

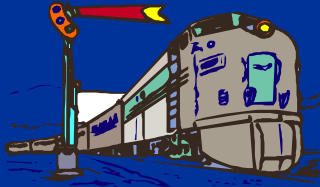


Members since June 1988

# The Signal



July Edition  
2017



Signal indicates **STOP AT OUR NEXT MEETING July 20, 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 July28, 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 \$102.00  
Last month: \$ 30.00

**Used Printer Cartridges**

Total Last Year \$ 350  
YTD: \$ 40.00  
Last month: \$ 10.00

**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!**

**SEVENTH ANNUAL TRAIN FEST**

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club will celebrate the Lewiston/Auburn Balloon Festival in August with our seventh annual Train Fest. The club will be open on Saturday, August 19, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Paper hot-air balloons with various designs will decorate the skies above every railroad layout, and a scavenger hunt will encourage people to go into each room to find specific hot-air balloons. Governor's Restaurant has donated balloons which will be suspended from the ceiling as hot air balloons with a peanut butter cup in each basket, and these will be used as prizes.

As they enter the club for the Train Fest, children will write their names on small paper hot air balloons and add them to a painted backdrop scene. The younger children will enjoy playing with toy trains on the play rug and with the wooden Brio train set on the special layout built at a child's height. In the G-Gauge room, they can enjoy Thomas the Tank Engine and the engine named Percy as it pulls another train on the trestle above Thomas. Tickets can be purchased to play the Balloon Bag Toss and the Round House Roulette game and to become a Guest Engineer on the HO layout. The traditional Bubble Blast will be held outdoors, weather permitting.

Club members are asked to help on Saturday for a few hours or all day by selling tickets, running trains, and supervising layouts and games.



Please publicize the event by posting and distributing the colorful flyers available at the club and with email and FaceBook messages to your friends and family.

Admission is \$3; children 12 and under are admitted free. Tickets for Guest Engineers, face-painting, and games with prizes can be purchased at the door at \$1 each or 7 tickets for \$5.

By Paul Lodge





Member  
#076805 00  
Since 1988

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



**MICHAEL PAINE**  
July 26, 1958 – June 26, 2017

Mike Paine died on June 26 after heart surgery in Portland. Our sympathies are with his wife Tami and all of their family members. Mike had been a member of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club for less than two years, but his impact was felt through the many club activities in which he and Tami participated and the many events with which they helped as a team. Mike and Tami attended the Model Railroad-ing class together in the fall of 2015 and immediately became active members of the club. They were always smiling and cheerful.

Mike was born in Lewiston and graduated from Edward Little High School. He worked at St. Mary's d'Y-ouville Pavilion for 33 years. He met Tami at St. Mary's Hospital while they were both working there. They were married for nearly three years. Between the two of them, they have five daughters and seven grandchildren.

In the 2015 Model Railroading Class, Mike and Tami created the Big Rock Candy Mountain Module that was part of the club's large modular layout at the Mt. Ararat Train Shows in November and April. They enjoyed help-

ing there as well as at the Train Fest in August, the ExTRAINaganza in November, and the Hobo Holiday in May. They helped at many of the train club's Family Nights at Governor's Restaurant, usually coming directly from work. In the fall of 2015, they helped Paul Lodge host the Maine Railroad Tour at his home in West Minot. Together they carried the Great Falls Model Railroad Club banner in the Greene Village Day Parade in 2015 and in the Lewiston-Auburn Balloon Festival Parade in 2016. For the Hobo Holiday in May last year, they dressed in special hobo outfits Tami had created from clothes at Goodwill. Tami had to work this year, but Mike and their granddaughter came to run the Fish Pond and stayed nearly all day.

Mike was interested in trains his whole life. He spent many hours as a child looking out his bedroom window to watch the trains go by his house in Auburn. At the age of nine he received his first Lionel train and created train layouts whenever possible. Mike and Tami had "His and Hers" HO train layouts



**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.



**LIONEL LAYOUT OPEN HOUSE**

Joe Landry has invited all members of the GFMRRRC to tour his amazing Lionel layout in Lewiston this Saturday, July 8, starting at 1:00 p.m.

