

THE SIGNAL



IN THE G - C O R N E R



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MEMBERSHIP 56

ATTENDANCE PRIZE

Tom Jones' name was drawn at the last meeting. He was not present so he did not win a hat.

Will your name be drawn on September 9? You have to be present to win!



By Steve Martelli



The Lobster Train in Rockland on July 24, 2004

To start off, I hope all of you are having a GREAT Summer! I know that I am having a good time so far planning and looking at all of the planning that still needs to be done before I start building my layout.

In all, I would like to say "THANK YOU" many times over to Terry, Jerry, Tom, Jacob & Ray (Jr.) L. who helped me move, I know I couldn't have done it without you. It was fun and I won't be doing this very soon again. At least this time I didn't have many heavy items to move like last time when I moved all of my tools and steel along with miscellaneous materials from the welding school.

On May 26, 2004, I signed my name to all of the paperwork that pertained to the buying of a home at 10:30 in the morning. At 4:00 o'clock, that afternoon the first helper showed up and by 4:30 there were another four guys there with trucks and strong backs to start emptying out my apartment and move everything to my new home. Things flew out of there faster than your head could spin and not one thing got broken in the onslaught. We were done at 7:30 with everything that was boxed or breakable or large dumped into five rooms with no idea as to where my coffee cup is or where they put the beer. It took a few

weeks to find most of what I need and I will find everything in the next few months as I go through all of the things that I have and throw out all of the junk that is not needed.

As of this time, I have cut most of those trees down that I talked about awhile back and started to fill in the back yard covering the stumps that are there. It will take quite a bit of dirt but I have time. It will need to settle and then we can work the earth into an outdoor layout that will be just spectacular. As that time gets closer I will

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ALL ABOARD FOR THE LORD

By Paul Lodge

model railroading class, as well as railroad safety materials from Operation Lifesaver.



Club member Al Thurston has requested a train display at the Court Street Baptist Church in Auburn. On Sunday, September 12, the church is having a special event after their regular church service to welcome back children and church members from the summer vacation and to begin Sunday School classes for the fall. The theme is "All Aboard for the Lord." After this presentation, the members will have a meal with food selections that were typical of those served on trains in the past.

Paul Lodge and Al Thurston will set up the Raffle Layout for the theme of the day and have materials to hand out about the club, its shows, and the

MAINE LOBSTER TRAIN

Commissioner David Cole of the Maine Department of Transportation has announced the first passenger train between Brunswick and Rockland. The train will run from August 5 through 8 as the "Lobster Festival Train" between Brunswick and Rockland with a stop in Bath to pick up additional passengers. The train will depart from Brunswick at 9 a.m. on Thursday, Friday, and Sunday and return at 4 p.m. On Saturday the train will leave Brunswick at 7:30 and return at 4 p.m.

any more coverage. Douglas noted, "This situation is no one's fault—it's just a sign of the times we live in. All partners have been cooperative and we have all been working together to make this pilot program successful. Remember, this is only the beginning and we've really accomplished a lot in a very short time. We hope that this service will be well received and serve as a building block for the years to come."

On Friday, August 6, the club will have a team of videographers to document the trip. Neil Culpepper, Charles Kadyk, and Paul Lodge will make up the team. Because of summer traffic on Route 1, it may be difficult to get a lot of shots.

Geoff Fuller of Maine Eastern (MERR) said he hopes to continue weekend service between Brunswick and Rockland through the middle of October and to add special holiday events like a Santa Train in the winter.

When the concept for the lobster train was announced, Guilford offered to run the train over its rails from Portland to Brunswick. However, insurance costs spoiled the plan. Patricia Douglas, marketing manager for the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority (NNEPRA), noted that Guilford requested a fairly standard insurance policy of \$75 million. The insurance to operate the passenger train service from Portland to Brunswick would cost more than \$200,000 for the four days. Insurance for the Brunswick to Rockland Lobster Train is covered by Maine Eastern's existing policy of \$20 million. Douglas said the state of Maine, as the owner of the Rockland branch, is not asking for



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CLUB MEETING CHANGES FOR AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

"The regular club meeting on August 19 will be held at the Grand Trunk station on Lincoln Street in Lewiston. Members will clean up the station and set up the club modules for the Balloon Festival."

