



The Signal

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club



VOLUME 40. ISSUE 10

MARCH 2015



Member since June 1988

NEXT MEETING
March 19
6:45 p.m.

NEXT MONTH
Deadline for
April Issue
April 3, 2015

MEMBERSHIP
132

ATTENDANCE PRIZE

There was no meeting due to the snow storm

Maybe next meeting you could win!

Will your name be drawn on
March 19?

You have to be present to win!

BOTTLES FOR BASICS

- ◆ Total LAST YEAR
- ◆ \$736.48
- ◆ YEAR TO DATE:
- ◆ \$577.23
- ◆ LAST MONTH:
- ◆ \$42.00

Donations of Used Ink and Toner Cartridges:
Last Month:\$24.00
Year to Date:
\$194.00

MANY MEMBERS AT THE AUGUSTA SHOW

FEBRUARY 21, 2015

By Paul Lodge

More than 25 Great Falls Model Railroad Club members participated in the Whitefield Lions Club Doll House and Model Railroad Show on Saturday, February 21, at the Augusta Armory.

Because of the number of club members available, setting up and tearing down the modular layout went smoothly. Phil Clough brought his test track, which was used for checking locomotives during the day. Bob and Denise Purington said that ticket sales were good on the attractive newly scenic raffle layout. Paul Lodge set up the Operation Lifesaver tables with a television, pop-up display poster, and many handouts which were later "manned" by two women Operation Lifesaver volunteers.



For the first two hours, the Armory was filled with customers buying model railroad supplies from dealers and from the surplus inventory tables where several club members sold supplies.

Trains ran smoothly on the club's modular layout. One track was devoted to DCC and the other to DC. At times there were as many as four trains running at once. Club members and customers were able to network, share model railroading ideas, and get involved in stimulating conversations.



BACKDROP PAINTING FOR THE RELUCTANT PAINTER

Paul Lodge

On Saturday, April 18, from 9 a.m. to noon, Paul Lodge will share some simple techniques for painting backdrops. The class is open to all club members and their friends who want to practice some basic methods of backdrop painting.

The registration fee of \$10 helps cover the cost of the paints and supplies for the class. If participants need brushes, the tools can be purchased for \$20 on the day of the class. The price pays for a fan brush, a one-inch brush, a two-inch brush, and a pallet knife. The fan brush and pallet knife are bought from Craft Mania at a special club discount which is passed along to those who purchase the tools for the class.



RETIRED RENOVATORS MEETING

By Paul Lodge

On Tuesday mornings from 9 to about noon, retired club members recondition buildings and rolling stock for sale at train shows. While fixing buildings and rolling stock, the renovators learn and share modeling and weathering techniques. Once they have finished the reconditioning, the items can be sold at train shows at a higher price. The revenue from the work accomplished by the Retired Renovators is used to help pay club expenses.

Many of our older club members do not like driving at night. Having this daytime activity gives members a way to continue modeling and help the club at the same time. If you are available on Tuesday mornings, come and join us.



Meeting of the minds at the Augusta train show



MODEL RAILROADING CLASS
SPRING 2015

Paul Lodge

The spring model railroading class plans to build three new modules. Dan Malkowski is building another module and will be assisted by Bryce Weeks. Three adults and a twelve-year-old are creating the other two modules. Travis Johnson is building an eight-foot module and is helping to teach the class at the same time. One of the modules is being built in N-scale and the others are in HO.

The class is made up of people from Turner, Waterville, Bath, and Harrison.

Club members are invited to come to the class on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 and help the class members. The class started on February 10 and is scheduled to finish on April 7. Saturday, April 18, is reserved for the "Backdrop Painting for the Reluctant Painter" class. Many of those taking the model railroading course will also participate in the April 18 class.

Our train show at Mt. Ararat High School in Topsham is Saturday, April 25. These modules will be finished in time to be part of the show.



So Jerry, where is your hiding spot for this show?



February Minutes by Paul Lodge



FEBRUARY CLUB MEETING

CANCELLED BECAUSE OF SNOW

By Paul Lodge

Because of the snow storm, the February 19 club meeting was cancelled. The Executive Committee meeting scheduled for February 12 had been postponed until February 18 because of an earlier storm. Several items which were discussed at the Executive Committee meeting would have been presented at the club meeting.

Tom Coulombe reported that the idea of replacing fluorescent lights on the HO layout with LEDs has been abandoned. According to our electrician, the ceiling would need to be sixteen feet high. Otherwise, the light would be too bright.

Travis Johnson noted that the Future Master Modelers Committee has designed a patch and a pin concept. He hopes that a presentation can be made at our next club meeting in March. Because it is difficult for the group to get together, they tried to have a meeting using Skype. It was a start and they hope to have another Skype meeting within the next couple of weeks.