Joe Landry lives at 19 Orestis Way in Lewiston, about a mile north of Bates College. From Bates College, take either Central Avenue or College Street. Orestis Way connects the two streets about a mile north of Bates College.

connected by a tunnel under their basement stairs and shared the progress and events on their Facebook page. Mike created his layout, called Howard Pond Junction, to represent his grandparents' camp, where he spent many fun-filled summers.

His other hobbies and interests included hunting, fishing, camping, traveling, lighthouses, nature, and playing old country music classics on his keyboard while Tami played the guitar. As a sports fan, he loved the Patriots, the Red Sox and the Bruins.

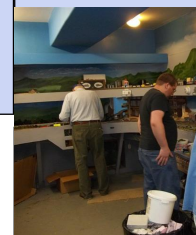
When Tami was asked to interview club members and write articles about them for the "Meet the Members" feature of The Signal, she agreed to profile herself and Mike. Much of the information in this article was included in her first column in April of 2016.

We will all miss Mike and are grateful for having known him and for his help in making the model railroad club events memorable.





**MEETING MINUTES OF  
June 15, 2017**



**HO LAYOUT  
UPDATE**

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

Vice-President Whitethunder McBride opened the meeting in the absence of President Jerry Johnston. It was announced that **Jerry Johnston** has resigned as president, and **Whitethunder McBride** is now president.

Thunder asked **Jay Calnan** to lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made and accepted to approve the Secretary's report as published in the Signal.

**Owen Buck** gave the Treasurer's Report, which was approved as given.

**Darin Long** reported that new track will be laid this week as part of the renovation on the HO Division layout. **Ken Nettleship** noted that there will not be any work sessions on the G-Gauge Division layout this summer.

The Executive Committee approved having St. Hilaire Roofing repair the roof. He still needs to be notified about the club's decision. Darin Long reported that there is still no cost estimate on the new storage building to be built in the dock area.

When asked about the work on improving the drainage system, Darin suggested that the project be postponed until the fall because of the clay under the parking lot area. The idea of a selecting a single month to have all dues collected was discussed. No motion has been made, but there was general agreement that this could simplify dues collection and save money from sending out notices. Using the month of July as the due date was suggested as it is the half-way point of the year and a time when we do not have fund-raising activities. It has been suggested that the club truck be put on Craig's List. Larry Cannon has experience with using Craig's List, and he will be asked to do it.

Since Whitethunder McBride is now president, an election will need to be held to fill the vacant Vice-President position. Club members were asked if there were any volunteers, and **Mike Meserve** indicated his interest.

**Paul Lodge** reported that the editors of Lewiston/Auburn Metro Magazine are interested in publishing an article about the Great Falls Model Railroad Club. We will be contacted later about setting up a time and date for a reporter and photographer to come to the club to discuss preparations for the article.

**Joe Landry** has invited club members to see his layout on Saturday, July 8, starting at 1 p.m.

What's on Your Boxcar Workbench? Members of the HO Division briefly explained the new computer system for controlling trains. They plan to do a more extensive explanation at the July club meeting.

Owen Buck showed a ten-minute Power Point and video program of the funicular on which he

rode in Scotland last month.

Jay Calnan exhibited two train sets which were donated to the club by one of his friends. They can be used as raffle items at the EXTRAINaganza.

Drawings for the Attendance Prize and 50/50 were made. **Art Letourneau** won the Attendance Prize and selected one of the hats available. Darin Long won the 50/50 Raffle.

The meeting adjourned.

By Paul Lodge



**Jerry Johnston resigned in May as President of the GFMRRC for personal reasons. He will continue to serve the club in many capacities, including on the Executive Committee as Past President and at our special events as the Hobo Chef.**



**Whitethunder McBride, former Vice President, is now the club President.**

The HO layout is being modified by the HO committee with help from several others. The section of track from the Warehouse District to the Wilder Approach has been pulled up and is being replaced with code 100 track. When completed, there will be two main track lines instead of one. This new double track will include the following areas: the Warehouse District, the Swamp Area by the dispatch room (which will have more revisions later), Mechanic Falls, Riverton North, Riverton South, and the Wilder Approach. All of these areas from the Warehouse District to Riverton South will be done prior to the Train Fest on August 19, and the layout will be operable for this event.