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same reason.

The September club meeting will be the second Thursday of the month (September 9) because the club will be at the Oxford County Fair during the third week of September (September 16, 17, and 18). The club Operating Session will also be held the second Saturday (September 11) for the



THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hello everyone. I hope all of you are having a great summer. August is approaching already and it seems like summer began just a few days ago. I'm patiently waiting for some hot weather. It gives me an excuse to retreat to my cool basement and plug away on my small RR layout.

For those of you that couldn't make the summer picnic, you missed a great time. Ray Anderson's beach on Sandy Bottom Pond in Turner was a wonderful setting for us. Ray apparently pulled a few strings and managed to get the sun to come out for awhile. The picnic even included an impromptu discussion of the pros and cons of digital command control.

If things go as planned, we will be setting up our modules for the balloon festival in August at the Lincoln Street railroad station. The Thursday evening setup time coincides with our August meeting date so there will be no formal club meeting at the club house. If you can bring a module, please do so. If you can't bring a module but are available to help set up, it would be appreciated. The date is August 19th

and we usually start arriving at the Lincoln Street station at 6:00 to 6:30 PM. Mark your calendar. The more help we have, the easier the work.



**Charles Blanchard, President of
The Great Falls Model Railroad Club**

In September, we plan to attend the Oxford County Fair with our modules. The start of this event coincides with our September 16th monthly meeting and September 18th Operating Session. Since there are no meetings between now and then, I would like to make an executive decision that the September monthly meeting be held one week earlier than normal on September 9th and the Operating Session will follow on September 11th. As with all module setups and displays, the more

help the better. More details as to the fair schedule will be made available in the coming weeks.

Have a great summer and I hope to see you next at the balloon festival.



"I would like to make an executive decision that the September monthly meeting be held one week earlier than normal on September 9th and the Operating Session will follow on September 11th"

G-Corner Continued

(Continued from page 1)

be asking for your input as to what you would like to see in a layout, so put your thinking caps on and write down all of those ideas.

As for ideas, a couple of months ago I asked you for your ideas for an indoor layout and I got a several back from you. There was one, which had two levels, and the exit to the outside was placed at the opposite end of the room. The second and third entry had one level and an assortment of yard areas. These ideas were looking at things in a different perspective from what I saw and I thank you for letting me know what you like in a layout.

In closing, I will be working on the basement starting in the fall and continuing through the winter. By then, I should have a good amount of track down and can think about working outside again. Thank you again for all of your help and ideas in the past few months and don't let the thinking process ever stop; because when we do, it will mean that we have gone to the great train room in the sky.

Keep Thinking and next month we will get back to building a mountain with a waterfall on it. Have a GREAT SUMMER and keep those ideas coming in. **Bye.**

PLANNING A VACATION TRIP?

Are you going away on vacation with your family this summer? Take your video camera and get some railroad video that can be used in one of our TRAIN TIME shows. If you don't have a camera, perhaps you can borrow one for the trip. Check with Paul Lodge to see if arrangements can be made. The more club members who videotape trains, the more variety our club can display in its television shows. Paul Lodge is willing to edit your footage into one of the club's shows. Be daring; become a TRAIN TIME contributor.

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THE GREAT FALLS
MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club
P. O. Box 509
Monmouth, ME 04259-0509

Phone: 207-933-2477
E-mail: tking@megalink.net

We are on the web!
Http://
www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org

AN EDUCATIONAL
FOUNDATION



O F F I C E R S

President:

Charles Blanchard—685-9081
nopcsb@adelphia.net

Vice President:

Phil Clough—647-4010

Secretary:

Paul Lodge—966-3641

Treasurer:

Terry King - 933-2477
tking@megalink.net

Directors:

Tom Coulombe-784-5962

tcoulombe@doek12.me.us

Jerry Johnston-966-2932

Jjfish789@aol.com

Stephen Martelli

grizzzzlymtn@aol.com

Meetings are on the third Thursday
of the month at 7:00 P.M.

