



Members since June 1988



Signal indicates **STOP AT OUR NEXT MEETING**
May 18, 2017 6:45 pm

Don't forget Board Election is this meeting!

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 April 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 . . .

Benefits for Basics (B4B)

Total Last Year \$ 814.00

YTD \$712.00

Last month: \$ 64.00

Used Printer Cartridges

Last month: \$ 58.00

YTD: \$ 350.00

Why donate to Great Falls?

- Donations help keep dues low.
Low dues = More members.
- **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 SPRING cleaning!**

The Signal



May Edition
 2017

SUCCESSFUL TRAIN SHOW! @ MT. ARARAT IN TOPSHAM

About fifty club members attended or worked at the train show sponsored by the Great Falls Model Railroad Club at Mt. Ararat High School in Topsham on Saturday, April 29. Members helped by setting up or tearing down the tables and modules, selling tickets at the door, selling surplus assets, operating the HO modular layout, and taking publicity pictures.

Tami Paine dressed as a hobo to publicize the Hobo Holiday, and passed out flyers to families who



might be interested in coming to the event at the club on Saturday, May 20.

Jolene McClintick surveyed more than 220 people as they entered the building and recorded the ways they found out about the show. Having a show with a good reputation is extremely helpful. More than 40 percent said they come every year or heard about it from someone else. The club website and Facebook represented nearly 15 percent. Jerry Johnston put out signs that brought in about 12 percent of the people, which is a little more than the 11 percent who read about it in a newspaper. Another 12 percent picked up a flyer at one of the hobby shops to which we distribute them or saw it listed in a model railroad magazine.

The new test track developed by Whitethunder McBride was used several times during the show. It is set up to test DC as well as DCC HO or N-scale locomotives that people are interested in buying.

Bob Willard and Greg Ouellette displayed their On30 highly detailed linear modules. Both the MaiNe N-scale group and the Maine 3-Railers brought their layouts. Ronald Czaja exhibited his new display on a separate table. —> Page 3

Food service was provided by the Mt. Ararat



Sixth Annual Hobo Holiday 5/20/2017

The sixth annual Hobo Holiday will take place on Saturday, May 20, at the clubhouse from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Guests will be able to sample **Jerry Johnston's Hobo Stew**,



which includes his famous "secret" ingredient. A brochure about "Hobo Folklore" will be given to each family. Hobo symbols will be placed around the clubhouse telling other hobos about potential dangers or places where they are welcome.

Club members and guests are encouraged to dress up as hobos, railroad engineers, or conductors to help add a festive atmosphere to the Hobo Holiday. The Operation Lifesaver T-shirts with the "See Tracks, Think Train" logo will be the official dress for the day as they reinforce the idea of railroad safety we are trying to promote.

The G-gauge Division members have been realigning track for potential operating sessions and have installed beautiful intricate bridge structures for the upper level. Attractive, realistic-looking trees will be added to the layout. Guests who have come to club activities in the past will notice the difference. Thomas the Tank Engine in the G-gauge room is always a popular part of small children's experience during this event. The n-scale and HO layouts also continue to have new and interesting features.

A scavenger hunt will require families to find hobo symbols in each of the clubhouse rooms in order to win a prize. The purpose of the scavenger hunt is to get everyone to see all that the club has to offer, including the permanent layouts and the learning center area as well as the library/museum and Company Store.

Railroads are private property and hobos rode the trains illegally. As a railroad club, we do not want to encourage trespassing on railroad property. One of the features of the Hobo Holiday is a Railroad Safety Quiz with a number of questions suggested by Operation Lifesaver members. Throughout the building, Operation Lifesaver railroad safety posters will be displayed with information which can be used to answer the Railroad Safety Quiz. Once the quiz has been finished, a club member will correct it. Participants will then



Member
#076805 00
Since 1988

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



MAURICE FORTIN (1943 – 2017)

Maurice Fortin passed away on April 7, 2017, after a two-year battle with cancer. Maurice had been an active member of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club since he was introduced to the club in February of 2009 when he took our Model Railroad-ing class through the Auburn Adult Education program. He mentioned that he had a lot of fun learning all the skills needed to build the table sections and do all the electrical and scenic work. He built an HO layout in his basement in Portland, modeling Maine Central in the 1950's and 1960's. He often worked with the club's N-scale layout team, where he was involved in laying track and constructing model buildings. Maurice enjoyed working with model trains and visiting railway museums whenever he travelled.

