk contained some 170 images that would be interesting as signs for use in many places on the layout. They come in eight different scale sizes from 1:220 to 1:22.5. Included are several of the old Burma Shave slogans. My favorite was: The Hobo...Let's His....Whiskers Sprout....It's Trains---Not Girls....That He Takes Out... *Burma Shave*

In the same package was an additional disk of some 240 images titled library posters. These also could be printed out as signs and made to fit

several scales. Both disks are easily copied for ready access.

I'm wondering what I can find next at the library. Let's go check it out!



Some of the more than 50 books added to the library.

Thanks By Brenda Leslie

A Big Thanks from the Activities Director

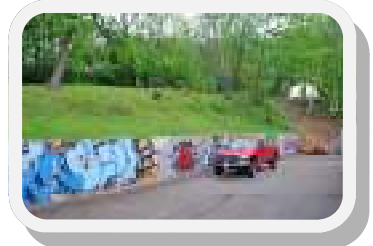
A gathering of twenty-three people came to the club house and watched the movie "Unstoppable". The movie was provided by Larry Cannon and the popcorn was provided by Jerry Johnston and Judy Wing. A good time was had by all. Everyone agreed that movie night is something we should do again so we will plan another movie night in the near future.

Thank you goes to those who participated in the Gidget and Gadgets Swap at the last meeting.

Plants, plants and more plants!!! A circle of perennial flowers is now growing under the club sign at the end of the building. Also, along the side of the club house we planted several hostas; and on the hill

behind it we placed rhododendrons, lilacs and other flowers. Carmen Coulombe planted a grouping of flowers by the mailbox. We all had a good time digging in the dirt and dressing up the yard. I want to thank Paul and Frances Lodge for bringing LOTS of flowers and brownies, Ed Webb for the rhododendrons, Jerry Johnston for the mulch, Tom Coulombe for the llama fertilizer, Carmen Coulombe for her donation of flowers, and Tom Coulombe for cooking the hot dogs and hamburgers for lunch. They tasted good! And also, a big thank you goes to Tom for bringing the John Deere Tractor with a backhoe to dig many of the holes for us. *Nothing Runs Like A Deere!!!* Scared! (Ed)

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Top photo, Paul Loge's Grand Daughter, Julie Bruce, Middle, Cake at our annual meeting. Bottom A view of our back yard. Photos by Terry King

My Home Layout

By Jerry Johnston

The drawing, information and pictures that accompany this article go with the home layout owned by Jerry Johnston of Minot, Maine. It is the third layout of his modeling career and is the largest of the three.

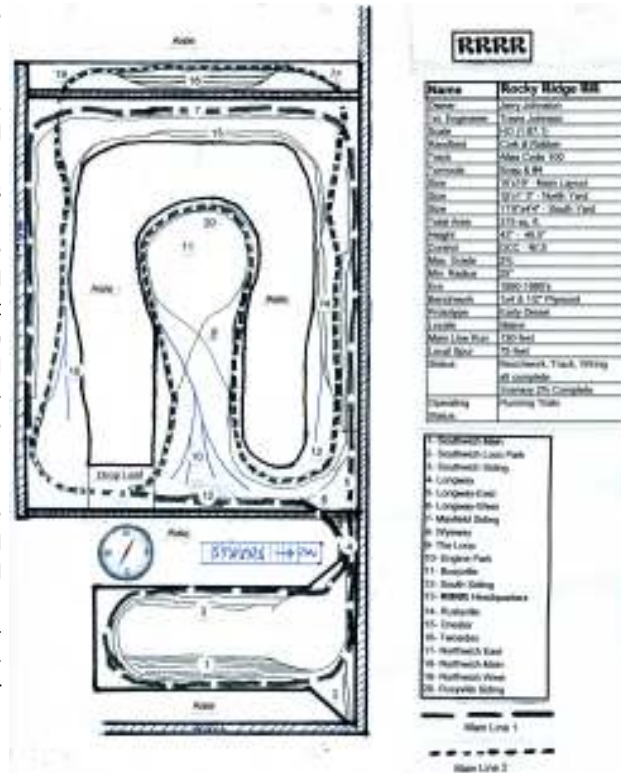
The first layout was started in 1987 shortly after he moved to Roswell (Atlanta), Georgia. When it was taken apart in 1994, the bench work was donated to a neighborhood kid who was thrilled to get it. The second layout was started in Auburn, Maine, in 1995 and operated until 2001. The existing layout was started in 2002 soon after Jerry moved to Minot, Maine. Progress went well until slowed by family health issues. After that passed, progress continued slowly due to significant involvement with the clubhouse that the GFMRRCC purchased in 2007. That project has now

