



Member since June 1988

**NEXT MEETING
MAY 16
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— \$266.00
- ◆ April—\$22.00

PRINTER

CARTRIDGES:

Total last year: \$222.00

YTD: \$54.00

Last Month: 44.00

THE SIGNAL



THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

VOLUME 23. ISSUE 5

MAY 2019

PARADE LOCOMOTIVE IN MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

By Paul Lodge

On May 27 the Great Falls Model Railroad Club will participate in Auburn's Sesquicentennial Memorial Day Parade, which begins at 10:00 a.m. The theme for the parade is "***Celebrating Auburn's Heritage, History & Honor.***" Our Parade Locomotive, which looks like a replica of a Civil War era steam engine, is perfect for the 150th anniversary of Auburn.

The parade route is about a mile and a half long, beginning on Riverside Drive near Rolly's Diner in New Auburn and ending at Railroad Park on Lincoln Street in Lewiston. There will be a post-parade ceremony at the Veterans' Memorial Park on Lewiston's Main Street side of the bridge. Before the Veterans' Memorial Park ceremony, our Parade Locomotive will return with other "non-participating parade units" to the Riverside Drive staging area and then come back to the railroad club.

The club is looking for at least four volunteers to carry the club banner and push the locomotive. Some repairs need to be made to the locomotive. As soon as space is available at the club, the locomotive will be brought in and made ready to go, including appropriate decorations. Auburn's 150th guidelines state, "All participants must prominently display patriotic style decorations to meet the parade purpose." Although the parade begins at 10 a.m., the floats and other units will need to be at the Parade Staging Area at the Auburn Rollodrome much earlier.

Having the Parade Locomotive available for events like this helps to bring attention to the club and make our in-house events more successful.



2019 SPRING TRAIN SHOW AT MT. ARARAT HIGH SCHOOL

By Paul Lodge

The rental truck for transporting modules and surplus inventory sale items to the show was loaded at the club on Friday afternoon and driven to Topsham in time to unload and begin setting up modules for the Saturday show. On Saturday morning, the set-up was finished and trains were running when the doors opened at 10 o'clock.

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club set up its modular layout in the large lobby near the gymnasium to prevent our DCC system from interfering electronically with other layouts that also use DCC systems. Of the 300 people who attended the show, about 200 people came to view the club's layout

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

About twenty-five 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 27, 2019. Members helped by unloading tables from the delivery truck on Friday afternoon and setting up the tables and modules. Others helped by finishing the HO modular setup on Saturday morning, operating trains during the day, and tearing the layout down on Saturday afternoon. 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. Over 80 vendors had also rented sales tables. Terry Obie, who sold tickets at the door, counted about 300 men, women, and children in attendance.

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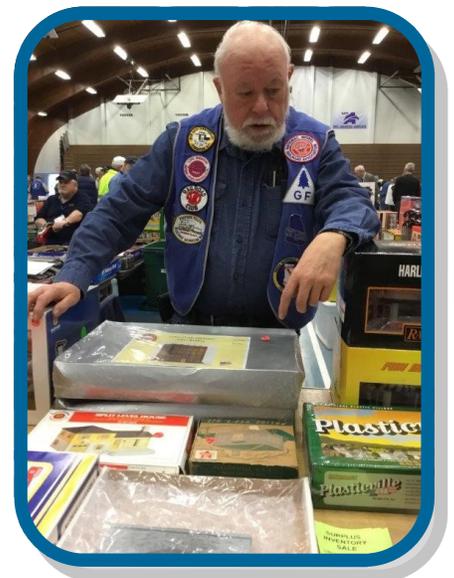
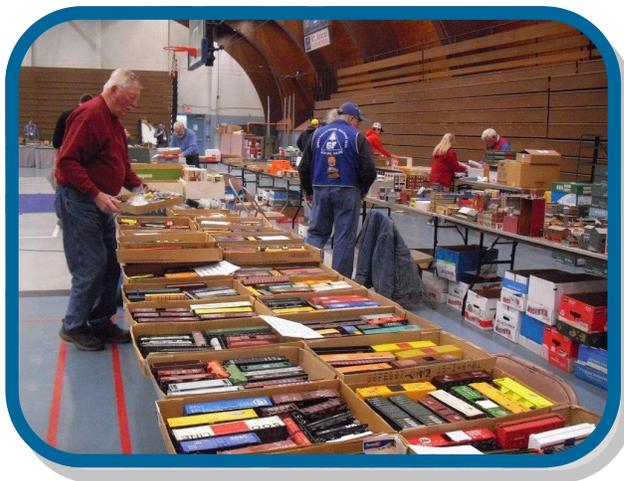
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The Southern Maine Model Railroad Club (SMMRC) was at the Topsham show recruiting new members. They recently had a successful model train show in Westbrook. The SMRRC is an HO club from Cumberland Center that was organized in 2016 to serve the Greater Portland area and is led by former members of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club.