Maurice and his wife, Collette, were happily married for nearly 50 years. They have two sons and three grandchildren. Together Maurice and Collette helped at the club-sponsored EXTRAINaganza, Hobo Holiday, and Train Fest. Having both the husband and the wife represent the club adds to the friendly family atmosphere we try to promote at these special family-oriented events.

When the club introduced the "Meet the Members" feature for The Signal, Maurice volunteered to interview club members and write the articles about them. In order to get the feature started quickly, Maurice agreed to be the first person interviewed. Much of the information in this article was included in that first column in July of 2012. Submitting background information about himself and his interests gave him an idea of what to ask others about. He continued to write the column from August 2012 through March 2015 when he developed cancer and cut down on many of his activities.

He took the Operation Lifesaver certification course and was very active in that organization. Maurice made many Operation Lifesaver presentations on the importance of railway safety to driver education classes, school children, and other audiences in Portland and the surrounding area. He was frequently asked by Fred Hirsch, the state coordinator, to be the Operation Lifesaver spokesman on television when there were railroad-related incidents in central and southern Maine.

Maurice was born on August 28, 1943, in Brunswick. He graduated from Brunswick High School in 1961 and the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy in 1966. He began his career as a staff pharmacist at Maine Medical Center. After serving as Director of Pharmacy at Waterville Osteopathic Hospital until 1985, he returned to Maine Medical Center to be a clinical pharmacist in nutrition support through 2004. He then worked at Hannaford's, New England Life Care, and Southern Maine Medical Center until his retirement in 2008.

He enjoyed fishing and in retirement would often drive out to western Maine and spend the day on his boat. As a tenor, he was an avid singer and an active member of the St. Peter's Church choir in Portland. He also performed with the Kennebec Barbershop Chordsmen and the Portland Community Chorus, often singing in the annual Magic of Christmas celebration at —>

HOBO HOLIDAY (Con't)

(Continued from page 1)

be able to enter their names in a drawing. They could win a gift certificate from Governor's Restaurant or a free pass to ride on one of the participating tourist railroads in Maine.

TRAIN TIME videos will be playing during the day to help entertain the adults while they are eating or watching their children in the play area, which will include age-appropriate toy trains and the Brio layout at a child's height. TRAIN TIME videos can also be purchased during the Hobo Holiday. The Company Store will be open for those who wish to buy model railroad cars, railroad books, memorabilia, and other items.

For the children (and some adults), prizes can be won with the popular "Roundhouse Roulette" and the "Hoop a Caboose" ring-toss game. The "Fishing Pond" will be set up so that children can "fish" off the bridge and catch a prize. The "ride-on" locomotive donated by Joseph Gilbert will be available for small children to ride during the Hobo Holiday.

This is another opportunity for club members to help support the club by selling tickets, helping with guest engineers, selling surplus inventory, supervising games and the children's area, or working with crafts. The HO layout will be available for guest engineers to operate, and that can require a lot of experienced manpower. The G-gauge and N-scale Divisions will need supervision. Adults are also needed to run the games and collect Hobo Bucks.

Admission to the event is only \$3, with children 12 and under entering free. For Guest Engineers, crafts, the "ride-on" train, and those activities which offer prizes, "Hobo Bucks" will be sold at \$1 each or seven for \$5.

Even though this is a fund-raiser for the club, it is also a chance to come together and have some fun as a group.

After the event, club members are invited to go to Governor's Restaurant in Lewiston to socialize and have a relaxing meal at reasonable prices. - P. Lodge

Portland City Hall auditorium.

Maurice left a lasting and loving impact on his family, friends, and those he served throughout the community. He will be missed by everyone whose lives he touched and will be remembered for his friendly smile, patience, generosity, and kindness. Members of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club who knew Maurice are grateful for his many contributions of time and talents.
By Paul Lodge



TRAIN SHOW (Con't)

4/20/2017 Meeting Minutes

(Continued from page 1)

Sports Booster Club, and they were busy from before the show until after noon. One of their workers went to the dealers to ask for and deliver orders. This was helpful because it allowed dealers to stay with their displays while potential buyers were in the room.

A U-Haul rental truck was used again to transport modules and surplus inventory sale items to



the show. The truck was loaded on Friday afternoon at the club and brought to Topsham on Saturday morning to be unloaded. After the show it was used to move the modules back to the club before being returned to the rental store.

Because we have such a good turnout of club members to help run the show, we can repeatedly have successful events. With some of the revenue from this show, we hope that more of the mortgage can be paid down. One of the club goals is to pay off the mortgage within the next year, and we are only about \$7,500 away from reaching that goal. Congratulations to all of you who helped make the train show a success!

