



Members since June 1988

# The Signal



August Edition  
2016



Signal indicates **STOP AT OUR NEXT MEETING August 18, 2016 6:45 pm**

Notice: Governors will restart Family night in September!

### Involve friends & relatives

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 July 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 score a brass locomotive with the cash

from the winning prize!

You must be present to win!

### DONATIONS . . .

#### Bottles for Basics (B4B)

Total Last Year \$ 814.00

YTD \$223.00

Last month: \$ 80.00

#### Used Printer Cartridges

Last month: \$ 4.00

YTD: \$ 52.00

#### Why donate to Great Falls?

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

## Sixth Annual TRAIN FEST

August 20-21, 2016

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club will celebrate the Lewiston-Auburn Balloon Festival with its sixth annual Train Fest, a two-day family fun event at the railroad club building at 144 Mill Street in Auburn. The club will be decorated with model hotair balloons, some of which will be temporarily floating in the blue skies of all four permanent layouts.

Every member of the family will enjoy seeing the layouts in operation. As guest engineers, children can run trains on the club's extensive HO layout. Younger children will have fun operating Thomas the Tank Engine in the G-Gauge room as well as playing with other age-appropriate trains. There will be railroad-related games and activities for everyone. A scavenger hunt will encourage people to go into each room to find specific hot-air balloons. Each balloon donated by Governor's Restaurant will become a hot air balloon with a peanut butter cup in its basket. Paper hot air balloons will decorate the skies above each railroad layout.

As they enter the club's facility for the Train Fest, **children will write their names** on small paper hot air balloons and add them to a painted backdrop scene.



Miya Pelletier pins her balloon name tag

The younger children will enjoy playing with toy trains on the play rug and with the wooden Brio train set on the special layout built at a child's height. In the G-Gauge room, they can operate

**Thomas the Tank Engine** —> on the recently updated layout and watch the engine named Percy run on the trestle above Thomas. Tickets can be purchased to play the Balloon Bag Toss and the Round House Roulette game and to become a Guest Engineer on the HO layout. For one ticket, the youngest children can



ride on the special train donated by **Joseph Gilbert**. The traditional Bubble Blast will be held outdoors, weather permitting.

Operation Lifesaver will provide railroad safety tips and materials. Model railroad supplies and *Train Time* videos will be available to buy.

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club will celebrate the Auburn/Lewiston Balloon Festival this month with our sixth annual Train Fest. The club will be open on Saturday, August 20, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Sunday, August 21, from noon to 5 p.m. The club hopes to enter our parade locomotive for the Balloon Festival parade which starts at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 20.

Club members are asked to help on Saturday and/or Sunday for a few hours or all day by selling tickets, running trains, and supervising layouts and games. Please publicize the event by posting and distributing the colorful flyers available at the club and with email and FaceBook messages to your friends and family.

Admission is \$3; children 12 and under are admitted free.

FMI: [www.greatfallsmodellrrclub.org](http://www.greatfallsmodellrrclub.org)

By Paul Lodge

### Balloons festival preparations . . .



Balloons for festival preparations by Ed Webb



Member #076805 00 Since 1988

# MODEL RAILROADING CLASS STARTS SEPTEMBER 6, 2016

The next eight-week Great Falls Model Railroading class starts Tuesday, September 6, at 6:30 p.m. at our clubhouse at 144 Mill Street. Participants are encouraged to build a 2- by 4-foot module, which teaches students all the skills they need in order to construct their own home layouts.

All club members are invited to come to the class on Tuesday nights between 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. to help and encourage students in our new class even if you can't come every night.

By Paul Lodge



The Auburn Adult Education program advertises the model railroading class in their brochure. Students can register for the class at the Adult Education program at Edward Little High School or by calling 784-9220 or by registering at the club on the first night of the class.

← Tami & Michael Paine demonstrating adhesives



Jim Raslavsky, Travis Johnson soldering & securing connections



Come share your projects at our Modeler's Forum

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club has been teaching the class for more than twenty years during both the fall and spring semesters. Many former class members are now members of the club, including some young people who are in the Future Master Model Railroaders for 10- to 15-year olds.



Jerry Johnson showing off his latest project



Owen Buck demonstrating magnifiers

**BOTTLES FOR BASICS (B4B)**  
 Only \$10 away from Goal of \$90 per month!

**Our club members have donated \$80 of bottles** for last two months. Thanks for making B4B a success!

Donating \$90 worth of bottles per month will meet our goal of setting a new B2B \$1,000 record next year! Meeting this goal will keep **Owen Buck, our new treasurer**, smiling!

Since 2009, Bottles for Basics—B4B 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 **Jim Vatter & Jerry Johnston** for signing up to take them to the bottle redemption recycling center each month.



Jerry Johnson helping other members



## MEETING MINUTES OF July 21, 2016



A Power Point slide show of club activities in June was shown.

