

# THE SIGNAL

THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

VOLUME 13. ISSUE 3



AUGUST 2011



Member since June 1988

**NEXT MEETING**  
**August 18**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**NEXT**  
**MONTH**  
**Deadline for**  
**August**  
**August 26, 2011**

**MEMBERSHIP**  
**115**

## ATTENDANCE PRIZE

Roy Gove's name was drawn and he was not present to win.

Will your name be drawn on August 18?

You have to be present to win!

## BOTTLES FOR BASICS

- ◆ LAST YEAR \$496.15
- ◆ YEAR TO DATE: \$73.60
- ◆ THIS MONTH: \$29.30

## Club Members Visit Historic Site By Paul Lodge

On July 29, 30 and 31, eleven club members visited the two abandoned locomotives of the Eagle Lake and West Branch Railroad. The railroad ran 13 miles from Eagle Lake to Umbazooksus Lake, which connects to the West Branch of the Penobscot River through Chesuncook Lake. The locomotives were used exclusively for moving logs between the two lakes so they could be floated down the Penobscot River for use in Maine mills. This area is approximately sixty miles northeast of Greenville and about twenty miles above the upper part of Moosehead Lake. Our excursion was a follow-up to Terry Harper's presentation at the club on April 21st. Mr. Harper is a member of the Allagash Alliance, which has created paths into the site and has been able to set the two locomotives upright on a secure roadbed.

Club members set up their campsite at the west branch of



G scale box car that will be presented to Governor's Restaurant on August 20. Photo by Terry King

the Umbazooksus campground. Those who went on the trip were Ray Anderson and his friend Nancy, Tom and Carmen Coulombe, Jerry Johnston, Judy Wing, David Kierstead, Ed and Brenda Leslie, Paul Lodge, Nancy Weeks and Goldie, her golden retriever.

A lot of information about the Eagle Lake and West Branch Railroad can be found on

the Internet. The two locomotives moved logs between the two lakes from 1927 to 1933 and then were abandoned in the woods. The railroad that owned the locomotives in 1933 decided that their value was not worth the expense necessary to move them out of the woods.

## New Display Cases by Terry King

Tom Coulombe's brother, Andrew has generously loaned us two display cases to use for two to three years.

As you can see from the pictures this will enable us to use the case in the crew room to display artifacts and use these to display sale items.



"Jerry Johnston is hosting this year's club picnic at his home in the hills of Minot. The *Rocky Ridge Railroad*, Jerry's home layout, will be running during the event. Members can bring food or purchase hot dogs and hamburgers. There will be yard games available: horseshoes, badminton, etc. It would be a good idea to bring lawn chairs to supplement those Jerry has available. He lives at 554 Brighton Hill Road in Minot. The house is about 1,000 feet into the

woods and is not visible from the road. The part of the driveway which joins the main road is not tarred, but the upper part of the driveway (not visible from the main road) is tarred. The mailbox is clearly marked.

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Tom Coulombe and Jerry Johnston installed this sign the other day.

## Library Receives Donations By Paul Lodge

"On July 26, Larry Cannon, Tom Coulombe, Terry King, and Paul Lodge went to Keene, New Hampshire, to acquire a major portion of his railroad books and his entire well-organized collection of railroad magazines, most of which were in binders. Mrs. DuPuy also donated several railroad artifacts and modeling supplies. In addition, she gave us a number of VHS tapes that will be on display at our club to buy or borrow."

Terry King, club librarian, has reported that we now have more than nine hundred books in the club library available for research and for club members to borrow. In July the club received two significant contributions.

Several of our club members who are active in the Seacoast Division of the NMRA (National Model Railroad Association) have made contacts with other NMRA members here in New England. The Seacoast Division has met several times at our club house. When NMRA member Peter DuPuy of Keene, New Hampshire, passed away, his wife, Jess, was given the name of our club to help handle his extensive model railroad collection which included many books. Mr. DuPuy was a member of the Great Northern Historical Society and a collector of everything Great Northern including some hard-to-find books about the Great Northern Railroad. Earlier this year Larry Cannon and Tom

Coulombe visited Mrs. DuPuy to organize, catalog, and evaluate his railroad collections. On July 26, Larry Cannon, Tom Coulombe, Terry King, and Paul Lodge went to Keene, New Hampshire, to acquire a major portion of his railroad books and his entire well-organized collection of railroad magazines, most of which were in binders. Mrs. DuPuy also donated several railroad artifacts and modeling supplies. In addition, she gave us a number of VHS tapes that will be on display at our club to buy or borrow.

