



Members since June 1988

# THE SIGNAL



April Edition  
2016



Signal indicates **STOP AT OUR NEXT MEETING**

**April 21, 2016 6:45 pm**

### Learn new techniques

Our 135 members can help answer your questions at meetings!

### Involve relatives & friends

Meetings demonstrate how hobbies impart the trades.  
Fabrication — Detailing — Electricity  
“Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn.”  
- Benjamin Franklin

### Have a story you want to share?

Share your account at the meeting!  
Or publish it in our newsletter!  
*Let us know by April 25, 2016*  
*Email secretary Paul Lodge*  
*See back page for contact info . . .*

### Do you want to win attendance & 50/50 prizes?

*Don't let somebody else have the advantage of retiring flush with cash from the winning prize!*  
**You must be present to win!**

### Please bring donations . . .

#### Bottles for Basics

Total Last Year \$ 700.23  
YTD \$679.00  
Last month: \$ 45.00

#### Used Printer Cartridges

Last month: \$ 21.00  
YTD: \$ 198.00

### Why donate to Great Falls?

- > Save time and effort with our bottle dropoff; **Avoid waiting in line at your redemption center!**
- > Donations help keep dues low. Low dues = More members.
- > Your donations are a perfect way to **expedite your spring cleaning!**

### Recognition of our past editor...

## Rick James

For the past three years Rick James has been the editor of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club's newsletter, *The Signal*. Before that, Rick was the club president in 2011 and 2012. As immediate past president and a member of the Executive Committee, he volunteered in 2013 to become editor of the newsletter, freeing Terry King of that responsibility. As a result of his taking over the newsletter, Terry King was able to devote more time to the expanding library.

Rick's signature addition to *The Signal* was the use of colorful cartoon characters as fillers.

In addition to the model railroad hobby, Rick and several other club members are ham radio operators. Rick has been a ham radio operator for nearly twenty years. He has frequently used his talents throughout the state in helping with communications during events like the Dempsey Challenge in Lewiston and Auburn, the TD Bank North "Beach to Beacon" road race, New England Forest Rally, Trek Across Maine bike ride, and many walk-a-thons. He also works with the Androskoggin EMA on the C.E.R.T. Team. Rick was a member of the Jaycees for over twenty years, working on many community events and serving on the board of directors of the Liberty Festival for five years.

Rick is a family man who loves to go camping with his wife, Terry, and enjoys the great state of Maine. Rick and Terry have been married for more than thirty years and have two daughters, a son, and a grandson.

Rick has been employed for the past three years as a Customer Service Representative for Argo Marketing. About three months ago, Rick had a health scare when he had a stroke while at work. He has been recovering well and has attended many recent club events.

By Paul Lodge



## NEW FEATURES FOR THE SPRING TRAIN SHOW AT MT. ARARAT — 4/30/2016

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club will hold its annual spring train show at Mt. Ararat High School in Topsham on 4/30/2016 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is \$4, and it is free for those 12 and under. Dealers from around New England will be there to sell a variety of model railroad items, books, and DVDs.

This year, for the first time, a special area has been set for narrow gauge displays. Bob Willard and Gregg Ouellette will exhibit their On30 point to point, highly-detailed, diorama. The Sn2 Crew, lead by Frank Knight, will exhibit their narrow gauge display. Dealers who normally attend narrow gauge shows will also have sales tables set up in the narrow gauge area.

About eighty sales tables have been rented to dealers, and the tables will be delivered to the high school on Friday afternoon at 4 o'clock. Club members are encouraged to come to the high school at that time to help arrange the tables for the dealers. The club's modular layout sections are also removed from the truck and then brought into the gymnasium. Some of them will be set up, but they are not put together for the final arrangement until all the modules are brought to the show by 8 a.m. on Saturday.



The club plans to have several tables for selling excess inventory items, books, and other items of interest to those attending the train show. A test track will be available for buyers to check model locomotives before they are purchased.

