

The Phillips Area Vitalizer

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**Vol. 3, Issue #17 - Free
Local News**

Roochie Toochee Coming to Phillips

Roochie Toochee & The Ragtime Shepherd Kings will be at the Phillips Area Community Center (PACC) on Saturday, September 23, as part of a two-week tour of Maine. This old-time novelty jazz and pop quintet, with members from Nashville, Detroit, and New Orleans, offer an evening of Tin Pan Alley hits.

While the band performs ragtime tunes around the country, this tour includes a resurrection of some old Maine songs with a special segment showcasing sheet music from the early 20th century written in and about the State of Maine. The old-time Maine medley, produced at the height of the Tin Pan Alley era, was culled from the collections at The Bagaduce Lending Library in Blue Hill, Maine.

Roochie Toochee also offers some fancy fiddling, dueling Hawaiian guitars, ukulele wizardry, brazen banjos, vocal harmonies, a menagerie of toy instruments including a musical pig “Porkestra, some ventriloquism, and what they call “scandalous dancing.” Clearly, they mix a good deal of showmanship with their lively ragtime tunes.

Though this award-winning band makes its home in Nashville, the group includes a Mainer: ukulelist Timmy Findlen hails from Aroostook County’s Fort Fairfield and called Portland home for many years.

The show at the PACC on Saturday, September 23, begins at 7 pm. Admission for adults is \$10, children 12 and under, \$5. Refreshments will be available for purchase.

Model Rail Fair and Ghost Train Set for End of Month

Saturday, September 30 is going to be a busy day in Phillips – for both the town and the railroad. Not only is it the Sandy River Business Association’s Fall Fest, the SR&RLRR’s Ghost Train will run that evening, the Scarecrows will be out on Main Street (see below), and the Phillips Area Community Center (PACC) will host a Model Rail and Hobby Fair during the day.

The upcoming Rail Fair is a revival of sorts. In 2010 and 2011 the PACC offered Rail Fairs that featured model layouts and a host of other displays and train-related vendors. But when the chief organizer of those events moved away from Phillips, the event faltered. Now a different crew – together with the SR&RLRR – has organized a new fair, with the emphasis on model trains.

Included in the layouts are several working model train displays, including an 8 by 16-foot G-scale from the Maine Garden Railway Society. At least eight others – including the SR&RLRR – will set up tables and displays featuring either model train items for sale, or historic displays relating to the history of the railroad in Phillips. Local antique car hobbyist Andy Phillips and others will park a number of historic vehicles outside the PACC and Brian Donovan, will bring his 1935 Postal Truck.

Appropriately, the Fair is being held in the former SR&RLRR machine shop on Depot Street (and also the Old Gym), now the Community Center. Food will be available at the depot next door, now owned by the American Legion, where a weekly Farmers’ Market will be running, together with lunch items for sale. The Rail Fair will be open from 9 to 3 and admission is free.

Ghost Train Run

In addition, The SR&RLRR will be operating its steam train, Monson #3, from 11 to 4 that day, and the annual Ghost Train will run that night, starting at dusk, with trains operating from 6:45 pm to 9 pm, with trains leaving Sanders Station on Bridge Street for their scary runs every half hour. The spooky scenes along the ride will be done again this year by the Phillips School's eighth-grade students.

For more information or to reserve a vendor or display space at the Model Train Fair, call Pam Matthews at 639-2630.

News Briefs & Updates . . .

Help Choose the Theme for Next Year's Old Home Days: Enter your ideas in receptacles at Skowhegan Savings, the Local Bull, and Edmunds' Market. The \$1 entry donation makes you eligible for – if your theme is chosen – 50-percent of the donations collected. The receptacles will be up for the next several weeks.

The Annual Scarecrow Reunion will take place from Sept. 26 through Saturday, Sept. 30, when judging will take place. Entrance forms are at Edmunds' Market and categories are scariest, funniest, and most beautiful.

Reeds Mill Church Hosts Sandy River Ramblers: On Sunday, Sept. 24, The Ramblers will present an afternoon of gospel, and songs about Maine. The event begins at 2 pm and refreshments will be available. A free will offering may be made. For more info call 639-2713.

Trunk or Treat? Anyone interested in organizing a Trunk or Treat event for Halloween should contact Pam Matthews at 639-2630. The event, held last year in the library parking lot, featured open car trunks with Halloween displays in them, as well as goodies for the trick-or-treaters.

SRBA Meeting: The Sandy River Business Association will meet Wednesday, Sept. 20, at the Shadagee Common Room at 6 pm. Included on the agenda will be a discussion of the proposed Property Maintenance Ordinance currently being considered by the town. Dain Trafton, Chair of the town's Planning Board, will attend the meeting as a guest.

The PACC's Monthly Meeting will be held on Tuesday at 4:30 pm, Oct. 3, at the Phillips Area Community Center on Depot Street.

Movies at the PACC? The Phillips Area Community Center has acquired a large screen and a modern projector and is looking for volunteers who might like to head up movie nights at the PACC. These could be for youngsters, families, or the general public. For more information, call 639-2630.

Meeting and Event Schedule . . .

Sept. 26 - Selectmen meet, Tuesday, 6 pm, Phillips Town Office

Oct. 12 - Chamber of Commerce meets, 6 pm, Thursday, Shadagee

Oct. 10 - Selectmen meet, Tuesday, 6 pm, Phillips Town Office

Oct. 13 - Phillips Community Church's Annual Chicken Supper, Friday, 5 to 6:30 pm. \$8 (kids \$5)

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