



# The Signal

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club



VOLUME 42. ISSUE 12

MAY 2015



Member since June 1988

**NEXT MEETING**  
May 21  
6:45 p.m.

**NEXT MONTH**  
Deadline for  
June Issue  
June 3, 2015

**MEMBERSHIP**  
132

### ATTENDANCE PRIZE

**John Robertson**  
won the Attendance  
Prize.  
Maybe next meeting  
it will be YOU!  
Will your name be  
drawn on  
May 21?  
You have to be  
present to win!

### **BOTTLES FOR BASICS**

- ◆ Total LAST YEAR
- ◆ \$736.48
- ◆ YEAR TO DATE:
- ◆ \$700.23
- ◆ Last MONTH:
- ◆ \$83.00

Donations of Used  
Ink and Toner  
Cartridges:  
Last Month: \$54.00  
Year to Date:  
\$298.00



## FOURTH ANNUAL HOBO HOLIDAY

**MAY 16, 2015**

By Paul Lodge

The fourth annual Hobo Holiday will take place on Saturday, May 16, at the clubhouse from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Guests will be able to sample Jerry Johnston's Hobo Stew which includes his famous "secret" ingredient. A brochure about "Hobo Folklore" will be given to the families. Hobo symbols will be placed around the clubhouse telling other hobos about potential dangers or places where they are welcome.

Thomas the Tank Engine is always a popular part of small children's experience during this event. They get to run the train themselves. This year the Thomas area has been upgraded. There will be two levels of trains. The train on the upper level will travel above Thomas on an oval trestle made by Ray Parent. Dick Rubin has donated other railroad cars and locomotives from the Thomas the Tank Engine series which club members can run on the trestle while the children run Thomas on the lower level.

A scavenger hunt will be set up for families to find items in each of the clubhouse rooms. The purpose of the scavenger hunt is to get everyone to see all that the club has to offer from the library/museum to the layouts to the learning center area.

Railroads are private property and hobos rode the trains illegally. As a railroad club, we do not want to encourage trespassing on railroad property. One of the features this year will be a Railroad Safety Quiz. A sheet with a number of questions suggested by Operation Lifesaver members will be answered by participating families. Throughout the building, Operation Lifesaver safety posters will be displayed with information which can be used to answer the Railroad Safety Quiz. Once the quiz has been finished, participants will have the quiz corrected. They will then be able to fill out a ticket and enter it into a drawing. They could win a gift certificate from Governor's Restaurant or Craft Mania or a free pass to ride on one of the participating tourist railroads in Maine.



**Jerry with fellow Hobo**

For the children (and some adults), the popular "Hoop a Caboose" ring-toss game will be available along with the "Roundhouse Roulette" game. At another location in the building, the "Fishing Pond" will be set up. Children can go there, "fish" off the bridge and catch a prize.

Club members and guests are encouraged to dress up as hobos or railroad engineers or conductors to help add a festive atmosphere to the Hobo Holiday. Admission to the event is only \$3, with children under 12 entering free. For those activities which offer prizes, tickets will be sold at \$1 each or seven for \$5.

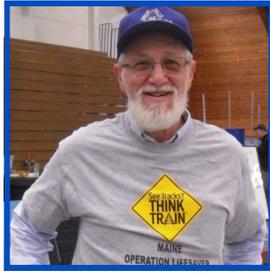
There will be many opportunities for club members to help. All the games need adults to take tickets and run the games. The HO layout will be available for guest engineers to operate, and that can take a lot of manpower. The G-gauge and N-scale rooms will also need supervision.

Even though this is a fund-raiser for the club, it is also a chance to come together and have some fun as a group.

## MEET THE MEMBERS

### CARMEN ANASTASE

By Paul Lodge



Carmen Anastase was a summer resident of Fayette, Maine, for about ten years before he moved there permanently about two years ago. Carmen and his wife Nancie have been married for 34 years. They have one daughter, Claire, who still lives in New Jersey.

After working in the banking industry for most of his career, Carmen retired in 2008. He worked primarily in loan servicing, collections, security and fraud. He was an Assistant Vice President of Synergy Bank in Cranford, New Jersey, where he worked for 20 years. He now does consulting occasionally. While he lived in Burlington, New Jersey, he served on the city council for 17 years.

His first train was a Lionel set, but he never had a layout until he moved to Maine. He joined the club about two years ago as the result of meeting us at a train show. He has been attending regularly the Modeler's Forum on the fourth Thursday of each month. He plans to model the Riverline, which ran by his former home in Burlington, New Jersey. His current special project is to build a light rail passenger train like those used on the Riverline. He has had a highly detailed replica of the train's shell made from a 3D printer and is now adding components.

