



Member since June 1988

**NEXT MEETING
MAY 17
6:30 p.m.**

Have a story
you want to
share?

Send it to the
Editor today
and you may be
published!

*Bring a friend to our
next meeting.*

DO YOU WANT TO WIN?

Attendance & 50/50 prizes are drawn at every Meeting, on the 3rd Thursday of the month.

**YOU HAVE TO BE
PRESENT TO WIN!**

DONATIONS

Bottles for Basics:

- ◆ LAST YEAR \$712.00
- ◆ YEAR TO DATE: \$559.00
- ◆ THIS MONTH:
- ◆ \$77.00

**PRINTER
CARTRIDGES:**

Total last year: \$350.00
YTD: \$107.00
Last Month: \$12.00

THE SIGNAL

THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

VOLUME 21. ISSUE 12

MAY 2018



ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS AT MAY MEETING By Paul Lodge

The May meeting of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club is the annual meeting at which the new officers for the following year are selected. The Nominating Committee of Tami Paine, Rick James, and Carl Butland has presented the following slate of officers for May 2018 to May 2019:

The following nominations are unopposed: President, Whitethunder McBride; Vice President, Mike Meserve; Secretary, Paul Lodge; Treasurer, Owen Buck. For the position of Librarian/Archivist, the nominees are Terry King and Ed Webb. Three directors will be chosen from the following four nominees: Roger Allen, Rick James, Darin Long, and

SATURDAY, MAY 19 SURPLUS INVENTORY SALE By Larry Cannon

On Saturday, May 19, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. the Great Falls Model Railroad Club is hosting its first Spring Surplus Inventory Sale at the club house at 144 Mill Street in New Auburn. Jerry Johnston, Larry Cannon, Ed Webb, and others have recently acquired various model railroad items from retirees and estates. Model railroad equipment from these donations and purchases which cannot be used on our layout will be available for club members and the general public to buy during the day on May 19. Club members are needed to help set up and sell. If you are available to help with sales on May 19 or with setting up on Thursday or Friday before the sale, please contact Larry Cannon or Jerry Johnston to check with them about times.

Help is needed on Thursday, May 17, to set up tables and move the inventory from the shed and from vehicles into the club. The set up for Saturday will need to be done on Friday. On Saturday we need several people to help sell items and two people to serve as cashiers. After the sale, we will need help clearing tables and repacking unsold inventory. This needs to be a supervised activity so that everything ends up in properly labeled boxes before it goes back in the shed to be ready for the next show or sale. With our current volume of inventory, we do not have time to resort items after every show or sale.

The club is lucky in a way to have this problem, but if we do not control it, profitability of surplus assets and members' willingness to volunteer to help will suffer. Surplus inventory sales at the club and at shows have become our biggest source of revenue. The sales effort needs the support of about a dozen members who are willing and able to help on a regular basis. The club needs people to help pick up railroad items from sales and donations offered to the club. We also need members to help determine what the club can use and what should be sold. Organizing inventory and preparing it for sales can be a full-time job; but with enough help from members, these sales can continue to be profitable without overwhelming anyone.



As part of Touch a Train Day, visitors can sit in a diesel locomotive cab and ride the caboose "hop."

TOUCH A TRAIN DAY 2018

By Richard Glueck of NESCO and Paul Lodge

Members of the 470 Restoration Project have announced that their fifth Touch a Train Day will be held on Saturday, June 9, from 9:00 to 12:30 at the Washington Junction Yard, Railroad Siding Road, Hancock, Maine. The event will be held rain or shine and is a great time for families, children, and train lovers in general. Admission is free, but donations to restore Maine Central 470 will be gratefully accepted.

As part of Touch a Train Day, visitors can sit in a diesel locomotive cab and ride the caboose "hop." Explore railroad equipment, blow the whistle and ring the bell. Enjoy free Governor's cookies and treats. Hats and tee shirts will be available. Steam locomotive 470 has been taken apart for restoration, and this will be a chance to meet the 470 restoration crew and the crew of the Downeast Scenic Railroad.

