



Members since June 1988

The Signal



August Edition
2017



Signal indicates **STOP AT OUR NEXT MEETING August 17, 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 September 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 \$172.00
Last month: \$ 73.00

Used Printer Cartridges

Total Last Year \$ 350
YTD: \$ 50.00
Last month: \$ 2.00

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!**



This year the Train Fest will take place on Saturday, August 19, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The start time is earlier than usual because many people come to Lewiston and Auburn to watch the balloon launchings early in the morning. Opening the club at 8 a.m. gives families a place to visit as they prepare to celebrate the other activities of the day.

Last year Bryce and Nancy Weeks drove the parade locomotive in the Balloon Festival parade while Mike and Tami Paine carried the GFMRR banner in front of them. We hope to have the locomotive available again this year to help promote the club to the thousands of people who come to the parade.

As they enter, children will write their names on small paper hot air balloons and push pin them to a scene painted on a sheet of homasote. After they watch Thomas the Tank Engine and his friend Percy on the special layout in the G-gauge room, the youngest children will be able to play with toy trains on a play rug and on the Brio set.

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. Gov-



ernor's Restaurant has donated balloons which will be suspended from the meeting room as hot

**SEVENTH ANNUAL TRAIN FEST
Saturday, August 19**

By Paul Lodge
During the annual Lewiston/Auburn Balloon Festival for the past six years, the Great Falls Model Railroad Club has opened its doors to the public with our Train Fest.

air balloons with a peanut butter cup in each basket, and these will be used as prizes for completing the scavenger hunt.

Visitors will be greeted with many changes to the layouts, including the impressive new G-gauge trestle. Extensive renovations and improvements on the HO layout began in May and will continue for many months, but the layout will be fully operational for the Train Fest, including the new double track.



Tickets will be sold for those who want to run trains on the HO layout as Guest Engineers and for the games which require prizes, the Roundhouse Roulette and the Balloon Bag Toss. Weather permitting, the traditional Bubble Blast will be free for families on the lawn outside the building. Club members are asked to help with publicity by distributing the colorful flyers to stores and other locations to notify families of the activity. Facebook and email messages also help get the word out.

Club members will be needed on Friday, beginning at 10, to help with decorations and setting up, especially with blowing up the balloons used to create the hot air balloons to hang in the meeting room. During the Train Fest on Saturday, members are urged to help for all or part of the day by supervising games and other activities, working in the kitchen, and running trains.

Admission is \$3; club members and their families, as well as children 12 and under, are admitted free. Tickets for Guest Engineers and for games with prizes can be purchased at the door for \$1 each or 7 tickets for \$5.



By Paul Lodge



Member
#076805 00
Since 1988



DICK CLARK'S OPEN HOUSE SEPTEMBER 9

Dick Clark's 19th annual Garden Railroad Open House on September 9 is part of the Greene Village Day activities again this year. The parade through Greene Village starts at 9:00 a.m. at the town office and goes to the school, where most of the other interesting activities take place. Dick Clark's Toot n' Chug Rail Lines operations start at 10 a.m. at his home at 23 Barrel Shop Road in Greene, and his Open House lasts until 6 p.m. The charge for admission is one smile per person.

Dick's garden railroad features both steam and diesel operations. The track runs through a wooded area behind his house and includes a babbling brook. Dick has designed and made the buildings, and the trains run through some imaginative scenes, including Mud Slide Pond and a drive-in movie theater. His wife Sharon has created and hand made all of the people who live, work and play along the route as well as those who ride on the trains.

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.



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

GFMRRC TRUCK FOR SALE

Club members can help with fund-raising by spreading the word that the Great Falls Model Railroad Club truck is for sale. This is a 1997 Chevy, Model 3500, with six tires and two axles, which has been driven for 133,000 miles. The gross weight is 11,000 pounds. It uses gas rather than diesel fuel. The tires, drive train, engine, and transmission are all good. It has a new starter and battery. The frame needs two cross members reinforced or replaced in order to pass inspection. For more information, call Jerry Johnston at 207-966-2932.



By Jerry Johnston

CLUB VOTES FOR NEW STORAGE SHED

At the July monthly meeting, the Great Falls Model Railroad Club voted to purchase a new storage building and have it placed in the dock area near the entrance to the club. The building will be approximately 8 feet wide and 18 feet long. It will be used to store excess inventory and the club modules between shows.

The building will be built off site and hauled to the club where Carl Butland and other club members will help install the building with a proper foundation.

The items which will go into the storage building are currently stored inside the club house and limit the space we have available for special events. This topic has been on the club's agenda for several months. It will be a relief to have the entire club building available for all activities again.