Carmen's home in Fayette is on David Pond where he has a racing shell and enjoys rowing and kayaking. Carmen's other interests include ping pong, basketball, and softball. He likes to play ping pong with a group of guys in Belgrade who play regularly. He says they are very good, and he has not yet won a match. Carmen also competes in softball in the "over 50 league" in Augusta.

Carmen has become a valuable member of the club by participating in the club's special activities and projects.

### HO DIVISION TO HOLD ELECTION OF OFFICERS

By Paul Lodge

On Wednesday, May 13, the HO Division of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club will hold its annual election of officers. Each May, the club elects or re-elects officers for the upcoming year at both the regular club business meeting and the HO meeting. May is the beginning of the club's fiscal year because it is the month in which the club officially began in 1986.

The HO Division uses Wednesday evenings for regular work sessions. At the end of the evening on May 13, the election of officers for the HO Division will take place. Everyone who works on the HO layout is encouraged to come and vote for your favorite candidates.

## RAY HOULIHAN & FAMILY

### HOST BBQ

By Paul Lodge

Ray Houlihan and his wife Alyson graciously hosted a BBQ at their new home in Bath after the train show at Mt. Ararat in Topsham on Saturday, April 25. About twenty-five club members and their guests attended. Their home has a wonderful view of Merymeeting Bay and a long set of stairs down to the water's edge.

Ray gave a tour of the house, including the N-scale *Procrastination and Southern Railroad* in his basement. The portion of the layout most nearly complete featured Lambeau Avenue around the Green Bay Packers Stadium area in Wisconsin. Ray's explanation about his interest in the Green Bay Packers is that he is a fan because they are winners, and he likes to be a winner. At the other end of the layout is Moxie Land where the "Moxie train" goes to the Moxie distribution center.

The BBQ was catered by Rob and Sharon Sullivan of Topsham, who are just getting started in the BBQ catering business. They arrived at Ray's house at about 11 a.m. in order to get the equipment ready to use for the BBQ. When we arrived at about 5 p.m., they were ready; and we enjoyed their food.

Thank you, Ray, for this new and unusual "after-the-show" party.



BBQ at Houlihan's

Enjoying BBQ at Houlihans



## ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL TRAIN SHOW

By Paul Lodge

On a cold, blustery day in April, attendance at the annual train show at Mt. Ararat in Topsham was better than usual. It was felt that people did not want to work outdoors in the yard and decided to come to the train show instead. There were more families with young children than usual, and many of them are looking forward to coming to the club for some of our special activities.

More than fifty club members attended and helped sell tickets, greet patrons, sell surplus inventory, and run trains. Phil Clough was able to help customers by using his test track to check locomotives. On Friday evening, the day before the show, many club members helped unload and set up dealer tables while others set up a major portion of the modular layout.

The Mt. Ararat Sports Booster Club sold refreshments. Sales were so good that they ran out of some items and had to buy replacements. They were pleased with their earnings from the show.

There were several model railroad displays. The Maine 3-Railers, MaiNe Scale, Boothbay Railway Village, the On30 highly detailed layout, our 2015 Raffle Layout, and the club's modular layout all drew a lot of attention.

After the show, more than twenty of our club members attended Ray Houlihan's BBQ at his new house in Bath. (See the separate article elsewhere in this newsletter.)

It is always gratifying after a show to realize how many club members participated in making the train show a success. Thank you!

## MIKE REED MORTGAGE CHALLENGE EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS

By Paul Lodge

By the end of March, several club members had donated money for extra mortgage payments in honor of Mike Reed. Because Mike was concerned about the large mortgage needed for buying our building, two members of the club had created a matching challenge in two parts. The club received a match of \$500 for each \$500 members donated, up to \$1,000.