The 470 is the largest surviving steam locomotive in New England. Built in 1924 by the American Locomotive Company in Schenectady, NY, the ALCO 4-6-2 locomotive was purchased by the Maine Central Railroad (MEC) exclusively for passenger service between Boston and Bangor. The 470 was the last steam locomotive to be operated by Maine Central Railroad. After 30 years of service, its final run on Sunday, June 13, 1954, was celebrated as "The Last Run for Steam." Maine Central discontinued all passenger service in Maine only six years later.

The MEC 470 had been on static display as a steam-era symbol near the Maine Central facilities in Waterville for the last half century, and it had badly deteriorated. In 2014 the New England Steam Corporation

(NESCO) was formed for the purpose of restoring the 470. In the summer of 2016, the 470 was disassembled and was moved from Waterville to the Washington Junction Yard of the Downeast Scenic Railroad on August 8 through 10. It is now in special housing at the Washington Junction Yard in Hancock, near Ellsworth, for further restoration and eventual use by the Downeast Scenic Railroad in Ellsworth. The New England Steam Corporation estimates it will take 10 years to restore the 470.

After Touch a Train events on June 9, the Downeast Scenic Railroad will have a special round trip from the Washington Junction Yard to Ellsworth. Boarding begins at 11:45. The train will leave at 12:30 from the Washington Junction Yard. After the 10-mile trip, which takes approximately 90 minutes, the train will return to Washington Junction. Tickets for this event and for all rides during the season are \$15 for adults and \$8 for children ages 3 to 12. There is no charge for children under 2 years of age if they are not occupying a separate seat.

The Downeast Scenic Railroad depot is located at 34 High Street, Ellsworth. From May 26 to Mid-October, there are two trips per day on Saturday and Sunday throughout the season, starting at the Ellsworth Depot and going to Washington Junction before returning to Ellsworth. Fmi: www.newenglandsteam.org and info@downeastscenicrail.org

DCC TRAINING CLINICS, MAY 19

The DCC Training Clinics presented by the HO Crew on Saturday, May 19, will have a unique format. Instead of the conventional highly structured presentation covering just one topic, this will be an ongoing clinic throughout the day explaining various aspects of DCC systems. HO crew members will share their experiences with DCC on the club layout and on their home layouts, providing in-depth answers to questions presented by guests.

Using the workroom and extensive DCC-equipped HO layout, the clinics will include explanations about installation of decoders, sound systems, programming engines, and consisting multiple locomotives. Club members will be available to answer other questions guests may have about DCC systems, and their answers may lead to further discussions and demonstrations of additional topics.

Whether you are new to DCC or want to learn to use DCC more effectively, this is an opportunity to ask questions and discover techniques and possibilities.

SPIKEY'S STATION: ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

By Paul Lodge

Spikey's Station, a new program for our youngest members, will begin on Saturday, May 5, at the railroad club from 9 a.m. to noon. (The second session is planned for June 2.) Tami Paine and her daughter, Tina Wyrick, hope to create one or two children's events each month, usually while parents, other adults, and older children in their families are participating in HO Operating Sessions downstairs. There is currently nothing appropriate for the younger children at that time. Spikey's Station, named for the club's mascot, is designed to fill that need.

The purpose of Spikey's Station is to focus on educating and engaging young children who may later become model railroad enthusiasts. As any parent can tell you, Thomas the Tank Engine and Disney's Chuggington series help bring a love of trains to small children. One of the goals is to encourage these early interests in trains while teaching about railroad history and, more importantly, safety around railroads.