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

Treasurer **Owen Buck** reported on the success of the campaign to reduce the mortgage and explained the strategy for paying off the balance of the mortgage in four or five years. The Treasurer's Report was approved as given. Owen also reminded members that they can still make contributions to the Mortgage Reduction campaign. Everyone who has already made a contribution to the Mortgage Reduction campaign has received a letter for income tax purposes indicating the amount donated. If anyone has not received the letter, Owen would like you to contact him so that the oversight can be corrected (obuck61@hotmail.com or 377-2872). With the help of **Larry Cannon**, Owen is looking into getting a line of credit in the name of the club. The line of credit would give the club access to funds quickly in case of an emergency.

President Johnston introduced **Kevin LaMarre** as the presenter for "What's on Your Boxcar Workbench?" Kevin had a prepared speech entitled "Keeping Memories Alive with Graffiti." He talked about sawmills' experiences and graffiti as an indicator of an era.

The minutes of the July 14 Executive Committee meeting were used as an update and catalyst for discussion for the next portion of the meeting.

A list of annual club responsibilities is being created. The list includes checking smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, exit and emergency lights; paying the Auburn sign fee and annual incorporation fee; getting club truck registration and inspection; etc.

**Terry King** noted that the library has received Garden Railroading magazines. He reported that the club has donated to the Women's Literary Union the plastic magazine racks and magazine holders. He and **George Pitchard** went to Sidney to collect a donation of magazines, books, and posters. Terry announced that we have about 450 likes on Facebook and that he has put the publicity about the Train Fest on it.

According to **Darin Long**, two of the twelve internal telephones have been installed on the HO layout. More will be installed in time.

At the last meeting, it was voted to name the meeting room "Coulombe Hall." Members were asked where they think the sign should be placed. It was decided that the "Welcome to Coulombe Hall" sign should hang from the portion of the light column down the center of the hall with the indirect

lighting above it. Because the club is 30-years old this year, it was suggested that a special event be planned to celebrate our 30th anniversary and that it include a dedication of "Coulombe Hall" at the same time.

Terry King noted that **Bob Willard** will be working on the club's large locomotive display after the National Narrow Gauge Convention is concluded in September.

An application has been sent to have our Parade Locomotive included in this year's Balloon Festival parade to be held on August 20 at 11 a.m. We need three or four volunteers to participate in moving the locomotive during the parade.

Terry King explained the reason that some members received double billing for their annual dues. Basically, he was working from two different club lists. He has recognized the problem and solved it.

It had been suggested that an award be created in **Tom Coulombe's** name. In order to get as many suggestions as possible, the meeting participants were divided into three groups so they could brainstorm suggestions and have more input of ideas. At the conclusion of the time allotted for the activity, a committee was formed to combine the suggestions from the groups. Volunteers for the committee were Rick James, Owen Buck, and **Jay Calnan**. Jay was given the reports from the three groups, and the committee will make arrangements to meet and report their suggestions at the next meeting.

Terry King reminded those present to take posters for the Train Fest and display them in time for the show.

The next Modelers Forum will be on July 28, the fourth Thursday of the month. Members are asked to bring their favorite modeling tool as a show-and-tell item.

At the June monthly meeting, names were collected of people who were interested in receiving free passes to the National Narrow Gauge Convention. The names were put in a hat and the two names drawn for the free tickets were **Nancy Anderson and Ed Webb**.

The 50/50 drawing was won by **Terry Obie**.

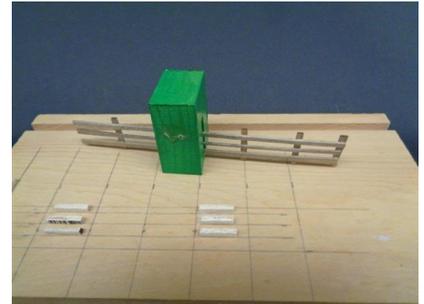
The Attendance Prize was won by Owen Buck. He selected a "Spike" T-shirt.

The meeting adjourned.

Paul Lodge

## Tools of the Trade

Samples of 'Tools of the Trade' ...  
**Use the right tool for the job!**



Fence building tool (Jerry Johnson)



Tweezers & clamps



Scissors and paint brush  
for applying decals



Jerry Johnston's  
tool for measuring  
linear feet  
to scale



Modelers sanding  
tools from fine to  
coarse

### 7/9 Work Day — Outside!

### July Work Sessions — Inside!

Check out our Facebook page at:

Great Falls Model Railroad Club

For up to date Reports on our Activities...

Visit our web page!

Saturday, July 9, was a regularly scheduled HO work session, and many club members spent the morning working on the HO layout. Starting at 9 a.m., Owen Buck, Kerry Hayes, Dick Holman, Travis Johnson, Jerry Johnston, and Paul Lodge spent the morning outside, picking up tree debris, weed whacking, and mowing grass. They also weeded the hostas and the flower bed under the club sign. This is not model railroading, but it is an essential part of the responsibility of owning our own building and taking care of the facility and its grounds

By Paul Lodge



Dick Holman patching blacktop



Jerry Johnson steering the lawn mower



Owen Buck whacking the weeds.



