



Members since June 1988

The Signal



March Edition
2017



Signal indicates **STOP AT**
OUR NEXT MEETING
March 16, 2017 6:45 pm

Don't forget good food at
Governors Family Night!

Involve friends & relatives

Meetings demonstrate how
Hobbies impart 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 March 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 \$595.60

Last month: \$ 39.00

Used Printer Cartridges

Last month: \$ 54.00

YTD: \$ 274.00

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.

**SLIDE & DINE
is a Success!**

On Saturday, February 25, the club finally had its Slide & Dine event. Because of snowstorms, it had been postponed twice. About twenty interested participants showed and watched historic pictures collected by railroad enthusiast presenters.



Terry King started the show with locomotive slides from the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad. These slides had fortunately been rescued from a trip to the dump and donated to the club.

Bruce Davison showed slides of the Claremont Branch of the Claremont and Concord Railroad. Bruce worked for this railroad for many years and has collected a considerable number of slides over the years. His knowledge of the historical aspects of the railroad made his narration particularly interesting.

After Terry and Bruce made their presentations, it was time for lunch. The pot-luck lunch included many outstanding choices of entrées and desserts. Popcorn had been made earlier in the morning and many people enjoyed eating popcorn while watching the slides. During the lunch hour, Larry Cannon and Jamie Robinson showed some of their railroad slides.

In the afternoon, there were three more presenters. Bruce Davison had created a Power Point presentation of various slides from the club's collection. Bob Bennett started taking pictures when he was young and offered an interesting assortment of railroad pictures from the past forty years.

Joey Kelley showed four Power Point presentations with sound that he has been developing for the past few years. One presentation contained outstanding night photos of trains at Northern Maine Junction. Another slideshow featured night shots from other New England railroads in various areas. A third presentation was a series of pictures taken while a crew was scrapping a locomotive from the Belfast & Moosehead Lake Railroad. Joey is an active and enthusiastic volunteer for the Belfast &



Moosehead Lake Railroad and announced that he is planning to publish a book on the railroad's 150-year history. Terry King would especially like to

express his gratitude to **Bruce Davison** for his work in helping to organize and set up the Slide & Dine from the original planning stages to the day of the

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

About 25 club members attended the annual Whitefield Lions Club Train and Doll House Show that was held on Saturday, February 18, 2017, at the National Guard Armory on Western Avenue in Augusta. During the show, several friends of the club stopped to talk to members. For many of them, this is one of the few times each year they have a chance to visit with railroad friends and acquaintances. The show was well attended in the morning, but the crowd dwindled significantly after noon.



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event. **Jamie Robinson and Joey Kelley** also deserve special recognition for their work with the technical aspects of the day's program.

The Slide & Dine was not the only activity at the club on Saturday. The G-gauge Division group laid additional track on their layout and HO Division members were busy on some of their renovation projects. There was a good mix of new and experienced members and visitors at the club for about six hours.

By Paul Lodge





Member
#076805 00
Since 1988

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

Snow cancels February Meetings

The two weeks of continuous snowstorms and predictions of storms caused the Great Falls Model Railroad Club to cancel its Executive Committee Meeting on February 9 and the regular monthly meeting on February 16. Some club members received as much as thirty inches of snow in the storms during that two-week period.

Notifications of the cancellations were distributed through the club's email connections, website, and television stations. Many charter members could not remember another time when a club meeting had to be canceled because of weather.

The Tuesday, February 14, Model Railroading Class was the only activity that was run on schedule, and we were grateful for the temporary pause in the stormy weather.

Ed Webb and others spent hours snow-blowing the parking lot and did a great job in clearing the yard to make it available for those who needed to come to the club.

By Paul Lodge

Projects of Our Members



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!

