



Members since June 1988

The Signal



February Edition
2017



Signal indicates **STOP AT OUR NEXT MEETING February 16, 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 \$556.60

Last month: \$ 57.60

Used Printer Cartridges

Last month: \$ 32.00

YTD: \$ 220.00

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.**

**THE SLIDE & DINE UP-DATE
2/11/2017 @ GFMRRC**

Saturday, February 11, is the date of our first Slide & Dine. This special event will feature railroad slides from the GFMRRC Library. Some outstanding local photographers, including club members, will also be showing their railroad slides.



**Want to know more about the above pictures?
Attend on February 11 and find out!**

If you would like to bring a carousel of your own railroad slides or a 15-minute Power Point presentation of your railroad photos, please come prepared to share them. We can supply a Kodak projector. If you have a Power Point presentation, we have a projector for that also.

The club will be open at 8:00 a.m. and the slide show starts at 10:00. Dining will be a pot-luck lunch from noon to 1:00 p.m. We hope everyone will bring something to share for a light lunch. We have chips and sodas for sale for 50¢, popcorn and coffee for 25¢, or you can bring your own.

- ◆ 10:00 – 10:30 Bangor & Aroostook, early locomotives from the library archives.
- ◆ 10:30 – 11:00 B&M Claremont Branch with Bruce Davison
- ◆ 11:00 – 11:30 Bob Bennett – BAR & MEC
- ◆ 11:30 – 12:00 Bob Bennett – BAR & MEC
- ◆ NOON – 1:00 lunch, anyone can show 10-15 slides during this period.
- ◆ 1:00 – 3:00 using a sign-up sheet, anyone can show a carousel of slides or give a 15-minute Power Point presentation
- ◆ Slides can continue later if there is interest.

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

- Terry King



**DOLLHOUSE & MODEL TRAIN
SHOW
Augusta 2/18**

The annual Dollhouse and Model Train Show sponsored by the Whitefield Lions Club will be held at the Augusta Armory on February 18.

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 will work on model railroading layouts.

Now that the club truck has been retired, we will be using for the first time the new portable storage racks that can be placed temporarily into a different 17- to 20-foot rental truck for each of our railroad shows.

We will be at the Augusta Armory 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. We can use help setting up the layout, operating the layout, taking the layout down at 3 p.m., and various other projects.

Come to enjoy the show and help with the day's activities.



One of three portable racks (partially assembled) to go into a rental truck taking modules to train shows, starting with the Augusta Show on February 18.



Member
#076805 00
Since 1988

Come share
your projects & tools
at our
Modeler's Forum



Maine Model RR Tour 9/16/2017

The Maine Model Railroad Tour's third year of organizing model railroad layout tours in Maine is underway! Mark your calendars on Saturday, September 16, 2017, and make plans to visit layouts between Rockland and Brunswick, Maine. The Tour will be focused on the U.S. Route One "corridor" near and between those two cities.



Over the next several months, layout owners in this territory will be informed of the chance to exhibit their layouts to the public. As layout owners commit to the Tour, their names and details of their layouts will be posted on the Tour's website, www.mainemodellrtour.com. The public will be able to see the detailed information without registering online. Those who provide an email address voluntarily, however, will receive notices about the Tour periodically.

Let your friends and acquaintances know about the upcoming layout tour. If you or someone you know has a layout within the area of Tour 2017 and would like to be included in the tour, please contact Peter McKenney or one of the officers of the GFMRRRC. Since our club is one of the co-sponsors of the tour, club officers will be glad to share your information with the Tour organizers.

We look forward to having fun with you on the Maine Model Railroad Tour again on September 16. Keep your eye on www.mainemodellrtour.com!

By Peter McKenney

Roy Gove 1929 - 2017

Roy Gove, a charter member of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club, passed away on January 18. Roy was a "snowbird" and died in Florida. He attended his last meeting in November.

In August of 2012, Roy was the first person to be interviewed for the "Meet the Members" feature of The Signal. Roy worked as a bank examiner for the state and retired as a deputy superintendent. He was a member of the Shriners for more than 50 years and served as Secretary Recorder for 32 years.



When Roy was young, he and his dad had a Lionel train set which Roy was allowed to run. After leaving the service in 1956, Roy got involved in model railroading.

Roy was a family man who had three sons, seven grandchildren, and several great-grandchildren. He built several model railroad layouts for his grandchildren.

The club would like to thank Roy for his support for the club from its beginnings in 1987 to our current status in our own building.

- Paul Lodge

SNOW NOTICE !

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.



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!

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS TAKEN DOWN AND STORED

After the ExTRAINaganza and the December monthly club meeting, club members helped to take down the Christmas decorations and made arrangements to store most of them store them in Jerry Johnston's basement.

On Saturday, January 14, a number of boxes of Christmas decorations and artificial Christmas trees were transported to Jerry's house. Once there, a "human chain" of members moved the boxes from the cars to the cellar. Because so many people came to help, it took very little time.

As a result, Jerry had more time to show everyone his Rocky Ridge Railroad and explain the details to some of the members who had not visited his house before.

