

The Signal

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club



VOLUME 15. ISSUE 1

JUNE 2015



Member since June 1988

NEXT MEETING
June 18
6:45 p.m.

NEXT MONTH
Deadline for
July Issue
July 3, 2015

MEMBERSHIP
130

ATTENDANCE PRIZE

Roger Plummer
won the Attendance
Prize.
Maybe next meeting
it will be YOU!
Will your name be
drawn on
June 18?
You have to be
present to win!

BOTTLES FOR **BASICS**

- ◆ Total LAST YEAR
- ◆ \$700.23
- ◆ YEAR TO DATE:
- ◆ \$102.00
- ◆ Last MONTH:
- ◆ \$102.00

Donations of Used
Ink and Toner
Cartridges:
Last Month:\$41.00
Year to Date:
\$41.00

HURRAY FOR HOBO HOLIDAY!

By Scott Gould

One thing is for sure, The Great Falls Model Railroad Club knows how to celebrate a holiday. This year's Hobo Holiday, held May 16, was a delight for members and for visitors. Some 75 adults attended, along with a whopping 50 kids, many of them dressed as hobos. From scavenger hunts to Mulligan stew, from Thomas the Tank Engine to "Hoop a Caboose," and from prizes and drawings to a railroad safety quiz, there were activities to interest everyone.

The atmosphere at the event was vibrant. You could search hard to find a more enthusiastic group or one that does a better job of serving its nonprofit purpose. Best of all is the fact that the club devotes so much attention to developing children's interest in the hobby. Trains may be designed to carry goods and people, but club members know that trains are really meant for kids. Every child who got to operate a train on Saturday is likely to carry the memory for a lifetime and may well become a future Great Falls member.

Ray Parent with Scott Gould

One reason this year's Hobo Holiday was a great success is that the club's collection of Thomas the Tank engines is located in an outstanding newly redesigned display. Ray Parent designed and built a G-gauge layout that runs Thomas and Percy engines in two concentric circles, the upper one of which features trestles that match the brightly-painted engines. Ray's craftsmanship is flawless, enabling two trains to navigate perfectly through a space which is tight for even one. Dick Rubin donated his Thomas engines and cars to the club, and Ralph Luby donated a station that he had handcrafted. Adding to the display is a backdrop created by Paul Lodge.



Also in time for this year's Hobo Holiday were the additions to the nearly-completed G-gauge winter scene, which greets visitors as they first enter the club building. Ray Parent's craftsmanship is again apparent, as are the fine modeling skills of Ken Nettleship and Dave Kierstead, who devoted countless hours to designing and constructing the exquisitely rendered winter scene. Ken's ice house forms the centerpiece, with Ray's trestles up above. The interactive ski slope created by Dick and Sharon Clark is still an important feature of the scene.



Jay Calnan with Mike and Tami
Paine waiting for guest Engineers

For those interested in HO trains, the club basement offered kids the opportunity to run trains throughout the day. Fortunately, no train layout is ever finished, or we would have nothing left to do. The Great Falls display is in that happy state, featuring enough completed scenes to show visitors the rewards of careful workmanship, but leaving ample room for future projects.

H. L. Mencken said that hobos are neither bums nor tramps, because hobos always work. The hobos at Great Falls proved Mencken right on May 16 with a job to make the members proud.

MEET THE MEMBERS

TOM HASTINGS

By Paul Lodge



Tom Hastings and his wife Karen have been married for 23 years. Their son Andrew graduated from high school last year and is taking a gap year before heading off to college. Their daughter Lauren and her husband Jon have given them three grandsons, and at least one of them has shown an interest in trains!

Tom's family emigrated from Ireland to Brooklyn, NY, in the 1950's. Tom is the first member of his family who was born in the United States. His family has a strong Irish Catholic background. Tom is currently very active in his local Baptist church in Brunswick and feels that it is important to share his religion to help others.

