



Member since June 1988

**NEXT MEETING
APRIL 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:

- ◆ 2018- \$407.00
- ◆ 2019— \$244.00
- ◆ March—\$57.00

PRINTER

CARTRIDGES:

Total last year: \$222.00

YTD: \$54.00

Last Month: 34.00

THE SIGNAL



THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

VOLUME 23. ISSUE 4

APRIL 2019

2019 SPRING TRAIN SHOW AT MT. ARARAT SATURDAY, APRIL 27

By Paul Lodge

On Saturday, April 27, the Great Falls Model Railroad Club will hold its annual spring train show at Mt. Ararat High School in Topsham from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is \$5 and is free for those 12 and under.

If you would like to bring your module to be part of the layout, please have it at Mt. Ararat High School before 8 a.m. on Saturday.

Dealers from around New England will be there to sell a variety of model railroad items in all scales, books, and DVDs. The club also plans to have several tables for selling surplus inventory items, books, and other items of interest to those attending the show. A test track will be available for buyers to check model locomotives before they are purchased.

The Mt. Ararat Sports Boosters will provide refreshments throughout the day with coffee and donuts in the morning and luncheon specials beginning at about noon.

The rental tables will be delivered to Mt. Ararat High School on Friday afternoon at 4 o'clock. Club members are encouraged to come to the high school at that time to help take the tables off the delivery truck and arrange them for the dealers. A small crew of club members will be at the club on Friday afternoon to load the modular layout sections and surplus assets onto a rental truck for delivery to Mt. Ararat High School.

We are looking forward to having many club members come to help by setting up tables and the modular layout, selling tickets at the door, running trains on the layout, and selling surplus inventory items. We will also need help taking down tables and displays after the show.

This is one of the club's most important fund-raising events which helps keep the annual dues to a minimum. Thanks for your help!



MODELERS FORUM

By Kent Waterson

Bob talked about the frequency of needing to purchase the various chisel type blades. After getting tired of purchasing the blades in small packs of 5, he found the same blades on Amazon in bulk. Keeping a supply of sharp blades prevents the frustration of dealing with dull blades and perhaps bringing a project to a halt while waiting to re-supply.

Eight members of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club Modelers Forum met on Thursday, March 28. Those present were Bob Willard, Carmen Anastase, Jay Wiley, Paul Lodge, Dexter Baum, Kent Waterson, Jamie Robinson and George Pitchard.

Bob Willard kicked off the Forum by presenting a project he took on simply for the purpose of "completing a project." We all get into ruts from time to time and need something just to feel a sense of completion. Bob succeeded with a small O-Scale diorama based on a picture he found of a Model T that had been delivered in a crate. The diorama depicts the scene with the workers unpacking the newly arrived Model T. The Model T was a diecast model with a variety of details added to fit the scene, including the collapsed roof wrapped in strips of tissue paper simulating the protection for shipping. Individual nails were added to the removed crate sections by drilling a hole and inserting a small section of wire to represent the nails.

Bob also presented three buildings (two of which we had seen previously) that will be part of a business block on his modular display layout. The latest structure is a Pool Hall that was modified from the Deerfield River Laser kit "Littlefield's Mid-Hudson Meats." The structure is mostly complete and awaiting the placement of the pool tables. We look forward to seeing the completion, perhaps next month.

Bob talked about the frequency of needing to purchase the various chisel type blades. After getting tired of purchasing the blades in small packs of 5, he found the same blades on Amazon in bulk. Keeping a supply of sharp blades prevents the frustration of dealing with dull blades and perhaps bringing a project to a halt while waiting to re-supply.

Lastly, Bob showed a Model T truck he had put together with a large collection of detail parts in the bed of the truck. It was noted that just a plain truck is not that interesting, but adding the cluttered collection of parts in the bed made the model come to life.

Next up was Carmen Anastase with the results of some road construction experiments. Carmen built samples using Ghost Line Foam Board and various kinds of paper. The foam board had the advantage of the ability to add cracks, pot-holes and other surface defects directly into the material, but it had the disadvantage of a thicker material. The paper tests, both on white and black paper types, were much thinner. The roads were painted with a variety of experimental colors, one being "Pavement" craft paint. Lines on the roads were added, using an art paint pen.