On March 28, Owen Buck and Terry King will represent the club at the 3-Railers show in Augusta.

Ralph Lube and Dick Rubin have indicated that they will not be doing the West Springfield show next year. It appears that we are still invited. It will be up to the club members to decide whether we want to participate. Dick has donated to the club his Thomas the Tank Engine trains that were used at the West Springfield show.

We have received a communication from the group from Michigan requesting associate membership status. It was suggested that we join together as "sister clubs" to avoid having to change our by-laws.



OWLS HEAD OUT

By Paul Lodge

Because so many of our key club members will not be available to go to the two-day modelers' show at Owls Head, we will not be participating this year on March 28 and 29.

We plan to attend the show again next year.

We hope some members will attend this year to enjoy the other temporary exhibits of model railroads, airplanes, cars and trucks. Several dealers and exhibitors will have items for sale. If you have never been to the museum, be sure to see their permanent displays of early cars and airplanes.



MONEY MATCH FOR MIKE

By Paul Lodge

At the January monthly meeting, a proposal was made for club members to pledge money in Mike Reed's name to help reduce the mortgage on the club building.

Several different times, Mike had expressed concern about the large amount of debt the club had acquired in buying our building. Two club members have created a money-matching plan to raise up to \$2,000 to be paid on the mortgage in Mike's name. The matching challenge will work in two parts. Five hundred dollars will be given to the club after members have pledged \$500. With that match, the mortgage will be reduced by \$1,000. An additional \$500 will be given when club members pledge an additional \$500. If members do not complete the second \$500, money will be donated to match whatever is pledged up to \$500.

We have 15 years left to pay on the mortgage. Payments on the principal will help reduce the number of years we will need to pay.

The money-matching challenge will continue until the middle of April.

MODELERS' FORUM

MEETS ON FOURTH THURSDAY

By Paul Lodge

Ten club members were present at this month's Modelers' Forum, which meets at the club on the fourth Thursday of each month. Bob Willard led off the evening with a demonstration of resin casting. He mixed and poured the solutions which members watched set up inside the molds. After the items were cured and removed from the molds, Bob passed them around so the members could see the amount of details in them. Bob showed a variety of molds and shared many other techniques he uses to make the process more effective.

Carmen Anastase brought the train set he had developed from a 3D printer. He asked for ideas about connecting the three units of the train set and mounting trucks to put wheels on the chassis of each train. This led to a wealth of suggestions from the other members of the group.

Brenda Leslie was not satisfied with the decals she had applied to a Maine Central box car and asked for advice. Several suggestions were made on how to fix the problem.



Some views of the Lewiston Lower





THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

144 Mill Street
Auburn, Me 04210

207-576-3788

e-mail:

greatfallsmodelrailroadclub@yahoo.com

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:

President:

Jay Calnan-783-1719
jayceeltc@live.com

Vice President:

Roger Plummer

Secretary:

Paul Lodge - 966-3641
paulodge@gwi.net

Treasurer:

Tom Coulombe - 240-9913
ctcoulombe@aol.com

Directors:

Roger Allen-783-2129
Travis Johnson-375-6677
Darin Long

Webmaster:

Joe Marshall - 344-7099
joe@braintriggers.com

Assistant Webmaster:

Frances Lodge - 966-3641
paulodge@gwi.net

Librarian/Archivist

Terry King
tpking@roadrunner.com

THE SIGNAL

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Editor:

Rick James
N1wfo@roadrunner.com

Proofreader:

Frances Lodge
paulodge@gwi.net

Address Change

If your mailing or e-mail address changes please notify Terrence King at tpking@roadrunner.com

www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org or www.gfmrrc.com

Upcoming Events



March 12 Executive Committee Meeting
6:30 p.m.

March 19 Club Meeting 6:45 p.m.

March 21 Operating Session 8:30 to Noon

March 26 22 Modeler's Forum 7 p.m.

April 4 Operating Session 8:30 to Noon
Future model Master Modelers Noon to 1pm

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

April 16 Club Meeting 6:45 p.m.

April 18 Operating Session 8:30 to Noon

April 18, Backdrop Painting For the Reluctant Painter. From 9 a.m. to noon

April 23 Modeler's Forum 7 p.m.

April 25 - GFMRRC Spring Show, Mt. Ararat, Topsham
10 a.m.-3p.m.

On Tuesday mornings from 9 to about noon, retired club members meet at the clubhouse to recondition buildings and rolling stock for sale at train shows.

Model Railroading Class meets every Tuesday 6:30-8:30. Last class will be April 7. Club members are welcome to help.

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



You don't need to wait for the train shows to buy train supplies. Come on down to the clubhouse and check out what we have on hand. There is always something new being brought in.