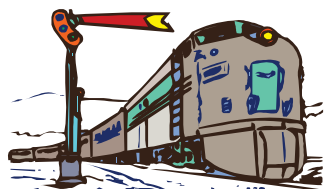


THE SIGNAL



ANNUAL MEETING
JULY 16
7:00 p.m.

NEXT MONTH
Deadline for JULY
July 24, 2009

MEMBERSHIP
85

ATTENDANCE PRIZE

Bill Carson's name was drawn and he was present to win a prize.

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

BOTTLES FOR BASICS

- ◆ YEAR TO DATE: \$99.27
- ◆ THIS MONTH: \$59.59
- ◆ NEXT MONTH: That is up to you!

FUND RAISING 2009

Dues, raffles, and shows aside, the club's support has come from three sources: Donations of materials for the club's use and items the club has not needed and has sold; Capital contributions for the building purchase and renovation; and, finally, monetary donations for annual operating expenses. My job, and that of the people who help me, is to assure this continues.

The club depends heavily on annual pledges of support. A relatively small number of club members actively pledge financial support. We need a dependable support base to budget our activities. Some of these people have already donated their full 2009 pledge (or more) to support the cash flow requirements of obtaining an occupancy permit. The point is that we need more financial support than we have at the moment.

Paul Lodge has repeatedly emphasized in the past: 1) A little money helps more than none (TOPS and the monthly bottle drive prove this); 2) The donation of time or materials that are easily converted to money is just as good as giving money if the related effort does not drain club resources.

Some model railroad clubs charge dues or fees in the \$50-\$100 range *monthly*. We do not feel that will work in our local economy. However, is it unreasonable to expect that people who take full advantage of the club's facility and services contribute necessary services or *money* in a similar range? Look around, a number of our members are doing this already.



Tom Coulombe & Larry Cannon bring in sheetrock.

With this, the level of support we have from people who make few, if any, demands for services and from a few more people willing to make annual support donations, the club will continue to be financially sound. Thus, you can expect these points to be included in the direction of our internal fund-raising efforts. We will also be working on expanding external fund-raising efforts beyond materials donations.

by Larry Cannon

ATTENTION "N" SCALERS

The Executive Committee has allotted space for a "N" scale layout. This space is 20' X 12" and is upstairs in the long room where the "G" scale modules are set up.

The club currently has a large amount of "N" scale rolling stock and buildings, along with track.

Rob Roy is looking for help to design and build this layout. Anyone interested in helping should call Rob at 782-7492.

By Rob Roy



MINUTES OF THE J U N E W O R K S E S S I O N

“Several members brought empty bottles and cans for our **BOTTLES FOR BASICS** campaign. The large washing machine box from Agren Appliance was filled and bags were also stacked outside the box. The primary contributor was Dan Collins, who brought six trash bags full of cans and bottles. (After Jerry Johnston cashed in the bottles, the club received \$51.59 for this month’s “C A N tributions”.)”

As club members arrived, each member was given a neck strap with his/her name attached to help members who come less frequently learn each other’s names.

Several members brought empty bottles and cans for our **BOTTLES FOR BASICS** campaign. The large washing machine box from Agren Appliance was filled and bags were also stacked outside the box. The primary contributor was Dan Collins, who brought six trash bags full of cans and bottles. (After Jerry Johnston cashed in the bottles, the club received \$51.59 for this month’s “C A N tributions”.)

A *TRAIN TIME* video was shown featuring a Norfolk Southern Railroad work crew in Pennsylvania using specialized equipment to replace ties.

President Stephen Martelli opened the meeting. The Secretary’s Report was approved as published in **THE SIGNAL**.

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

The committee reports were next on the agenda.

Stephen Martelli gave a report for the Building Committee. He listed several projects which have been worked on or completed since last month: the stairs have been completed and the sheetrock in the stair well is 75 percent complete. The platform for the entrance by the library has been enlarged, and the electrician has been back to do additional wiring. The Fire Inspector and Building Inspector have been in and made recommendations. Up-coming projects include installing a fire alarm system and buying and installing handrails along the hand-capped entrance ramp and in the stairwell. Because of health problems, the person we had hoped would install the suspended ceilings may be unable to do it.

