



THE SIGNAL



THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

VOLUME 14. ISSUE 2

JULY 2012



Member since June 1988

NEXT MEETING
July 19
7:00 p.m.

NEXT MONTH
Deadline for August Issue
July 27, 2012

MEMBERSHIP
116

ATTENDANCE PRIZE

Three names were drawn and Bob Willard was present to win.

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

BOTTLES FOR BASICS

- ◆ LAST YEAR \$320.86
- ◆ YEAR TO DATE: \$70.40
- ◆ THIS MONTH: \$30.10
- ◆ \$30.10

Meet the Members by Paul Lodge

(Editor's Note)

This month we are introducing a new feature for The Signal called, "Meet the Members." As membership in the club has been growing rapidly, new members and older members have not had an opportunity to learn much about each other. This column will feature both new and older members. Hopefully, all of us will get to know other members better as we learn about their backgrounds and interests.

Maurice Fortin has volunteered to interview members at club meetings or by e-mail or telephone. A brief article will be written and published in each issue of *The Signal*. In order to get the "Meet the Members" feature started quickly, Maurice agreed to submit background information about himself. This will also give him an idea of what to ask about. Please read the article and be prepared to be interviewed by Maurice. In the meantime, please e-mail him any suggestions you may have for additional questions.

Volunteers are always welcome to participate in all club activities. We have several layouts on which members can volunteer to work, and some people have special interests or skills such as scenery or electricity. The club also sponsors many different activities for which help is appreciated, such as the train shows in Auburn, Topsham, and Sanford and special events at the club,



including the TRAINFEST, Ex-TRAINaganza, and HOBO HOLIDAY.

MAURICE FORTIN

Maurice Fortin was introduced to the club in February of 2009 when he took the club's Model Railroading class through the Auburn Adult Education program. Maurice is building an HO layout in his basement in Portland. The layout is 4 ft by 8 ft in size and he is modeling Maine Central in the 1950's and 1960's. The project is approximately 50% completed at this time. He has had a lot of fun learning all the skills needed to build the table sections and do all the electrical and scenic work. He also enjoys working in N-scale and has worked with the club's N-scale layout team. In the N-

scale club layout he has been involved in laying track and constructing model buildings. He presently is building the Empire Leather Tanning complex.

Maurice and his wife, Collette, have helped at the club-sponsored ExTRAINaganza, Hobo Holiday, and Train Fest. Collette very much enjoys helping out at these events and loves working with the children. Having both the husband and the wife representing the club creates the friendly family atmosphere we try to promote at these special family-oriented events. As a retired clinical pharmacy specialist, Maurice interacts well with people. As a pharmacist, perfection in all activities was mandatory, and

Meet the Members Continued

this continues to carry over into all activities with model railroading. He took the Operation Lifesaver certification course and is one of several club members who can make railroad safety presentations to civic groups, school children, first responders, and vehicle drivers. Maurice has made many Operation Lifesaver

presentations to driver education classes and school children in Portland and the surrounding area. Doing the presentations with Driver Ed students has been eye opening as to what these young people take for granted. He says it has been a joy to emphasize all the things that need to be looked at when driving a car and dealing with the railroads, especially now that the

Downeaster will be going to Brunswick this fall.

Thank you, Maurice, for joining our active club and volunteering to collect information about other club members so that we can get to know each other better.

WW&F Builds Dairy Car by Paul Lodge

The original route of the WW&F brought milk from nearby farms to the dock in Wiscasset where it was offloaded and processed at the creamery. Finished milk products, including butter, were sent south to Portland and Boston on the standard gauge Maine Central Railroad.

Since last October, volunteers of the Wiscasset, Waterville & Farmington Railway have been constructing a replica of a 1913 milk car. This is the first narrow gauge milk car built in the state within the last 99 years. Lumber for building the car was milled from wood from trees on the property. The trucks for the car are original wheels from the early 1900's. Local lumber companies helped with the cost of hardware, windows, and miscellaneous items needed to build the car.

Ed and Brenda Leslie and Paul Lodge were on hand to document on film and video the first running of the car on the WW&F on Saturday, June 9. Arrangements had been made to run the car as part of a freight consist on Saturday morning. Several professional photographers and videographers were placed at scenic

locations on the railroad for photo run-bys. In the afternoon the car was loaded on a flatbed trailer to be delivered to the dock on Route 1 in Wiscasset. Early Sunday morning, the 13,000 pound milk car was put in place on the site of the former Turner Centre Creamery. The original route of the WW&F brought milk from nearby farms to the dock in Wiscasset where it was offloaded and processed at the creamery. Finished milk products, including butter,

were sent south to Portland and Boston on the standard gauge Maine Central Railroad.

At the June club meeting, Ed Leslie showed pictures of the car as part of his pre-meeting entertainment. This was followed by the TRAIN TIME video about the car and its historic ride.



