



The Signal

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club



VOLUME 19 ISSUE 10

FEBRUARY 2016



Member since June 1988

NEXT MEETING
MARCH 17
6:45 p.m.

NEXT MONTH
Deadline for
APRIL ISSUE
March 26, 2016

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

ATTENDANCE PRIZE

Bob Willard
won the Attendance
Prize at the last
meeting.
Maybe next meeting
it will be YOU!
Will your name be
drawn on
March 17?
You have to be
present to win!

BOTTLES FOR

- ◆ Total LAST YEAR
- ◆ \$700.23
- ◆ YEAR TO DATE:
- ◆ \$634.00
- ◆ Last MONTH:
- ◆ \$52.00

Donations of Used
Ink and Toner
Cartridges:
Last Month:\$2.00
Year to Date:
\$177.00

WALLY CHASE'S LAYOUT TAKEN DOWN

By Paul Lodge

Wally Chase and his friend Al Thurston were instrumental in organizing model railroad enthusiasts in the greater Lewiston/Auburn area in the 1970s. Together they started the Seacoast Division of the National Model Railroad Association. They also began the first model railroad shows in Auburn. After running the shows for several years, they asked the Great Falls Model Railroad Club to take over the annual November show in Auburn.

Because of Wally's health, he has recently been unable to go to his basement to run trains on his extensive layout. He and his wife will be selling their home, so he asked that the Great Falls Model Railroad Club take down the layout, which needed to be removed. About ten club members worked for eleven days to take down his layout and bring his collection of books and magazines to the club. Wally donated about 280 books and thousands of magazines to the club, including many titles we did not have.

A portion of his collection will be donated to the South Shore Model Railroad Club in Massachusetts. Wally was given an honorary life membership in that club several years ago and he is still in contact with many of their members.

Part of Wally's layout was a narrow gauge display which was featured in the 1981 November/December issue of *Narrow Gauge & Short Line Gazette*. About fourteen feet of the narrow gauge was able to be saved intact. Hundreds of different types of rolling stock were utilized on his large basement layout. Many high-quality buildings and other structures were saved from the layout and are now at the club. Track, switches, and switch machines will be available for the HO Division to use. Several of Wally's locomotives were brass and ran for many years on his Rumford and Kennebago Lake Railroad. Wally had registered the name with the National Model Railroad Association and still had the certificate on display.

Wally started the layout in the 1970s and ran it for more than forty years, entertaining and creating memories for hundreds of people. Several club members have attended operating sessions at Wally's and remember fondly the good times associated with his layout. Some of our club members started running trains there when they were only seven years old. Our club library has railroad magazines with articles and pictures of Wally's layout including the 2000 January/February issue of *Model Railroading* magazine.

Thank you, Wally, for helping us to continue the memory of your layout as part of our club's HO layout exhibit. Needless to say, the club is overwhelmed with the generosity of this donation and the significance it has to model railroading in the Lewiston/Auburn area.



TRAIN SHOW AT AUGUSTA

By Paul Lodge

The annual Whitefield Lions Club Train and Doll House Show was held on Saturday, February 20, 2016, at the National Guard Armory on Western Avenue in Augusta. It was well attended and the aisles were crowded with families and modelers for both hobbies.

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club's modular display covered about 450 square feet and the excess inventory sales tables took nearly as much space. This was the first time we had run all DCC trains successfully for the entire day. Several "Guest Engineers" were also able to run trains around the temporary layout. About thirty-five club members were present to support and our efforts sell raffle layout tickets, run trains, handle the "Test Track," sell inventory items, and help set up and tear down the modular layout and sales display.

Several friends of the club stopped to talk to members. For many of these people, this is one of the few times each year they have a chance to visit with railroad friends and acquaintances.

We look forward to the next train show at Mt. Ararat High School in Topsham on Saturday, April 30.



Remember when?

CLUB MEMBERS TO HAVE FIRST CHANCE TO PURCHASE NEW EXCESS SALES ITEMS

By Jerry Johnston

The club recently received donations of a large number of HO scale model railroad items. Many of these items will not be used on the club's HO layout. Larry Cannon has been organizing them into logical order for sales at shows. It was suggested that club members should have first choice before they are offered to the general public.

