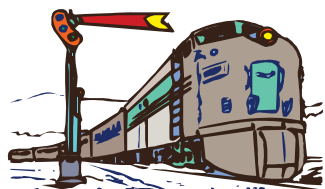


THE SIGNAL



NEXT MEETING

Sept. 16
7:00 p.m.

NEXT MONTH

Deadline for
October
Sept. 24, 2010

MEMBERSHIP

108

ATTENDANCE PRIZE

David Barrett 's name was drawn and he was not present to win a prize.

Will your name be drawn on Sept. 24?

You have to be present to win!

BOTTLES FOR BASICS

- ◆ YEAR TO DATE: \$167.20
- ◆ THIS MONTH: \$65.50
- ◆ LAST YEAR: \$487.06

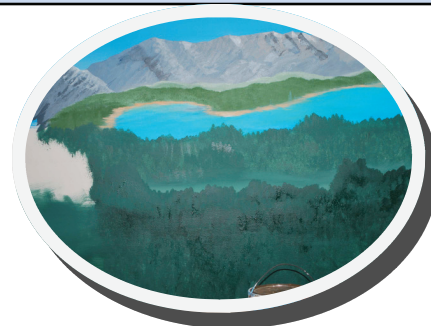
UP COMING EVENTS ALLOW MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE

How would YOU like to help?

The club is participating in or sponsoring several events during September, October, November, and December.

On Tuesday, September 6, we will start our eight-week Model Railroad class with an introduction to model railroading, including discussions about tools available in the hobby; levels of structure building (from the box, kit bashing, and scratch building); different types of benchwork; kinds of track; rolling stock weighting, couplers, and wheel sets; use of the NMRA gauge; and how to join the club. Every student taking the course will be encouraged to build a module for our November show. Once we know how many people are taking the class, we like to have the help of at least one club member for each student.

On Saturday, September 18, several club members have signed up to take the training necessary to become certified Operation Lifesaver presenters. After the one-day training session, the volunteers will be able to give railroad safety presentations to elementary, middle, and high school students, professional drivers (trucks, school buses, passenger buses, etc.), fire and police departments, and wellness programs for all kinds of businesses. The Downeaster occasionally has special trips on which Operation Lifesaver (OL) volunteers can give out information to passengers on round trips from Portland to Boston. With the anticipated Downeaster expan-



Paul Lodge is painting the backdrop for the "G" layout.

Photo by Terry King

sion from Portland to Brunswick, OL volunteers will have opportunities to make presentations to schools and other groups along the train's corridor. After these club members are certified, about ten percent of the club members will be available to do Operation Lifesaver programs. Although the September 18 class is full, other classes will be offered as needed. I don't know of any other model railroad club which is as active in railroad educational programs as we are. We

(Continued on page 5)

LIBRARY

The Hartt-Swazey library is still growing. At present we are organizing the timetables. We had about 50 already cataloged and are now working on those from the Ralph W. Kingston collection. This collection has a few thousand timetables from over 40 railroads, with many duplicates. Although most are passenger timetables, there are a few employee timetables.

The Kingston collection also included about 11,000 sides that were taken in the late 60's and 70's. Gordon Draper is scanning these into the

computer, balancing his time between this project and our layout construction.

To give you an idea of what is in your library, we have modeling magazines with 36 different titles and railfan publications with 33 titles. Many of these are complete series, with some dating back to 1940 or earlier. We also have publications from different railroads, historical societies, and other organizations. This adds up to around 6000 magazines. We have almost 600 books, including railroad

(Continued on page 3)

MINUTES OF AUGUST MEETING

“Ed and Brenda Leslie will have their G-Scale outdoor layout open on August 20 from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. One of the features of the layout is that lights in the buildings and other parts of the layout begin to come on when darkness falls.”

“The modular group will have a display at the Portland MaiNe Track Club’s railroad show on October 2 at the East End Community School.”

The evening’s *TRAIN TIME* program featured the Union Pacific and Burlington Northern Santa Fe in Cajon Pass California.

Rick James opened the meeting and asked for the Secretary’s Report, which was accepted as printed in the newsletter.

Tom Coulombe gave the Treasurer’s Report and compared current revenues and expenditures with the club’s 2010-2011 budget. The report was approved as given.

Terry King reported that the library has a new computer thanks to an anonymous donation.

