



# THE SIGNAL



THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

VOLUME 14. ISSUE 1

JUNE 2012



Member since June 1988

**NEXT MEETING**  
**June 21**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**NEXT MONTH**  
**Deadline for**  
**June Issue**  
**June 27, 2012**

**MEMBERSHIP**  
**116**

### ATTENDANCE PRIZE

Three names were drawn and Roy Gove was present to win.

Will your name be drawn on **June 17**? You have to be present to win!

### BOTTLES FOR BASICS

- ◆ LAST YEAR \$320.86
- ◆ YEAR TO DATE: \$40.30
- ◆ THIS MONTH: \$40.30
- ◆ \$40.30

## First Operating Session by Graham & Cory Huckins

Dear Members,

My name is Graham Huckins. I'm eleven years old and a 6th grader at Oxford Elementary School and I love trains. I have an "N" Scale layout that my dad, brother and I work on at home.

I found out about the Great Falls Model Railroad Club when mom, dad, Nana and Papa took me to visit during the **Hobo Holiday** open house and it was only minutes later I joined as a member of the club.

The following Saturday when my dad and I arrived at the club I walked into the building, knowing that I would soon be running the trains. My body started shaking with excitement! I found running the trains was very interesting and the DCC controller was like running a rocket ship! I found there is so much to the operation. You have to wear a head set, talk to a dispatcher, throw switches and get

Hello Everyone,

My son Graham is a real train buff. Model trains, real trains, even just looking at railroad tracks, he loves it all. We had taken Graham and our youngest son Colby to the Great Falls Model Railroad Club's open house a few weeks ago and decided it would be a great outlet for Graham's passion and creativity. So, we joined.



This is the large transformer being delivered to CMP in Lewiston...  
Photo by Terry King.

the route correct so you would not collide with another train.

Now that I'm part of the club, I get to run the trains on every third or fourth Saturday. That's the hard part, waiting weeks to run the trains! But, I have no regrets, it inspired me so much I got a train of my

own to run next time and I can't wait.

Sincerely,  
Graham Huckins

The following Saturday was our first visit to the club as members. I heard the door on the clothes dryer open at 4:50 a.m. Graham's bed was made, his window shades up, his clothes put away and he was already down stairs eating breakfast. In the most innocent voice he asked, "Ready to go, Dad?"

Much later that morning, Graham and I came to the club. Graham was ready to jump in with both feet. I, on the other hand, was a bit reluctant. When we walked into the club, everyone was very welcoming and friendly. Graham wanted to run trains. I wanted to follow him around and watch and

*(Continued on page 2)*

On Saturday, June 23, club members can purchase breakfast at the Hobo Café before starting the monthly HO operating session. The menu includes scrambled eggs, home fries, sausages, bacon, toast, donuts, muffins, coffee, and orange juice or tomato juice. For this delicious breakfast the club is requesting a donation of \$5 or \$2 for children under the age of 10.

Graham actually said to me, "Dad, I like it here, don't get us kicked out."

## Breakfast at the Hobo Cafe by Paul Lodge

On Saturday, June 23, club members can purchase breakfast at the Hobo Café before starting the monthly HO operating session. The menu includes scrambled eggs, home fries, sausages, bacon, toast, donuts, muffins, coffee, and orange juice or tomato juice. For this delicious breakfast the club is requesting a donation of \$5 or \$2 for children under the age of 10.

This new fund-raising attempt should prove helpful to the club and tasty for members, who might otherwise spend even more money at other restaurants in town.



Emmert International owns this special car which is transporting the transformer. It was unloaded behind the former Maine Poly in Greene and then transported by truck to the CMP site in Lewiston by truck. Photos by Terry King



## First Operating Session Continued

*(Continued from page 1)*  
learn from a safe distance so as not to hurt any of the hard work members had done on the beautiful layout. That lasted about seven seconds, when Travis ordered, with a smile, "You're going to be running a train today."

Oh boy! Travis obviously hadn't talked to my wife or my father to know that every piece of equipment I touch is usually destroyed. Graham actually said to me, "Dad, I

like it here, don't get us kicked out."

Everyone was very helpful and patient. Even after my train was caught miles away from where I was supposed to be, with a load that it should not have had, no one gave it a second thought. I learned a lot my first day and confirmed that I know nothing about railroading.

But the most important thing I knew, Graham had the time of his life and it was with his dad!