The Mt. Ararat Sports Boosters will provide refreshments throughout the day with coffee and donuts in the morning and luncheon specials beginning at about noon.

A play rug area will be set up for the youngest children. We have done this for years at the Auburn Middle School, and it was appreciated by parents of little children. Because we no longer are having shows at the Auburn Middle School, we are adding this feature to our shows in Topsham.

Club members come and help by setting up tables and the modular layout, selling tickets at the door, running trains on the layout, selling excess inventory, and taking down tables and displays after the show.

- By Paul Lodge



Member #076805 00  
Since 1988

***On Saturday, April 30, the Great Falls Model Railroad Club will hold its annual spring train show at Mt. Ararat High School in Topsham from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is \$4, and it is free for those 12 and under.***

***This year, for the first time, a special area has been set aside for narrow gauge displays.***

***On Saturday, April 16, club members and those who are taking the Adult Education Model Railroading Class are invited to attend the class designed for people who feel they do not have the talent to paint backdrops.***

***Anybody can do it!***

### CHALLENGE TO RETIRE OUR BUILDING MORTGAGE



At the monthly meeting of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club on March 17, Jerry Johnston explained why he would like to see the club pay off the mortgage soon. The mortgage has been reduced to a little less than \$100,000. Jerry has pledged to pay \$50,000 with the rest to be paid by the club. The mortgage is currently in Jerry's name which means that the building belongs to him. He would like the club members to pay off the other half of the mortgage so that the club will have clear ownership as soon as possible. He feels that he is at the age where making these arrangements is prudent.

As a result of his appeal, one member has anonymously offered a matching gift of \$10,000. This money will be given to the club as soon as an additional \$10,000 has been collected for the match. After the meeting, Owen Buck reported that a little more than \$2,600 has already been contributed toward the \$10,000 matching goal.

A target date has been suggested for the club to achieve the total of \$100,000. It is July 4th, "Independence Day!" Achieving this goal will put the future of the club in a much better financial position. We will still do our normal train shows and continue to sell excess sales items, but more of that money will be available to maintain the building and grounds at the club.

Can you help? Remember, with the matching gift, a \$25 donation results in a \$50 reduction in the mortgage. Any amount will be appreciated! The more you can contribute the better.

Thank you for supporting your club!

By Paul Lodge



### BACKDROP PAINTING FOR THE RELUCTANT PAINTER

On Saturday, April 16, club members and those who are taking the Adult Education Model Railroading Class are invited to attend the class designed for people who feel they do not have the talent to paint backdrops. Anybody can do it!



The class starts at 9 a.m. and goes until about noon. This allows plenty of time for everyone to paint a backdrop of about four feet by one foot, and is supplied for the class. The class shows techniques for bringing blue sky to a light horizon and painting clouds, mountains, foothills, forests, and distant lakes or ponds.

There is a registration fee of \$10. If painting tools are needed, the participants can buy a palette knife, #6 fan brush, one- and two-inch brushes for an additional \$20. Easy-to-clean acrylic paints are supplied for those taking the class.

To sign up, call Paul Lodge at 966-3641. Come and have some fun!

By Paul Lodge





**MEETING MINUTES**  
of  
**March 17, 2016**

A Power Point slide show of club activities in February and March was shown starting at 6:45 p.m.  
No *TRAIN TIME* video was shown so that more time could be allowed for purchasing excess sales items displayed on six tables around the walls.  
Vice-president Roger Plummer opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. President Jay Calnan asked for the Secretary's Report, which was approved as published in the newsletter.  
The minutes of the meeting from twenty years ago were read. It was a look back to appreciate some of the history of the club. This included discussion about getting ready for the Balloon Festival weekend when we used the Grand Trunk train station on Lincoln Street in Lewiston and mentioned the DARE layout, which eventually became the basis for our annual Raffle layout.