This month the club also received a significant donation of books and VHS tapes from the estate of Charles Libby from Sandy Point, Maine, near Ellsworth. Many of the tapes were video Mr. Libby had taken of railroads in Maine. It is hoped that some of his personal videos can be used to make additional *TRAIN TIME* shows.

Brenda Leslie has been helping to preserve original book jack-

ets by covering them with special library plastic. Jerry Johnston and Tom Coulombe are also helping Terry King prepare the books for inclusion in our library.

As we receive more books, librarian Terry King noted that we will need to find a way to shelve them more efficiently. In the future, it is likely that more book collectors will donate their railroad volumes to our already significant library. Thanks to our association with the Auburn and Lewiston public libraries and their referrals, our unique railroad-specific collection will be available for those interested in doing railroad research. We can be proud of our railroad library, which now boasts more than nine hundred books.

# Trainfest August 20 By Paul Lodge

On Saturday, August 20, the club is sponsoring TRAINFEST from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. This one-day event during the Lewiston-Auburn Balloon Festival is a fund-raising activity similar to the ExTRAINaganza. All the club layouts will be operating, and Beth and Jeff Chaffee will bring two of their layouts as well. Ed Leslie will run G-Scale "live steam" on a flat-bed trailer. Mike Reed has volunteered to set up in the driveway next to the street a "Putt—Putt" or speeder to attract the attention of people driving by. We will sell raffle tickets on the club's raffle layout and on other items of interest to our guests. Drawings for

at door prizes will be held periodically during the day.

Each child will be able to write his or her name on a small paper locomotive and pin it to a large, colorful old-time locomotive which has been painted on a sheet of Homasote. A play area will be provided for the younger children, and Dick Clark's daughter Angela Acone will provide face painting. The club has several appropriate railroad books which can be read to the children. The library will be open for guests to review the club's books and magazines.

This is an opportunity for club members to help by selling tickets

the door, selling refreshments, selling raffle tickets, reading stories to children, handing out railroad safety material from Operation Lifesaver, folding the Operation Lifesaver hats children, and acting as greeters and guides. We will also be able selling hats, whistles, T-shirts, 25th Anniversary pins, greeting cards, train-shaped cookie cutters, and excess inventory items.

Jerry Johnston will be in charge of refreshment sales in the Dining Car. Club members and their wives are encouraged to make cookies that can be sold.

**Parking will be limited, so members are reminded to park in Goodman's parking lot next door to our club house, not in the club's parking area.**



Above, Tom Coulombe packing in Keene NH. Below. Back at the club are some of the items that we have brought back.



Top, Larry in Keene NH  
2nd from top, Some of the books from NH.



Top, Some of the items in NH that have yet to be sold. Above, Brenda Leslie covering some of the 170 books for the library.

Left, some of the duplicates that are for sale.

Photos were provided by Paul Lodge and Terry King.







Paul Lodge

"The Executive Committee has recently voted to make Governor's Restaurant in Lewiston our official restaurant. When members eat at Governor's, please let them know you are from The Great Falls Model Railroad Club. The restaurant is willing to publicize our events, and we are supplying them with Operation Lifesaver railroad safety materials to give to their clients. For additional publicity, club member Ray Parent has painted a box car with both our club's logo and the Governor's Restaurant logo on it. This new car will be added to their train which runs around the upper walls."

## 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 entertainment was developed by Rick James. He took shows created by *Train Talk TV*, loaded them onto his computer, and projected them onto the wall. Rick selected presentations including the Kettle Valley Railroad in Wisconsin, the CP Heritage train, the Conway Scenic Railroad, trains in Strasburg, and high-speed trains in England. The show's producer also gave updates on current events in the railroad industry.

Rick James opened the meeting and asked for the Secretary's Report. A motion was made and accepted to approve the June minutes as published in the newsletter. In a new attempt to keep the membership informed, Paul Lodge read the July 14 minutes from the Executive Committee.

Terry King gave the Treasurer's Report for Tom Coulombe who was away. The report was approved as given.

While he had the floor, Terry reported he is donating a 24,000 BTU air conditioner for the meeting room area. Terry had originally purchased the air conditioner for use in the post office from which he retired. That post office is being closed in March. When the weather gets cooler, Terry will retrieve his air conditioner and have it installed at the club.

Arrangements for the August 20 TRAINFEST are progressing. Club members were asked to sign up to help operate trains and participate in the various TRAINFEST

activities which need to be "manned." There is a need to have members who will sell tickets at the door, sell raffle tickets, be responsible for the children's play area, read stories to children, sell refreshments, sell railroad excess inventory items, give out Operation Lifesaver hats and safety materials, and act as guides and greeters.

At the Androscoggin County Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting in July, flyers and free admission tickets were given to the participants. The same publicity will be repeated at the Chamber meeting in August before the TRAINFEST.