(Continued on page 6)

TOP DONORS (RETURN ENVELOP ENCLOSED)

The club has started a three-month (April to June) fund-raising campaign to provide money to install a suspended ceiling in the basement and the bathrooms. **TILES for OCCUPANCY PERMIT (TOP)** is the name of the project, which is based on the old idea of buying a brick to help create a sidewalk or a building. This TOP campaign of buying one ceiling tile for \$10 will run from April through June. We will need between \$2,500 and \$3,000 to cover the cost of the ceiling. At the initial promotion during the club meeting on April 16, members who were present purchased \$565 worth of ceiling tiles. This money, along with the donation made by Howard and Joan Preston of \$500 earmarked for this project, gives us a good start of \$1,065.

In order for us to utilize the building for meetings and other special events, we NEED the occupancy permit; and the suspended ceiling is an important part of the requirements. The suspended ceiling is a priority for the club, and we do not want to have to borrow the money to do it.

It would be less expensive to sheet rock the ceiling, but that would cover the wiring and make it very difficult to add additional wiring without using expensive and unsightly conduits. The suspended

ceiling will hide the wiring that is required by the building codes and will give us access to the space above the suspended ceiling to put in additional wiring easily in the future.

Not every club member can come to the meetings to purchase tiles. A return envelope is being included with the monthly newsletter to encourage those who cannot attend the meetings to join in the TOP campaign. The name of each person who donates to the project is to be put on the “TOP Donors” poster which is placed in a prominent location at the club.

By Paul Lodge

Editors Note: This article was supposed to be in The April issue, which explains the return envelop that you received with that issue. We are enclosing another one so you will not feel left out!

The cost of the tiles will be around \$3000+. We are still getting estimates. This is the last major project to get our occupancy permit.

See story on next page

“Editors Note: This article was supposed to be in The April issue, which explains the return envelop that you received with that issue. We are enclosing another one so you will not feel left out!

The cost of the tiles will be around \$3000+. We are still getting estimates. This is the last major project to get our occupancy permit.

See story on next page”

“Anyone who has not yet contributed to the TOP (Tiles for Occupancy Permit) project, and who would like to have his name added to the “Donor’s” list, can still send a contribution to the club at this address:

*Great Falls Model Railroad Club
144 Mill Street”*

“They plan to have vendors as well as a variety of layouts. Mr. Carhart noted that the new East End Community School facility is about the same size as the Sanford armory.”

TOP PROMOTION A LITTLE SHORT

After three months of appeals for funds for the suspended ceiling needed for our building occupancy permit, the fund-raising effort fell just \$390 short of its goal of \$2,500. Thirty-two members and friends of the club have contributed a total of \$2,190 for the effort, and their names are listed on the “TOP DONORS” exhibit displayed at the club. Sincere thanks to all of you who have given to the TOP fund-raising project.

Anyone who has not yet contributed to the TOP (Tiles for Occupancy Permit) project, and who would like to have his name added to the “Donor’s” list, can

still send a contribution to the club at this address:

Great Falls Model Railroad Club
144 Mill Street
Auburn, ME 04210

by Paul Lodge

JOIN TODAY !



ST crane at Winthrop ME in April 2009.

Photo by Terry King

PORTLAND CLUB TO HOST TRAIN SHOW

On October 3, 2009, the MaiNe Track is planning to sponsor the first annual Portland Model Railway and Hobby Show at the East End Community School from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At the June 18 club meeting, George Carhart, Show Coordinator, requested that **The Great Falls Model Railroad Club** participate in the show with HO and On30 modular layouts. MaiNe

track, EECS PTO, and Ray & Robin’s Hobby Center are combining their efforts to make this first show a success. MaiNe is Portland’s N-scale model railway club.

They plan to have vendors as well as a variety of layouts. Mr. Carhart noted that the new East End Community School facility

is about the same size as the Sanford armory.

As plans move forward, our club will make a decision based on the success of the participants in getting dealers to support the show.

by Paul Lodge

DANVILLE JUNCTION



Work is progressing slowly at Danville Junction on the new tracks and crossover with the Atlantic & St. Laurence and Pam Am Railroads.



The road (such as it is) is still open

As you can see they have staged panel tracks and switches in the



area. Work may progress if it ever stops raining.

by Terry King

LIBRARY

The library is still growing. We have a lot of issues of magazines that you may have never heard of, including *Developing Railways* (England), *Die Bundesbahn* (German), *Electric Lines* (Vol. 1, Issue 1), *Electric Trains* (Oct. 1951), *O Scale News*, *Railroad Modeler* (England), *Railway Magazine* (England), *Steam World* (England), *The Railway Magazine* (England), and many more. We have only one or two issues of most of these titles.