reached a very successful point, enabling work to continue on the home layout.

All bench work, track laying and wiring are complete. Scenery work is underway but has a long way to go. The layout is operated by a North Coast Engineering (NCE) DCC system and will have its first operating session in June of this year.

This layout may be seen and operated by all who attend the club picnic and outing at Jerry Johnston's home in Minot, scheduled for

Saturday, August 27. Be sure to plan to attend.



Tall Pines Continued

(Continued from page 1)

looked around before starting. Walter's trains were much bigger than any I had seen in a long time. The Tall Pines Scenic Railroad has 4,000 feet of track in a folded dog bone shape with several turnouts (switches) for sidings and a yard that covers several acres. Only one small locomotive is running now. It uses a gas motor for power and someone sits inside to drive it. In his well-equipped shop, Walter is working on two big diesels for the coming year. His rolling stock includes a boxcar, flatcar, low- and high-side gondolas, and a backhoe car. This backhoe

actually works and will be used for the washout project and for other projects in the future.

We started to clear the track and railway embankments of branches and overgrowth. Less than two hours later, I was startled by someone coming down the track to say there were doughnuts and coffee on the truck. With a big smile he introduced himself as Richard Maurer, a friend of Walter's. I said I would work my way back to the house and meet him and the others there in a few minutes. He headed toward the back section where Ed and Jerry were working. I

cut grass along the right of way and arrived at the house before them.

Lunch was served before we knew it. As we ate, we told Walter and Richard about our club and its activities and our involvement in the surrounding communities. We learned more about the larger scale of trains in the Berwick area and were invited to see them the next time we come down.

After lunch, I cleared the track of snags in one direction while Ed and Jerry cleared the track from the other direction. By the time we met, the track was clear for almost the entire distance. Then there was the tree that no one wanted to see. The tree was

(Continued on page 5)



Paul Lodge

"Terry King reported that the Executive Committee has approved getting high-speed internet for the club. This will allow him to create a "Face Book" page for the club and will be available for other club activities. Rick James will be the administrator with help from Russell Hall."

May Minutes by Paul Lodge, Secretary

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. The evening's *TRAIN TIME* program featured a group of about twenty rail cars (aka speeders, putt putts) on the Conway Scenic Railway in New Hampshire. Club member Mike Reed owns one of the rail cars. His friend Bill Saucier, who rode with him, was the videographer.

President Rick James opened the meeting and asked for the Secretary's Report. Dick Clark made a motion, which passed, to accept the report as published in the newsletter.

Tom Coulombe gave the Treasurer's Report, including a Power Point presentation using pie graphs which showed income sources and expense categories. It was noted that pledges by eight club members represented about one third of the club's income. Dick Clark made a motion, which passed, to accept the Treasurer's Report.

As Station Master, Tom Coulombe reported a list of upgrades which have been made to the building since last month. The Crew Room is being renovated through donations by club members. The floor has been sanded and is ready for the polyurethane finish to be started after the club meeting. In the HO layout seaport area, sheetrock has been installed and the workbench moved. The backdrop in the N-Scale room has been completed. The storage area at the entrance to the upper level has been completed except for lighting. Outside,

brush has been cut from the top of the hill and the area should be ready for the planting party on Memorial Day weekend.