As Building Manager, Tom Coulombe reported on the progress on the renovations. Thanks to Howard Palmer, Don Lush, Paul Lodge, and Irving Young, the upstairs floor has been sanded and three coats of polyurethane have been applied. The electrician has replaced the lights in the G-scale area and installed switches at each door. Downstairs, a switch has been moved so that the lights in the helix room can be controlled from the same area as all the other downstairs lights. A master switch to turn off all the power downstairs has also been added. Upstairs near the bathroom, a counter with cabinet will be installed that will hold a small refrigerator and microwave oven. In September, the broken vinyl siding near the road will be replaced.

HO LAYOUT: Tom Jones said the first DCC sections should be ready in about two weeks. Tests will be done on the helix section. The swing-out emergency door, which will have track running through it, is being designed and worked on. It is a goal to have the lower level yard worked on this winter. Tom suggested that anyone who wishes to help on the layout should come in Wednesday evenings or Saturday mornings.

N-SCALE LAYOUT: Rob Roy reported that three people are now helping on the layout and invited other members interested in N-scale to join the construction efforts.

G-SCALE LAYOUT: Dick Clark noted that the benchwork has been completed and that track laying will start soon. The group expects to have at least one train running for the Open House after the club’s show on November 6. Plans are being

made to hand lay track on different kinds of hardwood and softwood ties and use the finished product as an educational experience and talking point when explaining the work to other modelers.

The modular group will have a display at the Portland MaiNe Track Club’s railroad show on October 2 at the East End Community School.

Our show is at the Auburn Middle School on November 6.

Ed and Brenda Leslie will have their G-Scale outdoor layout open on August 20 from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. One of the features of the layout is that lights in the buildings and other parts of the layout begin to come on when darkness falls.

On Saturday, September 11, Dick Clark will have his G-scale layout operating for Greene Village Day activities. The Raffle Layout will also be at his home, and club members are encouraged to come and help give tours to guests. G-scalers can bring their equipment and run it on Dick’s outdoor layout.

In late October and early November before it gets too cold, members of the club will be setting up the G-scale layout at McLaughlin Gardens in South Paris. Their annual TREES AND TRAINS program will be the first and second weekends of December.

The *ExTRAINaganza*, which our club sponsors as a major fundraiser, will be held the last two weekends in November.

Members were asked to help set up our outside yard sale area on Saturday morning at 6 a.m. so that we would be ready for our 8 a.m. starting time. Members were asked not to park at the clubhouse. We can park next door at Goodman’s, leaving more room for our guests. Jerry Johnston volunteered to bring nourishment for club members and guests to have during the day.

A new magazine featuring activities in the cities of Lewiston and Auburn is beginning publication. Stephen Martelli has reported that The Great Falls Model Railroad Club will be featured in the October issue of the new magazine.

(Continued on page 7)



RAILROAD MERIT BADGES

The 2010 Boy Scout National Jamboree held at Fort A P Hill in Bowling Green, Virginia, was an exciting experience. It was the celebration of the 100th year of Boy Scouting in America. With temperatures in the high 90's to over 100, and the humidity just as high, over 40,000 boys and 10,000 leaders and volunteers enjoyed ten days of fun and excitement while making new friends. I worked with about 60 railroad enthusiasts on the Railroading Merit Badge.

The boys had to participate in the activities at six different stations in order to earn the merit badge. The subjects were (1) the different types of cars and engines, (2) the meaning of different types of signals, (3 & 4) Operation Lifesaver, (5) planning a trip across the country, and (6) operating a time saver switching layout.

I worked on the time saver station. I was surprised that over 96% of the boys had never even operated a layout. Each day, we had a prize of a Bachman train set for the three boys who had the best time in completing the switching operation. On the final day eight boys competed for the grand prize of two round trip tickets on the Acela express from Washington, DC, to Boston and an Acela train set. There were 1,455 boys who earned the merit badge, which almost matches the record number of boys who earned the badge in 1997.

By Tom Coulombe

CAR RESTORATION SESSIONS

Part of the development of the HO layout involves building a fleet of suitable cars for the layout. The club often receives donations of the type of cars that match our needs except for various problems with the paint job, including the quality of the paint job and the finish.

Those of you interested in stripping, repainting and decaling these cars, please contact Larry Cannon. The cars will be redone to a layout standard and will belong to the club. This is not a "make and take" clinic, but it is a chance for hands on experience while helping the club. This activity will take place either in Larry's basement or at the club, depending on the stage of the project. Because of Larry's variable work schedule, the group will work only as donations and time allow.

