



Members since June 1988

# The Signal



October Edition  
2016



Signal indicates **STOP AT OUR NEXT MEETING**  
**October 20, 2016 6:45**

Notice: Governors has re-started Family night!

### 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 October 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 the winnings with the cash from the winning prize!

**You must be present to win!**

### DONATIONS . . .

#### Bottles for Basics (B4B)

Total Last Year \$ 814.00

**YTD \$380.00**

Last month: \$ 40.00

#### Used Printer Cartridges

Last month: \$ 0.00 (??)

YTD: \$ 70.00

#### Why donate to Great Falls?

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

## Fall Train Show

### November 5th at Mt. Ararat High School in Topsham

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club's fall model train show on Saturday, November 5, will be held at Mt. Ararat High School in Topsham from 10 to 3 for the second year.

Club members are concerned that some regular modelers will still expect to follow the tradition of going to Auburn for our annual fall show as they had done for more than twenty-five years. As a result of a scheduling conflict at Auburn Middle School last year, we rescheduled the show to Mt. Ararat in Topsham, where we have held our spring



show. Because of the successful turnout, it was decided to hold our November show in Topsham again this year.

At Mt. Ararat High School there is more space available so we can accommodate more layouts. Parking facilities are also much better at Mt. Ararat, and it is closer to Route 1 traffic. **Jerry Johnston** has made signs to put along the roads.



The club will have its large modular layout with new modules from this fall's Adult Education Model Railroading class. **Bob Willard and Gregg Ouellette** will have their

On30 layout and **Frank Knight** will bring an Sn2 exhibit. Boothbay Railway Village has also been invited to display their village layout. For the first time at Mt. Ararat, an area for youngsters will feature our Brio set and a play rug with toy trains for the smaller children.



Dealers from around New England will be available to answer questions and to sell new and used model railroad items. Train Time videos will be shown continuously and can be purchased. Mt. Ararat Sports Boosters will benefit from the sale of refreshments. Admission is \$4; \$2 for those under 15.

Club members who can help on Friday, November 4, are asked to be at Mt. Ararat High School in Topsham at 4 p.m. to help unload dealer tables and club modules and set them up for the Saturday show. Anyone who would like to have his or her module included in the club layout needs to be at the high school on Saturday morning between 7 and 8 a.m.



By Paul Lodge



Member  
#076805 00  
Since 1988

## RAIL BIKES AND SCENIC TRAIN AT SARANAC LAKE

On a sunny Tuesday, July 26th to be exact, **Bryce Weeks** and his grandmother, Nancy, and my grandmother, Joan, and I met in West Gardner, Maine. We traveled by car on country roads and interstate through Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and New York. We were going to Saranac Lake, New York, to ride the rails via rail bikes, which are basically four-wheeled pedal bikes on the rails. The rail bike organization is called The Rail Explorers. The division we were on was the Adirondack division.



When we went to the historic Union Depot (1904), in Saranac Lake to check on our rail bike reservations, we found that there was also a scenic railroad that ran from the depot to Lake Placid. This railroad is called the Adirondack Scenic Railroad. Our rail bike reservations were in the afternoon so we decided to explore this area of town. We went to the Adirondack Carousel that was nearby. All the carousel animals are indigenous to the Adirondacks and were carved by various artists. Next, we walked to a local science museum where doctors researched a cure for tuberculosis.

We then returned to the depot to take a round trip train ride from Saranac Lake to Lake Placid, which was about 10-12 miles one way. When we got back to the station, we were surprised when the engineer called Bryce and me up into the cab for a run-around maneuver.