Brenda Leslie, Activities Director, reported that we had a successful "Movie Night" with 25 people attending. There will be a "Planting Party" on May 28, and she asked that members come to help and bring plants if they have them. On June 25, the Leslies will hold Rail Fan Day at their home in South Casco. They will have a 50/50 raffle to benefit the G-Gauge layout at the club. On July 29, 30, and 31, club members are invited to take a trip to the site of the Eagle Lake and West Branch Railroad site in northern Maine. On August 27, Jerry Johnston is hosting the summer club picnic at his home in Minot.

May is the month of the Annual Meeting and time to elect officers for the next year. The Nominating Committee had submitted a slate of officers at the April meeting. President Rick James asked for additional nominations. After receiving no additional nominations, Terry King made a motion, which passed, to have the Secretary cast one ballot for the slate of officers. The next election was for the directors. There were four candidates for three positions. The results of the secret ballot were as follows:

Jay Calnan: 23

Howard Palmer: 23

Roger Allen: 22

Travis Johnson: 21

Terry King read the proposed Constitution and By-Law changes. After indicating the

changes, Jay Calnan made a motion, which passed, to accept the suggested changes.

Terry King reported that the Executive Committee has approved getting high-speed internet for the club. This will allow him to create a "Face Book" page for the club and will be available for other club activities. Rick James will be the administrator with help from Russell Hall.

It was reported that the club plans to have an open house during the Balloon Festival in August. Terry King has volunteered to be the chairman of this activity, which will give the club another fund-raising project for the summer months. Dick Clark suggested that "Live Steam" could be made available as an attraction. Ed Leslie can provide a display on a flatbed trailer. Dick's daughter, Angela Acone, is willing to offer her face-painting skills. It was suggested that Mike Reed could display one of his Rail Cars.

Tom Coulombe reported that he has contacted the Maine Department of Transportation about the cost of signs to direct people to our club house. It can be done. We must provide the signs and the MDOT will provide the posts and install the signs. We still do not have an estimate on the cost of printing the signs. Paul Lodge reported that the YWCA in Lewiston is planning a day featuring railroads as part of their Summer Camp explorations. They requested someone to speak to their campers about the history of railroads and any other items of interest. It was suggested that we use the raffle layout and have Operation Life-saver materials about railroad

(Continued on page 5)

Bottles for Basics by Paul Lodge

77 SHORT

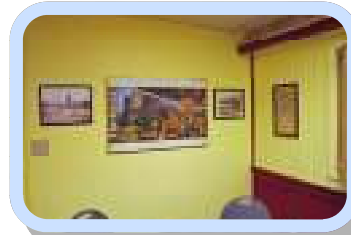
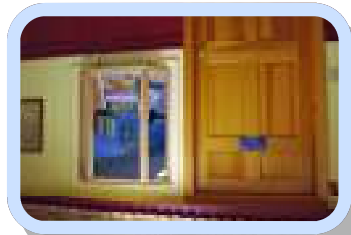
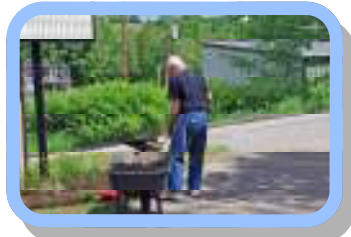
Our goal for **BOTTLES FOR BASICS** from May 2010 to May 2011 was \$500. Our final total was \$496.15. We missed by only \$3.85. **BOTTLES FOR BASICS** was only 77 cans or bottles short of our goal.

The money we raise through **BOTTLES FOR BASICS** helps the club pay for such basics as electricity. We may have missed this year's \$500 goal, but everyone did a great job of contributing bottles and cans to the cause. Although club members donated 9,923 cans and bottles, and we needed 10,000. We missed by only 77.

GREAT JOB EVERYONE. We start our new year with a goal of \$500



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in.