We have 74 years of *Model Railroad Craftsman*. Not all of the years are complete, but we are mostly complete from 1951 on. If you have any issues that you would like to donate, please

contact me and I will give you a printout of those that we have.

Model Railroader is complete from 1937 to the present except for November 1937. I would love to acquire the rest of the issues.

Trains magazine has 78 years represented, but we need all of 1958 and most of 1940, 1955, 1956, and 1957 plus scattered issues for other years. Again, if you have any issues that you would like to donate, please let me know and I will provide you a list of what we have.

We are also looking for copies of *The Bangor & Aroostook* magazine, the *Maine Central Messenger*, and Guilford and Pam Am publications.

We have 369 books in stock. We do have a lot of books on Maine railroads, but we also have books on other railroads that you might find interesting. Quite a few of these books deal with passenger operations and passenger consists. We have a narrow gauge section, and a section on three rail operations.

Stop in and check out a book on Wednesday nights, Saturday mornings, or meeting nights. You can keep a book for thirty days. This is just another benefit of your membership.

by Terry King

"Stop in and check out a book on Wednesday nights, Saturday mornings, or meeting nights. You can keep a book for thirty days. This is just another benefit of your membership."



Above and to the left is the new closet at the head of the stairs.



Don Lush and his Father-in-law Howard Palmer.



The head of the new stairway



Yes that is track that you see! Work is progressing on the layout and there is always something to do if you want to help.

Here are some pictures of the work being done at the club. There is not enough space to show you everything.

Stop in sometime and take a look for yourself.

Pictures by terry king

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



When will the rain end? June has been a wet month, but we haven't had any water coming in the basement yet. This is because the repairs that took place last year, sealing the asphalt driveway cracks and the outside of the basement walls, has helped to keep the water out of the basement this year. We need to do the same kind of thinking about our future here in the club and prepare for it today. The executive committee has already started to work on a plan for "our" future. It will take us eight to ten months for us to hammer out and develop this plan. I will keep you informed of our progress as time goes on.

For the past month we have done a lot of work and it shows. Many of you have seen the staging that was built in the stairway to facilitate the completion of spackling and painting the upper stairway walls and ceiling. The work was completed by a crew dedicated to this project, starting with Larry Cannon, Don Lush, Howard Palmer, Jerry Johnston and several others and finishing with Tim Tyce and his "magic brush" applying the paint. By the time you read this, the staging will be gone and Phase Two of the stairway project will go into action; that will be the completion of the lower portion of the walls in the stair well.



President, Steve Martelli

You will also see that the bathrooms have been painted and that Tim Tyce has done a lot of taping and spackling in other areas of the clubhouse while he was here over the past weekend. I think he may have slept here Saturday night because he got a lot of work done in such a short amount of time.

We have begun progress on the lighting in the display area and we'll be completing that in the coming weeks. The lighting fixtures have been ordered and will be installed when we can get the electrician for a whole day. This way we can get a lot more done in the shortest amount of time and fewer return trips for him will save us money. The heating radiators will be placed in this area also and that will warm up the center of the building.

We have other projects that need to be done before we get our permit of occupancy. We could use your

help in completing these items in the next few weeks as we are getting down to crunch time. Remember, our Yearly B-B-Q is planned for September 19th and the permit needs to be in place beforehand. We are not that far away from the end. Come on out and help when you have a chance, so we can get done that much sooner.

The parts for the outside steel handrail on the ramp have been ordered and will be fabricated as soon as we receive them. The exit stairway by the lounge door needs a short handrail to meet code. Along with the roof support bracket, this will be installed as soon as it stops raining.

The N-scalers have laid claim to their area on the upper floor, and they are developing a plan for that space. This will include a layout or two, workbench and storage area. From what I have been told, they are planning to have one layout with DCC and the other with straight DC. This way you could check out your engine on the appropriate power supply to make sure that it's working right. I can't wait to see what they will come up with for a layout plan. See Rob Roy for details on the planning or to help in building this layout.

On a lighter note, in the coming months there will be several train shows to enjoy, starting in July with the NMRA National Convention in Hartford, Connecticut. Several members of our Surplus Sales Committee will be attending the show in Concord, New Hampshire, on August 23 and selling our wares to make some money for the club. Also in late August the *Maine Three Railers* will be attending the Topsham Fair, showing off their latest in three-rail trains and equipment.

