



Members since June 1988

The Signal



June Edition
2017



Signal indicates **STOP AT OUR NEXT MEETING June 15, 2017 6:45 pm**

Governors Family Night will restart September 7!

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 June 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 \$ 712.00

YTD \$72.00

Last month: \$ 72.00

Used Printer Cartridges

Total Last Year \$ 350

YTD: \$ 30.00

Last month: \$ 30.00

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!**

SUCCESSFUL HOBO HOLIDAY HELD SATURDAY, MAY 20

On Saturday, May 20, 33 club members came to help run the activities at the Sixth Annual Hobo Holiday. The weather was beautiful. We had 59 adult paying customers and 19 children. Club members put in a good deal of effort. **Art Letourneau** came dressed as a hobo and went outside to draw attention to our event from drivers passing by in cars. He said there were hardly any cars on the road.

Neva McBride took pictures of attendees and many of her shots will be shown at the next club



meeting in June. **Jolene McClintick** took a survey of those who attended to find out how they learned about the event. **It was interesting to note that the highest percentage of people learned of the event from club members!**



More than ten percent came as a result of the Topsham show. About twenty percent mentioned **the signs which Jerry Johnston and Ed Webb had put out.**

Many attendees sampled the world famous Hobo Stew as prepared by **Jerry Johnson**, our renowned cook



Families who did attend had a good time and were pleased with the attractions.



Eight club members went to Governor's Restaurant for the traditional after-event meal and to socialize.

Thank you to all who helped with the event!

By Paul Lodge





Member
#076805 00
Since 1988

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

NEW OFFICERS ELECTED FOR 2017-2018

At the Annual Meeting on May 18, new officers for the 2017 – 2018 year were elected. Twenty-eight club members were present for the voting. This year there was competition for half of the positions available. The President, Secretary, and Treasurer were not challenged. Jerry Johnston will continue as president. Paul Lodge and Owen Buck will remain as Secretary and Treasurer respectively. All of the other positions were competitive. For Vice President, Whitethunder McBride got 82 percent of the votes. Ed Webb was elected to the position of Librarian/Archivist with 68 percent of the votes.

Five members were competing for the three Director positions. The winners were Roger Allen, Roger Plummer, and Darin Long. Mike Meserve was one vote short in a very close race for one of the three Director positions.

This was the first time there had been this much competition for different positions. This bodes well for the future of the club.

Congratulations to the new officers!

By Paul Lodge



MODELERS FORUM

The Modelers Forum will continue to meet throughout the summer on the fourth Thursday of each month, starting at 7 p.m. All members of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club are invited to come to share modeling techniques, projects and ideas. Experienced modelers and novices can all learn from each other.

G-GAUGE UPDATE

The last G-Gauge work session on May 6 was very productive. A great group turned out, which made it possible to complete a lot of work much more easily. The future "wye" has been laid out, but we received the wrong split jaw clamps (over the existing joiner clamps vs. direct to rail clamps) so that project will have to be tackled at a later date. The track is on the layout, however, so if you stop by the clubhouse you can at least see where the "wye" will be located. Using a design that Ralph Luby had sent to us, we installed a new bridge on Loop 3, the logging loop. We also finished the trestle system on Loop 3, increasing the track radius to allow for smoother operations. All tracks were thoroughly cleaned, thanks to Ray Parent, who brought in his LGB track cleaning unit. This allowed the crew to work on other things. The layout was then "set dressed", as they say in Hollywood, in preparation for the Hobo Holiday. —>



G-GAUGE UPDATE (Con't)

We have recently received some newly donated rolling stock and motive power.