By Larry Cannon



The "G" group. Hard at work. Photo by Terry King

"Those of you interested in stripping, repainting and decaling these cars, please contact Larry Cannon. The cars will be redone to a layout standard and will belong to the club. This is not a "make and take" clinic, but it is a chance for hands on experience while helping the club."

LIBRARY CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

fiction as well as books on modeling and about specific railroads and locomotive manufacturers. In short, we have books on almost every railroad subject, including books that young people would enjoy.

Our collection also includes blueprints of buildings, work cars, locomotives, signaling devices, interlocking at junctions, and drumheads. We have railroad videos on VHS and DVD, railroad and modeling artifacts, and historical papers.

If you are doing research on anything pertaining to railroads, check with us. There is a good chance that we will have something useful. All items are cataloged and on our computer, and most items can be checked out for 30 days.

By Terry King



One of the 14,000 + photo's in our collection.

"If you are doing research on anything pertaining to railroads, check with us. There is a good chance that we will have something useful. All items are cataloged and on our computer, and most items can be checked out for 30 days."

YARD SALE / OPEN HOUSE HELD ON AUGUST 21

“At lunch time, Jerry Johnston provided club members and guests with several choices of food.

It was a good day to watch club members enthusiastically promote the club to guests and visitors. Thank you everyone for a day well spent.”

On Saturday, August 21, more than twenty Great Falls Model Railroad Club members helped out at the club's combination yard sale and open house. Yard sale items were placed along the wall in the parking lot and on tables along the outside of the building. Inside the building, the benchwork which will be used for the G-scale layout was also covered with items for sale. Club members cooperated by parking their vehicles in Goodman's parking lot or on the hill above the clubhouse to leave space for our guests.

Proceeds from the yard sale were to be distributed to different club activities. Receipts from the general yard sale will be used to benefit the G-scale layout. The library benefited from the sale of duplicate books and train videos. Some excess inventory items normally sold at train shows were available, with proceeds going to the HO layout fund. Money earned from ticket sales on the Raffle Layout and from *Train Time* video sales went to the club's general fund.

Several guests came to see the progress being made in renovating the building. One lady had worked in the building for more than thirty years. She started working there when it was first built and began as Andy's Baked Beans, continued when it later became Jake & Andy's Donut Shop, and was

still working there when the donut shop closed. She was pleased to see the improvements made to the inside of the building. Another visitor was a real estate broker who had helped secure the site for the building and had sold it after the donut shop closed. He came because he had seen our newspaper article mentioning that the Open House was at the site of the former Jake & Andy's Donut Shop. He was impressed with the changes made inside the building and the extent of our club's various educational activities. He is looking forward to returning to see the progress on the layouts. Before he left, he even donated a large bag of returnable cans and bottles to our **BOTTLES FOR BASICS** fundraiser.

Some people took handouts for our club's next Model Railroading class starting on Tuesday, September 6, and others took applications to join the club. During the day, several families with small children came to see the layouts. Some people came from as far away as New Hampshire and Vermont.

At lunch time, Jerry Johnston provided club members and guests with several choices of food.

It was a good day to watch club members enthusiastically promote the club to guests and visitors. Thank you everyone for a day well spent.

By Paul Lodge

PROBLEMS

Your Editor suffered a major computer problem in August. As a result of this, I lost everything on my hard drive, including my back-up hard drive. I did have printouts of a lot of this information, some was in the computer at the library, and Tom Coulombe and Paul Lodge also had some files.

I had to re-enter the data base with members' names, dues payment information and e-mail addresses. I also had to upgrade to Windows 7 and MS Office 2010. As usual, Microsoft had to reinvent the wheel on MS Publisher, and I had to relearn how to use it.

All of this has taken a lot of time and is part of the reason for the lateness of this issue.

By Terry King

“All of this has taken a lot of time and is part of the reason for the lateness of this issue.”



RAILROADING CLASS

On Tuesday, September 7, the fall session of the club's model railroading class started.

A new feature this year came about as a result of Jay Calnan suggesting that we offer our class through the Lewiston Adult Education program as well as Auburn. Lewiston Adult Education provided the class with four participants, Auburn Adult Education program added four more, and one classmate is back from the spring course. In addition, club members Ed Webb and Brenda Leslie are taking the class and plan to build modules for our November show. Our class has a total of eleven students.