Tom Coulombe gave the Treasurer's Report which was approved as given. As Station Master, he noted that the \$1,500 Auburn property tax has been paid. Tom noted that he had presented the proposed budget for the next fiscal year at the Executive Committee meeting, and it was approved.  
As Station Master, Tom reported that, with his new power washer, someone could finish taking the paint off the retaining wall. He has been in touch with J. Marsh Custom Concrete who said they could help seal and finish the wall. The truck has needed some repairs recently, and Tom suggested that the club purchase a tandem trailer to replace the truck. It should be 14 to 16 feet long and will probably cost between \$6,000 and \$7,000.

Tom has made arrangements with the people at the Norway Savings Bank Arena in Auburn for an "all hobbies" show on Saturday, June 4. Tom reported that the arena officials say they have fifty tables and are planning to purchase fifty more for the event.

Jerry Johnston explained why he would like the club to pay off the mortgage and have ownership of the building in the club's name free and clear. (See article elsewhere in the newsletter.)

Terry King noted that we now have 3,468 books in the library and that shelving is not adequate. Arrangements are being made to purchase lumber to build additional shelves. George Pritchard will help build the shelving. Because of Wally Chase's donation, we have now tripled the number of narrow gauge books available for members to borrow. Wally Chase had about 2,500 railroad passes which Terry is preserving in notebooks. These cards were distributed by railroads and model railroad owners to visitors to their facilities. He suggested that members take a look at the quality and humor shown in some of the cards.

Because of Tom Coulombe's health issues, he has asked club members to reassign as many of his duties as possible. He reported that Benton Hayes has volunteered to take charge of the N-scale layout. Tom has become an expert in pricing donated items. In order to relieve Tom of this duty, Jerry Johnston asked for permission to have a committee determine prices. Jerry suggested that Larry Cannon and Ed Webb help him with pricing. Tom is still looking for people to take over the work of organizing and running train shows. We need people to help send out vendor applications, rent tables, assign tables to dealers, determine the number of tables needed for renting, make a plan for arranging the tables, and reserve the facility for the show(s). Although Tom handled all of these aspects of the train shows, a coordinator could delegate various responsibilities to other club members.

Bob Willard invited members to come to the Modelers Forum on the fourth Thursday of each month to share modeling ideas. This month the group will be showing modeling



**HOBO HOLIDAY**  
**SATURDAY, MAY 21**

The May newsletter will be published just before the next main event at the club. Hobo Holiday on Saturday, May 21, is one of the three popular events held at the Great Falls Model Railroad Club throughout the year. The different divisions in the club (G-gauge, HO and N-scale) are cleaning and upgrading their layouts in anticipation of the Hobo Holiday. Improvements to the extensive HO layout will offer "Guest Engineers" a memorable trip. Progress has been made on all of the layouts, and the Great Falls Model Railroad Club is eager to share the changes with the families who come to this railroad show.

We plan to have the railroad games for children and the scavenger hunt for both children and adults. Hobo folklore handouts will be available for our guests, and hobo signs will be set out around the building so that families can learn their meanings. Chef Hobo is hoping that the weather is good this year so we can make hobo stew outside on the lawn near the rail car.

By Paul Lodge



ideas and explaining different modeling techniques which will be of interest to every club member. The meetings start at 7 p.m.

Darin Long reported that the HO Division will have its internal phone system installed soon. They currently have between 9 and 12 phones available to use at operating sessions. Gary Thibault is working on redoing the warehouse district on the lower level.

Benton Hayes reported that the N-scale Division is getting ready for scenery and improving the warehouse district on the layout. One of the DCC plugs needs to be fixed.

Ken Nettleship noted that progress is being made in constructing drawer faces for the cabinet we got from Craft Mania. It will be an attractive addition to the club house entrance.

Rick James invited interested club members to come to the Ham Radio Fest at the Ramada Inn in Lewiston on March 25 and 26. He noted that many model railroaders are also ham radio operators and explained how the two hobbies are related.

