



Members since June 1988

The Signal



June Edition
2016



Signal indicates **STOP AT OUR NEXT MEETING**
June 16, 2016 6:45 pm

Notice: Governors will restart Family night in September!

Involve friends & relatives

Meetings demonstrate how we adhere to schedules

Better three hours too soon than a minute too late.

- - William Shakespeare

Have a story you want to share?

Share your account at the meeting!

Or publish it in our newsletter!
Let us know by June 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!

DONATIONS . . .

Bottles for Basics (B4B)

Total Last Year \$ 814.00

YTD \$63.00

Last month: \$ 63.00

Used Printer Cartridges

Last month: \$ 16.00

YTD: \$ 16.00

Why donate to Great Falls?

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

Fifth Annual HOBO Holiday a success!
MAY 21, 2016



After much preparation by all the layout divisions, guests were invited into the Great Falls Model Railroad Club building for the Hobo Holiday at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 21. **Tami and Mike Paine** were dressed as hobos, complete with their bindles on sticks. Throughout the day, they went to the corner of Main and Mill Street to wave and attract the attention of drivers passing through the intersection. Tami and Mike reported that they got many "honks" and questions about what was going on. They were able to encourage some of the drivers and passengers to come to the club and check out our "Hobo Holiday." Many of our guests were first-time visitors with young children whom we hope will come again often.

The weather for the day was perfect, 70 degrees and sunny. That may have contributed to the fact that our attendance was down from last year. We had about fifty children and eighty adults. The club earned about \$450 through admissions, Company Store sales, the Raffle Layout, and by selling "Hobo Bucks" for games, guest engineers, food and drinks. One of this year's successful innovations was moving the Fish Pond from the Education Room downstairs to the meeting room near Thomas the Tank Engine.

Instead of tickets for the games, "Hobo Bucks" were printed and distributed for \$1 each or seven for \$5. These were used for Guest Engineers, the Ride on Train, and the games where prizes (most of which we purchase) were given out. With the help of **Mike Paine's** sister **Darlene Therrien**, the number of fishermen and their attempts increased dramatically. This was also the first time that the "Ride on Train" donated by **Joseph Gilbert** and his family has been used for our youngest guests at the Hobo Holiday. Continued on page 2...



MEETING ROOM NAMED "COULOMBE HALL"



On Monday, June 6, Thomas Coulombe passed away. He had courageously fought his battle with cancer and had continued to attend every Great Falls Model Railroad function including the Hobo Holiday on May 21. Our sympathies are with his wife Carmen and all of their family members.

At the annual meeting of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club on May 19, 2016, a motion was made and unanimously approved to name the meeting room on the upper level of the club "Coulombe Hall" as a tribute to Tom Coulombe. Tom was a leader in helping the club reach its current level of excellence. From the beginning as Station Master, Tom spent endless hours working on ceilings, walls, floors, and special projects to make the clubhouse a safe and functional property. Tom helped construct the original shelving for the library, which has now been expanded. He replaced siding on the outside of the building when ice came off the roof and damaged it.

In the summer, he mowed the grass and weed whacked the hillside to keep the grounds looking good. He cleared brush and took down trees from the upper part of the property above the retaining wall so that a few vehicles could be parked there during club events. In the winter, snow removal became an important part of Tom's responsibility.

As Treasurer, Tom created budgets that ensured there would be enough money to keep all areas within the club functioning. Using the computer and projector, he presented clear and thorough reports at each club meeting comparing the financial picture for that month with the budget amount. As a result of Tom's thoughtful projections and frugal use of club funds, we are now in a position to make an effort to retire the mortgage on the club building.

The yellow Maine Central rail car (putt-putt) at the east end of the clubhouse was purchased by Tom from former club member Mike Reed. Club members eagerly helped Tom build the pedestal and install the rail car. It makes an eye-catching attraction to welcome guests to our location.

As a Boy Scout leader, Tom used our meeting room to teach several Scout groups about model railroading so that they could earn their railroading merit badge. At Boy Scout Jamborees throughout the country, Tom used "Time Saver" layouts to help youngsters get their railroading merit badges at the national jamborees. Continued on page 2...





Member
#076805 00
Since 1988



Chef Jerry Johnson serving his award winning Hobo Stew !



