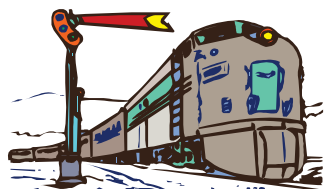




# THE SIGNAL



## NEXT MEETING

August 19  
7:00 p.m.

## NEXT MONTH

Deadline for  
September  
August 26, 2010

## MEMBERSHIP

107

## ATTENDANCE PRIZE

Ray Lagasse 's Name was drawn and he was not present to win a prize.

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

## BOTTLES FOR BASICS

- ◆ YEAR TO DATE: \$142.95
- ◆ THIS MONTH: \$41.25
- ◆ LAST YEAR: \$487.06

## MEETING ROOM FLOOR FINISHED

After the monthly club meeting on Thursday, July 15, members removed all the chairs and tables from the meeting room and hall. On Friday and Saturday, July 16 and 17, Tom Coulombe, Howard Palmer, and Don Lush sanded the meeting room and hall floors to get the floors ready for applying polyurethane. Dust was everywhere. Fans were used to circulate the air to the outside and take some of the dust with it. Howard and Don were able to sand the floor in one day instead of the two days it was expected to take.

After the sanding and vacuuming was completed, Tom Coulombe and Paul Lodge gave the floor the first coat of polyurethane and color on Saturday, July 17. Tom Coulombe and Irving Young applied the second coat on Sunday, July 18. After allowing two more days of drying, Irving Young and Paul Lodge painted the floor with the last coat of polyurethane on Wednesday, July 21.

Because of the shine of the polyurethane, the floor looks good and club members can be proud to have visitors see our facility.

By Paul Lodge



Working on the "G" scale benchwork. Photo by T. King



## E-MAIL ADDRESSES NEEDED

Terry King, publisher of the club newsletter, would like to distribute the newsletter to more club members through their e-mail addresses. This saves the club the cost of mailing and printing the newsletter. Many club members appreciate receiving the newsletter more quickly by e-mail and find it convenient to print their own copy from the PDF file.

Please send your e-mail address to Terry at [tpking@roadrunner.com](mailto:tpking@roadrunner.com)

By Paul Lodge

### Editors Note:

If your e-mail address changes, please notify me so we can keep our records updated and we can continue to send *The Signal* to you by e-mail.

# MINUTES OF JULY MEETING

***“Tom Coulombe announced that club members can order vests from him. The cost is \$22 each. After the club vests are made, Terry King will have the club logo screen printed on them. Contact Tom to order your vest. (Tel. 784-5962 or e-mail [ctcoulombe@aol.com](mailto:ctcoulombe@aol.com))”***

***“Ed Leslie asked if the club would be interested in sponsoring the annual Trees and Trains exhibit at McLaughlin’s Gardens in South Paris. The Maine Garden Railroad Society has been sponsoring the event for about ten years, but is no longer interested. A motion was made and accepted that The Great Falls Model Railroad Club help sponsor the event. Articles in the Garden Railroad magazine will publicize the event and its sponsor, The Great Falls Model Railroad Club.”***

The evening’s *TRAIN TIME* program featured the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad in Cajon Pass, California.

President Rick James opened the meeting and asked for the Treasurer’s Report. Tom Coulombe noted the revenues and expenses for the two months of this new year. A motion was made and passed to accept the Treasurer’s Report as given.

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

As Building Manager, Tom Coulombe announced that the outside doors have been painted. Before they were painted, the only paint on them was the primer. They can now be cleaned more easily. The lobby and G-gauge area floor has been sanded and three coats of polyurethane have been applied. Wiring and laying track on the HO layout is the current priority so that trains can be running for the club’s Third Annual Yard Sale on Saturday, August 21. The N-scale room is ready and is waiting for a plan to be made so track laying can start. Benchwork is progressing on the G-scale layout. A new dehumidifier has been donated. It is being used on the first floor and needs to be emptied frequently because of the moisture. Two quotes for electrical work have been received and the work will be done as soon as financially possible. One of the projects will be to remove the lights in the G-scale and N-scale rooms and put new lighting at a higher level. The second electrical project will be to install a switch to turn off all power to the HO scale layout. Because several electrical sources will be used to run the HO layout, it has been suggested that we have one switch to cut power to the entire layout so that no one will inadvertently leave one or more circuits on. The air conditioner which is now on the east side of the building will be moved and installed in the meeting room. The floor in the meeting room and hall will be sanded and polyurethane will be applied on Friday, July 17, and Saturday, July 18. Tom asked for about six people to volunteer to help with the floor sanding project.