At the first meeting, club members Dick Clark, Howard Palmer, Tom Coulombe, Jay Calnan, and Paul Lodge led the class with discussions and demonstrations of model railroading tools and their functions, kit building, kit bashing, scratch building, and other interesting topics.

Several of the students plan to build modules and some will help Tom Coulombe build a corner module for our November 6 show at the Auburn Middle School. For the next seven weeks, the classroom will be a busy place.

Anyone who has built a module is invited to come to the class on Tuesday nights and help. We like to have one club member for each student. It makes the work go faster and it gives members a chance to participate in an exciting club activity. Even if you have never built a module, come and have some fun!

By Paul Lodge

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Trains and Christmas go together. Christmas cards with trains make a perfect combination. It may seem too early to be thinking about Christmas, but Jerry Johnston suggested at the last club meeting on August 19 a fund-raising project which will give you a chance to share our hobby in a unique way.

Our club has a wonderful collection of slides from which we have selected five appropriate pictures for Christmas cards. We are making copies of the cards on the club's computer and printer. The laser jet printer makes beautiful images on the cards. These attractive cards feature the Flying Yankee at the Maine Central Station in Lewiston, a Bangor & Aroostook caboose at North Conway, a BAR engine from Aroostook County, and steam locomotives at Brunswick and Hillside. Each card has a different Christmas message.

They can be purchased in two sizes: one half sheet size (8½ by 5½), and one quarter size (5½ by 4¼). The price for the large cards is \$10 per dozen. For the small cards the price is \$7 for a baker's dozen (13). It is frequently difficult to find appropriate cards for railroad fans. These will be the perfect card to send to any friend who knows about your railroad interest.

You can fill out the Christmas Card Order Form inserted into the newsletter and mail it to the club, or you can bring the order form with you to the September 16 meeting.

We hope you will find cards you want to order so we can get an idea of the most popular cards. We can then have quantities of the most popular cards ready for the train show on October 2 in Portland and for our show on November 6 at the Auburn Middle School.

By Paul Lodge



“A new feature this year came about as a result of Jay Calnan suggesting that we offer our class through the Lewiston Adult Education program as well as Auburn. Lewiston Adult Education provided the class with four participants, Auburn Adult Education program added four more, and one classmate is back from the spring course.”

EVENTS CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

should be proud of our involvement.

On Saturday, October 2, the club's modular group will participate in the Portland Railroad show sponsored by the MaiNe Track at the East End Community School at 195 North Street (off Washington Street). Our club will set up a 16- by 20-foot layout. We will also have our Raffle Layout at this show. Every person's module to be used at this show and all shows must be at the site by 8 a.m. in order to be included in the show.

On Saturday, November 6, we are sponsoring our own show at the Auburn Middle School. Members who want to help out early are asked to be at the

school at 6 a.m. to set up dealer tables and the club's modular layout. Starting at 10 a.m., when the doors open, we will need members to sell tickets, monitor outside doors, sell excess inventory items, run trains, and greet guests. When the show ends at 3 p. m., members can help tear down the modular layout and the dealer tables, and sweep and vacuum floors. The less time the janitor works, the more money the club makes. The school system charges us by the hour. In addition, this year some club members will go to the clubhouse to give tours for show participants who want to see the club's progress on the building and the permanent layouts.

On the weekends before and after Thanksgiving,

(Continued on page 7)

“The less time the janitor works, the more money the club makes. The school system charges us by the hour. In addition, this year some club members will go to the clubhouse to give tours for show participants who want to see the club's progress on the building and the permanent layouts.”

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

MY SUMMER VACATION (OR WHERE DID SUMMER GO?)

Oh, that paper that every teacher had you write every year, telling of your adventures of that past summer while you were wishing you were out and about instead of sitting in that classroom. Well, I guess this will be a little like that for me as I get my thoughts back to all the great events that the train club has planned for the rest of the calendar year.

The summer started out great, going to a campground that was new to us. While on this trip, we took a ride on the WW&F, even getting a cab ride! I worked on a few of what we call in ham radio "special events," including a road rally race in Bethel and the Beach to Beacon road race in Cape Elizabeth. Of course, the biggest event of the summer was my daughter's wedding last month. I would like to thank everyone for putting up with me as I must have driven everyone nuts with the details of it! During my last camping trip in South Thomaston, we had the big miss of hurricane Earl! I was able to go to Owls Head Transportation Museum and it was great. Not much for train fans, but lots of cars and planes; and this was bike weekend, so we got to see lots of motorbikes!



