



Member since June 1988

**NEXT MEETING  
OCTOBER 18  
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:**

- ◆ 2017 - \$720.00
- ◆ 2018— \$286.40
- ◆ September—\$94.40

**PRINTER**

**CARTRIDGES:**

**Total last year: \$107.00  
YTD: \$66.00  
Last Month: \$5.00**

# THE SIGNAL



THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

VOLUME 22. ISSUE 5

OCTOBER 2018

By Paul Lodge

## FALL TRAIN SHOW

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club's fall model train show will be held from 10 to 3 on Saturday, November 3, at Mt. Ararat High School in Topsham.

The club will have its large modular layout and there will be a variety of other layouts.

The sale of refreshments will benefit the Mt. Ararat High School Boosters Club.

Dealers from around New England will be available to answer questions and to sell new and used model railroad items. *Train Time* videos will be shown continuously and can be purchased.

Club members who are available on Friday afternoon are asked to be at Mt. Ararat High School in Topsham at 4:00 p.m. to help unload dealer tables and club modules and set them up for the Saturday show. Anyone who would like to have his or her module included in the club layout needs to have the module at the high school on Saturday morning between 7 and 8 a.m. We will need help throughout the day supervising layouts and selling excess inventory. After the show we will also need help taking down layouts.

*We hope everyone will help with the publicity by distributing the flyers that are at the club and by sharing information about the show with friends and family on Facebook, by email, and in conversations.*

Admission is \$5:00. Children who are 12 and under are admitted free.



# ExTRAINaganza 2018

## COMING IN NOVEMBER

By Paul Lodge

The building will have a festive look for our regular club meeting on November 15. Any decorating which needs to be completed can be done after the meeting. Many of the decorations will still be in place for the club's annual Christmas party on Thursday, December 20.

Does it seem too early to think about Thanksgiving and Christmas? Preparations are already under way for the 9th annual ExTRAINaganza that begins the Christmas season for the Great Falls Model Railroad Club.

The ExTRAINaganza is a four-day event held on the weekends before and after Thanksgiving, each day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The dates for the ExTRAINaganza are Saturday, November 17; Sunday, November 18; Friday, November 23, the day after Thanksgiving; and Saturday, November 24.

Volunteers will be needed to help decorate the building on the evening of Wednesday, November 14, starting at 6 p.m. Projects will include setting up and decorating Christmas trees. Members of the HO crew have reminded us that garlands should not be hung near any track since pieces of garland which fall onto the track cause short circuits and disrupt the trains. Wednesday is the regular night for the HO work session. With help from those who are at the HO work session and/or their friends and family members, the decorating session will go faster.

The building will have a festive look for our regular club meeting on November 15. Any decorating which needs to be completed can be done after the meeting. Many of the decorations will still be in place for the club's annual Christmas party on Thursday, December 20.

Because of the number of days and the different activities going on at the event, club members are needed during the ExTRAINaganza to help by taking charge of games, supervising craft and cookie tables, selling tickets, monitoring layouts, and teaching young "Guest Engineers" how to run trains. There is no charge for children to run trains on the HO layout, but we will still need someone to organize a list to ensure an orderly system of taking turns. Members are encouraged to volunteer to help at the ExTRAINaganza for all or part of a day or as often as you can.



# SPECIAL PROGRAM FOR OCTOBER CLUB MEETING

By Paul Lodge

Jamie Robinson has volunteered to provide a special program for the October 18 club meeting. He recently attended the 50<sup>th</sup> Scale O National Convention in Rockville, MD and the Indianapolis O & S Scale Midwest Meet. He will use a Power Point Presentation to share his experiences from the convention, the Indy Show and several associated layout tours.



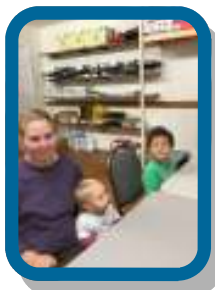
## SPIKEY'S STATION

The Spikey's Station meeting on September 1 featured Dinosaur Trains. After reading the story *Thomas the Train Engine and the Dinosaur*, we watched *Dino Train*. In the movie Thomas hauls a statue of a dinosaur on a flatcar. After we talked about flatcars, we went down to the HO layout to find flatcars. Then the kids drew pictures of flatcars. They cut out felt for grass, dirt and water for their portable train sets. They each picked a dinosaur and a mini Thomas engine for their train sets. We had dinosaur shaped cookies and fruit juice for a snack.