Jay Riley brought what is perhaps the largest item yet seen at the Forum, a 1/6th scale Nieuport 28 C-1 WWI radio-controlled biplane. The kit is produced by Balsa USA. Jay described the construction procedure and methods for building the aircraft. Although the aircraft is a much larger scale than most of us work with, the methods are still similar and perhaps offer some different techniques that can find their way into future projects. Jay has flown the model and described the various sites and clubs he flies with. It was a beautiful model. Great work, Jay!

Dexter Baum had brought a couple of kits he is planning to use on his layout. Dexter gave an update on his progress for the layout, with his basement undergoing renovations to support his waterfront harbor pike. The first kit he displayed is the Bar Mills "Franklin & South Manchester" kit. Although this is a beautiful kit, Dexter has decided he could do better scratch-building the structure and plans to use the design simply as a guide for his own construction. Included in the kit was a coupon for a discount on a Sea Port Model Works kit of a 65' Islander Passenger Cargo Transport. Dexter had used the coupon and brought the kit, which will work very well in his harbor layout.

In times past, Dexter has also presented the unique bench work he designed for

SPIKEY'S STATION UPDATE

By Tami Paine

Spikey's Station on March 16 learned about mining and about railroad coal cars called tenders. We watched YouTube videos about loading and unloading coal cars. The kids had a contest to load HO coal cars with black pompoms. They painted rocks to make their own gold, silver, or coal. They also made coal snacks out of marshmallows and crushed Oreo cookies. At the end of the morning's session, they helped other GFMRRC members fill Easter eggs for the Wiscasset, Waterville & Farmington Railway Museum's Easter egg hunt.

The theme for Spikey's Station on April 13 will be circus trains because the KORA Shriners Circus will be in town. There will be no meeting at the club on April 27. Instead, we are planning a field trip to the Great Falls Model Railroad Club spring train show at Mt. Ararat High School in Topsham.



March Minutes by Paul Lodge



The March 21 meeting of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club opened with a video produced by Dick Clark, featuring our participation as one of Auburn's Cake Sites for the 150th Anniversary celebration.

Following the video, Paul Lodge gave the monthly Power Point presentation of club activities since the last meeting. Club members helped narrate the program as items in which they were active came up.

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*.

Owen Buck gave a brief Treasurer's Report, noting that the club is debt free now that the building has been paid off. A motion was made and approved to accept the Treasurer's Report.

The topic of the upstairs hardwood floor was brought before the club. A motion was made and approved to have the floor refinished. One bid of \$2 per square foot was presented. It was recommended that another bid be obtained before a final decision is made on who will do the floors.

Terry King reported that there are some new books in the library. He also made reference to the Railroad Recipe Contest which was to take place after the meeting.

Terry King observed that the modular group is building new corner modules, and racks have been purchased on which to store them. The entrance storage room is already full, but there are at least two racks of chairs stored there. With the removal of the chairs, there will be enough room to store the new corner module racks. He recommended that we use "Sunspots" in the *Lewiston Sun/Journal* newspaper to let readers know that we have about two dozen chairs available to give to some non-profit organization or other group. Terry pointed out a chair that was not in as good condition as some of the others. He suggested that we cull out the chairs in the poorest condition for the give-away. A motion was made and approved to contact "Sunspots" and select chairs for donating to another organization.

Tami Paine presented the outdoor "Mini Library" concept being used around the community. She explained how the system works and how that would be a

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good way to share many of our railroad-related books that we do not sell. A motion was made and approved to make a Mini Library using club books.

George Pitchard made a motion that we spend up to \$150 for additional shelving in the library. The motion was approved.

To conclude the meeting, the Attendance Prize was drawn. Dawn Fox won and selected a railroad video series. Whitethunder McBride won the 50/50 Raffle.

At this point, the attendees were offered two food choices for the Railroad Recipe Contest. Members were give ballots on which to record their favorite item. Tami Paine had the most votes and was awarded a \$25 gift certificate for Governor's Restaurant.



From left to right, Tami Paine, 1st Place winner and 2nd place winner Jamie Robinson

MARCH MADNESS RECIPES

By Terry King

Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Corn Bread Pie

1 lb. Ground beef
 1 large chopped onion
 1 can condensed tomato soup
 2 cups water
 1 tsp salt
 ½ tsp black pepper
 1 tsp chili power
 ½ cup green pepper
 1 cup whole kernel corn, (fresh, frozen, or canned).

Directions

- Combine beef and Onion in a large sauce pan and brown
- Add soup, water, seasonings, green pepper and corn
- Stir until mixed well
- Simmer for 15 minutes
- Grease a casserole dish
- Fill ¾ full. Leave room for corn bread.