By Paul Lodge

**MEETING MINUTES OF
July 20, 2017**

HO LAYOUT (Con't)

A Power Point slide show which included club activities in June and July and a memorial tribute to Mike Paine was shown from 6:45 to 7:00 p.m.

President Whitethunder McBride opened the meeting and 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. Owen explained and answered questions about the new single-month payment system for annual dues which will begin in January 2018.

Ed Webb reported that he is still learning the procedures needed for utilizing the computer for the library. Files are being organized for easy access.

Darin Long said that much of the new HO track has been laid, and that wiring is proceeding well. The layout will be ready for the Train Fest on August 19.

President Whitethunder McBride explained that the new storage building will be built off site and brought in to be installed in the dock area. It will cost approximately \$4,300. A motion was made and seconded to purchase the building and have it installed.

In the fall, an attempt will be made to fix the water leaks in the basement by excavating the outside of the building and putting in a drainage system.

Owen Buck is in the process of obtaining a replacement copy of the title for the truck so that it can be sold. (NOTE: The club has now received the replacement copy of the title.)

Carl Butland reported that the contact names in the fire department lock box in the front of the building have been updated. In case of an emergency, three people who live near the club house have volunteered to be available as contacts. They are Ed Webb, Carl Butland, and Darin Long.

Rita Vatter requested an opportunity to talk to the twenty club members at the meeting. She explained that she and Jim are leaving the club and gave her reasons.

President Whitethunder asked for volunteers to be the Company Store manager and a person to be responsible for returning Bottles for Basics. He also explained that new locks will be installed and new keys given as needed.

Kevin LaMarre gave an excellent presentation on selective compression. For his layout, he is developing a railroad yard based on the yard in Waterville. He showed pictures of buildings and track layout. He explained why he selected certain buildings and how he would depict them on his layout. He showed a building he has already constructed using selective compression to reduce the actual size of the building to something he can use for his layout. At the conclusion of his presentation, club members gave him enthusias-

tic applause.

A second presentation was given by Mike Meserve and Darin Long on the new computer system to be used by the dispatchers during HO operating sessions. They demonstrated how the system will work for assigning trains and keeping track of their progress on the HO layout.

Ed Leslie won the 50/50 raffle and Bill Meehan selected a rubber mallet as his attendance prize.



HO LAYOUT IN JULY

Progress on the HO renovations has continued on Wednesday nights and Saturday mornings throughout the month of July. In June the section of track from the Warehouse District to the Wilder Approach was pulled up to be replaced with code 100 track and to create two track lines instead of one. This double track will provide a better ease of operation on the layout, and the changes will allow more room to store and stage rolling stock before and in the Riverton area.

On July 8, several people worked on the double track project. Thunder McBride worked on the main lines between Riverton Junction and the southern-most point where track had been taken up. This completed the roadbed in that area to the switch with Cave Junction. Carl Butland worked the mainline tracks north of Riverton Junction to the bridges in Riverton. He also tied in to the south end of the Riverton Siding to the main at the Junction. Guy H. Lovell III bounced between the two as a gopher.

Darin Long, Mike Meserve and John Middleton worked between Riverton and the Warehouse District. They got the roadbed down and worked in the switches. Eric Long was a lone wolf working on the Thurston Branch, and he finished some track work.

On Wednesday, July 12, the track work was completed. Once the power is put in, the train can run from Obie to Riverton and the main loop for the Train Fest on August 19.

By the end of the Work Session on Saturday, July 15, progress for Ayer had gone quite well. Travis Johnson, Whitethunder McBride and John Middleton worked on the track and roadbed, which is now complete from the main line to Ayer. On Wednesday they hoped to have the track in without issue. Darin Long has been churning away on the custom handmade switch for the warehouse district. Thunder will work on finishing the track in that area around Darin's work. Carl Butland was pretty much done on the track in Riverton and had started to tinker on the switches. There was less track to lay, and the group hoped to

be working exclusively on the power within two weeks.

Darin Long worked on the frog and point rails offsite so they would be ready to install on Wednesday night. The hard part then left was the throw bar. A tortoise was needed on this switch right away as the plan was to isolate only one end of the frog. The Work Session on July 22 achieved success! The main line was connected between Riverton and Wilder. The number one main was connected and wired with a locomotive test completed by our president, Whitethunder McBride. The test loco was Southern Allegheny USRA 2-8-8-2 #603. Carl Butland worked on a few tortoise switch machines and completed one double and two singles. Darin Long was still working on scratchbuilding in place a curved turnout at CP ROY. Eric Long was almost ready to do a test run on the main by Thurston, but he found a crossover short between two power districts that will delay the progress.