Nancy Anderson was in charge of the Railroad Safety Quiz



Mike Paine's sister, **Darlene Therrien**, kept the Fish Pond active all day

Hobo Holiday (Con't)

At the end of the day, we had collected "Hobo Bucks" for the following games:

Fishing Pond	45
Ride on Train	30
Roundhouse Roulette	23
Guest Engineers	21
Hoop A Caboose	20

Governor's Restaurant had donated their delicious chocolate chip cookies, which were used as prizes for the Scavenger Hunt. Those who successfully answered the Operation Lifesaver railroad safety quiz had a chance to enter their names for a special drawing in which the Governor's \$25 gift certificate was won by **Judy Nile** of Casco and the free "Guest Pass" for the Boothbay Railroad Village was won by Karen Giguere of Auburn. Winner of Boothbay Railroad Village was **Karen Giguere**.



<==
Paul Lodge & Ray Anderson setting up for Hobo Holiday

Club members were treated with great food for lunch served by **Nancy Weeks** and the **world famous Hobo Stew chef, Jerry Johnston**. There was a variety of healthy foods, including Jerry's famous Hobo Stew. Desserts included Nancy's apple pie and chocolate cake with a choice of chocolate or peanut butter frosting.

After the event, fifteen club members went to Governor's Restaurant to socialize and enjoy a meal together, topped off with chocolate



BOTTLES FOR BASICS (B2B) TOPS \$800

Owen Buck was delighted with the record setting B2B total for this past year: **\$814 !**

In May, 2009, the club started the Bottles for Basics initiative to help pay basic monthly bills. The original goal was to raise an additional \$500 a year with this program.

Since 2009, Bottles for Basics has raised over \$3,200 in additional revenue for the club. Those five cent contributions add up when everyone pitches in. Thanks to everyone who has donated bottles to the club and to Jerry Johnston for taking them to the bottle redemption recycling center each month.

Thanks for making Bottles for Basics such a success. You can keep Owen smiling by donating more bottles to set a new B2B \$1,000 record next year!

MEETING ROOM NAMED "COULOMBE HALL" (Con't)

(Continued from page 1)

He also used the "Time Saver" layout during the many times he helped at Governor's Restaurant Family Night railroad activities on the first Thursday of each month.

Tom was responsible for much of the preparation for our annual spring and fall railroad shows in Auburn and Topsham, arranging for venues and vendors and many other important details. The club's van has been kept in Tom's driveway, and surplus inventory has been stored in his barn. When the club received the blue ribbon for the "Best in Show" exhibit at the West Springfield show, Tom was a major contributor in helping to transport and set up the huge display.

Tom was active in the Seacoast Division of the National Model Railroad Association and in 2014 they honored him with the Robert W. Spate Public Service Award.

Thank you, Tom, for your many years of dedication to the club!

The name Coulombe Hall will be a permanent tribute for his many contributions and endless activities in the name of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club. He is greatly missed!

<==Tom Coulombe in Mike Reed's Speeder 9-27-14



Tom and Carmen Coulombe at Mt. Ararat Train Show



Tom Coulombe Installing Train Sign At the Club

by Paul Lodge

MEETING MINUTES OF
MAY 19, 2016



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

The evening's video featured the Sandy River & Rangeley Lakes Railroad with footage from the 1930s as well as the Train Time show produced by the club. The video was followed by an appeal from



Sharon Barber for volunteers for the Sandy River and Rangeley Lakes Railroad. Sharon is one of only two engineers for this narrow gauge railroad, and they need more help to keep the trains running during summer weekends.

The railroad will also be open for the three-day Narrow Gauge National Convention in September and additional volunteers would help. The Sandy River & Rangeley Lakes Railroad will have work sessions on Saturday and Sunday, June 4, 5, 18, and 19; and July 2, 3, and 16, and 17. Several projects need work, including carpentry and painting. If anyone wants to work on "big" little, authentic railroad equipment, volunteer for the Sandy River and Rangeley Lakes Railroad in Phillips. Check their website for contact information.

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.

Owen Buck gave the Treasurer's Report which was approved as given. Owen explained about the mortgage fund drive and the matching challenges put forth by two club members. (After the meeting, it was announced that the fourth \$500 individual member donation has been made, reaching Dan Collins' four \$500 donations challenge. The mortgage will be reduced by a total of \$4,000 as a result of Dan's challenge. It was also announced that all money collected from the sale of surplus inventory items at the monthly meetings will help match the \$10,000 challenge for the mortgage reduction drive. The \$10,000 matching challenge is good until July 4th, 2016, "Independence from the Mortgage Day.")