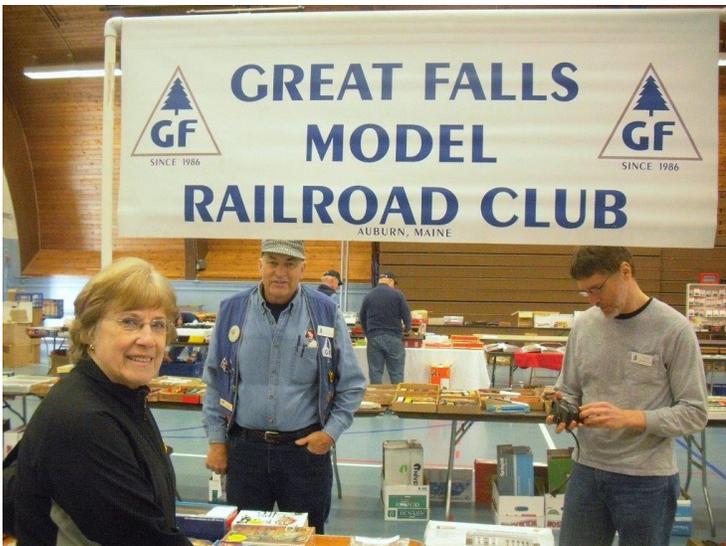
After the April monthly meeting, an additional \$500 challenge was received and immediately matched. We will now be able to reduce the mortgage by a total of \$3,000. Great job, Great Falls Model Railroad Club members!

In last month's newsletter it was reported that we have 15 years left to pay on the mortgage. Jerry Johnston noted that there are actually only 13 years left.

All of these donations resulted in doubling our money for the mortgage in Mike Reed's name. As you know, making extra principal payments on the mortgage will considerably reduce the total amount of interest we will pay, and the loan will be retired more quickly.



Mike Reed with his rail car



Joan Meehan, Tom Coulombe, Kent Waterson at Mt Ararat Show



Mt Ararat Show ->

# April Minutes by Paul Lodge



## MEETING MINUTES OF

APRIL 16, 2015

A Power Point slide show of club activities in March and April was shown from 6:45 to 7:00 p.m.

The evening's *TRAIN TIME* show featured an excursion on the Lehigh Gorge Scenic Railroad in Pennsylvania.

President Jay Calnan opened the meeting and asked for the Secretary's Report. A motion was made to accept the report as published in the *Signal*.

Tom Coulombe gave the Treasurer's Report and noted that the two \$500 challenge grants have been matched so we will pay \$2,000 on the mortgage principal. A motion was made, and accepted, to approve the Treasurer's Report.

As Station Master, Tom Coulombe announced that a birthday party has been scheduled for Saturday, May 9, from 1 to 3 p.m. Tom is looking for volunteers to help with the following summer projects. These projects will be completed as money and volunteers are available for the jobs. The projects are listed in no particular order and include:

- ◆ Sand or buff the meeting room floor and polyurethane it.
- ◆ Clean up outside abutment cement wall and get ready for plastering and painting.
- ◆ Paint lower level floor.
- ◆ Replace door moldings between meeting room and G-gauge layout.
- ◆ Paint meeting room walls.
- ◆ Prepare meeting room wall for G-Gauge James the Tank Engine to run point to point.
- ◆ Install spray booth in workshop.
- ◆ Install temporary (2 years) workbench where seaport is scheduled to go.
- ◆ Panel the entry with same paneling as closet.
- ◆ Make bottle collection box to replace cardboard box.
- ◆ Continue chair rails in meeting room along corridor leading downstairs.
- ◆ Re-hang bathroom doors.
- ◆ Install treads on stairs to lower level.

There was a review of the Mt. Ararat show times and setup. Instead of going to a restaurant as we usually do after a show, Ray Houlihan has invited those who help at the show to come to his house in Bath for a BBQ.

Gary Thibeault reported that the HO Division will hold an operating session on Saturday, April 18. It was announced that the HO Division will be holding its annual election of officers on May 13, during its normal Wednesday work session.

The topic of having an operating session for adults only was mentioned. It was recommended that we select a Sunday afternoon after a Saturday operating session. The trains would already be set up and ready to run.

The G-Gauge Division noted that Ray Parent has created a trestle system for a second train to run above Thomas the Tank Engine. Dick Rubin has donated another engine named Percy, additional rolling stock, and a train station at which Thomas can stop.

For the "What's on Your Workbench" portion of the meeting, Ed Webb displayed a unique method for switching a turnout that is in a street-running scene. After explaining how it was designed and developed, he passed the sample to the club members present so they could see it up close.

On the "Thinking Out of the Boxcar" part of the meeting, Ken Nettleship showed two "toy-like" G-Gauge passenger cars similar to the ones which he combined into one prototypical longer passenger car with people inside.

As chairman of the Nominating Committee, Jerry Johnston read the slate of officers for next year. They are as follows:

**President:** Jay Calnan

**Vice-President:** Roger Plummer

**Secretary:** Paul Lodge

**Treasurer:** Tom Coulombe

**Librarian:** Terry King

**Directors:**

Darin Long

Roger Allen

Dan Collins

After giving some time for additional nominations, a motion was made and accepted to cease nominations until next month.