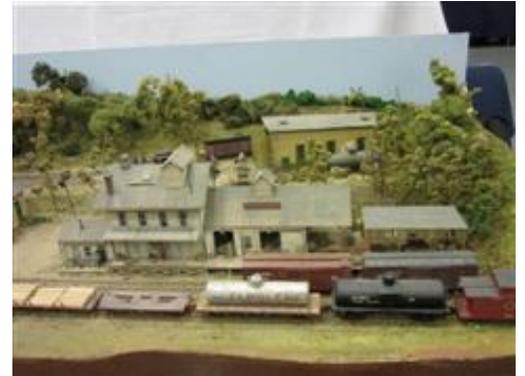
Then it was time to ride the rail bikes. We had a wonderful ride and an amazing tour guide. The ride took us on a 7.2 mile journey through the Forever Wild Adirondack Park along the Lake Colby Causeway passing through mountain forests and meadows and alongside Lake Clear. I've got to tell you it's a lot of work on your legs going up the grades.

The next day we toured Lake Placid Olympic Park. The following day we journeyed home, stopping twice along the way. The first stop was at Fort Ticonderoga. This fort went through many wars from the French and Indian War to the Revolutionary War. The second stop was at Essex, NY, where we took a ferry across Lake Champlain to Burlington, VT. We finally arrived home around midnight.

By Daniel Malkowski

## Wally Chase's layout Displayed at Narrow Gauge

**Wally Chase** donated part of his extensive model railroad layout to GFMRRRC earlier this year. A section of the layout was displayed at the National



Narrow Gauge Convention in Augusta in September

It is now on permanent display in our N-gauge room



Come share  
your projects  
at Adult Ed





## MEETING MINUTES OF September 15, 2016

A Power Point Presentation of club activities in August and September was shown from 6:45 to 7:00 p.m.

The evening's TRAIN TIME showed the club's opening ceremony after receiving its occupancy permit in 2007.

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.

**Terry King** gave the Treasurer's Report in the absence of **Owen Buck**. The report was approved as given.

**Bob Willard** reported that the HO<sub>n</sub>3 display has been set up in the N-scale room. It was designed and built in 1978 and 1979 by Wally Chase and was part of his HO layout. This part of the layout was featured in the November, 1980 Narrow Gauge Gazette.

Terry King received a letter from the director of the Newport (Maine) Cultural Center thanking us for our donation of a sticker to "Re-Elect Barrows" for governor of the State of Maine. The sticker was part of the collection Ralph Waldo Kinston had donated to the club. When Terry researched the sticker, he found that the governor was from Newport and sent the sticker to the Newport Cultural Center.

**Darin Long** reported that the HO Division has decided to have the second operating session each month be for adults only. This is the operating session on the Saturday immediately following the regular club meeting. The other operating sessions will be for all club members.

Bob Willard reminded members that the Modelers Forum meets the fourth Thursday each month.

**Jim Vatter** displayed a "Railroad Crossing" crossbuck which he made and is willing to sell as a wall decoration as part of the cottage industry initiative the club likes to pursue. He was "testing the waters" to see if there would be enough interest in



He was "testing the waters" to see if there would be enough interest in

making more for sale at the club or at train shows.

**Jamie and his wife Margo** displayed a clear glass coffee mug with the club's logo etched in the glass. The mug would cost \$10 and can be personalized with the member's name on it for an additional \$5.

For the "What's on Your Boxcar Workbench" clinic, **Jamie Robinson** used a Power Point Presentation to explain the advantages of using the "Stay Alive" wiring for smooth running of locomotives which use DCC command electrical systems.

**Paul Lodge** read the minutes of the September Executive Committee meeting.

The 50/50 drawing was won by **Thunder McBride**. Two Attendance Prizes were drawn. **Nancy Anderson** selected a hat and Terry Obie took the "See Tracks Think Train" food storage container.

By Paul Lodge



### COMPANY STORE ADDS NEW SALES ITEM

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club Company Store will soon be able to feature a clear glass drinking mug with the club's 30th anniversary logo etched on it. Members will be proud to use these mugs at home or at the club. These mugs will make great Christmas gifts. This will also be a popular item for guests who come to our club and want to have a souvenir of their visit.