Activities for the children may include story time, movie time, and craft time. They will use characters like Thomas the Tank Engine and his train friends; Chuggington; and the GFMRRRC mascot, Spikey. There may also be Polar Express and Hogwarts events as well as additional activities that club members suggest. Railroad safety presentations will feature Operation Lifesaver materials, including videos, activity books, and coloring books of "Sly Fox and Birdie." The Brio layout and several of the club's railroad games will be available. Light snacks will be provided, so parents are asked to let us know if a child has any food allergies, such as eggs, nuts, or chocolate.

Tami has 23 years of experience planning, developing, and presenting activities for people of all ages. Her daughter, Tina Wyrick, will help with the supervision and organization of Spikey's Station. Tina has a background in childhood education and five years' experience in childcare. Tami plans to report the



SUCCESSFUL TRAIN SHOW AT MT. ARARAT HIGH SCHOOL

About thirty 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 28. Members helped by unloading tables from the delivery truck on Friday afternoon and setting up the tables and modules. Others helped on Saturday morning by finishing the modular setup and tearing it down on Saturday afternoon, selling tickets at the door, operating the HO modular layout, and taking publicity pictures. A particularly profitable part of the show was the sale of surplus assets, thanks to those who set up and sold the items and carefully packed the remaining stock after the show. The help with advance publicity by many club members was an advantage, and paid attendance was nearly 350. Having a show with many helpers and a good reputation is extremely important.

In addition to the GFMRRRC HO layout, people enjoyed layouts by the Maine N-scale group (Maine Track), the Maine 3-Railers, Maine Garden Railway Society, and Southern Maine Model Railroad Club (SMMRC). The SMMRC is an HO club from Cumberland Center that was organized in 2016 to serve the Greater Portland area.

For the first time, The Great Falls Model Railroad Club set up its modular layout in the large lobby near the gymnasium. The goal was to prevent our DCC system from interfering electronically with other layouts that also use DCC systems. This also made room for about 15 more dealer tables, and all 130 tables were rented before the first of April. The lobby location was smaller than the one we have previously used in the gymnasium and it was estimated that only about half of the people who attended the show visited the GFMRRRC layout.

The U-Haul rental truck for transporting modules and surplus inventory sale items to the show was not ready on Friday at noon as expected. It was not available until 3 p.m. and then needed to be loaded and driven to Topsham. Even though the truck arrived three hours later than expected, a GFMRRRC crew was still at the high school to unload the modules and begin setting them up. On Saturday morning, the set up was finished and trains were running before the doors opened at 10 o'clock.

Food service was provided by the Mt. Ararat Sports Booster Club, and they were busy from before the show until shortly after noon.

It was been suggested that we adjust the open hours of the show to match current family routines. Many people arrived early and were ready to come into the building by 9:30 a.m. Approximately 75 percent of the people came before noon. After 12 o'clock the attendance dropped off considerably with almost no one coming after 2 p.m. Vendors who were surveyed about the possibility of a two-day show on Saturday and Sunday overwhelmingly rejected the idea by a vote of 34 to 9. It was noted that a new high school is scheduled to be built in time for the 2020 school year. The location of the current building will become a track and field sports facility.

Vendors left feeling as though they had a good day. The event was also a financial success for the club. The train show's success is based on the participation of many club members. For all those who helped, the club thanks you!



April Minutes by Paul Lodge

MEETING MINUTES OF April 19, 2018

In keeping with this year's new meeting schedule, a railroad video was shown from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. while club members were arriving for the monthly meeting. At 7:00 the Power Point slide show of club activities in March and April was shown.

President Whitethunder McBride opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Paul Lodge read the minutes of the April 12 Executive Committee meeting which included the following topics:

The club has received a request for a donation to the National Model Railroad Association. A motion was made and accepted to contribute \$60 to NMRA. Darin Long requested between \$500 and \$600 to buy sound systems for club locomotives. It was agreed that we would wait until after the Topsham show on April 28 when more money would be available.

It was recommended that two new books be added to the club's library: Joey Kelly's recently published book on the Belfast and Moosehead Lake Railroad and another new book about the Maine Central Railroad.