By Paul Lodge

Ed Leslie displays O-scale model at Club Meeting 4-20-17



A Power Point slide show of club activities in March and April was shown from 6:45 to 7:00 p.m.

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.

Owen Buck gave the Treasurer's Report, which was approved as given. Owen noted that the mortgage should be paid within the next year. President Johnston asked for the annual fixed expenses for the club. Once the mortgage is paid, the annual expenses should be in the \$14,000 range.

For the "What's on Your Boxcar Workbench?" portion of the meeting, Bob Willard displayed some early modeling kits; and Ed Leslie showed his O-Scale module and explained locomotive power displayed on it.

Paul Lodge gave the Executive Committee report from last week. Building a storage shed was discussed. It was decided not to try to build a storage unit on the top of the hill because it is inaccessible during the winter and the set back from the property line would make it difficult. Steven Martelli invited the City of Auburn building inspector to review the possibility of building the structure in the dock area next to the ramp. That area is approved so long as there are two feet between the new structure and the ramp. At that location, the structure would be approximately 8-feet wide by 20-feet long. The fire marshal also accompanied the building inspector and found exit lights not working and several trip hazards which needed attention.

Darin Long reported that there is water leaking through the walls on the lower level, and efforts will be made to dig along the outside wall and put in a drainage system.

The new list of members with alarm codes for the building is nearly complete according to Terry King.

Jerry Johnston announced that Saturday mornings until noon and Wednesday evenings are set aside for work or operating sessions. Any other use of the facility needs to be approved by the Executive Committee. This will avoid having groups competing for the same space.

When the timing is appropriate, the roof of the building will be inspected.

The issue of locomotive and rolling stock inventory on all layouts was brought up again. This needs to be completed in case of a disaster. The inventories will be added to our computer and periodically saved on the Carbonite off-site data storage facility.

Tony's Train Exchange requested that we add their link to our website. After a brief discussion, a motion was made and accepted to approve adding Tony's Train Exchange link to our website. In further discussion, it was agreed that each request for adding new businesses should be voted upon individually by the Executive Commit-

tee. Darin Long announced that the HO layout will be shut down during the summer months for construction and cleanup. He explained that the layout will be shut down after the Hobo Holiday, from May 21 at least until August 1, and will be operational by the week before the Train Fest in August. Whitethunder McBride reported that the new computers and monitors are set up in the HO dispatcher's area. Whitethunder also expressed concern about HO club members not cleaning up the facility before leaving after work or operating sessions. This abuse of our facility needs to be addressed by those working in the HO area.

Paul Lodge passed along a request from a club member to have all annual dues be due in the same month regardless of the month in which a member joins. Last month the Executive Committee voted to have the fiscal year and the club accounting system start in January. Because of Christmas expenses, it was suggested that January not be chosen as the month for dues to be collected. Since we do not have fund-raising activities in the summer, that is the time we need additional funds. For that reason, it was suggested that August or September might be a good time for dues. This topic was tabled for further consideration.

Terry King reported that all the tables have been sold for the train show at Mt. Ararat High School in Topsham. Tables will be delivered to the school at 4 p.m. on Friday, April 28. There is a need for many club members to attend and help set up the tables and assign dealer names to the tables. Another group of club members will be needed at the club to load the rental truck with modules and surplus inventory items. On Saturday, club members need to be at Mt. Ararat at 7 a.m. to set up modules, distribute surplus inventory items, and organize for the day.

Whitethunder McBride gave the Nominating Committee's report for officers for 2017-2018. The nominees are as follows:

President, Jerry Johnston; Vice President, Whitethunder McBride or Steven Martelli; Secretary, Paul Lodge; Treasurer, Owen Buck; Librarian/Archivist, Terry King or Ed Webb. Three directors will be chosen from the following: Roger Allen, Dan Collins, Darin Long, and Roger Plummer. There were no additional nominations at this meeting. More nominations can be made at the May meeting before the annual election of officers.

The subject of plastic name tags was brought up. Anyone who would like to have a name tag needs to get in touch with Paul Lodge. He will forward the names of interested club members to Brenda Leslie who can get them made.

The 50/50 raffle was won by Whitethunder McBride. The Attendance Prize was won by Bill Carson. He selected a travel coffee mug. The meeting adjourned. - by Paul Lodge

MODEL RAILROADING CLASS COMPLETES!

