

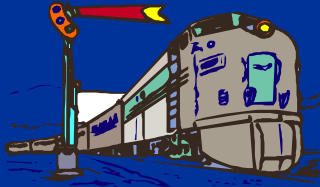


Members since June 1988

# The Signal



January Edition  
2017



Signal indicates **STOP AT OUR NEXT MEETING**  
**January 19, 2017 6:45**

Don't forget to attend  
**Governors 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 January 25, 2017

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 \$499.00**

Last month: \$ 31.00

**Used Printer Cartridges**

Last month: \$ 34.00

YTD: \$ 188.00

**Why donate to Great Falls?**

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

**DECEMBER MEETING AND CHRISTMAS PARTY**

The Christmas Party meeting began with a 30-minute Power Point presentation of the history of the club from 1986 to 2010. There was a brief business meeting highlighting upcoming events for the next year.

An appeal was made for members to volunteer to contribute to the Utility Team's monthly payment for electric power or water and sewer. The electric bill is approximately \$150 monthly, and the water and sewerage fee is about \$30 a month. In order to keep club dues low, members who can afford more than the annual dues of \$30 are asked to pledge a payment to one of the two utilities. By the end of the meeting, all of the \$30 pledges and all but five of the \$150 pledges for the Power Team were complete.

Treasurer Owen Buck gave the Treasurer's report. November and December were profitable months for the club thanks to the efforts of club members at the Topsham show and the ExTRAINaganza as well as sales at the Brewer show and the Surplus Inventory Sale at the club. If the club continues to be active and financially successful in 2017, Owen believes it will be possible to make the final payment on the \$129,000 mortgage within the next two years.

Nancy Weeks presented Dan Malkowski and Bryce Weeks with achievement pins for club volunteer work accomplished during the past year. Calvin Ames also worked to achieve recognition pins, but he was not at the meeting and will receive his pins later.

Travis Johnson displayed a locomotive dedicated to Tom Coulombe which has been painted in the club paint scheme. When the locomotive is finished, it will be added to the HO fleet.

The 50/50 raffle was drawn and Whitethunder McBride was the winner.

Rick James and his father Bob won the Attendance Prize and selected an attractive set of candy dishes.

The Christmas party was very well attended. Several families came to enjoy the opportunity to socialize and to sample the varied and delicious food at the pot luck buffet.



By Paul Lodge

**Winter is upon us!  
Please help us be prepared!**

If severe weather threatens on a meeting night, the meeting will be postponed until the following Thursday night. If you have email, you will receive an email message about the postponement. We will also notify the following TV stations: WCSH, WGME, and WMTW.

After each snowstorm, the club parking lot will be cleared and cleaned as soon as possible. Tire tracks pack down the snow and make the work more difficult. Please help us keep the railroad club parking lot empty of cars until it is empty of snow.





Member #076805 00 Since 1988

### A SUCCESSFUL SURPLUS INVENTORY SALE!

On Saturday, December 10, the Great Falls Model Railroad Club sponsored its third annual Surplus Inventory Sale at the club at 144 Mill Street in Auburn. Many club members helped to set up, price, and sell the hundreds of items that were available for sale. Doors were opened at 8 in the morning and sales continued until 4 in the afternoon.

More than a dozen tables were neatly covered with sales items, including Lionel, HO, and N scale locomotives and rolling stock along with structures, tools, and scenery materials. Additional items were also sold at the Company Store.

A light lunch was provided by Jerry Johnston so that club members who were helping with the sales could stay in the building and would not have to leave to eat.

Because of the day's financial success, the club was able to make an extra payment on the mortgage.

The club has many more boxes of surplus inventory items. Some of them will be for sale at the Lions Club Dollhouse and Model Railroad show at the Augusta Armory on February 18.

By Paul Lodge



Come share your projects at our Modeler's Forum



### BOTTLES FOR BASICS (B4B) Goal: \$90 per month

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.

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! Thanks for making B4B a success!

### THE NEXT TRAIN SHOW Augusta 2/18

The Whitefield Lions Club will sponsor its annual Dollhouse and Model Train Show at the Augusta Armory on February 18.

Participating in this unique mid-winter show has been a tradition for the club for many years. Combining model railroading and dollhouse displays shows guests how these hobbies complement each other. Dollhouse modelers enjoy our scenery, which for them is landscaping. Many model railroaders find small items from the dollhouse hobby which work in model railroading.

Now that the club truck has been retired, our modular layout will be shown only if we can build storage racks in time for the event. The plan is to have portable storage racks constructed in such a way that they can be placed temporarily into a different 17- to 20-foot rental truck for each of our railroad shows.

The new Raffle Layout will be viewed for the first time at this show. Much of the work on this new layout was done during the fall session of the Adult Education Model Railroading class. Many hours have been devoted to the construction of this unusual layout which includes a zoo with wild animals in cages.