The issue of dogs in the building was discussed. This has become a problem at Operating Sessions and other club events. It was decided to treat each situation individually. If the dog becomes a nuisance, the owner will be asked to take it out of the building. Dogs on leashes create a tripping hazard and need to be watched. A dog policy item will be written to address the issue.

President McBride noted that the spring on the furnace room door still has not been fixed. Once that is done, the Auburn Fire Department can complete their inspection.

Carl Butland reported that the two entrance doors will be painted when the weather permits. The doors will be blue with gray trim.

At the Topsham show, Terry King will distribute a survey asking vendors if they would be interested in a two-day show—Saturday and Sunday.

After the Topsham show, an effort will be made to put additional shelves in the storage building. Because the club's modules take so much room, it was suggested that we purchase a second storage building. There was some discussion about where it would be placed on the grounds. Rick James said that he is acquainted with someone from Hope Haven who has a storage build-

ing on Mill Street not too far from the club. Rick will contact that person and see if it is possible to rent space in their building.

Additional building issues were discussed. The new security system will be postponed until later. Refinishing the upstairs floors needs to be scheduled and proper tools obtained.

Tami Paine has donated a locomotive in Mike Paine's memory. The locomotive is to be returned to Tami if the club decides to sell it. Decals will be made to add to the locomotive in memory of Mike Paine.

Tami suggested that a new committee be added to the club. The committee, called Spikey's Station, will focus on educating and engaging younger children who come to the club with parents or older brothers or sisters. There is currently nothing appropriate for the younger children. The committee intends to create children's programs and events that can be added to our club's offering during Saturday operating sessions. Some of the children's activities may include story time, movie time, craft time, train history, railroad safety, Polar Express and Hogwarts events, and any additional activities club members suggest. One of the goals is to sponsor at least one or two children's events each month. The Executive Committee enthusiastically endorsed Tami's suggestion and will help promote the events. A motion was made and accepted to approve the Children's Committee.

Board members suggested that the club should invest in an HO-scale Thomas the Tank Engine and a few passenger cars to be run by children on the HO layout. Procuring a Hogwarts locomotive was also suggested.

Rick James spoke about the concern for people who join the club and do not return. Rick has spoken about this project several times in the past. Rick was appointed to be Membership Director. He will attempt to follow up on new members and their interests and try to find out why members leave the club and don't return.

After the minutes of the Executive Committee were read, the meeting resumed. It was noted that all members are invited to come to meetings of the Modelers Forum on the fourth Thursday of each month. Bob Willard, who has been the leader of the Modelers Forum, is still recovering from his recent illness and expects to be at the April 26 meeting.

Darin Long reported for the HO Division that the loop for the young children is currently being worked on and that Jamie Robinson has hand-built some curved turnouts and hand-laid some track. The theme for the next operating session on April 21 will be locomotives used up to the 1963 era.

Paul Lodge noted that the Utility Team still has some openings for pledges of \$30 for the monthly water bill or \$150 for a month's electricity bill. Pledges of \$50 are also welcome and will be combined to make up the \$150 monthly electricity bill.

Tami Paine reported for the Nominating Committee for next year's slate of officers. The nominees are as follows:

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

President: Thunder McBride
 Vice President: Mike Meserve
 Secretary: Paul Lodge
 Treasurer: Owen Buck
 Librarian / Archivist: (choose one) Terry King;

Ed Webb

Directors: (need 3)
 Roger Allen
 Rick James
 Darin Long
 Eric Long

Terry King reported that 130 tables have been rented for the Topsham Show at Mt. Ararat High School. Because the club's modules will be in the lobby, space is available for 15 more vendor tables than in previous years. Members were reminded that tables will be arriving at the school at 4 o'clock on Friday afternoon and help is needed to set them up for the vendors.

It was noted that the corner modules need to be upgraded. Work will start on them after the Mt. Ararat show.