The new Mt. Ararat High School is being built for an opening date of 2020. The current building houses about 1,250 students; the new one is being built for only 750.

The train show's success is based on the participation of many club members. For all those who helped, the club thanks you!



SPIKEY'S STATION UPDATE

By Tami Paine

On April 13 Spikey's Station met downstairs near the HO layout at the Great Falls Model Railroad Club. Since the Shrine Circus was in town, the theme for the day was Circus Trains.

We started by watching the YouTube video of the last circus trains run by the Barnum and Bailey Circus. Then we watched the unique way that these circus trains were loaded. The kids each picked an animal and modeled a cage to put their animal on a train. They enjoyed a snack of circus peanuts and animal crackers. We ended our session by playing a Big Top game.

For the Spikey's Station meeting on April 27, we took the kids to the Topsham Show. A gentleman from the train tour table explained the scales of trains to the kids. They also enjoyed the O scale layout. Most of the kids played with the toy trains on the play rug on the floor. Only a few of the kids actually went around the show with me, and they picked out two swimming pools to add to the module they are going to create. I also used a module without scenery to show the kids how we will have to figure out how to layout our module. They had a good time, and we stopped at McDonald's on our way home for lunch.

Spikey's Station meets every other Saturday at the Great Falls Model Railroad Club from 9 to noon. All boys and girls ages 3 to 12 are invited to come as often as they can.





April Minutes by Paul Lodge

Before the meeting began, a video of the train wreck in West Paris was shown. Club members discussed the operation as they watched. The video was followed up with the monthly Power Point presentation showing club activities since last month.

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*.

Terry King presented two new books purchased for the library and asked for additional suggestions from the members. The two books were *Chama & Cumbres* and *Interurban without Wires*. The Surplus Inventory Sale to be held on May 18 was mentioned. Terry reported that he will also have an "O-Scale only" sale on Saturday, June 8.

Owen Buck gave the Treasurer's Report and noted that all debts have been paid. The report was approved as given.

The HO Division reminded members that the operating session for April 20 is for Union Pacific locomotives and the railroads purchased by Union Pacific. The N-Scale Division is working to upgrade track. Eric Long reported that three locomotives with sound have been purchased for the layout.

There was a discussion about the recent donation of O-gauge trains and buildings from former club member Richard Proctor. The large donation provides all the material necessary (including benchwork) to build a layout. George Pitchard volunteered to construct an O-gauge layout in the area between the lunch counter and the Company Store. It would be six feet wide and 23 feet long and would be able to display a number of outstanding structures. A motion was made and accepted to build the layout as it was explained during the meeting.

Eric Long described a problem with the roof over the exit from the Company Store. It was noted that the roof needs to be the top priority before any other potential projects are started. After the explanation, a motion was made and accepted to fix the roof with a \$2,000 limit. If more money is needed, the Executive Board will need to approve it.

Dick Rubin came to the Saturday G-gauge gathering on Saturday, April 13. He wants to donate the "Best in Show" Maine Central train from the West Springfield show a few years ago. He asked that it be a static display for the club. Even though the train is G-Gauge, it represented the Great Falls Model Railroad Club at West Springfield. He felt the train should be a showpiece for

the club, along with the "Best in Show" award which the club won at that time. A motion was made and accepted to create a static display of the train above the doors along the north side of the meeting room, extending approximately thirty feet towards the N-scale room. Dick Rubin pledged to pay the cost of building the display.

Travis Johnson gave the Nominating Committee's report for club officers for the coming year. They are as follows: President, Mike Meserve; Vice President, Jamie Robinson; Secretary, Paul Lodge; Treasurer, Owen Buck; Librarian/Archivist, Terry King and George Pitchard (vote for one). Three directors will be elected from the following group of nominees: Roger Allen, Rick James, Darin Long, and Eric Long. Additional nominations can be made at the Annual Meeting in May when the officers are elected.

The floor refinishing project will be held off until the roof repairs are completed.

Paul Lodge reported that it was decided that the Executive Committee will not meet again until August 8.

When asked how many club members would like to visit the Seashore Trolley Museum as a group, about fifteen members raised their hands. Paul Lodge will contact John Middleton to see if arrangements can be made. John is a Great Falls Model Railroad Club member and Seashore Trolley Museum volunteer.

Rick James won the attendance prize and chose a series of Train Videos. Chuck Bagley won the 50/50 raffle.

Tom McAvoy was applauded for the work he is doing with the bottle returns. Considering that he drives in from Sidney, he is honoring a long-distance commitment.

Owen Buck gave the program for the evening with pictures from his recent trip to India. He included pictures from the railroad he rode on and video of his cab ride during his journey.

The meeting adjourned and the members enjoyed snacks.