First, thanks to our newest member John Middleton for his generous donation of three wonderful box cars. These will add interest to our future switching operations. Jerry Johnston also had a recent donation to the G Gauge Division from a collection in Portland. This included a couple of cars and a Dash 9 by Aristocraft with a matching caboose, which is displayed on a track under a Plexiglas case. When we inspected the locomotive, Ray noticed that there was absolutely no wear on the wheels of the unit, which leads us to believe that this loco had been used as a display piece only. We tested the loco on Loop 1 and it runs perfectly! While testing the locomotive, we noticed a clearance issue in the tunnel of the winter scene. There may be additional clearance issues with the new trestle system we recently installed supporting Loop 3. The locomotive is very long, approximately 2 feet! We will have to look further into either modifying the layout or possibly selling the unit and purchasing something that fits our constraints.

When the work session broke for lunch, John Middleton explained in detail a system he has designed for switching cars in our new yard. This system will allow us to move cars around in a prototypical fashion and use our layout like a real railroad as well as in continuous operation for open houses. With John laying out the operations of the new yard, Ray has a better idea of how we may be able to wire this new section. There are still a lot of things to "iron out" before we get to that point but we are "on the right track" (puns intended). John also took the initiative to catalog all of our rolling stock, and he will be creating a specific card for each car. These cards will let us know such details as where each car is to be placed during an operating session.

Everything ran fine during the Hobo Holiday so all of our efforts toward reliable track work have really paid off. We received many compliments from regular attendees on the new trestle system on Loop 3 and on the new yard. People are paying attention to what we are doing with the layout, which is both nice and motivational. Thanks for the help at Hobo Holiday. A good time was had by all, as the photos show.

Please mark on your calendars our next open house, the Train Fest, which will be held on Saturday, August 19, during the weekend of the Great Falls Balloon Festival.

Summer is a very busy time for everyone so work sessions will cease until the fall as in past years. I will continue to keep you all posted if there are any changes or updates pertaining to the G Gauge Division. Now, it's time to get going on our own layouts and enjoy summer!

By Ken Nettleship

May Meeting Minutes

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

President **Jerry Johnston** opened the meeting and asked for the Secretary's Report to be approved as published in the newsletter. A motion was made to accept the report as published in the Signal.

Treasurer Owen Buck was not present and Jerry Johnston gave a brief report of the club's financial status. The report was approved as given.

Paul Lodge gave the report of the Executive Committee for May, which included the following items:

The disposition of the truck was discussed. Selling it on Craig's List was suggested. Depending on the condition of the truck, it could be sold for between \$3,000 and \$5,000.

Darin Long reported that the HO Division has completed the helix. Members asked if a class could be set up to show the computer system which the dispatcher will use when there is an operating session.

Jerry Johnston presented a proposal for the scheduling of events and the use of the facility. A motion was made and accepted to approve the scheduling rules.

They are as follows:

1. Saturday mornings from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Wednesday evenings from 5 to 9 p.m. are guaranteed work or operating times for the G-gauge, small scales, and HO scale layouts.
2. Any event that needs to invade any of those times will need approval of the Executive Committee. That will need to be obtained a month in advance at the regular Executive Committee meeting.
3. Times for other events/activities may be reserved in advance by posting ahead of time on the main lobby schedule board on a first come first served basis.
4. In the event of conflicting events, both may proceed if the respective chairs of each event mutually agree that it would be acceptable.

Jerry Johnston distributed drawings of a proposed storage shed to be built in the dock area near the ramp entrance of the building. A motion was made and accepted to approve the concept of the building. Specific details may be worked out later. President Johnston asked Darin Long to present to the Executive Committee a proposal that would include the cost of the structure.

The club roof needs to be inspected. Roof Management Services worked on the roof in 2010. It was suggested that St. Hilaire could be asked to do the inspection.

Jerry reported that the spring Topsham show was a financial success. Even though we had the U-Haul for a little more than one day, we were

charged for only one day.

It was suggested that the inventory of rolling stock be continued and that pictures of the layouts be taken as an historical record.

Having a single month for payment of all dues was brought up again. **Terry King**, Paul Lodge, and Owen Buck were appointed to discuss the issue and report the results.

Paul Lodge noted that Governor's Restaurant does not have Family Night in June, July, and August. We will be back in September.