This year's train show in Phillips for the Sandy River and Rangeley Lakes Railroad will be on September 29 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Members were asked if they are interested in going. There was no response.

Mention was made about the Southern Maine University students who are creating a film, using our layout as a backdrop. They plan to give us a copy of their finished product.

The club has received a request from Fern St. Clair, the Activities Director of Russell Park Manor, to bring several of their residents to the club. Their group has been scheduled for Wednesday, June 13, from about 1:30 to 2:00. Stephanie Blomquist, who had previously been to the club as part of the Advocates for Children, would like to bring a group of 10 to 15 children, ages 4 to 8, for a tour of the club. Since they meet from 10 to noon on the first Sunday of each month, it was decided to invite them for Sunday, June 3. They plan to come from 11 to noon, and several club members have offered to be at the club to help them enjoy the experience.

The clinic for the evening was presented by Ed Webb. He talked about how to fix and maintain rolling stock. He displayed several items that require different techniques for improvement.

Terry King won the Attendance Prize and selected an NECR hat. Darin Long won the 50/50 raffle which was drawn by his brother, Eric.

The meeting adjourned.

TRAIN DAY AT BIDDEFORD LIBRARY

By Ron Czaja

On Friday, April 20, the McArthur Library in Biddeford held its first train day. About 55 teachers and children visited the train displays in the children's section of the library. Ron Czaja represented the Great Falls Model Railroad Club with a display of railroad memorabilia, scale boxcars, and briefcase layouts in Z, T, and TY scales. He also distributed Operation Lifesaver handouts, including key chains, rulers, coloring books and activity books. John Middleton, another GFMRRC member, represented the Seashore Trolley Museum, where he has volunteered for many years. A representative of AMTRAK also participated.



NEWSLETTER EDITOR CHANGE

By Paul Lodge

For the last two years the Great Falls Model Railroad Club newsletter has been edited skillfully by Nick Mamich. His recent computer problems and increased work schedule have made it difficult for him to keep up with the newsletter deadlines and he has asked to resign. We regret his resignation because he has kept high standards for the monthly newsletter.

Terry King has volunteered to return as newsletter editor. Terry served well as editor for several years and will resume the duties starting with this May issue.

Thank you, Nick, for helping to make the newsletter look professional for the past two years.





THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

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<http://www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org>

Facebook: Great Falls Model Railroad Club

An Educational Foundation

MEETING POSTPONEMENTS

If severe weather threatens on a meeting night, Tom Coulombe will notify local television stations that the meeting will be postponed until the following week. This would make it the fourth Thursday of the month instead of the third. Club members who receive the newsletter via e-mail will be notified by e-mail about the postponement.

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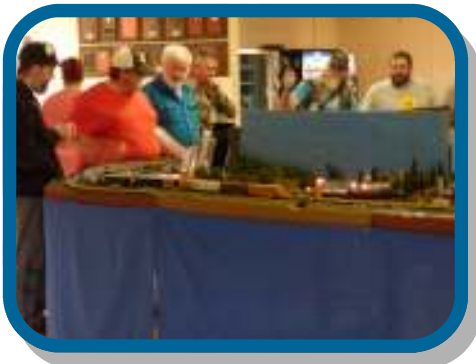
www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org or www.gfmrrc.com

Upcoming Events



MAY

19 Surplus Inventory Sale
& DCC Clinics
8:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.



Topsham Show by Tami Paine

Recurrent Activities

Please check web site or Facebook page.

1st Thursday of each month, 5:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.
Family Night at Governor's Restaurant

6/2, & 23

HO Operating Session:

2nd Thursday of each month—6:30 p.m.
Executive Committee Meeting

3rd Thursday of each month—6:30 p.m.
Regular Monthly Meeting

4th Thursday of each Month—7:00 p.m.
Modelers Forum

June 2, 9:00—Noon

Spikey's Station