



THE SIGNAL



THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

VOLUME 13. ISSUE 4

SEPTEMBER 2011



Member since June 1988

NEXT MEETING
Sept. 15
7:00 p.m.

NEXT
MONTH
Deadline for
August
Sept. 30, 2011

MEMBERSHIP
115

ATTENDANCE PRIZE

Terry King's name was drawn and he was present to win.
Will your name be drawn on Sept. 15?
You have to be present to win!

BOTTLES FOR BASICS

- ◆ **LAST YEAR**
\$496.15
- ◆ **YEAR TO DATE:**
\$108.80
- ◆ **THIS MONTH:**
\$35.20

Good Turnout at Club Picnic By Paul Lodge

More than fifty club members, spouses, friends, and families went to Jerry Johnston's home for the club's summer picnic on Saturday, August 27.

In addition to socializing, some people played badminton and horseshoes and, of course, operated trains. Jerry's HO *Rocky Ridge Railroad* layout was popular with Bryce Weeks, the Tyce family and others who ran the layout with the help of Travis Johnson.

Ken Nettleship got railroaded into cooking hamburgers and Sandy Kierstead cooked hot dogs for the guests.

Tom and Carmen Coulombe, Rick



Some of the 52 people at the club picnic

Photo by Paul Lodge

and Terry James, and Roger and Linda Allen compared experiences about their trips to Alaska. It was interesting to listen to their

reminiscing.

This was the largest number of club members and guests that we have had in one place since we have been a club.

GFMRRRC Scrap Book History by Jerry Johnston

A Scrapbook History of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club now exists and may be viewed almost anytime. The scrapbook is generally on the coffee table in the Crew Lounge. It is a comprehensive collection of newsletter and newspaper articles along with many miscellaneous items and photographs that enhance its presentation.

It is skillfully done and artfully presented in suitable binder form. There are many clever, cute and thoughtful "scrappers" touches that make this a delightful presentation on the history of the GFMRR Club.

The introduction is an eight page history of the club that was written by Paul Lodge, one of the 19 charter members who started the GFMRRRC in 1986. It is thorough and detailed with plenty of information about the people who brought the club into existence and on its way to what it is today, the largest and most active and productive club of its type in the State of Maine.

Also included is a listing of over 235 *Train Time* videos. It is a very interesting list of subjects and areas that have been covered by this project to date.

Make yourself a promise to view this wonderful piece of work that presents the history of the club so well.

The credit for producing this accomplished project goes to Brenda Leslie, who is a member of the N and Z layout projects and significant help to the G-gauge division as well. Thank you, Brenda, for a very well done project.

"We now have a new 40" TV which was donated by a group of members."

Another Goal Reached! by Terry King

As you may remember, one of our goals was a new TV set for the meeting room. The one that we had been using was donated by Jay Calnan a few years ago. This set is very heavy which makes it very difficult to move.

of the space we need one 30' or less.

It always amazes me how much has been donated to us in the past few years.

We now have a new 40" TV which was donated by a group of members.

We still could use a new TV in the crew lounge. Because



Club Picnic

Here are some pictures of our recent club picnic.



First Train Fest By Paul Lodge

More than thirty-five club members participated in the club's first TRAIN FEST event on Saturday, August 20, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Club members sold tickets, guided guests, ran trains, and helped whenever and wherever they were needed. As children arrived, each one was given a four-inch paper replica of a steam engine on which to write his or her name. The paper engine was then pinned to the large locomotive painted on Homasote. More than sixty-five names were on the locomotive by the end of the event. Children were given Operation Lifesaver engineer hats when they entered and Governor's balloons as they left. Every adult who attended was given a special promotional coupon from Governor's Lewiston restaurant for one-half off the second entrée when they purchase one meal at full price.

On the street side of the building, Mike Reed displayed two of his speeders (putt-putts), and Ed Leslie ran a G-Gauge live steam locomotive on his flatbed trailer. Jeff and Beth Chaffee brought two of their layouts, one N-scale and one O-scale. Children got a big kick out of blowing the train whistle on one of their layouts. Several club members ran the HO scale layout and talked to guests about the future of the layout, which is still under construction. Brenda Leslie ran the N-scale and Z-scale layouts. Several club members ran the G-gauge layout. Ray Parent brought his G-gauge Freedom

Train and ran it for much of the day.

Dick Clark's daughter Angela Acone painted some artistic characters on the faces of many children and some of our club members. She gave children several options, including hot-air balloons, mouse whiskers, rainbows, trains, and Thomas the Tank Engine.

Terry King, chairman of the event, drew door prize winning tickets every hour. Winners could choose from books, magazines, neon Slinky toys, and other items. There was also a raffle where a winner's name was drawn after \$15 worth of tickets were sold. Raffle winners could choose from several expensive books, an Amtrak 40th Anniversary T-shirt, and three \$10 gift certificates donated by Governor's Restaurant in Lewiston.