As Station Master, **Jerry Johnston** reported that someone needs to volunteer to do weed whacking on the hillside above the retaining wall in July. Please contact Jerry for details and/or to volunteer.

The library/archivist report was given by Paul Lodge for **Terry King**, who could not make the meeting. (Terry's complete report, "Library Expanded," is elsewhere in the newsletter.)

The Modelers Forum had a very successful session on April 28, the fourth Thursday of the month. Several "show and tell" projects were explained at the Forum meeting and during the Power Point program at the beginning of the club meeting. **Bob Willard** reported that the "show and tell" concept will be used again at the May 26 Modelers Forum.

The layout divisions made their reports. **Ken Nettleship** reported that the G-gauge Division is ready to go for Hobo Holiday. **Darin Long**, HO Division Chairman, reported that work on wiring for the internal telephone system has begun. A special passenger train in Phil Clough's name has been

created along with "Clough Quarry." **Kerry Hayes** gave the N-Scale Division report for his son Benton. Kerry noted that the railroad-theme skirting from Wally Chase's donation has been adapted by his wife Julie and installed. Additional landscape scenery, buildings, roads, and a ninja turtle have been created. A plug for the remote is to be converted and more is still to be done.



It was noted that this is the 30th year for the club and something special should be planned to commemorate this milestone.

A member has asked to purchase one of the attractive name tags which some club members have. If anyone would like to purchase a name tag (about \$5), give Paul Lodge your name. Once enough people have requested and paid for name tags, an order will be submitted.

To honor club member **Tom Coulombe**, who is ill with cancer, a motion was made and seconded that the club meeting room be name "Coulombe Hall." A unanimous vote was recorded in favor of calling the meeting area "Coulombe Hall."

At the annual meeting, new officers are elected for the next year. The Nominating Committee had submitted the following names:

President, Jerry Johnston; Vice President, Roger Plummer; Secretary, Paul Lodge; Treasurer, Owen Buck; Librarian/Archivist, Terry King; Directors: Roger Allen, Dan Collins, and Darin Long. Additional nominations from the floor for Director were Eric Long and Ed Webb.

The floor was opened to additional nominations. Ed Webb was nominated for Librarian/Archivist. Ed had his name removed from the Director nomination so that he could run for Librarian/Archivist. A motion was made that nominations cease. Ballots were distributed, collected, and counted.

The new officers for 2016-2017 are as follows:

President, Jerry Johnston
Vice-President, Roger Plummer
Secretary, Paul Lodge
Treasurer, Owen Buck
Librarian/Archivist, Terry King
Directors:

Roger Allen
Dan Collins
Darin Long

As new president, Jerry Johnston announced that there will be a slight change in our monthly meeting format. The meeting will start with the Power Point program, followed by the railroad video, then clinics from the Modelers Forum, and finally the monthly meeting.



Before the meeting adjourned, the 50/50 raffle was won by **Dan Collins** and the Attendance Prize was won by **Kent Waterson**.

By Paul Lodge

RAILROAD LANTERN DONATED

An old railroad lantern, beautifully preserved and encased in plexiglass by **Foster Leavitt** of Saco, was recently donated to the



railroad club by **Bud Lamson** and has now



been installed in the Company Store to the right of the library door. The late Foster Leavitt, a railroad and trolley history buff, had given the lantern to his friend Bud, who is now at The Wardwell, an assisted living home in Saco. Knowing Foster's friendship with club members Paul Lodge and the late Mike Reed, Bud asked if the club would like to have the lantern.

Bud also showed Paul a diorama of the Flying Yankee, which was created by Foster



Leavitt and is on permanent display at The Wardwell. **Mike Reed**, who had owned the Maine Central rail car which is now on the lawn at GFMRRRC, became good friends with Foster Leavitt because of their mutual interest in rail cars. Foster, who was more than 40 years older than Mike, helped him purchase more than one "putt-putt." When Foster's grandson developed an interest in the Flying Yankee, Mike bought him an O-Gauge replica. After Mike's death, the grandson suggested that Foster include it in a diorama as a tribute to Mike, and a framed article at the Wardwell explains the story behind the diorama.