Included are several hundred HO scale boxcars. Most types of cars are available. All have Kadee-type couplers and many have metal wheels. We plan to have a large portion of these items on display and for sale at the next monthly club meeting on March 17.

Members will be able to choose from a wide variety of weathered rolling stock, buildings and structures, wall decorations, and a few locomotives. This is a rare opportunity for club members to have first choice of items before they are displayed at a train show.

Come and see if there is anything you would like to buy. There are several MEC cars as well. We will conduct a lottery to determine who will be able to buy these.



TURBOTRAIN, SOUTHBOUND, BOSTON TO NY, AT NEW ROCHELLE NY, 8/74

MODEL RAILROAD CLASS STARTED AGAIN

By Paul Lodge

On Tuesday, February 16, the Great Falls Model Railroad Club started the spring semester of the Auburn Adult Education class in model railroading. The class meets from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and runs for approximately eight weeks. Class members learn about various tools and techniques for model railroading which make creating a personal empire possible. Members of the class are encouraged to build a 2- by 4-foot module on which they can learn the basic skills necessary to build an entire layout at home.

Members of this class have decided to build two modules and a small layout. Club member Cory Golob and his son Stanley want to build a layout on which to run his HO trains.

The club's Model Railroad Class has been the gateway to club membership for many of our members over the years. Club members are encouraged to come and help the new students and share their enthusiasm for the hobby. It is not unusual for the class to have more



OWLS HEAD MID-COAST MODEL FESTIVAL

By Paul Lodge

On Friday, April 1, several club members will travel to Rockland to set up modules and sales tables for the Owls Head Transportation Museum's Mid Coast Model Festival. Many of the members plan to stay for the weekend instead of traveling back to the Lewiston/Auburn area. For some this will be 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 or by calling 966-2932. He is willing to make reservations for those interested in going for two or three days and staying overnight.

The show will be opened to the public on Saturday and Sunday, April 2 and 3 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

We hope club members will attend this year to enjoy the other temporary exhibits of model railroads, airplanes, cars and trucks, boats and ships. Radio controlled models are always popular at this show. Several dealers and exhibitors will have items for sale. If you have never been to the museum, be sure to see their permanent transportation displays of early cars and airplanes.





by Paul Lodge

A Power Point slide show of club activities in January and February was shown from 6:45 to 7:00 p.m. with an emphasis on Wally Chase's layout. Many members shared memories of times they had attended Wally's operating sessions and told stories about his friend Al Thurston.

The evening's *TRAIN TIME* show featured a fall foliage trip on the Great Train Escape ride from Portland to Gorham, New Hampshire. Roger Plummer gave interesting information about the special passenger trip and the locomotives used for the excursion.

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 which was approved as given.

Terry King reported that about 280 new books have been added to the library from the Wally Chase collection.

Ken Nettleship noted that all five lines of the G-gauge layout are running. The new power units have been installed and are working properly. The Thomas the Tank Engine layout is also running well. A new chip added to the electronics allows the power for the locomotives to be stabilized, and new power units for the engines will no longer be necessary. A new cabinet will be installed at the entrance of the club by the bulletin board. Purchased from Craft Mania when it went out of business, the cabinet will be used to display handouts and for storage for the G-gauge Division.

Gary Thibeault said that scenery work on the canyon area of the HO layout is progressing and that some track has been changed.

Bob Willard reported that the Maine Narrow Gauge Show will be part of the club's show at Mt. Ararat in Topsham on April 30. They intend to use the large hallway for layouts and contest tables.

Dennis Ring was the winner of the 50/50 drawing and donated his winnings to the club.

Bob Willard won the attendance prize and selected a coffee mug.

The meeting adjourned.



CREDIT CARDS NOW ACCEPTED

By Paul Lodge

At nearly every event the Great Falls Model Railroad Club sponsors, someone asks if we take credit cards. From now on, we can say, "Yes!" The new device we are using for this purpose is called the "Square." This credit card reader can be added as an "App" to a smart phone, and credit card purchases can be added to our club's accounts.

Two months ago, Dan Collins explained to the Executive Committee how the "Square" helped his taxi business and how it could be used by the club. Tom Coulombe purchased one of the devices and Terry King, with the help of Eric Long, is the first to add the "App" to his smart phone. There are times when we have multiple tables at train shows and they are not in the same area. Having a second "Square" will be more convenient to help us cover more than one location at a show. We are looking for another member with a smart phone to volunteer to have the "Square" option added to their phone and be part of the sales team at train shows.