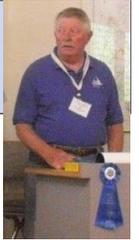
Thanks to the club members who came to help and made this project a quick and pleasurable experience.

By Paul Lodge





MEETING MINUTES OF January 19, 2017



Ed Leslie presented a video of his "speeder" rides at different locations around Maine and shared information about the organization which sets up programs in which "speeder" owners can participate. Several club members also asked questions at the end of the show. Paul Lodge showed a Power Point presentation showing club activities and club members participating in the progress of the club's layouts from November through January.

Terry King presented the Treasurer's report for Owen Buck who was on vacation. The report was approved as given.

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.

The report of the last Executive Committee was summarized by Paul Lodge as follows:

Ness Oil Company will be used as our on-call company in case of problems with the heating system. Travis Johnson has fixed the oil tanks so that the oil is equalized between the tanks.

Terry King reported that there is a problem with the faucets in the kitchen sink.

Jerry Johnston asked for ideas for storage to replace the club truck. Getting a storage container was suggested. Jerry asked committee members to get a cost for obtaining a container. Jerry said he would look into any City of Auburn regulations concerning having a container on the club premises. Jerry reported that since the Executive Committee meeting he has learned that containers are air tight and cause moisture condensation to build up on the inside which would be damaging to any contents stored in them.

Joan Meehan has volunteered to be the adult leader of the Future Master Model Railroaders. Even though it is too late today, it was suggested that junior members be accompanied by an adult when they are at the club's operating

sessions.

Terry King talked about the Slide and Dine planned for February 11. He noted that a pot-luck lunch was suggested for the event, and that a \$5 donation be requested. The proceeds are to be used to reduce the mortgage.

Darin Long displayed the newly painted Great Falls Railroad locomotive honoring Tom Coulombe. He is trying to obtain enough funds to put a sound system into the locomotive. He has collected \$72 so far and plans to ask for additional donations at the January monthly meeting. He needs about \$125 to complete the transaction. Jamie Robinson has donated a "keep alive" unit to make the locomotive run more smoothly. Jerry asked if there were any members present at the meeting who wished to contribute, and additional donations were collected to buy the sound system.

Rolling storage shelves to be used in a rental truck were investigated. Three rack units costing a total of \$864 were purchased to transport modules. Jerry Johnston pointed to the boxes containing the racks which were in the meeting room. They just need to be assembled.

Dick Holman has the "Welcome to Coulombe Hall" and will make brackets so that the sign can be hung in the meeting hall.

At the Executive Committee Meeting, a motion was made, and accepted, not to sell raffle tickets on the new layout. It will be used for Governor's Restaurant on the first Thursday of each month and for activities at schools, nursing homes, and other special events.

Jerry Johnston reported that Joe Marshall had suggested that Tami Paine be appointed as Social Media specialist. When asked at the meeting if she would accept the position, Tami said, "Yes."

President Johnston asked for updates on replacement back-ups for club officers.

After Paul Lodge gave the Executive Committee report, he responded to a question about the Utility Team pledges. There are five Power Team openings for \$150 donations. The money is used to pay the monthly electricity bill. He explained that pledges can be made in smaller amounts that total \$150. For example, three individuals can donate \$50 each to make the \$150 or two people could pledge \$75 to total \$150.

Bob Willard reminded people about the Modelers Forum which meets on the fourth Thursday each month. He explained that a new initiative is being made to have a coastal layout tour of individuals' layouts along Route 1 from Brunswick to Rockland. This is in the beginning stages of consideration so there are no details yet. Our club will sponsor the tour which might take place on the last Saturday in September.

Jerry Johnston reported that at the next meeting he will have a Power Point program showing the Rocky Ridge Railroad. The presentation is designed to show how to operate the RRRR layout.

Jerry noted that there were 28 members in attendance. The attendance prize for the evening was won by Terry Obie and she selected a cup insulator.

Dick Holman won the 50/50 Raffle.

The meeting adjourned



By Paul Lodge

G-SCALE TEAM INSTALLS NEW BRIDGES & TRESTLE

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

At the G-Scale work session on January 14, some highly visible changes were made on the layout. The shelf system that served loop 3, the logging line, has been replaced with an impressive new trestle and two new bridges. The trestle system was designed and engineered by Ray Parent. The lattice truss bridge designed and engineered by Ralph Luby and the Howe truss bridge designed and engineered by Ken Nettleship effectively complete the system. The team who helped to install the bridges and trestle accomplished a lot in one day and got a lot more done than we had anticipated. The two lower loops (loop 1 and 2) were tested and adjusted for proper clearance and were up and running by the end of the work session. I would personally like to thank both Ray and Ralph for working with me on this project and coming up with some great engineering designs. This project is another step forward in the G-Scale Division's effort to create a more polished and believable layout for club members and visitors to enjoy. Dick Cosgrove, Dave Kierstead, Ray Parent and special guest Bob Willard helped to make the installation project go smoothly.