This attractive mug will cost \$10 and can be personalized for an additional \$5. Mugs can be ordered in advance, and we hope to have them available to sell at the club's ExTRAINaganza in November.

Jamie Robinson introduced these special mugs at the club meeting on September 15. We want to thank his wife, Margo, for designing and making this unique mug.

By Paul Lodge



### "GREAT DOME" RAIL CAR TRIP

When **Nancy Weeks** heard about the "Great Dome" rail car coming to the Amtrak Downeaster, she knew this was a must trip for **Bryce Weeks and Daniel Malkowski**. A quick call to Joan Meehan and plans were made.



We arrived at the Portland station at 5:30 AM and hopped aboard Amtrak #690 at 6 AM. Daniel and Bryce had already



checked that the dome car was coupled up. We had to wait until the train was under way to go to the Dome car. The rule was, "Give up your seat if others are waiting." Due to the early morning ride there were few passengers, allowing us to ride the Great Dome car all the way to Boston.

The panoramic views were spectacular with a 360 degree perspective. We saw the sun come up over the Scarborough Marsh, as well as views of scenic towns, waterfalls, and other landscapes. We could watch the top of the locomotive and cars as they moved and curved along the track.

The Great Dome Car was on the Downeaster from mid-August to mid-September. The vintage Dome was on the upper level with windows all around which curved toward the top of the car. The bottom level had a bar which wasn't open.



The short history: the Great Dome rail car was built in 1955 by the Budd Company for the Great Northern Railway and Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad. When Amtrak bought the railroad in 1971, they kept six of the dome cars. Over the years some were displaced and others rebuilt. Now only one remains for special use on regular routes to encourage more passengers to take the train.

A full history can be read at: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great\\_Dome](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Dome), with links to other sites, and at <https://www.amtrak.com/fall-travel-on-the-great-dome-car>. If you missed the Great Dome rail car this year it may come back next summer.

By Joan Meehan

### DICK CLARK'S OPEN HOUSE September and Halloween

Thank you to everyone who helped at my open house on Saturday, September 10, as part of the Greene Village Day. Just over 100 folks came and enjoyed the day at Toot'n Chug Rail Lines. The weather was great, food was delicious, folks very happy and everyone had a great time. The last couple who visited were from Toronto, Canada, and arrived about 5:00, in spite of the fact that rain started around 4:30.



Everyone is invited to the annual Halloween Open House at Toot'n Chug Rail Lines, 23 Barrel Road in Greene.



The open house begins at sunset, about 6:00 p.m. and ends around 8:00 p.m. Cost of admission is one smile.



By Dick Clark



### GETTING READY FOR ExTRAINaganza

Thanksgiving will be here soon. One of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club's major fundraisers is the annual ExTRAINaganza, held on the weekends before and after Thanksgiving.



The ExTRAINaganza is a four-day event with different times each day. It begins on Saturday, November 19, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and continues Sunday, November 20, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

On Friday, November 25, the day after Thanksgiving, the event will start at 10 a.m. and go to 8 p.m. On Saturday, November 26, the last day of the ExTRAINaganza, we will start at 10 a.m. and finish at 4 p.m. The Great Falls Model Railroad Club holds the ExTRAINaganza during the same times as the FEZtival of Trees sponsored by the Shriners in Lewiston so that visitors can enjoy them both on the same or alternate days.

The ExTRAINaganza starts the Christmas season for the club. We plan to decorate the clubhouse for the ExTRAINaganza on Monday and Tuesday, November 14 and 15.



We will need help setting up and decorating the Christmas trees and putting up the other decorations. The building will have a festive look for our regular club meeting on November 17, and many of the decorations will still be in place for the annual Christmas party on Thursday, December 15.