As is customary, we will be there at 7 a.m. to set up the modules and sales tables for the show. If you would like to include your module in the club's modular layout, it needs to be at the Augusta Armory by 8 a.m. Tear down will be at 3 p.m.

Come to the show and help with the day's activities. Everyone appreciates extra help.

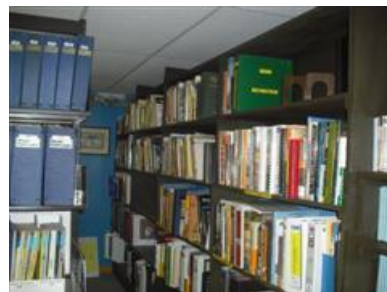




# Meetings, Potlucks, Library improvements, and Surplus Sales! Pictures of Our Fun Filled Holidays!



**Our December Meeting Minutes  
and  
Club Activites  
As told in pictures:  
  
Merry Christmas!  
  
Happy New Year!**



**FUTURE MASTER MODEL RAILROADERS:**

**W W & F VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS**

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

The Future Master Model Railroaders of the GFMRRRC have been meeting once a month for several years with advisor, Travis Johnson. Recently, an advisory committee composed of club members and junior club members met to discuss ways to encourage more junior members to become involved.

The advisory committee decided on a new format for Future Master Model Railroaders meetings. After HO operating sessions on the first Saturday of each month, the juniors will have a short meeting beginning at noon and then an interactive session where a new skill will be taught by an experienced and skilled club member. On a rotating schedule, parents will be asked to provide a light lunch or snack.

Some of following sessions are being planned for the junior meetings: Maintenance of personal and club items, such as repairing track and rolling stock. Upkeep of scenery on personal and club layouts, including building new scenery and refurbishing old. Building and repairing modules for club shows and for personal use. Learn how to solder and wire layouts. Learn to weather trains and paint backdrops. Learn operating session protocol of following instructions with respect and courtesy. Learn how to maintain clean and safe work areas.

These are only some of the skills that will be taught. Each month the teaching sessions will focus on a new topic. The activity for the month will be published in the monthly newsletter.

We hope to see all of our juniors at these meetings, with their parents if possible. Of course, the most important thing is to have fun, but we can learn at the same time. The railroad club's future depends on our junior members and their readiness to take the reins to keep the club strong and healthy.

The Juniors Advisory Committee is looking for suggestions from both adults and juniors to make this a fun and informative monthly event. Please contact any of the members with ideas or suggestions for further action. We will address your concerns ASAP.

Committee Members present at the November 12 meeting were Travis Johnson, Thunder McBride, Jan Raslavsky, Joan Meehan as well as Junior Members, Daniel Malkowski and Bryce Weeks. (Nancy Weeks and Eric Long were unable to attend this meeting.)

The next Future Master Model Railroaders meeting will be Saturday, January 7. Travis Johnson will be demonstrating how to service the club's trains, with the juniors getting hands on experience.

By Whitethunder McBride and Joan



On a snowy December 17, the Wiscasset, Waterville & Farmington Railway Museum held their 16th annual Victorian Christmas. The heavy snow provided a nice canopy for the trains, creating a lot of steam and excitement for the passengers.

The trains started at the Sheepscot station in Alna and traveled the two miles to Alna Center. From there, Locomotive #52, the small Plymouth hydraulic diesel, brought the trains back; and Portland Company #9, the recently renovated steam engine, followed back light. Mike Fox, father of club member Joe Fox, took the photo of Engine #9 which accompanies this article.



At Alna Center the passengers had a chance to make arts and crafts, have horse-drawn carriage rides, stand around the wood fire and, of course, see Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus.

GFMRRRC members helping throughout the day were John Robertson, Bryce Weeks, Nancy Weeks, and Daniel Malkowski. Bryce and Dan played a major role in clearing the switches at Alna Center for the run-around move.

By Dan Malkowski



At the December business meeting, **Travis Johnson** displayed a locomotive dedicated to Tom Coulombe which has been painted in the club's paint scheme. When the locomotive is finished, it will be added to the HO fleet



Meehan



## FORMAT CHANGE FOR NEXT MODEL RAILROADING CLASS

The next Adult Education Model Railroading class starts on Tuesday, February 14. Instead of having students build modules, it has been suggested that each class concentrate on refining specific skills needed to construct a personal layout. The weekly classes will include the following topics: layout design, constructing different types of benchwork, wiring and soldering, scenery and ballasting, making trees, building structures, weathering, and maintaining locomotives and rolling stock.

Students will be able to take the entire course for the standard registration fee of \$15. Club members will also be able to take individual units for a registration fee of \$5 each, with a maximum cost of \$15.