Tom Coulombe announced that club members can order vests from him. The cost is \$22 each. After the club vests are made, Terry King will have the club logo screen printed on them. Contact Tom to order your vest. (Tel. 784-5962 or e-mail [ctcoulombe@aol.com](mailto:ctcoulombe@aol.com))

Dick Clark reported that the G-scale group plans to work on the layout Friday mornings starting between 8 and 9 o’clock. Club members interested in helping on the G-scale layout can come and join the fun. Dick also pointed out that there were three items being sold as a silent auction, and the winners would be announced after the meeting.

Dick Clark has also volunteered to be chairman of the club’s Third Annual Yard Sale on Saturday, August 21. Our next club meeting is Thursday of the same week. Members can bring items when they come to the club meeting or on Saturday morning the day of the yard sale. Tables will be set up inside and outside the building. Visitors will also be allowed to tour the building and see the progress being made on the layouts.

Ed Leslie asked if the club would be interested in sponsoring the annual Trees and Trains exhibit at McLaughlin’s Gardens in South Paris. The Maine Garden Railroad Society has been sponsoring the event for about ten years, but is no longer interested. A motion was made and accepted that The Great Falls Model Railroad Club help sponsor the event. Articles in the Garden Railroad magazine will publicize the event and its sponsor, The Great Falls Model Railroad Club.

Paul Lodge thanked club members for bringing in returnable bottles and cans for the **Bottles for Basics** fund raiser. Last year we were about \$15 short of \$500. That was a good start for our first year, and we hope to earn more than \$500 this year.

Terry King announced that several VHS railroad tapes were being sold outside the library for \$2 each.

The name drawn for the attendance prize was Ray Lagasse. He was not present.

The meeting adjourned.

## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



As most of you have heard by now, we will be joining the Chamber of Commerce soon. You may be asking, "What's in it for the Great Falls Model Railroad Club?" Well, that's a good question and I'll try to answer it in the ways I see Chamber membership working for us.

**Networking:** Once we start attending Chamber meetings, local business people will find out who we are and what we do. As some of you may know, for five years I was on the board of the Liberty Festival, which was started with help from the Chamber of Commerce. Meeting people in an informal atmosphere will help when we begin asking them for money. I'm sure many of them will be surprised when they see what we have done with the building and the land around it. In addition to our club's layouts, our library is a valuable resource about the history of railroading in the state of Maine and throughout the country and has already been used for research by community members.



President, Rick James

**Fundraising:** As a club, we have done well to a point with raising money to cover the costs of running the club and renovating the building, but it's time to step it up and start going more outside of the club membership. We have been very grateful for the willingness of the members to give time and time again to help with projects that need extra funds. I thank Paul Lodge for creatively asking for money for many projects that would not

have happened without that extra push, but we need to stop hitting up our members for "just one more time" projects. This is one of the ways membership in the Chamber of Commerce will help. We can sell services to Chamber members as a fundraiser, hopefully not just for one time but for a yearly contribution to the club. As President, I am open to ideas about what we can offer to others outside the club.

**Community Member:** Quoting from our bylaws: "To promote the greater fellowship of model railroading among model railroaders and the general

public; to advance the hobby of model railroading and appreciation for the history of American railroads whenever possible, and to do all things necessary or incident to the aforementioned purposes." I think our Chamber membership will help us reach those goals.

Speaking of fundraisers, there is one less item we will have to fund. An anonymous donor has given the club a new computer! The old computer had been giving Terry King a hard

time with the printer, and it was discovered that the problem was a hardware issue that could not be fixed. Thank you to the generous person who gave the new computer.

The floors have been sanded and polyurethane has been applied during the past week.