G-GAUGE UPDATE

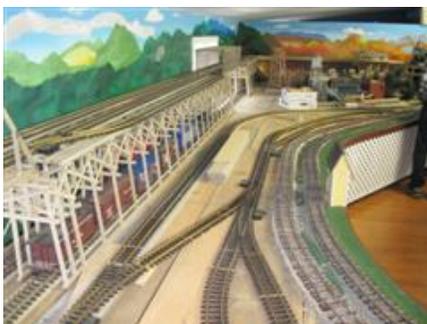
The G-Gauge team had successful work sessions on the layout during the last two Saturdays in February. We now have split jaw rail joiners on about 95% of the track. Installing split jaws can lead to inventing new words which even Wikipedia may not have heard of yet. With this in mind, over the past two weeks we had great member turnout (no pun intended) to help make this daunting task easier to achieve.



We have installed a new yard area and assembled the track for this section, which also has split jaw rail joiners. The goal of the new yard area is to allow us eventually to hold operating sessions on the layout and move rolling stock around like a real railroad. We were short one right-hand LGB 22 degree turnout. Dick Rubin drove up in the fog last Saturday to donate a switch to the G-Gauge Division layout. Thank you again, Dick!



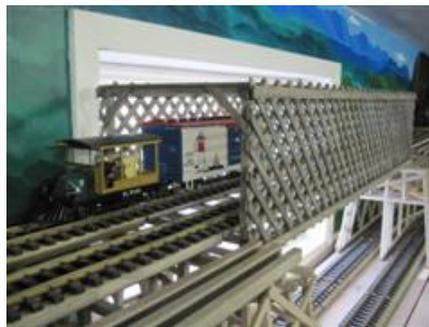
The last accomplishment was to install a siding on loop 3 (the logging loop) on the new trestle system that was recently installed. This new feature will enable us to display various rolling stock, including logging cars. It will add interest to the layout and possible switching opportunities.



Last week two Norman Rockwell box-cars produced by Aristocraft were donated to our rolling stock. The Christmas scenes on the box-cars will look great during the ExTRAINaganza in November. The person who made the donation wishes to remain anonymous, so against my wishes to offer a public "thank you" I must leave it at that. But a big thank you to Mr. Anonymous anyway!



We continue to make progress on our Pike. As much as I would like to have more scenery on the layout, the steps we are taking are thoughtful and measured. We have a wealth of talent in our group and our club. I am positive that in the end our goals of a reliable and truly realistic layout will be attained.



By Ken Nettleship



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. All club members are invited to come and learn or share their modeling skills.

Audit Ed: Grade A Students



Our Adult Ed Teacher with Real World Experience



DOLL HOUSE / TRAIN SHOW AT AUGUSTA

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 Great Falls Model Railroad Club's modular display and surplus inventory sales tables took about twenty percent of the floor space for the event. All the trains were DCC equipped and ran successfully for the entire day. The "Test Track," which we usually bring to the show, was left at



the clubhouse by mistake.

This was the first time we had rented a truck to transport our modules and sales items to a show. Earlier in the week, three new racks, each with four shelves for carrying modules, had been assembled at the club. On Friday, a U-Haul truck was rented and taken to the club. After the racks were put into the back of the truck, it was driven to Jerry Johnston's house, where the retired club truck is located. Owen Buck, Ed Webb, Travis Johnson, Paul Lodge, and Jerry Johnston transferred the modules from the retired truck to the racks in the rental truck. The rental truck was then driven from Jerry's house to the clubhouse, where a dolly was used to add many boxes of surplus inventory items. When we got to Augusta on Saturday, it was very easy to roll the racks with the modules into the building and to use the dolly for the boxes. After the show, the racks and the boxes were easily rolled back into the truck and transported to the club, where they were off-loaded into the club's meeting room.

We are looking forward to the next train show at Mt. Ararat High School in Topsham on Saturday, April 29.

By Paul Lodge



**MEET THE MEMBERS
PETER COLE**

Peter Cole is one of the many GFMRRRC members who have joined the club after taking our Adult Education Model Railroading class. Since taking the class in the fall of 2015, he has been actively working with the G-gauge layout group and has been a reliable member of the Retired Renovators. In addition to helping restore buildings and rolling stock so they can bring a better price, Peter helps at model railroad shows by selling surplus inventory items, including those which he has helped to renovate.