Tom graduated from McGill University in Montreal. He majored in economics and learned as much about transportation services as he could. His work history kept him in the northeast part of the country between Pittsburgh and Boston. He gathered many stories while dispatching the Northeast Corridor, where he started working in the New York Port Authority Bus Terminal on the midnight to 8 a.m. shift. At the Trailways Bus Company, Tom started as a dispatcher and finished as the President of Trailways of New England. In 1987 Tom started his own investment advisory firm and is still actively running the business today.

On his home layout, Tom is depicting the River Division of the New York Central that runs from Albany to Weehawken, New Jersey, and goes through Kingston, New York. After Tom had spent about ten years "pecking away" at designing his railroad, Tom Jones offered to help him get started by building the bench work. An effort was made to keep the layout within arm's reach and at a low level as Tom has had multiple sclerosis for about twenty-five years. Thanks to Tom Jones' willingness to help and his great knowledge and experience, Tom now has an operating layout. This layout will be one of many that will be opened to NMRA Seacoast Division members in September of this year. Tom also wants to thank the many club members who have kept his dream layout moving forward.



SUMMER PICNIC SCHEDULED FOR JERRY JOHNSTON'S HOME

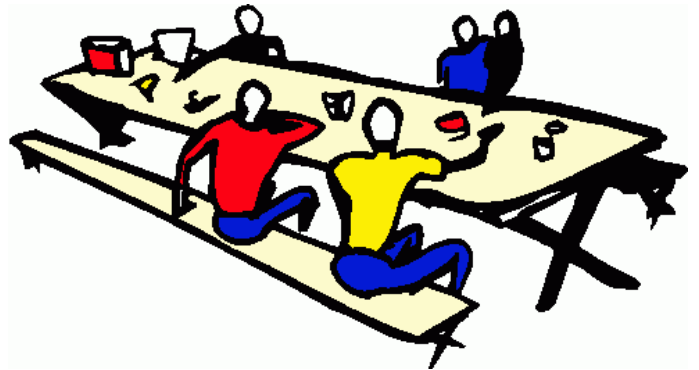
By Paul Lodge

This year Jerry Johnston has graciously invited club members and their families to attend the summer picnic at his home in Minot overlooking the White Mountains on Saturday, July 25. In addition to the food, he plans to have his layout open for inspection and operation.

Members and their guests are encouraged to bring their own items to eat and chairs to sit in. Jerry will have a grill available and will offer hotdogs and hamburgers.

The summer picnic has been a tradition for the club almost since our beginning. When we first met at Edward Little High School, the building was not available during the summer months so we started the idea of a summer picnic.

Come and have a good time with friends who have similar interests.



Some of the many visitors at the Hobo Holiday this year.



OUTHOUSE CONTEST, REALLY?

By Paul Lodge

At the club's annual show at the Auburn Middle School last year, the Great Falls Model Railroad Club sponsored a "square-foot" modeling contest. Show goers were asked to vote for their favorite entry. After the show was over, the model which had the most votes was given the "Best in Show" award.

Because of the interest created by last year's contest, the Modelers Forum suggested another contest for this year's show at the Auburn Middle School on November 7. The topic, however, seems a little strange. Outhouses. Because modelers are always looking for ways to provide more detail on their layouts, the topic of outhouses was selected as a fun and interesting addition. This topic has been used by organizers of other model railroad conferences and shows.

This contest is open to all club members. You do not need to take part in the Modelers Forum.