Club members who are proficient in the different segments will be asked to teach those elements of the course. The class will still be held on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30. Since nine individual topics have been identified, there will be at least nine meetings. Because this is the first time the class has been structured in this way, some flexibility will be needed in order to refine the presentations of the classes. This is a new and exciting advancement for the club's traditional model railroading course. As a club with a 501(c)(3) Educational Foundation status, it is important to continue utilizing our facility as a teaching and learning center.

### MODEL RAILROADING COURSE: SPRING 2017

First Week: Introduction and Special Tools:

Second Week: Layout Design:

Books available. Point-to-point, dog bone, single/double track, shelf layouts Sidings: industry, team tracks, overflow Yards: fiddle, staging, open end, double end, ladder Drill tracks Research ideas, history, strategy for selecting model railroad name

More Details/Schedule in next issue!

Paul Lodge

### 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

## Hartt-Swasey Library



Christmas is over. New Year's has come and gone. Now what? It is Model Railroading time!

Whatever you are modeling for a railroad, our library has something that can help you improve your modeling skills and your knowledge of your prototype railroad.

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club library has 1,500 books, 399 videos, 4 deeds, 91 blueprints, 6,583 magazines, 42 railroad menus, 633 timetables, 15,000 35 mm slides and around 6,000 photographs. Most of the photographs are mounted in albums. That totals 30,252 items in our library!

The books range from modeling techniques to your favorite railroad. We have a good selection of books on Maine 2-footers as well as narrow gauge out West. Do like Lionel trains? We have a good selection of those books for you.

DVD's? We have every Train Time DVD, DVD's of many railroads, 21 "How-To" DVD's and classics like "The Battle for Donner Pass." We even have two DVD's on Lionel trains.

Remember, as a member you may take out a book or DVD for thirty days.

We can also scan a picture or an article and print it out for you. Although there is no charge for this, we would not refuse a small donation to offset the cost of the toner.

What's new in the library? We have recently had a donation of Logging Railroads of the Pacific Northwest in Color. Volume 1: Washington State. We have also had a donation of Stories from the Two-Foot Gauge by Edgar T. Mead.

I am usually in the library Monday through Saturday from around 9:00 a.m. until noon. If you plan to stop in, please call me at 576-3788 to make sure that I am here and not at a doctor's office or a garage.

Terrence P. King Librarian



## Please attend 'SLIDE & DINE' on 2/11

Saturday, February 11, is the date of our first Slide & Dine. No, we are not going to find a hill and go sliding! This is a special event inside where it is nice and warm. We will be showing slides of various railroads taken by some outstanding photographers.

The club will be open Saturday morning at 8:00 and the slide show starts at 10:00. Dining will be a pot lunch from noon to 1:00 p.m. We hope everyone will bring something to share for a light lunch. The club has plenty of hot and cold cups, forks, spoons, knives, napkins, plates, bowls, and even toothpicks. We have chips and sodas for sale for 50¢ and popcorn and coffee for 25¢, or you can bring your own.

The program will begin at 10:00 with the Bangor & Aroostook, early locomotives, from the GFMRRRC Hartt-Swasey Library Archives. At 10:30 Bruce Davison will show slides from the B&M Claremont Branch. Presenters during the next two half-hour segments will be announced in the February issue of The Signal and in email messages.

During the lunch break from noon until 1:00 p.m., those in attendance may show 10 or 15 slides apiece. There will be a sign-up sheet for those who would like to show their own slides from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. on a "first to arrive, first to show" basis, with a limit of one cassette per person and a maximum time of one half hour. We can supply a Kodak or an Argo projector. If you have a Power Point presentation, we have a projector for that also.

In case of a major snowstorm, we have a snow date of Sunday, February 12.

We are requesting a \$5 donation, which will go towards paying off our mortgage.

by Terry King

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  
2017 Special Events

February 11 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Slide & Dine, GFMRRC**  
(snow date, February 12)

February 18—10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Whitefield Lions Club Model Railroad & Dollhouse Show, Augusta Armory**

April 29

GFMRRC Annual Spring Show, Mt. Ararat High School, Topsham

May 20

**Hobo Holiday at GFMRRC**

August 19

**Train Fest at GFMRRC**  
**(one day only this year)**

November 4

**GFMRRC Annual Fall show, Mt. Ararat High School, Topsham**

November 18, 19, 24, 25

**EXTRAINaganza at GFMRRC**

Dec 29— 7 PM

**Modelers Forum**

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

1st Saturday of each month - noon to 1PM

**Future Master Model Railroaders**

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.

Meetings resume January 2017

**Retire Renovators.** 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 6:30 to 8:30 p.m (starting February 14)

**Model Railroading Class.**

**HO Work Sessions**

Except for Operating Sessions and special events, work sessions are scheduled:

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

**HO Operating Sessions**

All members, first Saturday of every month  
January 21, Adults Only