Mike Meserve, HO Work Session



Travis Johnson, HO Work Session



Dave Kierstead & Ken Nettleship; Cranky the crane by the trestle



Travis Johnson picking up sticks

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



**FORUM HINTS  
SOLDERING ELECTRONIC  
BOARDS**

Flux can and will conduct electricity. When soldering wires to those tiny little conductors on electronic boards such as a Tortoise board, do NOT use liquid flux. It will seep across the electronic board (within minutes or even months) and create a short across the conductors on the board.

Use Rosin Core Solder 60/40.

Supplies:

Where: Amazon.com

Product: Miniature Corp 1064004

Rosin Core Solder 60/40 4 oz.

Price \$10.61 with free shipping

(as of April, 2016)

Degree of Difficulty: 5

(Difficulty Scale: 1 = easy to 10 = most difficult)

**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.

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



Ed Leslie demonstrating LED flashlight at the Forum

**Greene Village Day**

On September 10, Dick Clark will hold his 18th annual Garden Railroad Display. In conjunction with Greene Village Day, Dick's Toot n' Chug Rail Lines at his home on 23 Barrel Shop Road in Greene will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Cost of admission, as always, is one smile.

The Toot n' Chug Rail Lines features both steam and diesel G-gauge engines, and trains will be operating on the extensive track which runs through a natural woody setting with a babbling brook and Mudslide Pond. Dick's wife Sharon created the natural-looking people who surround the pond with their varied activities or stand in the dance hall or the doorways of the buildings Dick has created.



Greene Village Day also includes a parade at 9:00 a.m. and various activities throughout the day. We hope to include the GFMRRRC parade locomotive again this year. Check out the town of Greene's website for more details about the other events and their locations.



We hope many of you will plan to attend Dick's open house on September 10 and bring family members and friends. Dick could use club members as volunteers to help for all or part of the day. You can contact him at tootchug@roadrunner.com or just come prepared to help. Lunch will be provided.

By Dick Clark

The Great Falls  
Model Railroad Club  
(GFMRRC)

**Contact Info:**

144 Mill Street  
Auburn, Me 04210  
Phone: 207-933-2477  
E-Mail :  
greatfallsmodelrailroadclub@yahoo.com

**Virtual Address**

<http://www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org>

**See us on Facebook!**

Great Falls Model Railroad Club

An educational foundation



Executive  
Committee

**President:**

Jerry Johnston, 966-2932  
jjchef@megalink.net

**Past President:**

Jay Calnan, 783-1719  
jaycalnan@outlook.com

**Vice President:**

Roger Plummer-740-0776

**Secretary:**

Paul Lodge - 966-3641  
paul lodge@gwi.net

**Treasurer:**

Owen Buck, 377-2872,  
obuck61@hotmail.com

**Directors:**

Roger Allen - 783-2129  
allenroger234@gmail.com  
Dan Collins - 865-2222  
dcnotta@hotmail.com  
Darin Long - 782-3652  
mecgp38261@gwi.net

**Librarian/Archivist:**

Terry King-576-3788  
greatfallsmodelrailroadclub@yahoo.com

**Webmaster:**

Joe Marshall - 344-7099  
joe@braintriggers.com

The Signal

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**Editor:**

Nicholas Mamich

**Correspondent/Secretary:**

Please email all articles to:  
Paul Lodge paul lodge@gwi.net

GFMRRC  
Special Events  
SUMMER 2016

Please note the following major changes in our activities schedule for the summer months:

**August 20 and 21**

**Train Fest will be held at GFMRRC during the Lewiston-Auburn Balloon Festival.**

Saturday 8/20 -8am to 4pm  
Parade starts at 11am  
Sunday 8/21— noon to 5pm

**HO Operating Sessions**

8/6 at 8am—noon

**Future Master Modelers**

7/23 & 8/6 at noon—1pm

**HO Work Sessions** will be held on all Saturdays except 7/23, and 8/20.

GFMRRC  
FALL EVENTS

**September 7th -10th**

**36th National Narrow Gauge Convention,**  
Augusta Civic Center  
For details, see [www.nngc2016.com](http://www.nngc2016.com)

**November 5—10am to 3pm**

**Annual Fall Model Railroad Show**  
Mt. Ararat High School  
Topsham

GFMRRC  
Recurrent Activities

Please check web site or Facebook page

1st Thursday of each month

**Family Night at Governor's Restaurant**

**NOTICE:**

**No Family night during summer !**  
**Will restart in September.**

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**

4th Thursday of each month - 7 PM

**Modelers Forum**

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

**NOTICE: Retired Renovators will resume meetings on 9/6/2106.** We normally 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.

Tuesday evenings - 6:30 to 8:30 PM.

**Model Railroading Class.**

HO Work Sessions

Except during special events, work sessions are scheduled :  
- Every Saturday 8:00 AM to noon  
- Every Wednesday 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Is anybody interested in having dinner before the Regular club meetings? Please email [greatfallsmodelrailroadclub@yahoo.com](mailto:greatfallsmodelrailroadclub@yahoo.com)