THE SIGNAL

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

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Editor:

Terrence King

Correspondents:

Charles Blanchard,

Paul Lodge all un-credited stories

Photo's: Terrence King

BALLOON FESTIVAL
TIMES ANNOUNCED

Ray Anderson invited the club to meet at Sandy Pond for the July 22 get-together. Many members enjoyed the food, and some used water craft during the event. A brief meeting was called by President Charles Blanchard to determine the times the module display will be open to the public during the Balloon Festival. Those present voted to use the same schedule as last year, which is as follows:

Friday, August 20

4:00 to 8:00 P.M.

Saturday, August 21

6:00 to 8:00 A.M.

Noon to 6:00 P.M.

Sunday, August 22

6:00 to 8:00 A.M.

Noon to 5:00 P.M.

During the Balloon Festival, the club layout will also be open to the public as long as there are enough members to staff both the module layout and the club house.

GILEAD CELEBRATES
BICENTENNIAL WITH
TRAIN RIDES

On Saturday, June 26, Gilead, Maine, celebrated its bicentennial with a parade, stage performers, historical artifacts in the old meeting house, games, and train rides. St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railroad provided Engine 3000 and the Safe Handling Caboose for the train rides. Tickets were sold in advance to about one hundred and twenty-five people for the five excursion runs. The nearly thirty-minute ride started in Gilead and went east about five miles to Allen's Siding and returned. Club member Dan Parsons and his family, including a grandson, were among those who enjoyed the train ride.

THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB's video team taped the train so that the footage can be used on one of the club's TRAIN TIME shows. Jay Calnan and his wife Sue, Terry King, and Paul Lodge spent the morning taping the train at several locations on the five miles from Gilead to Allen's Siding and its return. Carl Harrison took still pictures of the event.

If you would like to participate in a train chase, contact Paul Lodge (966-3641); or if you hear of an event which would make an interesting

TRAIN TIME show, let him know.

AMTRAK AND
MAINE EASTERN RR
MEET IN BRUNSWICK

On Saturday, July 24, the Amtrak Demonstration Train carried legislators, town officials, the governor and other invited guests from the Portland station to Brunswick to illustrate the long-term vision of passenger service along Maine's coastline. Amtrak was not allowed to travel to Boston because of security for the Democratic National Convention; therefore, the DOWNEASTER was available for the demonstration trip. On the same day, Maine Eastern Railroad (MERR) ran a train from Rockland with its guests, and the two trains met nose-to-nose in Brunswick.

From a specially erected platform with the two locomotives as a backdrop, speakers extolled the virtues of the future of passenger rail service from Portland to Rockland. Governor Baldacci, state legislators, members of the Department of Transportation, and representatives from the offices of Senators Snow and Collins spoke of the value to the coast of Maine of Southern Maine's Passenger Rail Corridor.

Neil Culpepper, Terry King, and Paul Lodge took video of the two trains for use in future TRAIN TIME shows. Terry shot video of the Maine Eastern Railroad train and Neil got the DOWNEASTER. Paul was an invited guest on the Amtrak train, representing Operation Life-saver.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST

- 7 Train Show Belfast-set up 7:00 a.m.
- 19 Set up for Balloon Festival 6:00 p.m.
- 20 Balloon Festival time 4 to 8 p.m.
- 21 Balloon Festival Time 6 to 8 a.m. & Noon to 6 p.m.
- 22 Balloon Festival Time 6 to 8 a.m. & Noon to 5 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

- 9 Meeting 7:00 p.m. **Note Date Change:**
- 11 Operating Session 9:00 a.m. **Note Date Change:**
- 16,17,18 Oxford Fair Times TBA

OCTOBER

- 21 Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 23 Operating Session 9:00 a.m.