

# The Signal

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club



VOLUME 41. ISSUE 11

APRIL 2015



Member since June 1988

**NEXT MEETING**  
**April 16**  
**6:45 p.m.**

**NEXT MONTH**  
**Deadline for**  
**May Issue**  
**May 3, 2015**

**MEMBERSHIP**  
**132**

### ATTENDANCE PRIZE

Dan Collins won the Attendance Prizes. Maybe next meeting it will be YOU!

Will your name be drawn on **April 16?**

You have to be present to win!

### **BOTTLES FOR BASICS**

- ◆ Total LAST YEAR
- ◆ \$736.48
- ◆ YEAR TO DATE:
- ◆ \$617.23
- ◆ Last MONTH:
- ◆ \$82.00

Donations of Used Ink and Toner Cartridges:  
Last Month: \$74.00  
Year to Date: \$244.00

## MODEL TRAIN SHOW AT MT. ARARAT SATURDAY, APRIL 25

Paul Lodge

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club will again sponsor the annual model train show at Mt. Ararat High School in Topsham on Saturday, April 25, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Displays feature a variety of model trains including HO, G-gauge, and N-scale, built by model train enthusiasts throughout Maine. Model layouts will also include the attractive N-scale display of the Boothbay Railroad Village train. New display modules will include those created by students in this year's Model Railroading Classes offered by the club through the Auburn Adult Education program. Club members and dealers from around New England will be available to answer questions and to sell new and used model railroad items. Admission is \$4; \$2 for those under 15.

Mt. Ararat *Sports Boosters* will benefit from the sale of refreshments at the model train show. They provide coffee and donuts throughout the morning, with luncheon specials beginning about noon.



Club members who plan to exhibit their modules can bring them to the high school on Friday afternoon at 4 p.m. or Saturday morning before 8 a.m. Club members are asked to come to the high school on Friday to help set up the dealer tables, which are usually delivered at about 4 in the afternoon.

Photos:

Top: James Raslavsky & Travis Leavitt  
Middle: Travis Leavitt, Travis Johnson  
Bottom: Paul Lodge, Colby & Travis Leavitt



## MEET THE MEMBERS

## RICHARD HOLMAN

By Paul Lodge



Dick Holman and his wife Lynn have been married for 23 years. They have three daughters who have literally grown up with the club. When Dick took our model railroading class in the spring of 1992, their oldest girl Jennifer had not even been born. She and her sisters, Andrea and Rebecca, have attended our train shows and participated in many club activities since they were little. Both Jennifer and Andrea are now old enough to have their driver's licenses. When we started renovations at our current location, the girls helped dig out the dirt from under the loading dock area where we have created the furnace room. They have helped Dad build some of his modules and Andrea submitted a lighthouse for our square-foot contest last November.

One of Dick's jobs working with civil engineers included using a computer with a CAD program. Many of his projects used the 3D CAD program to depict land forms which could be used to determine volumes of materials that could be cut from one location and used as fill in another. Dick also does designing and drafting work.

Dick Holman was born in Massachusetts; but when he was 12, his parents came back to Maine to live. In 1990, Dick and Lynn moved to Windham where they started their family. Although there was not enough room in their house to build a full layout, Dick has continually added details to the module he built in our class.

Dick has been interested in model railroading since he received his first train set at the age of two. He still has that HO train set, and the receipt from Sears is still in the box. Dick has been an active member of the club almost since its beginning. He was president from 1996 to 1998, during which time he started clinic days in North Yarmouth. Dick also worked part time at Train and Trooper in North Yarmouth and currently helps out at Maine Model Works in Falmouth.

In 1993 our club joined with two other clubs from Maine to create what was then the country's largest modular layout with more than 130 modules. There was an article about it in the October, 1993, *Model Railroader* magazine. For this special Father's Day event, Dick designed the layout shape and made two inside curves which helped utilize the space at the Portland Yacht Club. These curves are still used every November for our shows at the Auburn Middle School.