Thanks you for your hospitality. We look forward to next Saturday.

Sincerely,  
Corey Huckins



Jerry Johnston, a giant among (HO) men.

Photo by Terry King

## Auburn Mall Wants Trains By Paul Lodge

Sue Lussier, Manager of the Auburn Mall, contacted the club to find out if we are interested in providing a train event. For the past several years, the Auburn Mall has provided an opportunity twice a year for non-profit groups to display visuals and explain their organization's goals to the community. Operation Lifesaver was one of the many non-profit organizations which was regularly involved in the spring and fall events. Because some of our club members were volunteers for Operation Lifesaver, the Great Falls Model Railroad Club also participated. Last year many of the non-profit organizations indicated less interest in the Spring and Fall Community Fair and the activity was cancelled.

When Sue Lussier saw some of the signs for our Hobo Holiday, she wondered if the Great Falls Model Railroad Club would be interested in doing something with trains at the Auburn Mall. On Wednesday, May 28, Jerry Johnston and

Paul Lodge met with Sue Lussier to discuss the possibilities. Basically, our club can have the Auburn Mall for a train show. **Even though there is not much time to organize this show, Friday and Saturday, June 29 and 30 have been selected.** Sue would like to bring more families into the Mall with events like this.

We can invite other clubs to bring layouts, including the Maine 3-Railers, Boothbay Railway Museum, MaiNe Track, and any others we can think of. Sue indicated that she could also open any vacant store fronts to use for the train show if there is not enough room in the halls. Jerry asked if we could sell excess inventory and have other vendors, and the answer was "yes" so long as they did not sell anything which would compete with Mall stores.

Mike Reed has volunteered to bring his Maine Central rail car to display inside

the Mall. A television can be set up showing one of our TRAIN TIME episodes about rail cars.

We will be able to promote future club events: Train Fest, Adult Education Class, our November 3<sup>rd</sup> Train Show at the Auburn Middle School, and the ExTRAINaganza. We will be able to sell tickets on our Raffle Layout and on the Train Set Raffle for the Train Fest.

In order to get families to visit as many Mall stores as possible, a scavenger hunt will be created with prizes for completing the hunt.

Before Jerry and Paul left, they also got a commitment for a similar event in December for the Christmas season. These activities will give the Great Falls Model Railroad Club much more exposure in the Lewiston/Auburn area and should help us financially when we have special events at the club.

## Resin Casting Clinic with Bob Willard by Paul Lodge

On Saturday, May 26, Bob Willard and Greg Ouellette presented a clinic on resin casting. Resin casting is an economical and efficient way to mass produce items which it is not practical to purchase in such large quantities. Bob displayed examples of several items he has created using the resin casting technique.

Bob and Greg were able to demonstrate both parts of this two-part process. For this demonstration, Bob had selected a bench seat he wants to use in several vehicles he plans to make. First, he glued pieces of styrene together to make a box in which the mold of an item could be created. He mixed the two parts of the mold solution and

poured it into the box with the bench seat in it. Since it takes about four hours for the mold to cure, Bob had made a similar mold prior to the clinic and showed the participants what it would look like after it was cured.

The next step involved using the two-part resin material to make the seat. Bob poured resin into the previously cured mold. Because it is easier to make a larger batch, Bob suggested having other molds available for the extra resin solution so that very little is wasted.

While Bob was waiting for the resin from his project to harden, Greg Ouel-

lette demonstrated how to make a mold requiring two parts: a front and a back. The example he used was a figure of a man which could be used in several locations on a layout.

After the resin hardened, Bob removed the seat from the mold and handed it to the clinic participants so they could see the detail.

The clinic was well organized and those who attended were fascinated by the technique.



## May Minutes by Paul Lodge

### MINUTES OF MAY 17, 2012 MEETING

Before the meeting started, club members were treated to a slide presentation by Ed Leslie showing pictures of club activities since the last meeting.

Peter McKenney gave a Power Point presentation about the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad. He then showed an example of how to design and construct a model railroad. He explained and illustrated with track diagrams the contrast between his ultimate model railroad and the present reality.

President Rick James opened the meeting and asked for the Secretary's Report which was a summary of the Executive Committee Meeting on May 10. The following is the summary:

Tom Coulombe gave a report on the Topsham show. He also reported on income and spending based on the budget as well as progress on paying off the mortgage and loan from Jerry Johnston. A large amount of used and new model railroad equipment was recently acquired on consignment from a person in Orono, who will be paid as sales are made. Club members will have an opportunity to purchase some of the equipment during monthly meetings.