On July 26 the Thurston branch and mainline track in that area became operational. The crossed connection was found and fixed. The mainline is complete as single track, pending wiring of feeders. The hand-built switch for the main will be finished this week and will allow for full double-track operation when feeders are done.

Darin has continued working on the switch and surrounding area. Once the switch is complete, there will be a little track left to lay around it. Carl Butland has installed more switches with the tortoises, and other work has been done.

During the Work Session on July 29, John Middleton added track and roadbed to the new Oil Depot area with only one siding left to do. He also painted the base coat grey in the same area. Thunder filled in many open areas that needed track ties and put in some missing tracks that had not yet been installed. Larry Cannon also installed some track at the bend near the dispatch room. Carl Butland concentrated on getting the tortoises working.

The major renovations should be completed in time for an Operating Session for all club members on August 12. This will give us time to work out any problems before Guest Engineers use the HO layout during the Train Fest on August 19.

By Whitethunder McBride



**SR&RL SHOW IN PHILLIPS
ON SEPTEMBER 30**

**Maine Model RR Tour
September 16, 2017**

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 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 Train Show will coincide with the Sandy River Business Association's annual Fall Fest. Trains will be running all day on the SR&RL, including their annual Ghost Train that evening at dusk.



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. The GFMRRRC and individual club members will have operating HO and n-scale layouts, a large point-to-point On30 operating layout, and a static display of locomotives. Sandy River Railroad memorabilia, including collectors' mugs, will be available. 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.

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. For more information about the railroad and about volunteer opportunities, visit their website www.srrl-rr.org

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



The 2017 Maine Model Railroad Tour will be held on Saturday, September 16. This year the free self-guided tour will be in coastal Maine, mostly in the US Route One Corridor between Brunswick and Rockland. The tour will include a variety of model railroad layouts in different scales, gauges, states of construction, and styles of scenery.

Anyone who wishes may visit the layouts. There is no charge, and membership or pre-registration is not required. As the date of the tour approaches, maps and detailed descriptions of the layouts will be posted on their website, mainemodelrrtour.com. The organizers strongly urge all visitors to review these descriptions in advance to plan your itinerary and prioritize the layouts that are of most interest to you so you will have more time to spend at those layouts.

To maximize your model railroad experience, consider carpooling with others. You can talk "trains" while in the car and you can share observations while visiting the layouts.



THE TRAIN TO NOWHERE

Railfans who enjoy hiking and camping are invited to join Nancy and Bryce Weeks on a special outing to see the remnants of the Eagle Lake & West Branch Railroad, two abandoned locomotives which were part of "The Train to Nowhere" used from 1927 to 1933 to carry logs on a 13-mile route between lakes leading to the Penobscot River. Located about 60 miles northeast of Greenville and about 20 miles above the upper part of Moosehead Lake, the area is now part of the Allagash Wilderness, and the Allagash Alliance has created paths to the site. From the parking area at the head of the trail, it takes about an hour to walk to the trains over a distinct trail with unsteady footing. In late July of 2011 Nancy was one of eleven club members, spouses and friends who made the trip to the abandoned locomotives. Bryce and Nancy have been there twice since then. Trips are planned on two different dates - August 15-17 and August 25-27. Bring good hiking footwear, bug spray, drinking water, camera and a good walking stick.

The plan is to drive up the first day and meet at the Indian Hill Store in Greenville at noon, then drive another two hours to the camping area over mostly good dirt roads. After setting up tents and eating supper, everyone will spend the evening around the campfire. On the second day the group will hike to the trains, bringing a picnic lunch. They will spend several hours there, returning to the campsite in the afternoon and again relaxing around the campfire in the evening. The third day everyone will pack up and head



home, with an optional stop in Greenville to check out local stores and restaurants.

Nancy will provide kitchen supplies and prepare the meals. People can contribute either food or money to cover the cost of food. The access fee at the North Woods gate can be paid with cash or check but not credit card. Cost for the three days and two nights is \$54 per person for those between the ages of 15 and 69; \$24 for ages 70 or over; and free for those who are under 15.

If you are interested in going, contact Nancy at mcgiver@tds.net or cell 207-557-3302.

By Nancy Weeks



MODEL RAILROADING CLASS STARTS 9/5/2017

The next eight-week Great Falls Model Railroading 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



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 9

**Dick Clark's Open House
Greene, 10am-6pm**

September 16

**Maine Model RR Tour
See article**

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

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