So that members could have more time to look over the excess inventory items, the meeting closed early.

The Attendance Prize was won by Benton Hayes. He chose a Delaware & Hudson box car. Jay Calnan won the 50/50 raffle.

By Paul Lodge

**PAUL VALLEE**  
**(1930 - 2016)**

Paul Vallee, a member of the GFMRRRC, died on Sunday, March 20, of an apparent heart attack at Togus where he had been for a short time. He became friends with Tom Coulombe and Paul Lodge while they were representing the Great Falls Model Railroad Club at Governor's Restaurant Thursday Family Nights. He was a regular customer of Governor's and frequently helped the railroad club on Family Night.

Mr. Vallee joined the club in November 2014 and helped with ExTRAINaganza and other events by selling tickets and bringing a cheerful face and welcoming smile. Over the years he donated hundreds of dollars worth of model railroad equipment to the club.

He was 85 years old and a 20-year veteran of the Air Force. His tours of duty included Vietnam, and he proudly wore the cap indicating his unit.

We will miss Paul's friendly smile and warm greetings.

By Paul Lodge



***Paul was 85 years old and a 20-year veteran of the Air Force. His tours of duty included Vietnam, and he proudly wore the cap indicating his unit.***

***We will miss Paul's friendly smile and warm greetings***

## MEET THE MEMBERS

Mike and Tami Paine



Mike and Tami Paine have been members of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club for nearly two years and have been married 1 ½ years. Between the two of them, they have five daughters and five grandchildren with one on the way. Mike is a native of Maine who was born in Auburn; but Tami was born in Seattle, Washington, and was raised in Washington State. Tami later joined the Army and has lived in Texas, Missouri, South Carolina and Hawaii.

Both Mike and Tami work for St Mary's Hospital. That is actually where they met. Mike has been a utility worker for St Mary's for 32 years and Tami was the Activities Coordinator at the nursing home for 16 years and has been the Director of the Activity Department for the past five years. Before working at St Mary's, Mike went to culinary school and was a cook at Hebron Academy, while Tami was a field medic in the US Army. She has also been an EMT and a CNA.

Mike has been interested in trains his whole life. He remembers spending many hours looking out his bedroom window to watch the trains go by his house in Auburn. At the age of nine he received his first Lionel train and he has been creating train layouts whenever possible. On the other hand, Tami remembers her father having an interest in trains and going to the train shops with him. Her father never did set up a train layout because her mother liked to move so often. Other than that, Tami had no interest in trains until she married Mike.



*Tami will also be interviewing club members for this monthly "Meet the Members" column.*

*She looks forward to having you talk with her and tell her your story.*

*Tami is now posting pictures of club events almost daily on the club's Facebook page.*

Watching Mike work on his train board interested her, so Mike has given Tami her own board. They now have "His and Hers" HO train layouts connected by a tunnel that goes under their basement stairs. Mike's layout is called Howard Pond Junction. He has created his layout to represent his grandparents' camp, where he remembers spending many fun-filled summers. Tami has created what Mike calls a "Girly Girl layout" with her theme based on the colors pink and purple. The two layouts have a Facebook page called "Howard Pond Junction" where they share the progress and events happening on their boards. You are invited to become a part of their Facebook page and watch the adventures of Howard Pond Junction and Tami Town.

Mike had been bringing his grandchildren to many of the club's events for years before he and Tami became members. They attended the Model Railroading class together and created the Big Rock Candy Mountain Module that was part of the club's large modular layout at the Mt. Ararat Train Show in November. They enjoyed helping there as well as at the Train Fest in August, the ExTRAINaganza in November, and several of the train club's Family Nights at Governor's Restaurant.