Because of the number of days and the different activities going on at the event, club members are needed during the ExTRAINaganza to help by taking charge of games, supervising craft and cookie tables, selling tickets, monitoring layouts, and teaching young "Guest Engineers" how to run trains. Members are encouraged to volunteer to help for all or part of a day or as often as you can.

Paul Lodge

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**

Model Railroad Hobbyist Online

If you have not gone on line to check out MRH (Model Railroad Hobbyist), you should try it! This on-line website magazine (mrhmag.com) has articles about modeling hints and projects from which beginning or experienced modelers can learn.

Great Falls Model Railroad Club member Jamie Robinson recently had an article in this publication.

Try it! You'll like it!

By Paul Lodge

**MODELERS FORUM HIGHLIGHT FOR SEPTEMBER**

**Brenda Leslie** brought to the Modelers Forum meeting on September 22 a special clamp she had created for working with small objects. She fastened a threaded rod to a screw driver and used butterfly nuts to hold small clamps on both sides of the rod. Because they are attached with butterfly nuts, the clamps can easily be moved to accommodate items of various sizes.

Brenda Leslie shows Kevin LaMarre the variable clamp she had created.



Brenda Leslie's variable clamp



Ed Webb gets a closer look at the clamp.



**36th NATIONAL NARROW GAUGE CONVENTION**

**September 7 through September 10**

The 36th National Narrow Gauge Convention held at the Augusta Civic Center from September 7 through 10 has come to a close, and by all accounts it was a great success. About 1600 people attended at least one day of the four-day convention.

I would personally like to thank Larry Cannon and the Great Falls Model Railroad Club for opening their layouts for the layout tours and to thank the people who helped at Larry's home and at the club. Larry and those who helped agreed they had a good turnout at his layout and at the railroad club as well.

Several club members served as volunteers at the convention. They included **Carmen Anastase, Dick Holman, Jerry Johnston, Ken Nettleship, Bryce Weeks, and Daniel Malkowski**. An extra thank you goes out to Jerry and Ken for watching the Narrow Minded Guys from Maine module. At the GFMRRC meeting in June, Ed Webb and Nancy Anderson had won free tickets to the convention, and we were glad to see them there.

Dick Holman was awarded second place in the model contest in the special equipment class. The Narrow Minded Guys from Maine placed second in the module class.



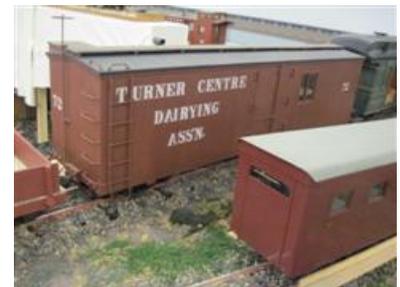
display in Wiscasset.

The convention was a lot of work, but in the long run it was worth it.

By Bob Willard



Ruth Cannon took several good photos of Wally Chase's narrow gauge layout which Larry and other GFMRRC member had set up at the convention. Some of the photos which Ruth and Ken Nettleship took at the convention are included in this newsletter and many more will be shown in the Power Point presentation at the next club meeting on October 20. The Turner Centre Dairy car represents one that was worked on by the WW&F which is now on



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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 FALL EVENTS

November 5--10am to 3pm

Annual Fall Model Railroad Show

Mt. Ararat High School
Topsham

November 19, 20, 25, 26

ExTRAINaganza

November 19, 10 AM to 8 PM
November 20, 10 AM to 4 PM
November 25, 10 AM to 8 PM
November 26, 10 AM to 4 PM



Visit our web page for info !



GFMRRC Recurrent Activities

Please check web site or Facebook page

1st Thursday of each month

Family Night at Governor's Restaurant

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.

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.

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.

All members, first Saturday of every month

Adults only, Saturday after monthly club meeting

November schedule exception: Because of the train show and the ExTRAINaganza, the only HO Operating Session in November will be for all members and will be November 12.

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



Benton Hayes,
Dempsey Walk,
In memory of Tom Coloumbe