Tom Coulombe reported that a portion of the roof needs to be fixed. The rubber membrane has separated from the aluminum. The light switches for the lower level have been moved to a more convenient location next to the stairs. The cross buck on the east end of the building was blown off again. Tom suggested that a strap could be attached to the building to help prevent the cross buck from being blown

down again. The two road-side corner lights have not been working properly. The electrician for the club will be contacted to fix the problems. Sometime during the summer months the walls, doors, and floors on both levels need to be repainted.

The club's Train Fest will be on Saturday, August 18, during the Lewiston/Auburn Balloon Festival. On Sunday, August 19, several club members will attend the train show in Concord, New Hampshire. Although August 19 had previously been selected as the date for the club picnic at Tom Coulombe's house, the picnic will be held on Saturday, August 25.

It was decided to invite visually impaired guests after the summer when more club members would be available to help. Although the Executive Committee had chosen October 13, the date will need to be changed because a special state-wide fund-raising event is being planned for the visually impaired.

Stephen Martelli reported that representatives from the L/A Magazine will be at the Hobo Holiday to take pictures and again at the Train Fest in August for a feature article about the club for the October issue. The summary report was approved as given.

Tom Coulombe gave the Treasurer's Report which showed how incredibly close his budget estimates were to our actual income and expenditures for the past year. He had prepared a pie chart which pictured the various expenses and incomes as per-

centages of the total. This next fiscal year the club will need an additional \$2,000. As of May 2012 the mortgage on the building has been reduced to \$117,525. The Hobo Holiday was a success for the families who came and a financial success for the club. People are looking forward to coming back to the club for another year and/or to another event. Club members were reminded again that those who can afford it might include in their wills model railroad supplies and financial gifts to the club. Tom Jones made a motion which passed to accept the Treasurer's Report.

While Tom Coulombe had the floor, he also gave the Station Master's Report. He noted that the lights on the corners of the building on Mill Street will have the sensors cleaned and have less expensive 100 watt CFL lights installed. Track lighting on the N-scale layout will not be allowed because of Auburn regulations. He also reported that LED lighting for the layouts currently cost \$200 for 15 feet.

Activities Director Brenda Leslie reported that Bob Willard will provide a clinic on resin casting on Saturday, May 26. Because it takes some drying time for the curing of the resin, certain parts will be prepared in advance and finished at the clinic. Brenda noted that she will be ordering official club name tags again. They are \$5 each.

Members from the different layouts reported progress from their specialties. Ken Nettleship reported that the G-Gauge Division plans to model the 1940 to 1960 era and include a logging line. Travis Johnson noted that there will be an operating session on the HO layout on Satur-

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On Sunday, August 19, several club members will attend the train show in Concord, New Hampshire. Although August 19 had previously been selected as the date for the club picnic at Tom Coulombe's house, the picnic will be held on Saturday, August 25.

## Minutes Continued

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day, May 19.

President Rick James thanked the members for their help during his two years as leader of the club. Rick, Terry King, and Jerry Johnston presented awards to members for outstanding contributions to the club. Denise Purington was given a trophy signifying her major contributions to the club as the outstanding raffle ticket seller. Each year she sells between \$500 and \$800 worth of tickets on the club's Raffle Layout. From the Farmall Boys (Terry King, Jerry Johnston, and Tom Coulombe) a Farmall dealership will become part of the N-scale layout to provide competition with John Deere. Tom Jones was presented with an HO scale track inspection car to be used on his new layout when he moves to Colorado in July. Tom Coulombe was presented with a Great Northern

logo picture as thanks for the many hours he contributes as Treasurer and Station Master for the club. Paul Lodge received three certificates expressing gratitude for his efforts with TRAIN TIME, the Adult Education program, and his contributions of time and supplies. Rick James thanked the Executive Committee members and Brenda Leslie for her efforts as Activities Director.