Tami is now posting pictures of club events almost daily on the club's Facebook page. Check it out at [GreatFallsModelRailRoadClub](https://www.facebook.com/GreatFallsModelRailRoadClub). She has offered to fill in the secretarial duties when Paul Lodge is not available. Tami will also be interviewing club members for this monthly "Meet the Members" column. She looks forward to having you talk with her and tell her your story.

The Paines have many other hobbies and interests, including bowling, dancing, and spending time with their family. They like camping, and you will find them around a campfire at Two Lakes Campground all summer. They both play old country music classics with Mike on keyboard and Tami on guitar. Mike loves lighthouses and they enjoy sightseeing together. Tami paints Pet Rocks, which she calls Pebble Pals, and sells them at craft fairs during the holidays. Tami also makes jewelry, including some special train earrings which are now on sale at the GFMRRCC Company Store. She is a Master Gardener, sews, quilts, crochets and does many other crafts. Tami keeps the two of them busy with many fun events. Poor Mike finds it difficult to find "train time" to work on his model railroad layout.

*Check out our Facebook page at:*

**Great Falls Model Railroad Club**

**CLUB MEMBERS GET FIRST PICK to SAVE BIG!**

Before and after the club’s monthly meeting on March 17, rolling stock from Wally Chase’s collection was made available to club members. Members who know Wally were pleased to be able to purchase items which bring back fond memories of operating on his Rumford and Kennebec Lake Railroad. The rolling stock was organized neatly by car type. Because there was enough time to look at the items thoroughly, many sales were made. Club members really appreciated having first choice at selecting items in which they were interested.

Treasurer Tom Coulombe reported that we had sales of \$1,003 on Thursday evening. It has been suggested, but the club has not yet voted on it, that the sales from the club meeting be used toward paying off the mortgage to help meet the gift challenge of \$10,000.



Jerry Johnston said that buildings and structures will be available at the regular April 21 meeting so that club members will have first choice on them as well.

To learn more about Wally Chase and his influence on model railroading in the Lewiston/Auburn area, see the February issue of *The Signal*.

By Paul Lodge

***Two of the major projects have involved creating a more professional-looking entryway to the club, which is an important first impression for visitors.***



**G-GAUGE DIVISION UPDATES**

The G-Gauge work sessions at the Great Falls Model Railroad Club during the past two months have accomplished a lot. Two of the major projects have involved creating a more professional-looking entryway to the club, which is an important first impression for visitors. The update article in the February issue of *The Signal* described the G-Gauge Division’s installation of the new parts organizer and the new cabinet built by Ray Parent. As you enter the club, you’ll see that cabinet on the left-hand side of the room.



Lee Duguay from Craft Mania had donated to the club a cabinet that had been stored in pieces in Tom Coulombe’s barn until February. We have installed this cabinet on the right-hand side of the entryway. We modified it to have three sections, each with four pullout drawers which we designed and built to allow for storage of G-Gauge rolling stock and locomotives. This will give a less cluttered look to the layout. The top of the cabinet will also be an improved display area for flyers and other items.

Before installation, there was a tremendous amount of preparation and measuring. Since this was cabinetry, taking our time was imperative. (“Measure twice, cut once” rule of thumb.) Several G-Gauge members helped with the installation during three work days.



Ray Parent researched the design for the pull-outs and hardware. He also worked on trim pieces and drawer fronts. Ray and Dick Cosgrove installed some of the trim and door fronts on the four middle drawers during the work session on March 19 which was cut short because of a birthday party at the club.

Work on the scenery for the layout has been limited because of the other major projects, including electrical work. A hole has been punched through the bottom of the layout under the mountain. This will give access to the switches that are under the mountain without having to crawl across the top of the layout when we begin working on the landscaping again.

During the abbreviated work session on March 19, Peter Cole and Ken Nettleship did some minor track reconfiguration and rearranged buildings to freshen things up and give the main layout a “change of scenery.” This is only temporary until we are back on track with the scenery and landscaping. The sidings in the village area have been changed a little and the town has been reconfigured with the existing buildings and those recently donated by Governor’s Restaurant. The depot and station have been moved around to be off the spur in the spring scene area. Peter suggested putting the one “O gauge” station up on the logging line for perspective.