NEW OFFICERS TO BE ELECTED AT ANNUAL MEETING IN MAY

At the April 2019 monthly meeting, Travis Johnson announced the slate of officers to be elected at the annual meeting in May. Additional nominations can also be made at the annual meeting on May 16. The slate of officers put forth by the Nomination Committee is as follows: President, Mike Meserve; Vice President, Jamie Robinson; Secretary, Paul Lodge; Treasurer, Owen Buck; Librarian/Archivist, Terry King and George Pitchard (choose one); Directors (choose three), Roger Allen, Rick James, Darin Long, and Eric

NEXT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

By Paul Lodge

At the April 11 Executive Committee meeting, the committee voted to have its next meeting on August 8. Any club business before then will be conducted by members attending the regular club meetings on the third Thursday of each month. If there is any urgent need for an Executive Committee meeting, one can be called. One of the purposes for the August meeting will be to get ideas for the fall season and the next year for the club.

HO UPDATE & SHUT-DOWN

The April 20 HO Operating Session featured Union Pacific with only Union Pacific power on the entire layout.

The HO layout is shutting down after the May 4 Operating Session to start the summer maintenance. They plan to have only display trains during the May 18 Surplus Asset Sale.



MODELERS FORUM:

At the Modelers Forum meeting on April 25, Jay Wiley showed some of the mining operation structures which he has modeled. Several other GFMRRC members also presented interesting projects they are currently working on. Next month's newsletter will have a feature article by Kevin LaMarre, explaining the Maine Central U18b Conversion Project which he shared at the Forum meeting.

All GFMRRC members are invited to attend the Modelers Forum, which meets on the fourth Thursday of each month.



G-GAUGE PLANS FIRST OPERATING SESSION

By The G-Gauge Crew

As summer will soon be upon us along with all of the things to do that will likely pull us away from the clubhouse layout activity, John Middleton has asked the “Magnificent Seven G-Gaugers” to block out our calendars for the morning of Saturday, June 1 from 8:30 to noon. We will try for our first Operating session with John’s guidance. We will get together in teams of two (Engineer and Conductor) to practice our skills at operating. With John as the Dispatcher, we plan to have three teams with two people on each team. Those who were not able to attend the April session can pair up with one of those who were there and learn via “on the job training”.

Because this session will be our first true attempt at an operating session, it will be only for those who worked on modifying the layout for this purpose. After we get the bugs worked out, we hope to open it up to more members.

G-Gaugers: Set your calendars to June 1 for our first G-Gauge operating session of 2019! Remember to bring your 6” screw driver as John suggested (actually almost ordered/demanded). Also bring your cameras because many “Kodak Moments” may be created!



NEW SHELVES IN COMPANY STORE

By Paul Lodge

At the April monthly meeting, club members voted to add shelving in the company store. George Pitchard has built the extra shelving, which will allow for more surplus as-sets to be displayed.



Our new vests are now on sale.
They are only \$25.00 each.
Get yours in the company store, now.

AWARD-WINNING TRAIN DONATED FOR DISPLAY

By Paul Lodge

Great Falls Model Railroad Club members Dick Rubin and Ralph Luby have offered to donate the train which won the "Best in Show" honors at the West Springfield Model Train Show in 2014. At the April 2019 monthly meeting, club members voted to use the space above the meeting room door and extending to the N-scale room for the static display. The combined length of the locomotives and cars is about thirty feet. This will make a handsome exhibit inside the meeting room area and honor the award-winning achievement of the club. This popular display was used with different configurations for two years in West Springfield.



PROPOSED GFMRRC VISIT TO SEASHORE TROLLEY MUSEUM

At the April meeting of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club, about ten members indicated that they would like to visit the Seashore Trolley Museum in Kennebunk. GFMRRC John Middleton volunteers there and would like to give our club members a tour of the facilities.

The Seashore Trolley Museum is open on weekends from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. No decision has been made as to a time or date. Some club members suggested going to the museum after a Saturday work session. Another possibility was to go on a Sunday. It is understood that no matter which date is chosen, some club members will be unable to go. The current suggestion is the weekend of June 22 and 23. These dates will follow the regular June monthly meeting where a final tally can be taken.

The Seashore Trolley Museum is a non-profit organization similar to ours. Therefore, we expect to pay the normal admission charge listed on their webpage: (ages 16 to 60: \$12), (60+: \$10), (ages 3 and under, free) (3-5: \$5), (6-15: \$9.50).

If you are interested in going to the Seashore Trolley Museum with other GFMRRC members, contact Paul Lodge (966-3641 or paulodge@gwi.net).





THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

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Upcoming Events



Recurrent Activities

May 11—National Train Day

May 16—Election of Officers and monthly meeting. 6:45 p.m.

May 18 Surplus Assets Sale 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

May 25 Auburn Memorial Day Parade starts at 10:00 p.m.

June 8—Surplus Assets Sale Lionel, "O" and American Flyer 8:00 until 1:00 p.m.

Please check web site or Facebook page.

SURPLUS ASSETS SALE

HO AND N SCALES

May 18

8:00 a.m.
until
1:00 p.m.

Operating Sessions none until Fall

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

May 11 - 9:00 a.m. until Noon.

Work Session

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