President, Rick James

While all that was going on, the club members have been busy planning lots of activities to fill out the year. We hosted a garage sale on August 21 at the clubhouse and made some money for the G-scale group. There is a train show in Portland on October 2. This is the second year for this show and I remember that the parent group from the school brought in some good food.

Then on November 6, we have our show at the Auburn Middle School. We had a record turnout last year and there is no reason why it can't be again this year. There will be more details to follow.

Then here comes the big one . . . the ExTRAINaganza!!! Paul is making plans for the return of the project. The times and dates will be determined in the next few weeks so the public and members will all get to come down and enjoy our building.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone for my slide off the rails for the last month. Now I'm ready to go full steam ahead and get all club projects done to their fullest.



"Then on November 6, we have our show at the Auburn Middle School. We had a record turnout last year and there is no reason why it can't be again this year. There will be more details to follow."

OPEN FORUM NIGHT OCTOBER 21

At the regular monthly meeting on Thursday, October 21, we are going to do something different. In place of our regular TRAIN TIME show, clinic, and business meeting; we plan to have a "round table" discussion about how we want the club to progress.

The "Open Forum" will encourage members to make suggestions and offer solutions for club activities. It has been suggested that we have a "free-wheeling," brain-storming session to encourage creative ideas that will improve the club.

By Paul Lodge



"The 'Open Forum' will encourage members to make suggestions and offer solutions for club activities. It has been suggested that we have a 'free-wheeling,' brain-storming session to encourage creative ideas that will improve the club."

The Great Falls Model
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An educational foundation



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THE SIGNAL

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Paul Lodge, Tom Coulombe, & Larry Cannon.

**MINUTES
CONTINUED**

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Rick James reported that the club is joining the Androscoggin County Chamber of Commerce. By networking with local businesses, the club can realize several benefits. It will require time involvement by some of our club members to cultivate these new contacts.

Paul Lodge reported that our next Model Railroad class will begin on Tuesday, September 7.

Tom Coulombe gave an extensive report on his participation in the two week Boy Scouts national Jamboree in Bowling Green, Virginia. Tom was one of several leaders and instructors who helped hundreds of scouts earn their merit badge in model railroading. One of the skills they learned involved railroad operations. Using the Time Saver layout and a clock, scouts were expected to move and spot cars at specific locations.

Jay Calnan reported that a new movie is being released this fall called, "The Run Away Train." It is based on a true story about a locomotive being started and getting away, creating a potential disaster. Jay asked if club members would like to sign up for a special showing of the movie. Jay's plan is to have enough people sign up so that he can present the idea to a local theater and ask to have a private showing.

Jerry Johnston passed around a sample Christmas card he has designed. He is looking for feedback and additional appropriate photos so that we can have sets made to sell during the Christmas season. This could be a good fundraiser for the club. We could sell cards to club members as well as to the general public who come to our facility during the fall events.

The name drawn for the Attendance Prize was David Barrett. He was not in attendance, so the prizes will be held for the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

September

16 Meeting 7:00 p.m.

October

2 Train Show Portland
14 Executive Committee 7:00 p.m.
21 Open Forum Meeting 7:00 p.m.

November

6 Train Show Auburn Middle School
10:00 Set up at 6:00 a. m.
11 Executive Committee 7:00 a.m.
18 Meeting 7:00 p.m.

EVENTS CONTINUED

second annual ExTRAINaganza. Last year this fundraiser was very successful, and many people are already looking forward to coming back again this year. One of the club's goals is to have trains running in all scales during the ExTRAINaganza. The G-scale group expects to have at least one train running. The N-scale group has Dick Bibeau's attractive layout to demonstrate again this year as well as showing progress on their permanent layout. The HO-scale hopes to have trains running in the room with the helix. We are also looking forward to Beth and Jeff Chaffee bringing their four 4- by 8-foot layouts in different scales to add to the number of trains running at the ExTRAINaganza. This year will be different, but just as good as last year.

On the first two weekends in December, our club is participating in the annual "Trees and Trains" program for McLaughlin Garden in South Paris. A large G-scale layout is set up in the barn, which was built in the 1800s. Club members will build the layout in late October and early November while the weather is still warm so that it will be ready for the December showing. Beth and Jeff Chaffee will also have their layouts there. This is the last location where we sell tickets on the Raffle Layout; and as has been traditional, the winner's name will be drawn on the last day of this event.

Have you read about anything in which you would like to participate? Come join the fun!

By Paul Lodge