Dick Clark and Paul Lodge will represent the club at a Wellness Fair at Sugarloaf Mountain on October 6. They have asked us to present a one-hour workshop on building model railroads.

The next Adult Education class will start on Tuesday, September 5.

Jerry Johnston read a proposal from **Stephen Martelli** suggesting a new position for maintaining the building. (Tom Couombe called the job "Station Master.") Suggested names for the position included Head of Building and Grounds Maintenance, Maintenance Supervisor, or Facilities Manager. Stephen recommended that the person should be a voting member of the Executive Committee. The job that Stephen described included such items as removing sand from the driveway and walk areas, painting floors and stairs, refinishing the stairway and ramp handrails. He also recommended that the position include coordinating large jobs with outside contractors from planning to completion.

After hearing the suggestion, board members did not think the position should be a member of the Executive Committee unless the Constitution and By Laws are changed. Paul Lodge was asked to develop a job description based on Stephen's letter and recommendations.

For the evening's clinic, a video was used of **Larry Cannon** talking about building structures from kits, kit bashing, and scratch building. He also exhibited buildings he had constructed for his personal layout.

Hobo Holiday was discussed briefly and members were asked to stay after the meeting to help set up for it.

Jerry Johnston announced that Hobo T-shirts he had designed had been made and were available for those who had signed up for one in advance. He said he would take orders for additional shirts from anyone at the meeting who did not get one.

As May is the month for the Annual Meeting, we had the election of officers for

the 2017-2018 year. The election results were as follows: President, Jerry Johnston; Vice President, Whitethunder McBride; Secretary, Paul Lodge; Treasurer, Owen Buck; Librarian/Archivist, Ed Webb; and Directors, Roger Allen, Darin Long, and Roger Plummer.

The Attendance Prize was won by Paul Lodge, who selected a three-inch stack of Bombardier sticky notes. **Kent Water-son** won the 50/50 raffle.

By Paul Lodge

HOBOS ON PARADE!



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



SR&RL SHOW, PHILLIPS ON SEPTEMBER 30

The Sandy River & Rangeley Lakes Railroad, in association with the Phillips Area Community Center, will be holding a Model Rail and Hobby

Show on Saturday, September 30, from 9 to 3. The show is an effort by the Phillips Community Center to increase awareness and attendance at the Railway Museum. Trains will be running all day on the SR&RL, including their annual Ghost Train that evening at dusk.

The Train Show will coincide with the Sandy River Business Association's annual Fall Fest. The Ghost Train is an event put on jointly each year by Phillips' 5th grade students and the SR&RL, featuring Halloween displays and acts after dark. The Scarecrows will be gathering for their yearly tradition, and it will be an interesting conclusion to an enjoyable day.

Vendors and model railroad enthusiasts will be setting up displays and selling hobby-related items in the Phillips Area Community Center, which is the old railroad machine shop. There will be food sales on site or in the train depot next door. Both buildings are located on Depot Street in downtown Phillips, a beautiful small town between Farmington and Rangeley.

Displays already booked that involve the GFMRRRC and individual club members include an operating HO layout from GFMRRRC, an operating n-scale layout, a large point-to-point On30 operating layout, and a static display of locomotives. Other displays and vendors that have been announced are the Patch King with hats and the Sandy River Railroad with memorabilia, including collectors' mugs.

There is still room for more vendors and model railroad enthusiasts who would like to set up a display and/or sell hobby-related items in the old railroad machine shop. Tables and chairs are provided. The first table is free and subsequent tables are \$10 each. Displays and vendor tables may be set up the day of the event or the day before. The room has a large space with plenty of parking for everyone. To participate with a display or as a vendor, contact Pam Matthews at pam15river@gmail.com

The Sandy River and Rangeley Lakes Railroad is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, tax-exempt foundation dedicated to the preservation and restoration of one of the original two-foot narrow gauge railroads that were unique to the state of Maine. This railroad, located in the mountainous region

of Franklin County, was the longest of the five two-foot railways that once served the state. The SR&RL is hoping to expand its schedule to operate every weekend this July and August. Crew availability is a concern and they would love to attract more volunteers for train and gift shop service to make it possible. For more information about the railroad and about volunteer opportunities, visit their website www.srri-rr.org