Dick is known for the fine detailing he adds to vehicles. He likes to add small details in order to make them look more realistic. At least two of his trucks are now on the club's HO layout. He has also modeled a tractor which is a replica of the one he owns and he and his father use in the woods.

His other hobbies include blacksmithing and metal

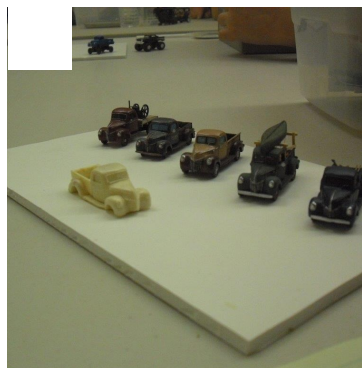
work. He has given demonstrations for about fifteen years at various locations, including the Fryeburg Fair. When he is wearing his full leather apron and safety goggles, he is so hard to recognize that even Jerry Johnston didn't recognize him at the Fryeburg Fair. Dick has a full set-up in his garage and makes many items including fireplace tools, hooks, and chains. Dick is one of two directors from Maine for the New England Blacksmiths organization.

Dick has moved through the ranks of the Free Masons and has become a Grand Officer at the local and state level. The girls have also moved through the ranks in the related organization, the Rainbow Girls.

Since 1970, Dick has been a member of the Falmouth Rod and Gun Club. He is an avid hunter and enjoys competitive target shooting. He has competed in the 200 meter silhouette challenge, winning several state championships. The girls are now learning to shoot and are enjoying the experience.

One of his next projects will be to build an HO Narrow Gauge module. In 2007 Dick headed up a crew at the Narrow Gauge Convention show, and he is looking forward to participating in two events which other members of the Great Falls Model Railroad club will enjoy. The Maine Narrow Gauge show will be held on September 19 at Gray-New Gloucester High School. The national Narrow Gauge Convention is scheduled for September 7-10, 2016, in Augusta. Those attending the show and the convention have been invited to visit the club and take part in layout tours at the homes of several of our club members.

With all of these interests, we are lucky to have Dick active in our organization.



Dick Holman's trucks



Greg Ouellete, Dick Holman at Modelers Forum

**BACKDROP PAINTING  
FOR THE RELUCTANT PAINTER**

Paul Lodge

The "Backdrop Painting for the Reluctant Painter" class is scheduled for Saturday, April 18, from 9 a.m. to noon. Paul Lodge will share some simple techniques for painting scenery on backdrops. Four people had signed up for the class by the end of March, and there is still room for more. The class is open to all club members and their friends who want to learn and 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.

Come and join in the fun.

Backdrop Painting Class Peter Cole



**SHRINERS INVITED TO CLUB**

By Paul Lodge

The 2015 Shrine Northeast Fall Field Days will be held in Lewiston and Auburn on September 17 through 20. Canada, Vermont, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Maine expect to send between 2,000 and 2,500 Shriners. More than 400 hotel rooms, B & B, and campsites have been blocked out for the occasion.

There will be a grand opening event at Veterans Park on Thursday, September 17. Friday, September 18, is an open day for all attendees. We have invited the Shriners to visit our club and enjoy our displays. An advance committee of seventy Shriners has been given our club's brochure with an Operation Lifesaver key ring attached.

On Saturday, September 19, the public is invited to watch the Shriners' Motor Corps Competition at the Auburn Mall. A huge Shriners Parade in downtown Lewiston will also be part of the convention.

**"SHOW AND TELL"**

**AT MODELERS' FORUM**

By Paul Lodge

The Modeler's Forum meets on the fourth Thursday each month from 7 to 9 p.m. The March meeting featured a "show and tell." The topics discussed and the items shown included: pin vises, a remote control auto, highly detailed trucks and tractors, and creating license plates for model vehicles. Carmen Anastase, Dick Holman, and Kent Waterson shared their experiences with 3-D printing and CAD programming for 3-D printers. Greg Ouellette demonstrated making corrugated aluminum siding by using ordinary scissors, a scrap booking paper crimper and a soda can.