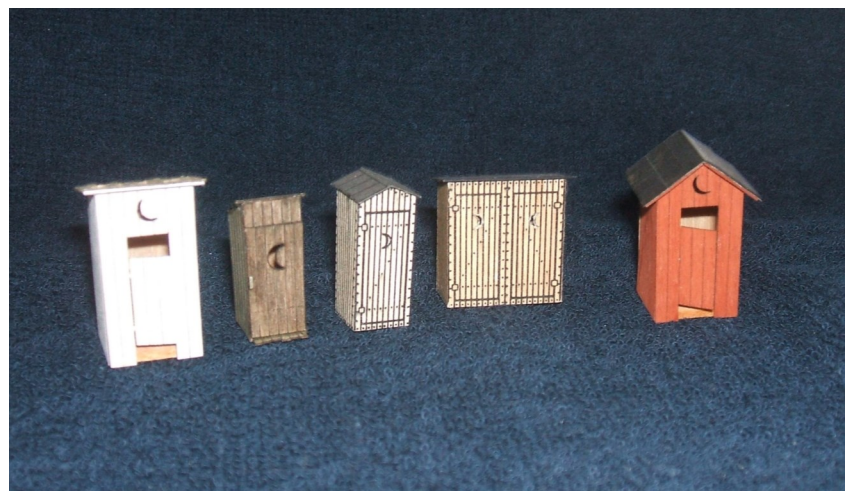
The rules for this contest have been created by Bob Willard, the contest chairman. First, he asks that participants create the piece in good taste because these models will be viewed by the public at our show.

The outhouse must be the MAIN feature of the diorama. Although scenery and people can be added to the model, space on the model's platform is severely limited. The size of the platform for the model is in relation to the scale being exhibited. The following are the square sizes for each scale:

- Z scale: 1/2 inch square
- N scale: 1 inch square
- HO scale: 2 inch square
- S scale: 3 inch square
- O scale: 4 inch square
- G and F scale: 8 inch square

Modelers, let's have some fun with this contest.

Outhouses made by Dick Holman ----->



WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THIS?

By Paul Lodge

The Seashore Trolley Museum in Kennebunk has donated to the Great Falls Model Railroad Club this antique toy trolley from the early 1900s. There do not appear to be any markings on it to identify where it was made or who manufactured it.

This metal toy trolley is unusual in that it has two doors on each side. It is now on exhibit in the display case in the library area.

We would like to know more about it. If you can share information about this trolley, please contact the Great Falls Model Railroad Club at our website: www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org



Dick Rubin with Toy Trolley

May Minutes by Paul Lodge



MEETING MINUTES OF

MAY 21, 2015

A Power Point slide show of club activities in April and May was shown from 6:45 to 7:00 p.m.

The evening's *TRAIN TIME* show featured the Ca-boose Excursion train on the Belfast & Moosehead Lake Railroad, photographed and narrated by Charles Kadyk. Although this tourist railroad has not been in operation for several years, it will again begin offering rides to the public on weekends this summer.

President Jay Calnan opened the meeting and asked for the Secretary's Report. A motion was made to accept the report as published in the *Signal*.

Tom Coulombe gave the Treasurer's Report, which was approved as given. It was announced that Jerry Johnston has volunteered to take over the Station Master duties for Tom.

As Station Master, Tom reported that a new temporary work bench has been constructed in the work room in the area which will eventually be used for the port on the HO layout. This new table top is strong enough to handle the weight of the heavier power tools we are still using. The "point-to-point" G-scale display to be put between the doors of the G-scale room will not be started until fall. The group wants to complete more on the layout first. The chair rail for the meeting room is ready to be installed as soon as the new door moldings are in place. New kitchen cabinets and counter tops have been purchased to replace some of the current cabinets which have no doors. There is also a set of cabinets for the library. We have rented six tables at \$35 each for the Concord Train Show on Sunday, August 23.

Terry King proposed a calendar for 2016, using pictures from the slide collection. The calendar would show our schedule of events and activities.

The new "Spikey" T-shirts are in the library and can be purchased by members for \$10. Tom Coulombe has been given permission to contact Drapeau Costume Shop in Lisbon Falls to see how much it would cost to produce a "Spikey" costume which could be used in parades and at club functions.

It was reported that Travis Johnson has been elected chairman of the HO Division.