Picture by Paul Lodge

Auburn Mall Hosts Model Train Event By Paul Lodge

The Auburn Mall was the site of a model train show on Friday and Saturday, June 29 and 30. Model trains from the Maine 3-Railers (Lionel) and The Great Falls Model Railroad club dazzled children and adults. The center court was filled with large G-gauge trains traveling up and down a four-foot high double helix on top of tables which brought the trains over the heads of most children and adults. At the further court on the TD Bank end of the mall was a large HO modular display on which children could run the trains. Model railroad supplies could also be purchased from the train dealers.

The Maine 3-Railers created a fascinating layout in one of the vacant stores, with space enough for photographer dads and moms to get great pictures of the children enjoying the trains. Some of the steam engines even smoked. The train on the figure eight was so long that the locomotive barely missed the last car of its own train. This was a popular spot for families to watch their children and trains.

Mike Reed displayed a rail car, also known as a "putt-putt" or speeder. Many people had never seen one before and had a lot of questions about the rail car. A Fairmont, built in 1940 and retired from the Maine Central Railroad in

1980, the rail car has been beautifully restored and looks like new. So that people could see how rail cars are used today, a nearby television set showed several related *TRAIN TIME* videos.

A special feature of this train show event was a scavenger hunt. Families were given a list of railroad-related items to find at each of the ten participating stores in the mall. After all the items had been found, they returned the completed list and parents entered their names into a drawing for a train trip prize. The Portland Narrow Gauge Museum had donated two sets of four tickets and the Wiscasset, Waterville & Farmington had donated free tickets for two families for their tourist railroad. Mall merchants appreciated the extra family traffic in their stores and were very cooperative in initialing the lists.

On the platform in the middle of the mall was a photo display of historic trolley cars in the Lewiston/Auburn area and of the Flying Yankee special exhibition run in 1935. Photos taken in Auburn show the Flying Yankee displayed at the railroad station, which was then located close to the site of today's Hannaford grocery store on Spring Street. In Lewiston the train sat on the tracks in front of the Maine Central station, which is now a venue for

large social events.

Train rides are a popular family activity in the summer, and all of the Maine tourist railroads had provided flyers and brochures promoting their opportunities. The railroads represented were the Portland Narrow Gauge Museum; Wiscasset, Waterville & Farmington Railway; Belfast & Moosehead Lake Railroad; Boothbay Railroad Museum; Sandy River & Rangeley Lakes Railroad; Down East Tourist Railroad; Maine Eastern Railroad; and Amtrak.

While talking with some of the mall goers, we learned that one family came from Orono to enjoy the train show as a result of our website. Another rail fan from Connecticut saw the train show sign on the marquee at the mall entrance and came in to see what we were doing.

Operation Lifesaver provided a table of coloring and activity books for children and railroad safety handouts for adults. A television set in the background showed videos that are used in railroad safety presentation to various groups, including first responders, truck drivers, civic groups, driver education classes, and children's programs.



Photos by Paul Lodge



President Leslie announced that The Great Falls Model Railroad Club will have a presence at the West Springfield show on January 26 and 27. It is difficult to gain entrance to exhibit at the show, but the G-gauge group with the double helix has enthusiastically been invited. Dick Rubin and Ralph Luby are members of the club and are asking for help in "manning" the exhibit at the West Springfield show.

June Minutes by Paul Lodge

MINUTES OF JUNE 21, 2012 MEETING

Before the meeting started, club members were treated to a slide presentation made by Ed Leslie which featured the West Paris Old Home Days, the clinic on resin casting, and the newly completed milk car on the Wiscasset, Waterville & Farmington Railway. This was followed by the 30-minute *TRAIN TIME* video about the WW&F milk car and its historic run on the two and a half miles of track from Alna and showing its permanent home at the Route 1 pier in downtown Wiscasset.

President Ed Leslie reported that on October 6 Jay Calnan will have people from Creative Trails as part of the Central Maine Adaptive Sports program here to view the club and its layouts.

Terry King made a motion, which was approved, to accept the Secretary's Report as published in the newsletter.

Tom Coulombe gave the Treasurer's Report. Jay Calnan made a motion, which passed, to accept the report.

As Station Master, Tom Coulombe reported that the roof has been repaired and that outside lights have been fixed. He noted the air conditioner donated by Terry King has been installed. Terry had bought it for the post office where he was working and had taken it with him when he retired.

Some time ago Dick Clark donated a bell frame to the club. Roger Plummer recently donated a GP7 bell which fits into the frame. It was rung at the meeting and displayed for the members to see.

President Ed Leslie suggested

that a "Section Crew" be developed from club volunteers to help Tom Coulombe with grounds keeping (weed whacking, lawn mowing, garden maintenance, etc.) and general cleanup inside the building. Interested volunteers should contact Tom Coulombe.

Brenda Leslie, Activities Director, gave an outline of upcoming events, featuring the breakfast to be held before the next operating session. This will be a fundraiser for the club with a \$5 fee for the breakfast. A door prize will also be given away.