Corn Bread Topping

¼ cup corn meal
 1 Tbsp. sugar
 1 Tbsp. flour
 ½ tsp salt
 1 ½ tsp baking power
 1 egg beaten
 ½ cup milk
 1 tbsp. fat melted

Directions

Stir together the first five ingredients. Add beaten egg and milk. Stir lightly, fold in melted fat. Pour corn bread mixture over the meat mixture – Topping will disappear. It will rise again as it cooks. Bake until corn bread is brown.

SLIDE & DINE

By Terry King

Saturday, April 13, 2019, is the date for the Great Falls Model Railroad's second Slide & Dine. What is a Slide & Dine? Back in times past when people used their cameras, they did not have little memory cards to record their pictures, but had to use film in the camera. Depending on the film that they purchased, they could have pictures printed and mailed to them, or they could have 35 mm slides made, which they could view with their friends by using a projector.

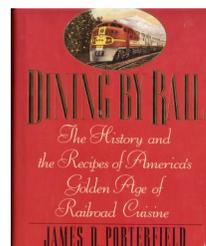
Slides became very popular with train enthusiasts who, of course, have always wanted others to view them as well. So people started hosting slide shows with their own slides. Soon this evolved into slide shows, which gradually became Slide & Dine shows. "Dine" obviously means that food is part of the event.

Two large collections of slides have been given to GFMRRRC over the years. The first one was from the estate of Waldo Kingston and was around 11,000 slides. The other was from Wally Chase and amounted to around 4,000 slides. So far we have about 5,400 of these scanned into the computer.

On April 13 from 10:00 a.m. until around 3:00 p.m. we are hosting a Slide & Dine here at the club. (The snow date is April 14, *and with the way this winter has been going, we may need it!*) Of course, we will be showing some of the GFMRRRC collection and hopefully others will also bring slides to show. At noon we will have a pot luck lunch. When we had our first Slide & Dine two years ago, it was very successful. We had some great slides and good food.

People who bring slides can use our Kodak or GAF projectors, or our computer projector. They can, of course, bring their own equipment.

This promises to be a very pleasant day. There is no admission charge. We hope to see a lot of people here.



MODELER'S FORUM CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

his layout. Over time his plans have shifted (don't they all?) and resulted in some different pieces. Dexter brought the updated sections, lightweight but strong sections of I-Beam type construction. The layout will use a variety of 12", 18" and 48" sections mounted on pedestals he had previously designed and built.

Kent Waterson presented his continuing work on his battleship quarterdeck diorama. Kent had completed the main section of the second aircraft catapult along with a variety of pieces that support the catapult. Motive force for these catapults is a 5" shell that propels a piston and pulley assembly to launch the aircraft. The exhaust from the explosion is vented out a vent tube that runs along the side of the catapult. Kent assembled this tube via a series of Evergreen styrene tubing mixed with 3D printed elbow parts. He also presented a new version of the crane base that had previously been created by 3D printing; this new version is constructed out of styrene. The resulting part has a more prototypical construction and appearance. Lastly were some support brackets that were mounted at the ends of the catapult to attach a "brake buffer" that absorbed the shock of the launch car under the aircraft. Pieces of the brackets were drawn in a CAD program and then cut with a Cricut machine.

Jamie Robinson brought us back to the Model Railroad world with some work he is doing on adding a sound decoder to a first run Atlas S-4. Jamie removed the stock frame motor and replaced it with a better, cheaper motor that he buys in bulk. The frame was milled out in various places to support the decoder and the new motor, with space for a set of keep-alive capacitors. Jamie also added new headlights to both the front and rear of the cab. Since the new motor did not have flywheels, the keep-alive capacitors act as an electrical version of the mechanical flywheels, providing uninterrupted operation across frogs or other track sections with less than perfect electrical contact. One last piece yet to be added is a hi-base speaker in the cab.

Finishing out the evening, George Pitchard presented some impressive research on Narrow Gauge railroads. The first was a manuscript titled "A Utah Railroad Scrapbook" that contained an impressive amount of data, diagrams and research on these railroads. Next, George showed a 2-1/2" notebook containing his research on every Narrow Gauge railroad in the US between 1871 and 1880. The notes cover about 200 railroads over a period previously unpublished. George hopes to publish the work in the

future.