Spikey's Station on Saturday, September 15, had an Apple Train theme and we had 10 children ages 2 to 13. We started by watching a Thomas the Tank Engine movie and reading a story. After a discussion about gondola and hopper cars, we went down to the HO layout to see if we could find these cars. For snack we had apple juice and sliced apples with caramel sauce. We played an apple dice game where the kids won mini train cars featuring Thomas & Friends which they could add to their portable train sets. We finished the morning by making apple trees out of pipe cleaners and pompoms. We all had a great time.

The September 29 meeting of Spikey's Station focused on Leaf Peepers. We talked about scenic railroads, observation cars, dome cars and open-air passenger cars. We watched the *Train Time* DVD "Conway Railroad and Autumn Trains" donated to us by Paul Lodge. We enjoyed using the Brio track and went down to the HO layout to watch the Turbo Train run and see its passenger cars. Our snack was Halloween cookies and apple juice. We finished the meeting by creating autumn trees with pompoms.

The next meeting of Spikey's Station will be our Halloween event on October 27.





# September Minutes by Paul Lodge

tember was shown.

Vice President Mike Meserve 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*.

Secretary Paul Lodge read the minutes from the September Executive Committee meeting. The Executive Committee report included the following information:

Terry King reported that he has obtained from the Monmouth Transfer Station several frames which can be used to display posters or pictures.

Darin Long said that work is still progressing on the HO layout. An effort is being made to create an electrical wiring diagram.

Carl Butland plans to paint the outer doors during the week of September 17.

The club was open during the Maine Model Railroad Layout Tours on Saturday, September 8. Larry Cannon reported that he had about twenty railroad fans; the club had about ten. Even though the attendance was not great, we will participate in future years if the tours continue.

The new storage closet in the meeting room has been completed. Surplus inventory items are being stored there. Keys for the closet will be restricted to only those members who need to work with the surplus inventory items. Larry Cannon suggested that a log sheet be placed inside the closet so that he would know who has been in the closet. He noted that it is important to know what is in inventory so that he knows what boxes contain when they are taken to shows. By having the log sheet, Larry would be able to contact anyone who worked with the inventory and get a current update of the contents.

While talking about the surplus assets inventory, a question was raised about insurance on the inventory. Treasurer Owen Buck took notes about the estimated value of the inventory items and will contact our insurance agent to get an update on what is covered. We also have two storage buildings outside the facility which need to be insured.

Tami Paine has been buying supplies for the children's craft projects during the Spikey Station meetings. A motion was made and accepted to reimburse Tami for craft supplies purchased for the Spikey program.

Paul Lodge announced that clients from Russell Park Manor plan to visit the club on September 11. (NOTE: Because of rain that day, they have postponed their visit until Tuesday, October 16.)

President McBride reported that the key has been lost for the lock on the supply cabinet in the N-scale room. New keys need to be made.

Terry King suggested that a committee be appointed to run the kitchen during events at the club. It was noted that several members were surprised that there was a charge for the food during the open house for the layout tour. Terry observed that there has always been a sign indicating a \$1 cost for club members for the food. If this is to be charged, it needs to be better advertised so that members can plan for it.

George Pitchard estimated that a new ceiling in the entry way would cost about \$100. A motion was made and approved to pay up to \$100 for materials to finish a new ceiling in the entry way.

A motion was made and approved to build a new storage closet in the lobby.

A motion was made and approved to have our annual fall surplus sales event on Saturday, December 8.

A motion was made and accepted to approve the Executive Committee Report, and the business meeting continued.

Owen Buck, Treasurer, gave the Treasurer's Report and noted that the insurance coverage has been increased to \$100,000 on contents in the club's buildings. The increased coverage will cost an additional \$100 a year. He noted that Jerry Johnston, Ed Webb, Ronald Czaja, and Tom McAvoy had attended the train show in Concord, NH, on August 19 and moved a record amount of surplus inventory. A motion was made and accepted to approve the Treasurer's Report.

Terry King reported that he plans to add another page to the club's newsletter, *The Signal*, in the near future. Using the two sides of the page will allow for more articles in larger print and additional pictures. The postage cost will not increase because of the addition. Terry also commented on a book which has been requested by some club members. He has ordered it, but it has yet to be printed.

(Continued on page 5)

Mike Meserve reported that the HO Division is working to upgrade the electrical system. Work has been completed on control boxes one and two. Work on the third box will be done later

The train show at Mount Ararat High School on November 3 was discussed. It was noted that we will need to help unload and set up dealer tables starting at 4 p.m. on Friday before the show. The club will rent a truck to take the modules that can be set up on Friday. Members will also be able to bring their own modules on Saturday before 8 a.m.