Many thanks to the folks that made it happen.

*"An anonymous donor has given the club a new computer! The old computer had been giving Terry King a hard time with the printer, and it was discovered that the problem was a hardware issue that could not be fixed. Thank you to the generous person who gave the new computer."*

## ORDER CLUB VESTS NOW

Tom Coulombe is making a list of the club members who wish to order club vests for \$22 each. Eight members have signed up so far. When club members were first asked, however, more people had indicated that they wanted one. Once the vests are made, Terry King will have the club logo screen printed on the back of the vest.

To order a vest, contact Tom at Tel. 784-5962 or email him at [ctcoulombe@aol.com](mailto:ctcoulombe@aol.com)

By Paul Lodge



Your editor saw these six Helm Lease units in Lewiston, heading for Waterville in July.

I believe that these are some of the units that Pam Am purchased from Helm. More on back page.

*"To order a vest, contact Tom at Tel. 784-5962 or email him at [ctcoulombe@aol.com](mailto:ctcoulombe@aol.com)"*

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

*An educational foundation*



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**THE SIGNAL**

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 Paul Lodge

**McLAUGHLIN GARDENS  
 TREES & TRAINS EXHIBIT**

At the July 15 club meeting, members voted to head up the *Trees and Trains* exhibit at McLaughlin Gardens in South Paris in December. This year the displays will be open to the public from 10 to 3 on December 4, 5, 11 and 12. For the last ten years the Maine Garden Railroad Society has brought G-scale trains and helped construct the Christmas time layout in the historic barn at McLaughlin's. Scenery includes scale models of actual railroad stations which were located in the Oxford Hills area.

Ed and Brenda Leslie have been the main contributors the past few years. With new management at the gardens and a lack of interest on the part of the Garden Railroad Society, a new era is being planned for the event. With the help of **The Great Falls Model Railroad Club**, we hope to make this a special event in which to participate. Several of our members own G-scale equipment, and they will be able to bring their engines and rolling stock and run them on the Christmas layout.

**The Great Falls Model Railroad Club** has participated in this event every year, displaying the raffle layout and distributing Operation Lifesaver materials, including the Operation Lifesaver coloring and activity books.

Former Great Falls Model Railroad Club members Jeff and Beth Chaffee have also been actively involved, and their special Christmas village is always a hit with children of all ages. Last year their display included HO, N-scale, and Lionel trains.

We are looking forward to working with the staff at McLaughlin Gardens to make *Trees and Trains* an enjoyable and memorable experience for everyone.

By Paul Lodge



**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Every Saturday**, Work Session 9:00 a.m.  
**Every Wednesday** Work Session 6:00 p.m.

**August**

**12 Executive Committee 7:00 p.m.**  
**19 Meeting 7:00 p.m.**  
**21 Yard sale 8:00 - 3:00**

**September**

**7 Model Railroad Adult Ed Class starts**  
**9 Executive Committee 7:00 p.m.**  
**16 Meeting 7:00 p.m.**

**October**

**14 Executive Committee 7:00 p.m.**  
**21 Meeting 7:00 p.m.**

**CLUB MEMBER GIVES  
 OPERATION LIFESAVER  
 PRESENTATION**

On Friday, July 16, Jay Calnan gave an Operation Lifesaver railroad safety presentation to professional truck drivers at the Gulf Oil facility in South Portland. These truck drivers deliver Gulf Oil throughout Maine and New Hampshire. This was the final Operation Lifesaver in a scheduled series for Gulf Oil truck drivers from Maine to Florida.

Wayne Thornhill, safety program director for Gulf oil, was pleased with the fine volunteer support he received from Operation Lifesaver presenters throughout the east coast. Presentations were made to mechanics as well as to the professional truck drivers.

As a 501(c)3 Educational Foundation, Great Falls Model Railroad Club members fulfill one of the club's missions whenever club members give railroad safety presentations.

Eight additional club members have volunteered to take the training to become Operation Lifesaver presenters. The training for certification will take place at our club house on Saturday, September 18. Jerry Johnston is in charge of refreshments and will be serving lunch.

By Paul Lodge