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Paul Lodge was asked to speak to the club members about the Auburn Mall event to be held on the last two days of June. After explaining the origin of our involvement and the short time in which to prepare, he asked for volunteers to help out on June 29 and 30.

Stephen Martelli suggested that flyers for the Auburn Mall event could be distributed on the buses which stop at the mall. Paul Lodge will make the flyers and Stephen will give them to the bus drivers to hand out.

Representatives of the club's

layouts reported on their progress. Travis Johnson noted that the HO crew will have an operating session after the breakfast on Saturday, June 23. Ken Nettleship reported that the G-gauge group is installing a continuous loop logging line and hopes to have it ready for the next ExTRAINaganza. Tom Coulombe said that there are several N-scale kits which club members can volunteer to build. Many of the structures are commercial buildings that will work well on the layout. There is also an effort to convert the layout from DC to DCC.

Terry King mentioned that if members have friends who would like to have the club's newsletter e-mailed to them, he can easily add names to the e-mail list.

President Leslie announced two new features to be added to the end of the regular monthly meetings. Members will be asked to participate in "What's on Your Workbench?" and "Thinking Outside the Boxcar."

Bob Willard was asked to give the first "What's on Your Workbench?" presentation. Bob displayed a bascule bridge he is developing, using a switch machine as a motor to raise the bridge. Even though he is experimenting with ideas for the bridge, he does not yet have a place on his layout to put it. Bob also showed some tools and adhesives he likes for modeling.

As an example of "Thinking Outside the Boxcar," Ed Leslie exhibited items which can be made from empty toothpaste tubes. He then demonstrated how he uses them to create lighted street lamps for his G-gauge layout. John Visco volunteered

(Continued on page 5)

Minutes Continued

(Continued from page 4)

to display an example of "Thinking Outside the Boxcar" at the next meeting.

The drawing for the Attendance Prize was won by Stephen Martelli.

He selected a black and red Federal Railroad Administration hat.

The 50/50 raffle was won by Bob Willard for the second month in a row.

Stephen Martelli announced that he and Leroy Walker have been honored by

groups in New Auburn as leaders of the United New Auburn Association.

The meeting adjourned.

August Plans By Paul Lodge

Activities Director, Brenda Leslie, is announcing several activities for club members in August.

- ◆ On August 4 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., the Seashore Trolley Museum in Kennebunkport is hosting a "Ride back in time." The cost of \$7.50 per person will provide all day admission, unlimited trolley rides on the 3 ½ miles of track,

access to museum displays, and guided tours of the trolley barns and the restoration shop. Their trolleys, some as much as 100 years old, come from the United States, Canada, Europe, and Australia. Club members can bring lunches to eat at their picnic tables.

At the monthly club meeting on August 16, you can make your own ice cream sundae for \$3.

- ◆ On August 25, Tom and Carmen Coulombe are hosting the annual club picnic.

Tom and Carmen are asking members to e-mail them, telling what food you plan to bring to share for the pot luck meal.

Breakfast at the Club by Paul Lodge

On Saturday, June 23, the first breakfast fundraiser was held at the club. About a dozen club members took advantage of the \$5-a-plate meal which included eggs, bacon, sausage, toast, hash browns, donuts, orange juice, or coffee. No one went away

hungry because a second helping was available if needed. The meal was a good value as the cost of this excellent breakfast was less than one would have paid at a restaurant.

Tom and Carmen Coulombe and Hobo Jerry Johnston did the cooking and serving. After breakfast, members were ready for the monthly operating session on the HO layout.



Starting with the left picture is Tom & Carmen Coulombe. Middle is James Vatter and Maurice Fortin. Right is Norman Ness, Maurice Fortin, Terry King, and Stephen Martelli.

Pictures by Paul Lodge



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.

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Upcoming Events



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

July 14, Seacoast Division Meeting 10:00—2:00. Lunch Available for \$5.00

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

July 21, Pancake Breakfast at 8:00 a.m. Operating session 8:00 a.m. to Noon.

August 4, Day Trip to Seashore Trolley Museum 10:00 to 5:00 p.m. \$7.00 each

August 9, Executive Committee meeting 7:00 p.m.

August 16, Membership Meeting 6:45. Make your own Sundae \$3:00 each.

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

August 19, Train Show, Everett Arena, Concord NH

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

September 13, Executive Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m.

September 20, Membership Meeting. Spaghetti Dinner at 5:00 p.m. \$5.00 each. Meeting 6:45, with slide show by members after meeting.

September 22, Operating Session 9:00 a.m.

September 29. Day trip to Hartmann's Hobby Shop in Intervale,

NH. 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. \$20.00 each, includes museum, rides and luncheon.

October 6, Visually Impaired Project guests.

October 11, Executive Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m.

October 18, Membership Meeting 6:45 p.m.

October 20, Scratch Building Class, 9:00 a.m. Operating Session/Slide & Dine 5:00 p.m.

September 7-10, 2016, 36th National Narrow Gauge Convention at Augusta, Me.