Help will be needed at our annual fall surplus inventory sale on Saturday, December 8. These additional funds help us keep the annual dues low.

Vice President Mike Meserve noted that we need to set up a committee to handle lunches at club events when members are asked to stay in the building all day. The committee needs to get volunteers to bring prepared foods like finger rolls, salads, food in crock pots, and desserts. (NOTE: If all of the food is brought by volunteers, as it had been in the past, workers at our special events will continue to have their lunches provided at no charge. Since everyone is volunteering extra time, we have usually charged only for coffee, sodas, water, and chips.)

Potential programs for future club meetings were discussed and ideas collected.

Before the meeting adjourned, the 50/50 Raffle was won by Paul Lodge. Tami Paine won the Attendance Prize and selected a club bumper sticker.



***The GFMRRRC is the featured Family Night attraction at Governor's Restaurant in Lewiston on the first Thursday of each month.***



## 2018 MAINE MODEL RAILROAD TOUR

By Paul Lodge

The Maine Model Railroad Tour on September 8, 2018, included the Great Falls Model Railroad Club layouts and the home layouts of several present and former GFMRRRC members. Larry Cannon and Joe Landry each reported about 20 visitors at their home layouts in Lewiston and were pleased with the results. Although the HO Crew of the railroad club were disappointed that they had only 10 guests, they were in agreement that we should continue to participate in future tours.

Joe Landry mentioned that many of his guests were HO modelers who paid him their ultimate compliment, saying that his layout had as much detail as an HO layout. (Most of us would feel that it has much more detail and imagination than the HO layouts we have seen.) As a member of the Maine 3-Railers, Joe has an extensive layout in their larger O-scale and an amazing collection of railroad cars in addition to those which are on his layout. His display includes a special group of cars created by the Maine 3-Railers to represent several Maine businesses, including Moxie, Oakhurst, Reny's, Hancock Lumber, and B&M Baked Beans. His L.L.Bean car is followed by a flatcar containing two authentic scale-model Bean Boots.

On September 27, 2014, many members of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club met at Joe Landry's house for a private tour of his home layout. At that time the *Lewiston Sun Journal* had recently published an excellent article about Joe's layout with many additional photos in the online edition of their newspaper. Visiting him this month, we were amazed at the number of new creations on the many levels of his layout. He also has extensive collections of model trucks and airplanes. Perhaps this would be a good time for the GFMRRRC to ask Joe to give our club members another tour.

THE SIGNAL



# MODELERS FORUM MOVES OCTOBER MEETING

By Paul Lodge

At the Modelers Forum on September 27, Jamie Robinson invited Modelers Forum members to his house for the October 25 meeting. Paul Lodge volunteered to notify members through email about the change of location for the October meeting. The Modelers Forum is open to all club members and meets on the fourth Thursday of each month to exchange modeling ideas, show current modeling projects, and ask questions about how to accomplish individual projects.

Because Jamie lives in a remote part of Turner, those who want to go to Jamie's house will meet at the club at 6:30 p.m. and caravan to Jamie's home in Turner. Jamie noted that sometimes GPS systems do not properly route visitors to his home. (If your GPS shows a route via Snell Hill Road, that will **NOT** work. You must come via East Hebron Road to Dow Farm Road to 4 Jennifer Drive). It's about a thirty minute drive from the club house in New Auburn.

Since he does not have room at his layout for a large number of guests, Jamie would like to have an idea of the number of members interested in going to his house. Club members who plan to come are asked to contact him at telephone 207-212-6027. Be aware that there are stairs, a friendly dog and various cats.





## THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

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## THE SIGNAL

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## Upcoming Events

October 18, Membership Meeting  
November 2, 4:00 P.M., table set up, for Topsham Train Show.  
November 17, 18, 23, 24, 10:00 to 4:00 each day.- **ExTRAINaganzia.**  
December 8, Surplus Inventory Sale at Club from 10:00 - 3:00.  
Every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.  
Work Session

**November 3,  
Train Show at  
Mt. Ararat High School  
Topsham.  
10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.  
Set up at 7:00 a.m.**



## Recurrent Activities

*Please check web site or Facebook page.*

**HO Operating Session:**  
October 6, 9:00 a.m.  
October 20, 9:00 a.m.

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

Spikey's Station  
October 27