Lastly, George presented a Maine Central lantern he had found at a local antique shop. The lantern he purchased had a clear globe; and after rummaging around the shop a bit, he found a second lantern with a red globe that would fit. George then put the two together, cleaned it up and showed the nicely assembled lantern.

The gathering wrapped up about 8:30. The range and variety of skills and topics makes an enjoyable evening. We welcome others to join us and add their projects and knowledge, or just come to listen to this collection of modelers. We all learn from one another.



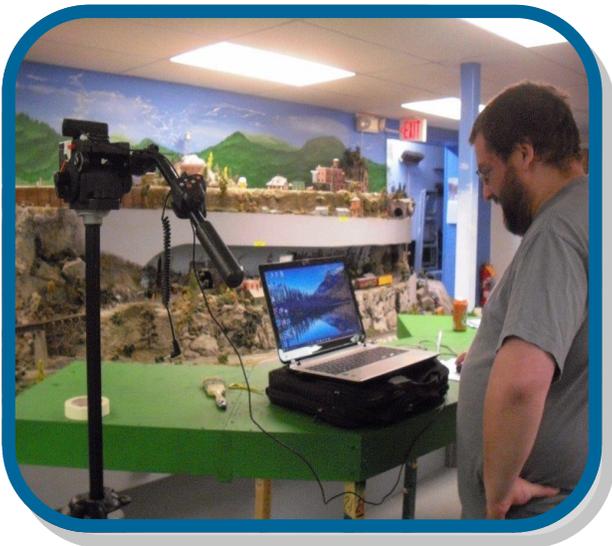
NEW VIDEO SERIES UPDATE

By Travis Johnson

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club is making progress with the instructional video project, "Our Layout and You." We have already completed the first video in the series and are currently working on the next two. The aim of the project is to create a series of videos to help people familiarize themselves with the HO layout and the methods used in our Operating Sessions. We hope to give everyone an opportunity to learn about our system before they arrive downstairs for their first Operating Session.

This project will also be a stepping-off point for two other stalled projects: the layout mapping project and the GFMRRRC Rule Book for operating the HO layout with personal and club equipment.

If you have any suggestions for these videos, please contact Paul Lodge or Travis Johnson in person or by email at paul lodge@gwi.net or Travis at slrmodlertj16@gmail.com



G-GAUGE UPDATE

By the G-Gauge Group

The G-Gauge Work Session on March 9 accomplished a lot with a great team effort. John Middleton, Dick Cosgrove, Peter Cole and Ray Parent were busy with final wiring and testing. Dick Clark worked solo on finalizing the wiring for the engine house yard. Dave Kierstead and Ken Nettleship worked on the installation of the turnout control isolation switch which will control access to the new Middleton Yard during Operating Sessions. John had prefabricated the wiring associated with the switch, which is needed so that turnouts don't get changed during an open house or other event at the club.

While trains were running for our quick "check" session to test the new yard, we also made adjustments for some clearance issues we have had under the trestle system along the back wall. A very successful day for the G Gauge Division!

Since some of our Diesel locomotives have questionable reliability at times, particularly at slow speeds, John suggested we invest in a newer piece of equipment so as not to hamper any upcoming operating sessions. All present were in agreement. Ray Parent will be looking in to this. Stay tuned.

Our next work session on April 6 should be a very exciting time for everyone who contributed to all of the yard upgrades over the winter. We will check out all of the modifications that we have made to ensure "operability." John will then lead us through a "Set-up for Operations" by explaining the plan and the paper work. If we're lucky and there's time, we'll experiment with running some trains using John's Operating Guidelines.





THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

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Upcoming Events



April 6, Southern Me Model Railroad Club Show, Westbrook Community Center, 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

April 20—WW&F Easter Eggspress

April 13, Slide & Dine at club 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

April 27, Topsham Train Show 10:00 a.m.—3:00p.m.

Please check web site or Facebook page.

SLIDE & DINE

April 13, 2019

Members and non-members are encouraged to bring 35mm slides, CD's, or power point presentations to show. Lunch will be Pot Luck, so please bring something to share.

Recurrent Activities

April 6 —Operating Sessions

April 20—HO Union Pacific Operating Session 8:00—Noon

Regular Monthly Meeting

3rd Thursday of each month—6:30 p.m.

Modelers Forum

4th Thursday of each month— 7:00 p.m.

Spikey's Station

April 13—9—Noon

Work Session

Every Wed. Evening - 6:00 p.m.