*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 spring 2017 Model Railroad Class was completed on Tuesday, April 18. For the first time, the class concentrated on specific topics for each of the nine weeks of the course. In the past, participants have been encouraged to build a module which would then be added to our modular layout at the train show in Topsham.

Individuals came to classes based on their interest in the topic of the week. As a result, there was much more participation from club members who took the classes or helped as presenters of the topics. Six people originally signed



up for the course, and eighteen club members came to one or more of the nine sessions.

The course started on February 14 with an introduction to the course and an emphasis on model railroading tools. On February 21, a panel of club members introduced layout design. On February 28, class members constructed L-girder benchwork and visited Paul Lodge's layout, which had examples of L-girder, western framing, and open grip benchwork. Track laying, wiring, and soldering were the topics for the March 7 class,



and Kent Waterson demonstrated resistance soldering. Because the March 14 class on scenery was snowed out, it was rescheduled for April 18 and held at Jerry Johnston's house in Minot. Tree-making on March 21 created a lot of interest. Ken Nettleship and Carmen Anastase displayed and demonstrated some unique tree-making suggestions. On March 28, Dick Holman,

Ed Webb, Bob Willard and others talked about and displayed building structures they had made from scratch. Weather-



ing of rolling stock and buildings was the topic on April 4. Ed Webb and Travis Johnson had the class lubricate club locomotives during the April 11 session. The last class on April 18 was held at Jerry Johnston's home and the topic was scenery. As a bonus feature of the evening, class members were able to see the sunset as it glowed behind Mt. Washington and some people stood on Jerry's deck to take photos. Members of the class were also able to operate Jerry's HO layout and observe how the scenery has been created and displayed on his layout. Jerry was able to demonstrate the use of his road-making invention and let class members try it out. Dyeing sawdust was demonstrated in his kitchen.

For helping with this new course structure, a special



tribute needs to be made to the following club members: Bob Willard, Ed Webb, Jerry Johnston, Carmen Anastase, Ken Nettleship, Kent Waterson, Dick Holman, Dick Clark, Larry Cannon, and Travis Johnson. The following club members also participated in the course: Mark and Jolene McClintick, Owen Buck, Bill Meehan, Whitethunder McBride, Kevin Timberlake, Peter Cole, and Jay Calnan. Bob Willard, Jerry Johnston, and Ed Webb were especially helpful in sharing their talents and modeling experience with demonstrations, instruction, and leadership in all nine classes of the course.

By Paul Lodge

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AT ANNUAL MEETING IN MAY

At the Great Falls Model Railroad Club's annual meeting on May 18, members of the club will elect officers for the 2017 through 2018 year. The Nominating Committee submitted the following names from which those in attendance at the May meeting will choose the officers. The following people have agreed to compete for the officers for next year:

- President: Jerry Johnston
- Vice President: Steven Martelli
Whitethunder McBride
- Secretary: Paul Lodge
- Treasurer: Owen Buck
- Librarian / Archivist: Terry King
Ed Webb
- Directors: (Vote for 3)
Roger Allen
Dan Collins
Darin Long
Roger Plummer

Additional nominations can be made at the May meeting.

'Devils Nose' MOST DANGEROUS RAILWAY IN WORLD

Fellow Member Nick Mamich will be visiting what is considered one of the world's most dangerous train rides. The section of Ecuador's railway aptly titled 'the Devil's Nose' (or 'Nariz de Diablo'), was responsible for some 2000 deaths during construction and even a few gringos after that. It was a remarkable feat for a developing country to build a train system over a century ago that crossed the Andes linking Quito to Guayaquil.



The Devil's Nose traverses the rocky slopes of the Andes and drops 500 meters (!!!) over a course of 12km via a switch back system. The switch-back track involves the train moving past a junction, stopping and then heading back down the section to the next junction and moving forward again continuing down the mountain. The mountain side, called 'the Condors Aerie' in the town of Alausi, was last section of rail needed to connect the Quito and Guayaquil lines.

By Nick Mamich

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 and to share current projects with other modelers.



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 & Rita Vatter** for signing up to take them to the bottle redemption recycling center each month.

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

April 29 (see article)

**GFMRRC Annual Spring Show,
Mt. Ararat High School, Topsham**
10 to 3:
Help needed
before, during & after show.
Deliver modules 7- 8 a.m.

April 15 (see article)

Backdrop Painting Class
9am to noon @ GMRRC
Registration required.

May 20

Hobo Holiday at GFMRRC
Help needed throughout the day!

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



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

Model Railroading Class meets April 4, 11, and 18 [omit starting date]

HO Operating Sessions 8:00 am to noon

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