Although he spent much of his childhood in the Philadelphia suburbs, his family moved to southern California in his junior year of high school where he finished high school and went to college. Peter was a public school educator in California for forty years. After teaching at the junior high level, he became a high school activities director. As he moved up the educational administration ladder, he became a junior high school vice principal and then an elementary school principal.

Peter's father was born and grew up in Standish, Maine, and attended Bates College, where his mother and father met. His mother's family owned a cottage in Five Islands in Georgetown where the family spent their summers. After retiring from teaching, Peter and his wife moved to Maine in 2015. The family still owns the cottage in Five Islands, but Peter and his wife decided that Topsham would be a better year-round residence. They return to California in February to visit friends and family.

Peter's wife, Elizabeth, is also an educator. They met at UCLA and have been married for 28 years. Before they met, Elizabeth worked for four years in Japan teaching English and Spanish. After returning to California, she taught English as a second language in California public schools. As an administrator, she specialized in developing programs and training other teachers who were working with students needing help learning English.

Elizabeth is also keenly interested in genealogy. In tracing her ancestry back to the 1630's, she learned that her ancestors and Peter's had started a trading post together on the Kennebec River in 1630. She has discovered the graves of many of Peter's ancestors who are buried from Portsmouth to Topsham and in Farmington.

As a model railroader, Peter had a G-gauge layout in his back yard in California. His outdoor layout included a pond and a track with bridges and tunnels. Peter is currently creating an N-scale empire at his home in Topsham and running a G-Gauge train around the base of his ceiling.

After their daughter Sarah graduated from college, she interned at the Maine International Trade Center and the Carter Center. She is currently attending graduate school at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies in Monterey, California, where she is earning a Master's degree in International Policy Studies with an emphasis in Arabic Language.

Even though Peter has been a member of the railroad club for a relatively short period of time, he has contributed much to our success. Thank you, Peter, for enriching our club.

Paul Lodge

Introduction to 3D Printing

Have you wondered about learning how to use 3D printing and apply it to model railroading?

On Saturday, March 4, Joan Meehan introduced the program TinkerCad to the five GFMRRRC members who had registered for the first session in 3D printing. There was no charge for the lesson, but students were asked to bring their own computers.

If more members are interested, another introductory session will be scheduled at a future date. Registration in each TinkerCad introductory session is limited to five students so that everyone can get individual help.

Follow-up classes working with TinkerCad could be larger if there is enough interest among those who have already taken the introductory session. Send registration intent and questions to jhmeehan@gmail.com.

By Joan Meehan



FUTURE MASTER MODELERS

On Saturday, February 4, five junior members of the Future Master Model Railroaders attended the HO Operating Session and the FMM meeting. FMM Advisory Committee members who were present were Joan Meehan, Travis Johnson, Eric Long, Thunder McBride, and Junior Representatives Daniel Malkowski and Bryce Weeks.

During the operating session, FMM Advisory Committee members and parents oversaw the juniors who were operating trains. Some of the older juniors are being trained as Dispatcher and Yard Master.

After the operating session, Eric Long provided snacks for the FMM. Eric Long and Ed Webb then conducted a learning session relating to train maintenance. The juniors had many good questions and picked up useful tips and information from Eric and Ed.

GFMRRRC members of all ages have been invited to the Future Master Modelers meeting on March 4, where the juniors and their advisers will do hands-on instruction about "consisting" on the HO layout. DCC consisting means forming a "consist" of locomotives by programming several locomotives to operate and perform as if they were a single entity to pull more cars than one standard unit/locomotive. This session is scheduled to begin about 30 minutes after the HO Operating Session and will be led by Travis Johnson, Eric Long and juniors Bryce Weeks and Joseph Gilbert. Before the instruction, FMM will have a short business meeting and fill out time sheets. A light lunch or snack will be provided to juniors or they can bring lunch from home.



By Joan Meehan

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

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

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GFMRRC 2017 Special Events

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—5 to 7 PM

Family Night at Governor's Restaurant
1185 Lisbon St, Lewiston, ME 04240

1st Saturday of each month - noon to 1 PM

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
March 16, 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