Larry Cannon displayed and sold a lot of the club's excess inventory items. Denise Purington and others sold tickets on the club's Raffle Layout. Frances Lodge sold items from the club's display case which included ExTRAINaganza T-shirts, hats, whistles, patches, 25th Anniversary Club pins, train cookie cutters, and greeting cards. Paul Lodge had a display of *TRAIN TIME* videos available for sale. A television was set up, showing *TRAIN TIME* programs throughout the day.

During the lunch-time break, Jerry Johnston served chili and a tasty soup. Governor's Restaurant donated their famous Whoopee Pies and other club members had made cookies and brownies.

It is estimated that more than 300 adults and children attended this first-time event. When asked how they learned about TRAIN FEST, many replied they had seen the signs which Jerry Johnston and Stephen Martelli had put out. The Chamber of Commerce, Cruise Night, and the Twin City Times were also mentioned as sources of the information. Many of the guests were from New Auburn and live near the club.

After the event was over, 20 club members and their spouses went to Governor's Restaurant for the evening meal. They used the "Buy one meal and get the second entrée for half price" certificates donated by Governor's. Several of the club members had the Governor's logo painted on their faces by Angela Acone earlier in the afternoon. The face painting was a big hit with Governor's Manager, Carlene Barnies. She took pictures of each of the members with the logo on their faces and may put them on her Face Book page. Ray Parent had painted a box car with our club's logo and that of Governor's on it. The new box car will be added to the consist which usually runs around the top of the room at Governor's. Club president Rick James presented the car to Carlene Barnies along with a certificate of appreciation made by Terry King.

Open House By Sandy & David Kierstead

We will be having it September 17 from 9am-3pm. Rain date is September 18, same time. From North Windham's Boody's Corner (rt.302/rt.35) go 2 miles

down Rt. 35. Standish Neck Road is on left just after Patches' store. We are 4/10 mile down on right, #115. We will provide light refreshments. Thank you Sandy and David Kierstead



Paul Lodge

“Chamber of Commerce: Our club will be spotlighted at the Thursday, September 8, breakfast meeting of the Androscoggin County Chamber of Commerce at Martindale. We will have a display promoting our club. Roger Allen suggested placing club brochures at the Chamber office. He noted that many people coming to town go to the Chamber of Commerce to see what is available in the community. Terry King said he would take some brochures and check out the situation.”

August Minutes by Paul Lodge, Secretary

Ed Leslie had created a slide show based on club activities since the July meeting, including the trip several members had taken to northern Maine to see the two locomotives in the woods. Instead of a *TRAIN TIME* show, Paul Lodge had produced a 30-minute program based on the same trip to see the *TRAINS TO NOWHERE* during the last weekend in July.

Vice President Ed Leslie conducted the meeting for vacationing president Rick James. The Secretary's Report was approved as published in the newsletter. Paul Lodge gave the following report of the Executive Committee meeting of August 11:

Wish List: While on the subject of the “wish list,” Roger Allen had suggested that requested items be listed more specifically. The only items currently on the “wish list” are two flat-screen TVs, one large and one small.

Station Master's Report: Terry King gave Tom Coulombe's Station Master's report. We have received two glass display cases on loan from Tom's brother Andrew. A circular advance warning signal with the black cross and “RR” painted on a yellow background has been attached to the west end of the building.

Layout Reports: The G-gauge group has worked on their layout since the last meeting. They have completed the inner loop with sidings. The small layout used for Thomas has been completed. Additional work is scheduled before the Trainfest.

HO Request : Travis Johnson reported that wiring for the HO layout has been stalled until more UTP plugs are purchased.

Terry King made a motion, which passed, to purchase HO

supplies up to \$100. This is to be considered a “loan” until the HO group has earned additional funds to pay for the supplies.

UPS Deliveries: Terry King asked that anyone ordering supplies to be delivered by UPS not have them shipped to the club. Generally, there will not be anyone at the club to receive the shipment. Orders should be shipped for delivery to the club member's home address.

Chamber of Commerce: Our club will be spotlighted at the Thursday, September 8, breakfast meeting of the Androscoggin County Chamber of Commerce at Martindale. We will have a display promoting our club. Roger Allen suggested placing club brochures at the Chamber office. He noted that many people coming to town go to the Chamber of Commerce to see what is available in the community. Terry King said he would take some brochures and check out the situation.

Train Fest: As chairman of the August 20 Train Fest, Terry reported that the layouts will have sufficient manpower. We still need help for ticket sales and greeters. Governor's Restaurant will be donating their famous Whoopie Pies which the club can sell and three \$10 gift certificates to be used as part of our raffle. We will be able to hand out Governor's certificates which allow the user to buy one meal at the regular price and get a second entree at half price. Governor's provided balloons with the Governor's logo which can be used to decorate the hall and can be given

to children to take home. Governor's also has one of our 2- by 3-foot signs in their lobby reminding visitors of our Train Fest.

Club Picnic: On Saturday, August 27, Jerry Johnston is hosting a club picnic at his home in Minot. There will be lawn activities. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be available. If you have lawn chairs, please bring them.