This new tool will allow us to accept all credit cards, including American Express. There are no monthly fees or hidden costs. A small percentage is taken from each transaction for the service, but this will make selling excess inventory more flexible for the club. The "Square" credit card reader plugs into the headphone jack of the smart phone, making it a mobile credit card terminal.



Birthday parties here at our club are fun for the whole family. You and your guests can play games and see trains run. Also, you do not have to clean up!

MEET THE MEMBERS

DEAN & BEN OSTERGAARD

By Paul Lodge

We first met Dean Ostergaard and his sons Ben and Tim when they came to our Auburn Middle School show in November of 2013. They decided to take our Model Railroad class in the spring of 2014. The two boys each built modules which were displayed at the spring show at Mt. Ararat. While they were taking the course, the family joined the club.

Dean was born in Brooklyn, New York, and lived in New Jersey, where he graduated from Howell High School. After four years in the Air Force as a B52 tail gunner, Dean started a varied work career. As a machinist for General Dynamics, he worked on F16 jet fighter parts. He got his BS degree in Information Systems from the University of Phoenix. At Lockheed/Martin, he worked as a technology systems architect with their health care insurance program.

He spent some time at Nestlé’s Foods as an automation engineer and helped streamline their production system. At Baker & Taylor Books, he worked to create an on-line sales system which was used as a model for Amazon’s Jeff Bezos. Many thanks came to Dean and his team for making it possible for Bezos to start Amazon.

Currently, Dean is working for the Veteran’s Administration creating a client-integrated system to help participants share health information between doctors and hospitals.

As the boys have progressed through school, Tim has become interested in music. Dean used to play drums in a rock and roll band. Tim’s musical interest helped rekindle Dean’s desire to play the drums again. Dean now plays for the Cumberland Community Band and has played for Community Little Theater for some of their recent musical productions.

BEN OSTERGAARD

Ben attends most of the club’s operating sessions. He enjoys operating trains and modeling. In the Model Railroad Class he constructed a crowd-pleasing scenic module which featured a stream and two-track bridge.

As a member of the Future Master Modelers, Ben helps during operating sessions; and when we have special event at the club, he is a big help with our “Guest Engineers.”

Ben has a keen interest in physics. He currently

attends Baxter Academy for Technology and Science in Portland. Last summer, he attended a one-week “Space Camp” where he worked as a “Mission Specialist.” At school for his “Flex Friday” project, Ben built a Fusion Reactor, adding to his knowledge of plasma physics.

Ben has applied for an internship to attend a program sponsored by Princeton University’s Plasma Physics Laboratory. Good luck, Ben.



MAINE MADE EARRINGS ON SALE AT THE CLUB.

By Terry King



Earrings made by member Tami Paine are on sale at the Company Store in the club. They are only \$5.00 each and there are a few different styles.

These would make a great Easter gift for you wife or daughter. One size fits all!



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.

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Address Change

If your mailing or e-mail address changes please notify Terrence King at tpking@roadrunner.com

www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org

Upcoming Events



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. & Future Master Model Railroaders. 6:00 p.m.
- 8 Retired Renovators 9:00
- 9 HO Committee Meeting
- 10 Executive Comm. Meeting 6:30 p.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
- 26 3-Railer's Train Show-Augusta Elks Lodge, 10:00-3:00p.m.
- 29 Retired Renovators 9:00 a.m.

April

- 2 Operating Session 8:00 a.m. until noon, & Future Master Model RR's after session.
- 2 & 3 Owls Head Mid-Coast Model Festival *Call Jerry Johnston for more information.*
- 5, 12, 19 & 26 Model Railroading Class 6:30 p.m.
- 5,12,19,&26 Retired renovators 9:00 a.m. until noon.
- 7 Governor's Restaurant GFMRR Night 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
- 13 HO committee Meeting 6:30 p.m.
- 14 Executive Committee meeting 6:30 p.m.
- 21 Membership Meeting-Nomination of Officers 6:45 p.m.
- 23 Operating Session 8:00 a.m. - noon.
- 28 Modelers Forum 7:00 p. m.
- 30 Train Show at Mt. Ararat High School, Topsham 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

September

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

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