Minutes Continued

(Continued from page 4)
safety available. The program is scheduled for Friday, July 8, from 10 a.m. to noon.

President James reported that we have sold nearly all the club cars and we can now order 25th Anniversary club cars. He asked how many at the meeting would be interested in purchasing an Anniversary car. Enough hands went up so that President James said we will order the Anniversary cars.

Jerry Johnston reported that the 25th Anniversary pins are in transit and will be here soon. They will be sold for \$5 each.

Stephen Martelli gave an update on the project to help Walter Whiting of Berwick restore his outdoor railroad. Stephen has four

volunteers who will go to Berwick when the weather is better.

Governor's Restaurant in Lewiston recently requested train hats from Operation Lifesaver. Carlene Barnies, the manager, had seen a child wearing one of the railroad hats given out at our ExTRAINaganza event. She would like to use them for special children's events at the restaurant. Paul Lodge delivered hats as well as Operation Lifesaver coloring books and activity books for use at the restaurant. We are hoping to work together with Governor's Restaurant to promote each other. Ray Parent has volunteered to paint our club logo on a G-Gauge box car to run at the Lewiston restaurant.

Tom Coulombe reported that he

Tall Pines Continued

(Continued from page 3)

lying down on the abutments and across the track on one side of the stream with the treetop lying in the stream on the other side. I started delimbing the tree, then taking the smaller branches out of the way, and finally making the trunk into firewood.

The day closed with everybody picking up branches, putting them in piles away from the track, and making sure that the track was clear all the way around the layout. As we took an enjoyable train ride back to the house, we laughed and said that the club members should come down to Berwick and ride around for a day to see this railroad.

Walter and Richard invited our club to come at a future time for a day of fun and to have lunch on their two railroads. Richard lives nearby and has a shorter track in his yard. It was a big surprise to the three of us as we had only been joking among ourselves a few minutes earlier. We thanked them for the invitation and Walter thanked us heartily for what we had accomplished. He was very happy that he would be able to get the railroad running much sooner than he had expected. Then we headed for home, three tired and sore guys with smiles on our faces, knowing that we had made somebody else happier that day.

will purchase some plywood to make train silhouettes to be used as a sign on the outside of the building. We will put our club name on the tender of the display. The City of Auburn charges a fee of \$37 for the privilege of having our name on the sign.

This year the Boy Scouts will hold their annual Jamboree in Connecticut. Frequently, more than a thousand scouts receive their railroading merit badges at the jamborees. Tom Coulombe asked for volunteers to help the boys earn their railroading merit badges at this year's jamboree.

Jerry Johnston has volunteered to head up the "Scenery Division" for the HO layout. An activity will be assigned to everyone who helps. There are many projects which can use a wide variety of talents from the beginning novice to the experienced modeler.

Jay Calnan sold 50/50 raffle tickets throughout the evening. The total of the 50/50 was \$31, and the winner was Stephen Martelli.

The meeting adjourned.

The Attendance Prize name was drawn. Jerry Johnston was the winner and chose a hat.



THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

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Our new e-mail address.

An Educational Foundation

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Address Change

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Upcoming Events

June 25, Rail Fan Day in South Casco.
Map will be e-mailed to club members.

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

July 29,30,& 31, Camping trip to West
Branch & Eagle Lake Railroad. If you
are interested in going, call Brenda or
e-mail

mrandsrdeere@maine.rr.com.

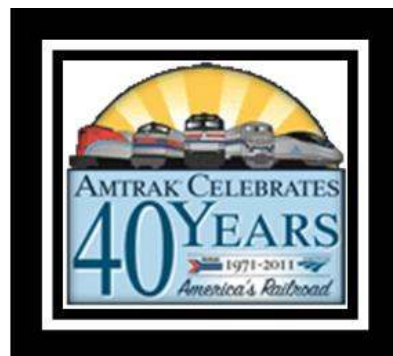
Soon!

Aug 20 & 21, 25th Train Fest. 8:00
a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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.