Larry Cannon has installed a new double track bridge and a single track bridge over the river in the area between the Riverton sections. He has also modified the road bridge and redone the landscape to accommodate the bridges. Paul Lodge has started painting the new backdrop.

These changes will allow us to have more room to store and stage rolling stock in and before the Riverton area. We will also put in an Oil Tank Farm and a coal yard near the Swamp Area. The new double track will provide a better "ease of operation" when operating trains on the layout.



Mike Meserve has submitted a plan for some changes in the Lower Lewiston area and this proposal can be seen on Face Book. The plan has been approved by the HO committee and will be started when the changes that are now in process are completed.

Major changes by the dispatch room are in the planning stages. One suggestion is to be able to see the helix behind the mountain work.

Anyone wishing to help with the renovations is welcome to join us at all work sessions. Juniors are included in this invitation. We can use people of all skill levels for projects from soldering track to sweeping up and everything in between. Work sessions are held every Wednesday night from 6:00 to 8:00 and every Saturday morning from 8:00 to noon.

Thanks to everyone who has spent so much time and effort to improve the HO model railroad layout.

By Thunder McBride

MEET THE MEMBERS  
MIKE MESERVE



Mike Meserve has been a member of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club for the past two years and is an active member of the HO group.

Mike was born in Lewiston and grew up in Sabattus. He graduated from Oak Hill High School and currently works at Carbonite,

providing technical support to international customers with Business Grade Products and other advanced software. Mike was raised by parents who were auto mechanics and he was fascinated with cars, trucks, and anything that was powered. His other passions were LEGO, computers, and anything based on science and/or technology. He had a train set when he was younger, but he didn't connect real trains and modeling until much later. He grew up playing with train sets which he designed and built from Lego. He likes the Technic line for the complexities they offer. After he started work, those pastimes subsided; but he has now started to collect LEGO sets again. He is also into PC gaming. His current interest in HO started with a used Bachmann set he purchased at the GFMRRRC April show a few years ago, and he now has a large mixed freight train that he could run. He does not have track at home, but he just received a module from the club and hopes to have it upgraded and ready by the fall show. He often brings his own cars to GFMRRRC shows and runs them on the club layout. Mike is a fan of both Union Pacific and the local railway Guilford. When he gets his own home, he plans to have a separate building just for model railroading. Mike was recently approved to work on an area just beyond the Lewiston Lower section and is very excited about this project and about completing this entire part of the HO layout. He would eventually like to work on larger scale models such as G or even larger such as 7.5 or 7.25-inch rail models.

Mike currently resides in Auburn with his two cats and considers them his kids. Smokie is a grey and white female shorthair. Snowball has long white hair with large orange patches.

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club is lucky to have members like Mike who contribute to the success of the club by working on the layouts and participating in club events and activities.

CAIRNGORM, SCOTLAND  
By Owen Buck

This past May I was fortunate to go on a tour of Scotland. This was not a railroad-themed tour, but it did include a day in Cairngorm National Park in the Scottish Highlands, and a ride on the Cairngorm Mountain Railway.

This is a funicular railway, the only one in Scotland and the highest one in the UK. It opened in 2001, intended primarily to transport skiers, but it runs year-round. Summer-time sight-seers, however, may not leave the upper station due to concerns about heavy foot traffic damaging the alpine environment. Hiking up trails adjacent to the railway is popular, and anyone who has walked up the mountain can explore the area at will.



The railway consists of two tram cars on a single track, with a passing loop in the center. Base station is at an elevation of 2,083 ft. above sea level; the upper terminus, Ptarmigan Station, is at 3,599 ft. The length of the railway is about 1 1/4 miles.



It is unusual to have clear weather in the Scottish Highlands, but this day we were lucky! The views were fantastic.

By Owen Buck

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



**AUGUST TRIP  
TO TRAINS IN THE WOODS**

Bryce and I are inviting WW&F and GFMRRRC club members, families and friends to join us on a special outing this summer to see the trains in the woods, two abandoned locomotives which were part of the Eagle Lake and West Branch Railroad. They are located about 60 miles northeast of Greenville and about 20 miles above the upper part of Moosehead Lake. Because some people can only go on weekdays and others only on weekends, I have chosen two different dates - August 15-17 and August 25-27. If there is enough interest, we will make two trips.