Be thinking about our annual Yard Sale. Do you have something that you would like to contribute? Can you help with the sale when the time comes? More details will be announced in the coming weeks.

(Continued on page 6)

"We have other projects that need to be done before we get our permit of occupancy. We could use your help in completing these items in the next few weeks as we are getting down to crunch time. Remember, our Yearly B-B-Q is planned for September 17th and the permit needs to be in place beforehand. We are not that far away from the end. Come on out and help when you have a chance, so we can get done that much sooner."

"Be thinking about our annual Yard Sale. Do you have something that you would like to contribute? Can you help with the sale when the time comes? More details will be announced in the coming weeks."

The Great Falls Model
Railroad Club, Inc.

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 509,
Monmouth Me 04259-0509.

Physical Address:
144 Mill Street
Auburn, Me 04210

Phone: 555-555-5555
Fax: 555-555-5555

We are on the web!
[Http://www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org](http://www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org)

Your business tag line here.



OFFICERS

President:

Steve Martelli—577-9351
TBA

Vice President:

Robert Roy—782-7492
rroy@roadrunner.com

Secretary:

Paul Lodge—966-3641
paulldodge@ghi.net

Treasurer:

Tom Coulombe - 933-2477

Directors:

Rick James—784-1266
n1wfo@roadrunner.com
Jay Calnan -783-1719
jayceeltc@myfairpoint.net
Tim Tyce—623-3302
timtuce@hotmail.com

Webmaster:

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

THE SIGNAL

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

Copyright July2009.

Editor:

Terrence King
tpking@roadrunner.com

Correspondents:

Paul Lodge & Larry Cannon

MINUTES CONTINUED

(Continued from page 2)

As a result, we are accepting bids for the project. The first bid received was \$3,960 for mold-proof tiles and a 10-year guarantee. Other bids are expected.

Travis Johnson gave a quick review of the progress being made on the HO layout.

Paul Lodge announced that copies of the minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of June 11 were available, and distributed copies to interested club members.

Tom Coulombe noted that the club will be represented at the Concord, New Hampshire, show on August 23 and that other events may come up and will be reported on later.

Paul Lodge read a letter from George Carhart, the show coordinator for MaiNe Track in Portland. They are inviting us to be part of their show on October 3, 2009, at the East End Community School on the eastern end of the Portland peninsula. Mr. Carhart was in attendance and was asked to make additional comments about the new show. He noted that the space available in Portland is about the same as that of the Sanford venue. No decision was made until more information about vendors is available.

Rob Roy announced that a location for the N-scale has been decided upon, and he invited members interested in starting the layout to get in touch with him so they can begin. The space provided is approximately 13 feet by 20 feet.

A thank-you letter from Rose Thurston was read, thanking club members for displaying layouts at Clover Manor on May 13 in memory of her husband Allan.

President Martelli expressed a need for two boxes of finished hardwood flooring. If anyone has any, he would appreciate a donation.

Larry Cannon announced that he plans to bring about fifteen sheets of 3/4-inch plywood back to the club when he returns from the national convention in Hartford, Connecticut. This will be used to make a storage shed for the snow blower and lawn mower.

President Martelli announced the appointment of Terry King as the club's Historian-Archivist and

PRESIDENT CONTINUED

In closing, I want to thank all of you for helping out with the immense project that we have undertaken during the past two years. The work is coming to an end.

Keep your wheels on the tracks,

Stephen

Minutes Continued

Surplus Sales Person. Larry Cannon was appointed as chairman for Fund Raising.

The **TOP DONOR's** fund raiser was finalized during this session. Paul Lodge noted that we are about \$800 short of our goal of \$2,500 for the suspended ceiling. During the previous two months, we collected about \$1,800 for the project. June is the last month that donations were to be solicited during the monthly meeting, but additional donations would be gratefully received in the future for this project. We hope to have the suspended ceiling installed this summer.

Bill Carson was the winner of the Attendance Prize and selected one of the books available.

The meeting adjourned and members visited the excess sales area and reviewed the building construction changes.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

July

8 Executive Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m.

16 Meeting 7:00 p.m.

August

12 Executive Committee meeting 7:00 p.m.

20 Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Don't forget that we are working on the building every Wednesday night starting at 6:00 p.m., and Saturday Mornings at 9:00 a.m.