

# The Signal

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club



VOLUME 19 ISSUE 9

FEBRUARY 2016



Member since June 1988

**NEXT MEETING**  
**February 18**  
**6:45 p.m.**

**NEXT MONTH**  
Deadline for  
March Issue  
**February 26, 2016**

[MEMBERSHIP](#)  
[135](#)

[ATTENDANCE PRIZE](#)

Carl Butland  
won the Attendance  
Prize.  
Maybe next meeting  
it will be YOU!  
Will your name be  
drawn on  
January 21?  
You have to be

**BOTTLES FOR  
BASICS**

- ◆ Total LAST YEAR
- ◆ \$700.23
- ◆ YEAR TO DATE:
- ◆ \$582.00
- ◆ Last MONTH:
- ◆ \$92.00

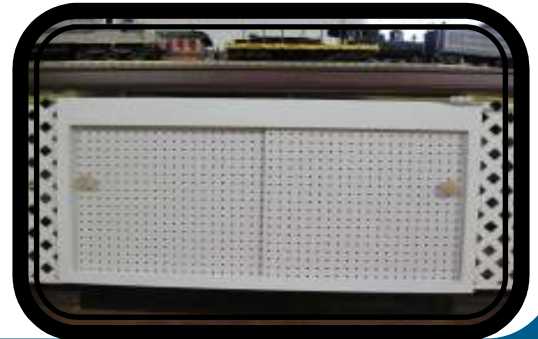
Donations of Used  
Ink and Toner  
Cartridges:  
Last Month:\$22.00  
Year to Date:  
\$177.00

## NEW EDITOR FOR *THE SIGNAL*

Starting with the April issue, Nick Mamich will be the new editor of *The Signal*. Nick has a varied resume, which includes electronics and computer skills. He is the founder of Church Music Systems in Bowdoinham which installs, renovates, restores and services music, audio, video, and lighting systems for churches. His excellent website includes photos of Saint Peter and Paul's Basilica in Lewiston where he installed the largest electronic organ in the state of Maine.

We would like to thank Rick James for serving as our newsletter editor from January 2013 to January 2016. He has done a remarkable job.

As editor from 1997 to December 2012 and interim editor for this February & March 2016 issue, Terry King will do everything he can to help Nick Mamich with the transition. We know Nick will do a great job.



### GOING TO OWLS HEAD?

By Paul Lodge

For the past few years, several club members have made the journey to Rockland to participate in the All Hobbies Show at the Owls Head Transportation Museum. This year the show is on Saturday and Sunday, April 2 and 3, with a Friday setup at about 2 p.m. Because of the distance from our home area, some members plan to stay overnight at one of the local motels. It's like a "get-away weekend."

If you would like to participate in this year's event, get in touch with Jerry Johnston at [jjchef@megalink.net](mailto:jjchef@megalink.net) or by calling 966-2932. He is willing to make reservations for those interested in going for two or three days and staying overnight.

Visiting the Owls Head Transportation Museum is a fun experience. They have vintage airplanes, bicycles, and vehicles including Maine's own Stanley Steamer. In one of the large areas, our club will set up our modules and have sales tables. It is always interesting to see the displays and sales items for the other hobbies, including model cars, airplanes and motorcycles. Because of the variety of hobbies presented at the show, we are usually able to sell items from our surplus inventory in which most model railroaders do not show an interest.

If you would like to attend the show, it will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. If you cannot come to help out, it is still an interesting day to visit the museum. We look forward to seeing you there.

### WHITEFIELD LIONS CLUB

### TRAIN AND DOLLHOUSE SHOW

FEBRUARY 20

By Paul Lodge

On Saturday, February 20, the Whitefield Lions Club is sponsoring its annual Train and Dollhouse Show at the Augusta Armory from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Our club has attended this hobby show every year since it started at this location, and this was where many of our current club members first learned about our club.

We will be displaying our modular layout and selling surplus inventory items. Our new 2016 raffle layout will be shown for the first time at this train show. Club members who wish to exhibit their modules need to be at the Armory before 8 a.m. The doors will be open at 7 a.m. so we can unload the club truck and start setting up our modular layout.

By combining model railroading and dollhouse displays, guests see how these hobbies complement each other. Dollhouse modelers enjoy our scenery, which for them is landscaping. Many model railroaders find small items from the dollhouse hobby which work with model railroading.