Called "The Train to Nowhere," the Eagle Lake and West Branch Railroad was used from 1927 to 1933 to carry logs on a 13-mile route from Eagle Lake to Umbazooksus Lake, which connects to the West Branch of the Penobscot River through Chesuncook Lake. The logs were then floated down the Penobscot River for use in Maine lumber mills. When this system was no longer profitable, the railroad was abandoned and its two locomotives remained on the site. In the 1960's the area was deeded to the state of Maine to become part of the Allagash Wilderness, and the Allagash Alliance has created paths into the site. Terry Harper, who led the project to reconstruct a solid roadbed on which to set the two locomotives upright, spoke at the GFMRRRC meeting in April 2011. In late July of 2011, eleven club members, spouses and friends made the trip to see the abandoned locomotives for ourselves. Bryce and I have been there twice since then. The locomotives are about the same, but they have done work on the tramway.

The Umbazooksus campground, where the GFMRRRC group stayed on our trip, is the one where we plan to stay this year as well. Instead of making reservations, it is first come, first serve; and there are only about six sites at this campground. It is generally quiet during the week, and last year Bryce and I were the only ones in the campground. The weekend can be very busy, but there is another campground (not as nice) that we can use as a backup. Both campsites have outhouses. Bring your own drinking water. The campsites are located on Umbazooksus Stream, which is the northeast shore of Chesuncook Lake. You can find it on page 49 of the Delorme map of Maine in section 5A.

The trains are located on a piece of land between Chamberlain Lake and Eagle Lake, which is shown on map 55 5C. It takes about an hour to walk to the trains over distinct trail but unsteady footing. The only other way to get there is by watercraft. Bryce has hiked the trail twice and I have done it three times, including the 2011 GFMRRRC trip.

The plan will be to drive up the first day and meet at the Indian Hill Store in Greenville at noon. From there, we will drive roughly another two hours over mostly good dirt roads. The roads are suitable for any type of vehicle, but logging trucks use the same roads so beware. Once we get to camp, we will set up tents, kitchen, etc., have supper and spend the evening around the camp fire.

The second day we will drive to the parking area at the



**MODEL RAILROADING CLASS -  
STARTS 9/5/2017**

The next eight-week Great Falls Model Railroad class starts Tuesday, September 5, at 6:30 p.m. at our clubhouse at 144 Mill Street.

The Auburn Adult Education program advertises the model railroading class in their brochure. Students can register for the class in person at the Adult Education office at Edward Little High School or by calling 784-9220. They may also register at the club on the first night of the class.

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club has been teaching the class for more than twenty years during both the fall and spring semesters. Many former class members are now members of the club, including some of the young people who are in the Future Master Model Railroaders.

Instead of having students build modules, each class will 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. This new class format was introduced during the spring semester. Both new and experienced modelers found it was worthwhile. 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.

By Paul Lodge

head of the trail and hike to the trains. We will bring a picnic lunch and spend several hours there. Bring good hiking footwear, bug spray, drinking water, camera and a good walking stick. We will return to our campsite in the afternoon and relax around the camp fire again that evening.

The third day we will pack up and head home. We like to stop in Greenville and check out the local stores and restaurants.

I will provide the kitchen supplies and plan to prepare the meals. People can contribute either food or money to cover the cost of food. There is an access fee at the

North Woods gate, which can be paid with cash or check but not credit card. Rates can be found at [www.northmainewoods.org](http://www.northmainewoods.org). If I'm reading the chart correctly, camping for two nights and using the location for three days is \$54 per person for people between the ages of 15 and 69. For adults 70 or over, day use is free and it costs \$24 for the two nights of camping. Camping and day use are free for those who are under 15.

If you are interested, contact Nancy Weeks at [mcgiver@tds.net](mailto:mcgiver@tds.net) or cell 207-557-3302.

By Nancy Weeks

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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GFMRRC  
2017 Special Events

August 19

**Train Fest at GFMRRC**

**8 AM to 4 PM**

**Your help is needed!**

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

**Future Model Railroaders**

Will not meet July and August