Jerry showed a picture of the club's new "Spikey" T-shirt he is having made, and he invited members to order one so he would know what sizes are needed. "Spikey" will be a new attention-getting mascot for our club.

While he had the floor, Jerry read some amusing work-related comments which were jokingly pointed at individual club members. Jerry again promoted the "Cottage Industry" concept as a way in which club members can help the club's treasury even while working at home. He noted that the club is very active and that members need to get involved in order to help the club survive. He listed more than a dozen activities in which club members could participate. He promoted the slogan: "If you like your club, you need to work to keep your club."

Gary Thibeault won the 50/50 raffle and John Robertson took a Canadian Pacific hat as his Attendance Prize.

### CLUB MASCOT CREATED

By Paul Lodge

Carmen Coulombe has used her artistic talents to create "Spikey," the new club mascot that everyone will love.

Jerry Johnston is taking orders for a new gray T-shirt featuring "Spikey." The "Spikey" T-shirts will sell for \$10.

Jerry is taking orders in advance so he will know how many of each size he should get. To ensure one for you, contact Jerry at 966-2932 or email him at jjchef@megalink.net

He hopes to have some ready for the May meeting.



### THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE

#### DISPLAY IMPROVED

By Paul Lodge

The G-Gauge Division is working diligently to create a different Thomas the Tank Engine display. They suggested that Paul Lodge paint the wall behind the Thomas display as a country scene. Ray Parent has designed, built, and painted a trestle system. This will let another engine named Percy run above Thomas' track.

Dick Rubin has generously donated additional track, cars, and engines for this project. He has also donated a passenger terminal at which Thomas can stop. Children will be able to run Thomas the Tank Engine as they have in the past. The train on the trestle, however, will be run by adults so that it is not run off the trestle.

The goal is to have this new feature ready in time for the Hobo Holiday. Peter Cole, Dave Kierstead, and Ray Parent have nearly completed the project.

It will be a great attention getter.



Peter Cole, Dave Kierstead working on Thomas trestle ^  
< Peter Cole, Ray Parent, Dick Rubin with Thomas trestle  
Operation Lifesaver meeting at GFMRRRC April 29 V





## THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

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### An Educational Foundation

#### MEETING POSTPONEMENTS

If severe weather threatens on a meeting night, Tom Coulombe will notify local television stations that the meeting will be postponed until the following week. This would make it the fourth Thursday of the month instead of the third. Club members who receive the newsletter via e-mail will be notified by e-mail about the postponement.

## OFFICERS:

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## THE SIGNAL

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## Upcoming Events



**May 5, 12, 19, 26** – Retired Renovators (every Tuesday, 9:00 a.m.)

**May 7-** Family Night at Governor's Restaurant (some help needed)

**May 14** Executive Committee Meeting 6:30 p.m.

**May 16 - Hobo Holiday at the club**

**May 21** – Regular monthly club meeting (6:45 - business meeting includes election of officers)

**May 23** – HO Operating Session 9 - 12

**June 4-** Family Night at Governor's Restaurant (some help needed)

**June 11** Executive Committee Meeting 6:30 p.m.

**May 21** – Regular monthly club meeting 6:45

**September 7-10, 2016, 36th**  
National Narrow Gauge Convention at Augusta, Me.

### MODELERS FORUM

#### DISCUSSES "DEAD RAIL" RUNNING

By Paul Lodge

At the April meeting of the Modelers Forum, Greg Ouellette brought a radio controlled system which can be installed in locomotives for "Dead Rail" running. Because these trains run on batteries, they can run on any track and do not require the rail to be electrified. This means there is no need for wiring. The batteries last about four hours and can be recharged.

Carmen Anastase has been researching to find nearby locations that do 3-D

printing. Central Maine Community College has 3-D equipment and would be willing to provide a tour during the school day. Another 3-D printer is available in Biddeford. Carmen suggested that we could invite someone from either of these locations to be a guest speaker at one of our club meetings.

Bob Willard displayed an outdoor sign for model railroad layouts which can be made to look old and chipped. They are called "Crackle" signs. Some TV advertising has been using this visual approach in recent months.

After the group had fun with outhouses last month, it was suggested that we use outhouses for the theme of a "Best in Show" exhibition for the club show on Saturday, November 7. The dimensions of the displays would be as follows: N scale, 1 sq. inch; HO scale, 2 sq. inches; O Scale, 4 sq. inches; G gauge, 8 sq. inches. It appears that the race is on to see who will come up with the best display in poor taste.

The Modelers Form meets on the fourth Thursday of each month from 7 to about 9 p.m. All members are invited to attend.