The next order of business was the election of officers and directors. The Nominating Committee presented their slate of officers which was given to the club members as a ballot with blanks provided for additional nominations from the floor. The slate of officers and directors is as follows:

President: Ed Leslie

Vice President: Dave Kierstead

Secretary: Paul Lodge

Treasurer: Tom Coulombe

Librarian/Archivist: Terry King

Directors: Roger Allen

Jay Calnan

Travis Johnson

The floor was opened for additional nominations and Rob Roy was nominated for the position of Vice President. After nominations ceased, club members were directed to vote on the position of vice president as it was the only contested position. After the ballots were counted, Dave Kierstead was declared the winner as Vice President. The secretary was directed to cast one ballot for the remaining positions. As immediate past president, Rick James will also be a member of the Executive Committee.

After Paul Lodge talked about the Power Team, more members contributed to this fund raiser which will help balance our budget by paying monthly electricity bills that average about \$150 a month.

Bob Willard won the 50/50 raffle collected by Jay Calnan.

Roy Gove was present to win the Attendance Prize.

After making a few remarks, newly elected President Ed Leslie adjourned the meeting.

## Hobo Holiday a Success By Paul Lodge

On National Train Day, Saturday, May 12, The Great Falls Model Railroad Club hosted its first Hobo Holiday. More than two hundred children and adults attended the event. About eighty percent of the visitors were families with children and grandchildren. The eyes of children and adults were opened wide as they watched the many trains and exhibits.

There were a variety of activities for children. As they entered, each child received a copy of the hobo brochure created by Jerry Johnston. After a quick look at the outer edge of the g-gauge layout, children were given a list of items to find for a scavenger hunt. The "Hobo Hunt" took participants into every room. When children had found all the items, they brought the completed

card back to the table to receive a prize. These prizes included the famous whoopee pies donated by Governor's Restaurant. Stephanie Bernatchez of Maine Gourmet Chocolates had also supplied beautifully detailed chocolate diesel and steam locomotives.

Baskets placed throughout the building were filled with railroad logos printed on heavy card stock that children could collect.

Throughout the building were signs hobos use to communicate with each other about safe or unsafe locations. Outside the building, Hobo Stew was served at the hobo jungle (a location with a tent, a small campfire, and a homemade hobo cook stove). The brochure contained the recipe for Hobo Stew, explanations of the nine hobo signs on display, and infor-

mation about hobo folklore.

As part of the National Train Day activities, each child received a railroad safety coloring book from Operation Lifesaver (a volunteer railroad safety organization). Each child also received an Operation Lifesaver Student Activity Guide explaining laws about trespassing. After finding the seven trespassing illustrations, the child could select a lollipop as a prize. It was interesting to watch as parents and grandparents helped the children find the examples.

Tonya Largay of Bangor (Rick James' daughter) did railroad-related face painting on children's faces, hands, or arms. Her art work was so popular that she had to wait until after the show to see the layouts inside the building.

A unique "fish pond" was created on the lower level. Children who wanted to fish for prizes

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## THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

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### An Educational Foundation

#### MEETING POSTPONEMENTS

If severe weather threatens on a meeting night, Tom Coulombe will notify local television stations that the meeting will be postponed until the following week. This would make it the fourth Thursday of the month instead of the third. Club members who receive the newsletter via e-mail will be notified by e-mail about the postponement.

## OFFICERS:

#### President:

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## THE SIGNAL

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## Upcoming Events



**June 14**, Executive Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m.

**June 21**, Membership Meeting 6:45

**June 23**, Operating session 9:00 a.m. to Noon. Breakfast at Hobo Café @ 8:00 a.m.

**June 29 & 30**, Special Event Train Show, Auburn Mall 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**July 12**, Executive Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m.

**July 19**, Membership Meeting 6:45 p.m.

**July 21**, Operating session 8:00 a.m. to Noon.

**August 18**, Train Fest, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., 144 Mill St Auburn, Me.

**August 25**, Club picnic at Tom & Carmen Coulombe's.

**September 7-10, 2016**, 36th

## Hobo Continued

*(Continued from page 5)*

could purchase a fishing license. They were then given a fishing pole with a hook used to catch the prize.

Those who attended the Hobo Holiday could also buy items from the club's store, books from the library, and raffle tickets on the special train set and the annual raffle layout.

More than twenty club members and some spouses came to help with this

National Narrow Gauge Convention at Augusta, Me.

special event added to the club's fundraising efforts. Everyone enjoyed watching as the children and their parents (or grandparents) participated in the many activities. Several club members mentioned that adults as well as children stayed at the various locations for a long time.

After the event, between fifteen and twenty club members went to Governor's Restaurant where Tom Coulombe gave a report on the financial benefits of the Hobo Holiday.