Library Expanded

The Hartt-Swasey Library at the Great Falls Model Railroad Club has expanded quite a lot in the past few months, thanks to generous donations by Wally Chase and Phil Clough.

Wally Chase recently donated his extensive model railroad layout, equipment, books, slides, and railroad-related items to the Great Falls Model Railroad Club. With his donation, the library has added 189 books, about 4950 35mm slides, a slide projector, a few thousand photographs, many posters, and a few time tables. The club also received maps of his personal HO Rumford & Kennebago Lake Railroad, Androscoggin Valley Railroad and narrow gauge Surry & Alna Railroad. Wally shared his thought process on developing a theme for a layout by donating hundreds of pages of handwritten notes about his own layout. These notes could be organized into a notebook on layout concept and design, which would be of great help to members who are getting started on a new layout, even if it is their first.

Long-time member **Phil Clough**, who passed away on April 4, donated his railroad collection to the club, including 111 books and 62 DVD's. "The Sandy River Line" DVD includes movie footage taken in the 1930's of the Sandy River & Rangeley Lakes Railroad. The footage has sharp, clear images; and it serves as a record of the activities of the SRRL Railroad in its last days of operation. This DVD is worth seeing!

Wally Chase's book collection was mostly about narrow gauge railroads across the country. He also had a lot of books on the Maine Central, Boston & Maine, Canadian National and Grand Trunk Railroads. Phil Clough's books were mostly about the Pennsylvania, New Haven, Chesapeake & Ohio, and Baltimore & Ohio railroads. If you like the Pennsylvania Railroad, we have your summer reading right here! Most of his 62 DVD's were also about the Pennsylvania Railroad.

LIBRARY TOTALS AS OF MAY 2016:

Magazines:	7158
Books:	1449
Blue Prints:	85
DVD's:	395
Model Plans:	10
Deeds:	4
Walthers Catalogs:	67
Other Catalogs:	12
Slides (approx.):	15000
Photographs:	6000
Time Tables:	631

With the large volume of new books, DVD's, and slides, it became necessary to expand the capacity of the library. Member George Prichard suggested adding shelves to the top of

the existing shelves along the wall. He also suggested turning the middle sections by 90 degrees and adding shelves to either the top or bottom of these units. George has built the shelves and most of them are already filled.

Library Shelves installation



<==Terry King



George Pritchard ==>

The magazine section now has a more uniform look and nearly all cardboard magazine holders are white. The Model Railroader magazines are either bound or in Model Railroader binders.

In order to make it easier to locate books on specific topics, some of them have been grouped into sections, such as CSX and its former railroads.

The next time you are at the club, check out our expanded and improved library.

By Terry King

Bob & Denise Purington remind you to stop by Governors for good food...

Family nights starts again in September!



Check out our Facebook page at:

Great Falls Model Railroad Club

For up to date Reports on our Activities...

Visit our web page!

See Facebook page And Web Site for posted pictures of club events



FORUM HINTS
Eliminate the shine of
PLASTIC MODEL BUILDINGS

Improve the look of plastic/styrene buildings by eliminating that plastic shine. To provide a flat finish to styrene buildings and solvent cement, spray the building with a flat clear coat of Krylon or Testors Paints.

Krylon paints are available at Walmart and Testors Paints are available at Michael's and at many hobby shops.

Degree of Difficulty: 1
 (Difficulty Scale: 1 - easy to 10 - most difficult).

By Paul Dugas



Modelers Forum Show & Tell, May 26, **Brenda & Ed Leslie**



Modelers Forum Show & Tell, May 26, **Ed Leslie, Kevin LaMarre, Jamie Robinson**

THE FORUM

On the fourth Thursday of each month from 7 p.m., members of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club meet to share modeling techniques and ideas. Future newsletters will have a "Tip of the Month" submitted by club members who want to share their modeling experiences. All club members are invited to come and learn or share their modeling skills. New model railroaders as well as those with many years of experience have participated in the Modelers Forum.

At the May Forum, fourteen club members shared some outstanding modeling tips and ideas. Some of the presentations will be used as part of the clinic portion of our monthly meetings.