Analise Long & Travis Johnson working to repair the club modules



Peter Cole & Paul Dugas



**MODEL RAILROADING  
ADULT EDUCATION CLASS  
STARTS FEBRUARY 16**

By Paul Lodge

On Tuesday, February 16, the club will start its spring Model Railroading class through the Auburn Adult Education program. This popular class for beginners will start at 6:30 and go to 8:30 for approximately eight weeks. It is suggested that participants build a 2- by 4-foot module in order to learn what they would need to know about building a model railroad of their own at home. At the end of the course, completed modules can be shown at the club's spring show at Mt. Ararat High School in Topsham on April 30.

The class will discuss and use many of the model railroading tools that contribute to success in the hobby. The course also includes bench work, track laying, wiring, soldering, layout design, scenery, and weathering.

Many current club members have taken the course either before or after joining the club. Members are invited to come to help teach the students and exhibit our usual enthusiasm for model railroading for the beginners. For more details, see Paul Lodge.



January's Modeler's Forum



# Magazines, Magazines, And more Magazines!!!!!!!!!!

By Terry King

Because of past donations and one this past week, we now have 154 yearly copies of major magazines in hard binders. We also have about 65 cardboard magazine holders filled with magazines. This does not include the free magazines that are out by the entrance door.

**We need your help!** Please take these. I mean they are free. Here is your chance to add to your magazine library and help your club at the same time. These magazines date from the 1960's to this year. The older magazines are filled with interesting articles on how to do everything that you need to build that railroad empire you have always dreamed about.

All of these magazines are in the sales room. All of our storage is filled, as well as a few chairs.

My cell phone number is 576-3788. During week days, give me a call to see if I am here.





# January Minutes by Paul Lodge



## MEETING MINUTES OF

**January 21, 2016**

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

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*.

Assistant Treasurer Owen Buck gave the Treasurer's Report in place of vacationing treasurer Tom Coulombe. The report was approved as given.

Jay Calnan announced names for the Nominating Committee to create a slate of officers for next year.

Terry King reported that the club has sold \$743 worth of club calendars. We sold 20 calendars at \$15 to non-members, and 35 calendars at \$12 to club members. Terry King announced that he has purchased a new slide scanner. It has space for four slides and takes about five seconds to scan the images onto a memory card. The pictures on the card can then be put into the computer.

Ken Nettleship reported that the G-Gauge Division is working on installing a new system for running the three individual tracks of the layout. The current system is obsolete and parts are no longer available for it if anything goes wrong. Ray Parent has made a new cabinet to go under the layout and store extra cars and necessary tools. Thomas and Percy need new motors in order to be ready for Hobo Holiday.

Gary Thibeault reported that the HO Division has been working on waybills and car cards in order to make operations on the layout more realistic. Darin Long has been upgrading track in Obie Yard and control panels have been built. Signal systems have been installed on tracks going into Obie Yard.

Bob Willard reminded club members that the Modelers Forum is scheduled for the fourth Thursday each month from 7 to 9 p.m. This month they plan to show two methods of making realistic-looking water for layouts.

Joe Landry was thanked for donating a battery for the new locomotive ride donated by Joseph Gilbert. The extra battery can be used to run the train while the other one is being charged.

Terry King wanted club members to know that an effort is being made to upgrade our By-Laws and Constitution to include Assistant Officers as members of the Executive Board. A backup for each of the club officers is being chosen. In case something happens to an officer who can no longer perform his/her duties, someone will be able to step in and continue to run the organization.

Rick James resigned as Newsletter editor and a new volunteer was asked for. Nick Mamich asked about how much time it takes to do the monthly edition. Terry and Rick said about 3 to 4 hours.

The 50/50 raffle was won by Guy Lovell. Ed Leslie won the Attendance Prize and selected a red wind breaker.

The meeting adjourned.



Operation Lifesaver Meeting at the club in January. Dick Clark on the left, and Joe Fox on the right.



MEC #14 at Bates Mill, sometime in the past.

**WHITEFIELD LIONS CLUB  
TRAIN AND DOLLHOUSE SHOW  
FEBRUARY 20**

By Paul Lodge

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Discussing the just completed operating session, in January 2016



**G-GAUGE DIVISION UPDATES**

By Ken Nettleship

When members and guests arrive at the railroad club, the first thing they see is the impressive G-Gauge layout. The detailed scenery, the interactive ski scene, and trains operating on three layers of track really attract attention. As soon as all of the trains have passed by, children at our special events are told where to find Thomas. Sometimes we have to explain that Thomas and one of the other trains are resting now, but we can assure everyone there is still much to see in the G-Gauge room.