For more information about the Phillips Model Railroad and Hobby Show, check their website at www.phillipspacc.org (That stands for Phillips Area Community Center, which used to be the old Sandy River & Rangeley Lakes Railroad's machine shop, right across from the old depot). You'll see an old photo of the train yard on their About Us page. Click on Events and scroll down. A copy of the flyer for the Phillips Model Rail Fair & Hobby Show is about the third item down on their Events calendar.

This is a great opportunity for a road trip to a scenic area of Maine within two hours of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club. You can enjoy the model railroad displays, the town's Fall Fest activities, and your ride on the Sandy River & Rangeley Lakes narrow gauge railroad.

By Sharon Barber

MEET THE MEMBERS
John L. Middleton, Jr.



New member John Middleton is an active member in more than one railroad-related organization. As a resident of Kennebunkport, John volunteers at the Seashore Trolley Museum and distributes literature and information at activities such as the National Train Day in Brunswick and at train shows such as ours. He earned his Streetcar Operator license in 1989 and has become an Instructor/Inspector at the trolley museum. He is also a member of the Maine Garden Railroad Society and helps with their Christmas display at the Maine Mall in South Portland from November through December. He lived in Massachusetts for many years and is still a member of the North Shore Model Railroad Club in Wakefield. He noted that it takes 30 to 40 minutes less to get to the Great Falls Model Railroad Club than it does to get to the North Shore Model Railroad Club in Wakefield, Massachusetts.

At the age of 10, John received his first model train, a Lionel set. He later learned that his grandfather had worked on the Lehigh Valley Railroad. He has been interested in railroading ever since. John has a G-gauge point-to-point 13-foot long modular "Time Saver" layout on which he uses a card system to spot and pick up cars.

John and his wife Marjorie were married for 65 years—a great achievement! She died last year in September. They had four boys and there are four grandchildren. John grew up in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and joined the United States Army Air Corps pilot program in 1944 late in World War II. When the pilot program was discontinued in 1945, he was discharged and went on to Amherst College where he graduated in 1949.

After graduation, John joined a company which specialized in vacuum technology. He worked in the physics department, where he received his first patent on a product used in the high vacuum industry. He also worked on technology used to make vacuum tubes and light bulbs.

He later worked on developing and testing instruments involved in the aircraft industry. As liquid fueled rockets were coming to the fore he became involved with measuring the quantities of rocket fuel tanks on NASA spacecraft. In order to know the amount of fuel that is available, it needs to be measured. The technology necessary to do this is contained inside the fuel tanks. As the first lunar Lander left the Orbiter, when the gauges were turned on, the meter indicated that the tanks were empty.

Since the tanks were suspended in space, John quickly realized that the liquid in the tanks could not be measured because of weightlessness. The lunar module had to be decelerated so the fuel could settle to the bottom of the tank and be measured.

As a physicist, John is the closest thing we have to a rocket scientist in the club. Thank you, John, for becoming part of our organization.

By Paul Lodge

HO LAYOUT SUMMER SCHEDULE
WORK SESSIONS ONLY

Since the HO Layout is shut down for construction and cleanup, there will be no operating sessions in June or July. A lot of work will take place during the HO work sessions every Saturday morning and every Wednesday night.



Future Master Modelers are encouraged to help during these work sessions and will have an opportunity to develop their skills while working on the layout. The HO layout will be in shape for an operating session for all members in August and in full operation for the TrainFest on August 19.



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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

August 19

Train Fest at GFMRRC

September 30

**Sandy River & Rangeley Lakes
Railroad Show, Phillips**

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
Please note Summer Schedule changes below

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

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

Summer Schedule changes

HO Operating Sessions

HO Operating Sessions canceled for June & July

Family Night at Governor's Restaurant

- postponed until September 7

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