The G-Scale Division noted that they are going to use Bettendorf-style trucks on their equipment.

Paul Lodge announced that a representative from Advocates for Children on Canal Street in Lewiston has asked that we have the club open for a visit of three- to five-year-olds on Tuesday, July 7, at about 2:30 in the afternoon. This is part of their "Stroller Adventure" concept. Additional adults would be chaperoning the tour.

Paul also distributed an "Interest Survey" sheet with many suggestions for classes that go beyond the basic adult education class which is currently offered. About fifteen members returned the "Interest Survey" with their choices marked. Once the interests are known, participants will be able to discuss times, dates, instructors, and costs.

Bob Willard announced that the Modelers Forum plans to have a "People's Choice" contest at the club's show on November 7 in Auburn. The contest will be open to all club members, not just those who participate in the Modelers Forum. Size restrictions will vary, depending on the scale being modeled. The topic for the contest is "Outhouses" created tastefully. (See the "Outhouses" article elsewhere in this newsletter.) The Modelers Forum meeting on Thursday, May 28, will include a discussion on lighting structures.

The election of officers is held at the annual business meeting in May. The floor was opened to nominations. There were no nominations from the floor. After a few moments, a motion was made that nominations cease. The Secretary was instructed to cast one ballot for the slate of officers given in April. The officers for 2015 and 2016 are as follows:

President, Jay Calnan

Vice President, Roger Plummer

Secretary, Paul Lodge

Treasurer, Tom Coulombe

Librarian/Archivist, Terry King

Directors: Roger Allen, Dan Collins, Darin Long

Dan Collins won the 50/50 raffle. Several names were drawn for the Attendance Prize, including Jerry Johnston and Travis Johnson, who were not there. Roger Plummer's name was then drawn and he selected an Operation Lifesaver thermos.

The meeting adjourned.

CLUB MASCOT CREATED

By Paul Lodge

Carmen Coulombe has used her artistic talents to create "Spikey," the new club mascot that everyone will love.

Jerry Johnston is taking orders for a new gray T-shirt featuring "Spikey." The "Spikey" T-shirts will sell for \$10.

Jerry is taking orders in advance so he will know how many of each size he should get. To ensure one for you, contact Jerry at 966-2932 or email him at jjchef@megalink.net



Ken Nettleship, Peter Cole, Ray Parent, and Thomas ^
 Ken Nettleship and Ray Parent
 Ray Parent, Dick Rubin, Annie V





THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

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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.

OFFICERS:

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jayceeltc@live.com

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Roger Plummer

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THE SIGNAL

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www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org or www.gfmrrc.com

Upcoming Events



June 6 – HO Operating Session 9 - 12

June 11 Executive Committee Meeting
6:30 p.m.

June 18 – Regular monthly club meeting 6:45

June 21 – HO Operating Session 9 - 12

July 9 Executive Committee Meeting
6:30 p.m.

July 19 – Regular monthly club meeting 6:45

July 25 – Club Picnic, Jerry Johnston's home

September 7-10, 2016, 36th
National Narrow Gauge Convention
at Augusta, Me.

RETIRED RENOVATORS TO RESTART ON SEPTEMBER 8

By Paul Lodge

At the Retired Renovators gathering on Tuesday, May 26, it was decided to break for the summer and resume restoring projects in the fall. Tuesday, September 8, was selected as the start-up date for next year.

The Retired Renovators completed painting, fixing, and upgrading several boxes of buildings and rolling stock during the past few months. They also upgraded track and rolling stock to produce seven train sets which will be sold during our upcoming events.

Because of their improved condition, the completed buildings and train cars can be sold at higher prices.

During the weekly meetings, the Retired Renovators also had clinics and discussions about model railroading topics and helped with the scenery construction on the HO layout.

We look forward to having even more members join this activity. While the Retired Renovators are sharing information and modeling techniques, the club is gaining financially from their work.