For several weeks members of the G-Gauge layout have been making plans to upgrade the electrical work and install a new cabinet and parts organizer with drawers. They are now starting to put their plans into operation.

Just wanted to update everyone that the G-Gauge work session on January 23 was a big success! This newsletter will show before, during and after pix. Several group members came and rolled up their sleeves to get a lot of work done in a relatively short period of time. In a snapshot we achieved the following items.

One of our projects was to clean and test-fit the new cabinet built by Thomas Junior (aka Ray Parent). Then we installed the cabinet and the new parts organizer with drawers. I would like to take a moment to give Ray Parent a round of applause for constructing the cabinet and for doing the electrical layout and the pre-wiring for this session. This was instrumental in making this conversion from old to new happen in one work session!

One of the first steps in this part of the project was to disconnect and remove the existing Train Engineer system. We installed new 10-amp USA Trains power sources and new PWC to LIN boards. After we installed the new Crest Revolution base stations with a sound feature for steam and sounds diesel, we ran wire to three individual speakers which we attached under the logging line (loop 3). We have two speakers for steam sounds and one for diesel. We also programmed one hand-held unit which now controls all loops, including Thomas loops 4 and 5.

Finally, we were able to test the new system and run trains. Congratulations, team! Everything works! We accomplished a lot in just one day. This was a great team effort and many hands made the work easier.



## THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

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207-576-3788

e-mail:

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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:

### President:

Jay Calnan-783-1719  
[jaycalnan@outlook.com](mailto:jaycalnan@outlook.com)

### Vice President:

Roger Plummer-740-0776

### Secretary:

Paul Lodge - 966-3641  
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### Treasurer:

Tom Coulombe - 240-9913  
[ctcoulombe@aol.com](mailto:ctcoulombe@aol.com)

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[allenroger234@gmail.com](mailto:allenroger234@gmail.com)

Dan Collins - 865-2222

[dcnotta@hotmail.com](mailto:dcnotta@hotmail.com)

Darin Long - 782-3652

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Terry King-576-3788

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## THE SIGNAL

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

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## Address Change

If your mailing or e-mail address changes please notify Terrence King at [tpking@roadrunner.com](mailto:tpking@roadrunner.com)

[www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org](http://www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org)

## Upcoming Events



### February

- 9 Retired Renovators 9:00 a.m.
- 10 HO Committee Meeting 9:00 p.m.
- 11 Executive Committee 6:30 p.m.
- 16 Retired Renovators 9:00 a.m.
- 16 Model Railroad Class 6:30 p.m.
- 18 Membership Meeting 6:45 p.m.
- 20 Augusta Train Show 10:00 a.m.  
(Members show up at 7:00 a.m. to help unload & set up.)
- 23 Retired Renovators 9:00 a.m.
- 25 Modeler's Forum 7:00 p.m.
- 27 Operating Session 8:00 a.m.

### March

- 1 Retired Renovators 9:00 a.m.
- 1,8,15,22,& 29 Model Railroading Class

6:30

3 Governor's Restaurant GFMRR Night 5:00 -7:00.

*Call Paul Lodge if you want to help.*

5 Operating Session 8:00 a.m.

8 Retired Renovators 9:00

9 HO Committee Meeting

10 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30p.m.

15 Retired Renovators 9:00 a.m.

17 Membership Meeting 6:45

19 Operating Session 8:00 a.m.

22 Retired Renovators 9:00 a.m.

24 Modelers Forum 7:00

29 Retired Renovators 9:00 a.m.

### April

2 & 3 Owls Head Mid-Coast Model Festival *Call Jerry Johnston for more information.*

1,8,15,22,& 29 Model Railroading Class 6:30 p.m.

### September

7-10, 2016, 36th National Narrow Gauge Convention at Augusta, Me. Call Bob Willard for more information. 207-795-6470

#### To all club members:

Now that the weather forecast calls for snow, the railroad club needs your help. After each snowstorm, the club parking lot will be cleared and cleaned as soon as possible. In order to do that effectively and efficiently, it is important that people do not drive on the club parking lot until the snow has been cleared and the parking lot is clean. If it is a true emergency, that is OK.

**Please help us keep the railroad club parking lot empty of cars until it is empty of snow.**

Thanks,  
Station Master and  
Executive Committee