Adopt-a-Spot: Stephen Martelli reported that the Adopt-a-Spot promotion requires a Chamber of Commerce application. The city of Auburn and the Chamber work together to assign the spots. Terry King suggested that the club is too busy to take on another project at this time.

National Guard Parking: Stephen Martelli requested that the National Guard be allowed to use a few of our parking spots while they work on the trail from Barker Mill to the dam. The Executive Committee agreed that the Guard can use our parking lot while they are working on the trail.

Kids' Night: On Friday, September 9, the United New Auburn Association is sponsoring a “Kids' Night.” Stephen Martelli requested two club members to volunteer to help supervise some of the children's activities. It was suggested that Stephen make his request for volunteers at the club's regular monthly meeting on August 18.

Library Committee: Terry King requested that we set up a Library Committee. With the recent influx of new books and magazines, decisions will need to be made which Terry does not want to make alone. He asked that the following people be part of the committee: Ed and Bren-

(Continued on page 5)

Club as a Community by Howard Palmer

I came to the club a couple of years ago after great tragedy struck my family, seeking for, and found, friendship and a great group of people who had the same interests and love of trains as myself and my family. My hope was to share what little knowledge I had and to learn from others.

Some shared thoughts from some of my writings: I have spent a lifetime serving my country and community, helping others before my family, from conflicts overseas, to conflicts in the inner cities. I believe I have

come up with an answer for most of the problems we face:

*"The answer for world peace is
Understanding, Learning,
Appreciating & Respecting
Differences"*

(Howard Palmer III 2006)

I believe this thought can apply to any aspect in life. My family is Native American, a culture where the people are dedicated to community and each other. We grow and learn from each other's experiences.

If we allow any people in society to live independently without due respect for a community as a whole, the community can't function, or survive. That's why you're stopped for simply speeding - it's a form of disrespect for the community as a whole.

I ask that everyone look to each other and ask: What can I learn and what can I offer to keep the club as a community of people helping each other and working together, not as individuals?

I look forward to sharing a great hobby with my many friends.

Minutes Continued

(Continued from page 4)

da Leslie, Jerry Johnston, Tom Coulombe, and Terry King. **Jay Calnan made a motion, which passed, to set up the Library Committee.**

Membership Recognition: Terry King suggested that we develop a method of recognition of club members who are doing outstanding work at the club. He asked that the committee be made up of Paul Lodge, Travis Johnson, Jerry Johnston, and Roger Allen.

After the Executive Committee minutes were read, the club's business meeting continued.

Terry King thanked Brenda Leslie for her help in putting plastic covers on book jackets for nearly two hundred books which the club recently received.

As Activities Director, Brenda Leslie reminded members of the club picnic at Jerry Johnston's home in Minot on Saturday, August 27 from

1 p.m. through the evening. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be available at about 4 p.m. Yard games and Jerry's HO layout will be special features for the picnic.

John Snyder was welcomed as a new member to the club.

At the TRAINFEST, all the club layouts will be running. In addition, Beth and Jeff Chaffee will bring two stand-alone layouts. Mike Reed will bring two speeders (putt-putts) to display next to the street. Ed Leslie will run a G-gauge live steam engine on a flatbed trailer.

Under new business, Stephen Martelli talked about the United New Auburn Association's Kids' Night scheduled for Friday, September 9. Hammond Tractor of Auburn is loaning the Association two John Deere pedal tractors on which kids can compete. Stephen asked for two volunteers to help supervise this kids' competition.

Dave Kierstead announced he is

having an open house for his G-gauge railroad in Standish on Saturday, September 17 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The meeting adjourned.

The Attendance Prize drawing took place, and Terry King's name was drawn. Terry selected one of the hats. Paul Lodge won the 50/50 raffle. His share was \$21, which he donated back to the club.

Larry Cannon has completed the caboose that he used as part of last month's clinic. He succeeded in relocating the cupola and windows on the model which he used as the basis of his new caboose. Larry brought the finished caboose to show the results.





THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

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Upcoming Events

September 8, Executive Committee meeting 7:00 p.m.

September 11, Train Show, Everett Arena, Concord NH 10:00—3:00

September 15, membership meeting 6:45

October 2, Pepperell Siding Model RR Club Train Show, American Civic Ct., 465 Main St., Wakefield MA 9:30 a.m. —3:30 p.m.

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

October 20, Membership meeting 6:45 p.m.

November 5, Model Railroad Show, The Great Falls Model Railroad Club,

Auburn Middle School 10:00—3:00.

November 6, Bedford Boomers RR exhibition, McKelvie Middle School, Liberty Hill Rd, Bedford NH 10:00 a.m. —4:00 p.m.

November 10, Executive Committee meeting 7:00 p.m.

November 17, Membership meeting 6:45 p.m.

November 19, ExTrainaganza 10:00 a.m.—8:00 p.m.

November 20, ExTrainaganza 10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

November 21, Extrainsanza 4 p.m.—8 p.m.

November 25, Extrainsanza 10:00 a.m.—8:00 p.m.

November 26, Extrainsanza 10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