On January 21 the G-Scale Division had another successful work session. The work crews and inspection teams were busy checking clearances and making final track adjustments. All loops are now operational. Senior Engineer Ray Parent along with "flunky the grunt worker" (Ken) finalized laying the track on loop 3. Back in the shop, Master Mechanic Peter Cole supervised Dick Cosgrove and finalized couplers and metal wheel conversion on a slew of rolling stock. Nearly all of the club's G-Scale rolling stock now has metal wheels and USA Trains couplers so that the fleet can be considered "standardized".

The G-Scale Group had a great time finishing the upgrades to the rolling stock and the conversion from shelf to trestle/bridge configuration. Plans include a future expansion of the "fall area loop" from 4' diameter to 5' diameter and extending the trestles to the loop section. A shelf will remain in the corner area to provide a base once we get to the "landscaping" part and create a logging scene. Things are coming together nicely and I hope everyone is having as much fun as I am. More work session dates will be coming shortly.

By The G-Scale Team



**ADULT EDUCATION SIGN UP
MODEL RAILROADING COURSE**

At the January 19 monthly club meeting of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club, members were invited to sign up for the newly restructured Model Railroad Course. The course will consist of nine classes, with each session specializing in a different aspect of model railroading. The classes will be held on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30. Anyone can sign up for an individual class, which includes a registration fee of \$5. A person can sign up for as many classes as they wish, with a maximum total cost of \$15. Preregistration is important in order that enough supplies can be available when each topic is taught.

The dates and topics are listed below:

- February 14: Introduction and Special Tools
- February 21: Layout Design
- February 28: Benchwork
- March 7: Track Laying/Wiring/Soldering
- March 14: Scenery
- March 21: Making Trees
- March 28: Building Structures
- April 4: Weathering
- April 11: Maintaining Locomotives and Rolling Stock

Different club members will be selected to lead the individual classes.

Model Railroad Course hand-outs will be available at the Whitefield Lions Club Doll House and Model Train Show at the Augusta Armory on February 18. Because each class is a separate offering, people can join at any time.

Sign up for classes by contacting Paul Lodge at 966-3641 or paulodge@gwi.net.

By 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

MODELERS FORUM

All members of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club are invited to come to the Modelers Forum as often as you can. Meetings start at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of every month.

This is a great way to learn about specialized tools and new products like Perfect Plastic Putty, which can be painted, unlike many similar products on the market.

Members sometimes share a work in progress, like the 3-D printer model of a light-rail vehicle which Carmen Anastase is working on.

Model railroad recycling projects created from your junk box might include novel ideas such as the HO-scale containers Kevin LaMarre made from razor blade containers.

Kevin LaMarre also brought a building which demonstrates how he converted a standard Machine Shop kit into a unique design by adding interesting details.

By Paul Lodge



**FUTURE MASTER MODELERS
NOTES: JANUARY 7 MEETING**



The Future Master Modelers had a productive meeting on January 7. During the first part of the morning, everyone participated in the HO Operating Session. All juniors from the operating session stayed for the meeting and instructional session: Dan Malkowski, Bryce Weeks, Colby Golob, Josh Stevens, Adam Long, and Joseph Gilbert.

The Future Master Modelers meeting started about noon after the juniors were fortified with a light lunch. The instructional part of the meeting on engine maintenance was lead by Travis Johnson with help from Eric Long. Travis brought in some of his engines and equipment to be worked on. Several juniors worked on their own engines. One junior brought his own engine that was not working well. After it was oiled and cleaned, it ran quite well. The juniors were very attentive and interested in the session and commented that they appreciated learning how to service the engines.

The next meeting of the Future Master Modelers is February 4 after the HO Operating Session. Eric Long and Ed Webb will be instructing the juniors on car maintenance.

All junior members between the ages of 12 and 18 are welcome to attend these meetings. We hope parents will come to the HO Operating Sessions with the juniors and stay for the Future Master Modelers meetings. A time is trying to be worked out so the junior meeting can start earlier than noon, but a schedule is yet to be determined.

By Joan Meehan



The Great Falls Model Railroad Club (GFMRRC)

Contact Info:

144 Mill Street
Auburn, Me 04210
Phone: 207-576-3788
E-Mail :
greatfallsmodelrailroadclub@yahoo.com

Virtual Address

http://www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org
See us on Facebook!
Great Falls Model Railroad Club
An educational foundation



Officers

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

Assistant Webmaster

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

Social Media Editor:

Tami Paine 595-4668
tami.girardin@yahoo.com

The Signal

The Signal is published twelve times per year by The Great Falls Model Railroad Club. Copyright © 2010-2016

Editor:

Nicholas Mamich

Correspondent/Secretary:

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

GFMRRC 2017 Special Events

February 11 10 a.m. to 3 p.m

Slide & Dine, GFMRRC
Doors open at 8 a.m.
(snow date, February 12)

February 18—10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Whitefield Lions Club Model Railroad & Dollhouse Show, Augusta Armory

May 20

Hobo Holiday @ GFMRRC

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



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 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

Retired Renovators: No meetings until further notice.

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