Loops 1, 2, and 3 have received a significant upgrade. Moving the O Scale station to the background of the upper loop and rearranging the buildings on the lower loop into a “Main Street” with buildings on either side really brings all three loops into a more realistic setting. It’s amazing what a few hours of work can do to spruce up the whole layout! Although this is temporary, it does give the layout a different look and visitors to the Hobo Holiday on May 21 will see something new.

Addressing the reliable operation (bullet-proof track work), the Thomas face lift, the new control system and the cabinet in which it is housed, and the new storage/display cabinet have taken priority over the layout landscaping. It may not look like a lot has been done, but that could not be further from the truth. The group has agreed that these changes and upgrades were necessary. Without a solid and reliable foundation, what is visible means nothing. We will continue to strive for the goal of a more functional, interactive and beautifully finished layout but will continue to change course as events and situations dictate. We all like to see progress, but the consensus is that we want to have fun doing it. We want to make sure the “FUN” part stays at the top of our list at ALL times.

By Ken Nettleship

**The Great Falls Model Railroad Club (GFMRRC)**

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**See us on Facebook!**

Great Falls Model Railroad Club

*An educational foundation*



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**The Signal**

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**GFMRRC Special Events April 2016**

*Subject to change  
Please consult our web site or Facebook page*

April 2 and 3

**Owls Head Model Show**

See Jerry Johnston for details and to sign up to help and/or to arrange for overnight accommodations

April 16—9:00 a.m. to noon

**Backdrop Painting for the Reluctant Painter**

SEE Article in this issue!

For questions or to register, call Paul Lodge at 966-3641

April 29 — Afternoon (setup)

April 30 — 8 am (setup) 3 pm (breakdown)

**Assist the GFMRRC Annual Spring show!**

Ensure our show to succeed by helping with Setup, admissions, show guide & breakdown.  
Mt. Ararat High School, Topsham

April 30 — 10 to 3 pm

**Attend GFMRRC annual spring show**

Mt. Ararat High School, Topsham  
SEE Article in this issue!

**GFMRRC Future Special Events**

*Subject to change  
Please consult next Signal Issue, or our web site or Facebook page*

May 19 — 6:45 pm

**Election of officers for the coming year**

During Regular meeting

May 21—10 to 3

**Hobo Holiday at GFMRRC**

SEE Article in this issue!



**GFMRRC Recurrent Activities April 2016**

*Subject to change  
Please consult our web site or Facebook page*

April 9 — 8:00 am to noon

**HO Operating Session**

April 9 — noon to 1:00 pm

**Future Master Model Railroaders**

April 7 — 4 to 8pm (1st Thursday of each month)

**Family Night at Governor's Restaurant**

Experience operating trains with good food at 1185 Lisbon St, Lewiston, ME 04240  
Help needed - See Paul Lodge

April 14 — 6:30 pm (2nd Thursday of each month)

**Executive Committee Meeting**

April 21 — 6:45 pm (3rd Thursday of each month)

**Regular Monthly Club Meeting**

April 23 — 8:00 am to noon

**HO Operating Session**

April 28 — 7:00 pm (4th Thursday of each month)

**Modelers Forum**

Tuesday mornings from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

**Retired Renovators** meet to restore railroad equipment and buildings donated to the club. This helps to sell excess inventory at higher prices. If you would like to help, come whenever you can.

**HO Work Sessions**

When no Operating Sessions or special events are scheduled :

- Every Saturday morning 8:00 am to noon
- Every Wednesday evening 6:00 - 8:00 pm



**Aspiring Hobos waiting to hop the next train to Hobo Holiday!**

**May 21—10 am to 3 pm**

**Don't miss this train event!**