Brenda Leslie, Activities Director, reported the upcoming events planned for the membership. Fifteen people have signed up to go on the overnight campout to the Eagle Lake and West Branch Railroad. Brenda asked that people who plan to go to the summer picnic at Jerry Johnston's house indicate what they will bring and if they are interested in having hot dogs and hamburgers.

President James asked for layout reports. Dick Clark reported that the G-Scale group will have trains running for the TRAINFEST. They will be meeting on weekends during July and August to get ready. Howard Palmer noted that the HO layout has many opportunities for instructional clinics as the work progresses. They are currently wiring and installing switches. A scenery group is getting ready to start on some sections of the HO layout. Portions of the N-scale layout are now operable.

Paul Lodge displayed several Get Well Cards created by his wife Frances, using photographs taken by club members. One series features the Mt. Washington Cog Railway. The cards will be available for sale at the sales case in the Crew Lounge and at the TRAINFEST, ExTRAINaganza, and club shows. The cards sell for \$1 each or 6 for \$5.

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The Attendance Prize drawing was held and Roy Gove's name was selected, but he was not in attendance. Roger Allen had been selling 50/50 tickets to help finance the club's activities. Jay Calnan's name was drawn as this month's winner.

(Continued on page 5)

# TRAINFEST



August 20, 2011  
8:00 a.m. to  
5:00 p.m.



**We need your help for this event!**

## Minutes Continued

*(Continued from page 4)*

After the meeting adjourned, there were two clinics.

Larry Cannon gave an informative demonstration showing how he is kit bashing a caboose to change the cupola and windows so that the caboose will be what he wants.

Ed Leslie displayed and explained how the purchase of some basic tools can help in modeling structures using basswood. The demonstration also included glues and a special metal box in which a structure can be made while it is being held in place by magnets. One of the impressive buildings displayed was the barn with interior detail which Brenda had made, depicting her parents' homestead in Aroostook County.



Jerry Johnston is helping to restore some water damaged books, while Brenda Leslie is installing covers on the new books. Stephen Martelli is compiling a list for the library.



## THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

144 Mill Street  
Auburn Me 04210

207-576-3788

e-mail [gfmrrc@ne.twcbc.com](mailto:gfmrrc@ne.twcbc.com)

**Our new e-mail address.**

**An Educational Foundation**

## OFFICERS:

### President:

Rick James - 784-1266  
[n1wfo@roadrunner.com](mailto:n1wfo@roadrunner.com)

### Vice President:

Ed Leslie - 595-3380  
[tootchug@roadrunner.com](mailto:tootchug@roadrunner.com)

### Secretary:

Paul Lodge - 966-3641  
[paul lodge@gwi.net](mailto:paul lodge@gwi.net)

### Treasurer:

Tom Coulombe - 784-5962  
[ctcoulombe@aol.com](mailto:ctcoulombe@aol.com)

### Directors:

Roger Allen-783-2129  
Jay Calnan-783-1719  
[jayceeltc@live.com](mailto:jayceeltc@live.com)  
Howard Palmer - 729-5998  
[drsmker@aol.com](mailto:drsmker@aol.com)

### Webmaster:

Joe Marshall - 344-7099  
[joe@del-stardotstar.com](mailto:joe@del-stardotstar.com)

### Assistant Webmaster:

Frances Lodge - 966-3641  
[paul lodge@gwi.net](mailto:paul lodge@gwi.net)

### Activities Director

Brenda Leslie  
207-595-3380  
[mr and mrs deere@maine.rr.com](mailto:mr and mrs deere@maine.rr.com)

## THE SIGNAL

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

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### Editor:

Terrence King  
[tpking@roadrunner.com](mailto:tpking@roadrunner.com)

### Proofreader:

Frances Lodge  
[paul lodge@gwi.net](mailto:paul lodge@gwi.net)

## Address Change

If your mailing or e-mail address changes please notify  
Terrence King at  
[tpking@roadrunner.com](mailto:tpking@roadrunner.com)

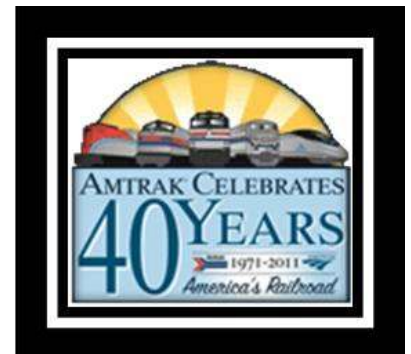
[www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org](http://www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org)

## Upcoming Events

Aug 20, Train Fest. 8:00 a. m. to 5:00 p.m.

Aug. 27, Club Picnic at Jerry Johnston's home.

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.