By Paul Lodge

WW&F SUMMER SCHEDULE

The Waterville, Wiscasset & Farmington Railway has announced its summer schedule. The narrow gauge railway will be operating every Saturday and Sunday from now through the end of September with many special events planned for volunteers and the general public. From June 1 through September 11, train rides are scheduled to leave the WW&F Railway Museum at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m., 2:30 and 3:30 p.m. Diesel trains will be running in June and September, with steam trains making the round trip from the Sheepscot Station to the Alna Station in July and August. On Saturday, August 13, the WW&F will hold the "formal unveiling of the restored locomotive #9, originally planned for May 7." From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday of that weekend, volunteers and visitors are also invited to the annual WW&F picnic. From Saturday, September 3, through Sunday, September 11, the Museum will be open to the public daily for the week of the 2016 National Narrow Gauge Convention, with steam trains running.



Tickets for the WW&F are \$7 for seniors (over 60), \$8 for other adults, \$5 for children between the ages of 4 and 12, and free for children under the age of 3. An all-day pass costs \$25 for adults and \$15 for children. An even better option for many visitors is the 10-ride pass which never expires. All of the 10 rides may be taken in one year, or they may be taken over a span of several years, individually or by a group of passengers.



Several members of the GFMRRRC are volunteers on the WW&F, including **John Robertson, Bryce and Nancy Weeks, Dan Malkowski, and Joe Fox.** During the recent work session on April 30, Bryce and Dan were photographed with other members of the volunteer work crew. For more information, check with any of them or the website at wwfry.org

Dan Malkowski & Bryce Weeks helped at the Hobo Holiday wherever needed



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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
 SUMMER—FALL 2016**

Please check web site or Facebook page

August 20 and 21

Train Fest will be held at GFMRRC during the Lewiston-Auburn Balloon Festival. (More information later.)

September 6

Next **MODEL RAILROADING CLASS** starts 9/6/2016 and continues for 8 weeks, every Tuesday from 6:30 to 8:30; ending October 25.

September 7th -10th

36th National Narrow Gauge Convention

Augusta Civic Center
 For details, see see www.nngc2016.org

November 5

ANNUAL FALL MODEL RAILROAD SHOW

Mt. Ararat, Topsham,

IMPORTANT PLEASE READ!

**GFMRRC EVENTS
 RESCHEDULED**

Since the Maine summer is so short, certain activities have been rescheduled for the fall:

Retired Renovators will not meet during June, July, and August.

HO Operating Sessions will **NOT** meet on the first Saturday of the month in June and July. (First Saturday sessions will start again on September 3.)

HO Operating Sessions in June and July will be held only on the Saturday after club meetings (June 18 and July 23).

Future Master Modelers will meet only June 18 and July 23.

Governor's Restaurant will not have Family Night in June, July, and August.

See article to right ==>



**GFMRRC
 Recurrent Activities
 June 2016**

PLEASE NOTE RESCHEDULE IN MIDDLE COLUMN

Please check web site or Facebook page

1st Thursday of each month

NOTICE: No Family night during summer! Will restart in September.

Family Night at Governor's Restaurant
 Come & enjoy good food anyway!
 1185 Lisbon St, Lewiston, ME 04240

2nd Thursday of each month - 6:30 PM

Executive Committee Meeting

3rd Thursday of each month - 6:45 PM

Regular Monthly Club Meeting

Is anybody interested in having dinner before the Regular club meetings? Please email greatfallsmodelrailroadclub@yahoo.com

4th Thursday of each month - 7 PM

Modelers Forum

Tuesday mornings - 9:00 to 11:00 AM.

NOTICE: Retired Renovators will not meet during summer.

We 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.

Carlene Barnies, manager of **Governor's Restaurant in Lewiston, has announced that the restaurant will have other special events during the summer months of June, July, and August instead of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club Family Night.** The Great Falls Model Railroad Club will resume Family Night activities at the restaurant on September 1, and will continue providing activities on the first Thursday of each month throughout the winter.

The club has received many benefits from our relationship with Governor's Restaurant. They donate about \$100 worth of cookies and gift certificates for each of our events. During Family Night at Governor's Restaurant (5 to 7 p.m.), members have a chance to talk about the club, its activities, and its upcoming events with the parents while their children are playing with the Brio layout, the Hoop A Caboose game, and the Balloon Bag Toss that we bring.

Governor's Restaurant has donated to the club a box car on which we insert the name of the birthday child when we have birthday parties at the club. They have also donated to our G-gauge layout a complete village and some G-gauge rolling stock from another Governor's Restaurant that closed.

By Paul Lodge