Come join the fun and see how these modelers think outside the box.

Greg Ouellette using a crimping tool at the Modelers Forum



Greg Ouellette demonstrated making corrugated aluminum siding



# March Minutes by Paul Lodge



## MEETING MINUTES OF

**MARCH 19, 2015**

A Power Point slide show of club activities between the January and March meeting dates was shown from 6:45 to 7:15 p.m. Several club members who appeared in the pictures gave explanations about the activities in which they were involved.

The evening's *TRAIN TIME* show featured a Pan Am train from Leeds to North Yarmouth and a New Brunswick Southern train in Mattawamkeag.

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. The suggested budget for the next fiscal year was also shown and approved.

As Station Master, Tom Coulombe noted that the floors need to be cleaned, repainted and polyurethaned. The outdoor retaining wall also needs to be repainted.

Travis Johnson reported that the HO group will have an operating session on Saturday, March 21. Travis announced that he is building a new eight-foot module to be used at shows. It will replace his former four- by eight-foot free-standing layout, which is being retired.

Ken Nettleship announced that Dick Rubin has donated to the club three Thomas the Tank Engines, several cars, and G-gauge buildings. At a recent "tree-making clinic," the G-gauge group made a number of trees, which will be added to the layout.

Bob Willard reported that the agenda for the next Modeler's Forum on March 26 will include a "Show and Tell" feature.

President Calnan announced names for the Nominating Committee charged with developing a slate of officers for the next year. He appointed Jerry Johnston chairman of the committee and suggested others who should be considered for the Nominating Committee. They were Travis Johnson, Ken Nettleship, Dean Ostergaard, Nancy Weeks, and Bob Willard.

Tom Coulombe indicated that six people have confirmed that their layouts will be available for the layout tours planned for September 19 and 20. Additional help will be needed at these layouts so that the owners can spend time talking with the guests. These layout tours are considered to be a "trial run" for the 36th National Narrow Gauge Convention in September 2016, when guests from around the globe will attend the convention in Augusta.

This year's Maine Narrow Gauge show is scheduled for Saturday, September 19, and it is hoped that many of those attending the show will also be able to enjoy the weekend's layout tours.

Paul Lodge reported that the Androscoggin Chamber of Commerce has asked the club to be available for guests who come to the Shriners Convention on September 17 through 20. On Friday, September 18, between 2,000 and 2,500 Shriners, who will be in Lewiston and Auburn for special events, will have free time to visit local attractions. The Chamber has been given 75 copies of our club brochure for members of the Shriners advance committee so they will know what the club has to offer.

Rick James invited club members to write articles for the newsletter. He is anxious to have a variety of appropriate articles which will be of interest to our club members.

The next "Backdrop Painting for the Reluctant Painter" is scheduled for Saturday, April 18. Members were invited to sign up for the class.

Nancy Weeks reported that achievement pins will be used as incentive rewards for the Future Master Modelers. The 10- to 15-year olds will receive credit for activities in which they participate: wiring, scenery, track cleaning, etc. An adult in the club will need to sign a sheet to prove they did the work.

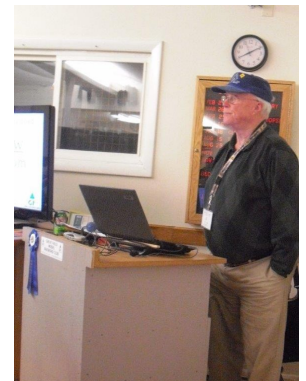
President Calnan asked for volunteers for next month's end-of-meeting clinics. Travis Johnson said he will provide something for the "What's on Your Workbench?" segment.

Carmen Anastase won the 50/50 raffle. Dan Collins won the Attendance Prize and chose an HO kit.

The meeting adjourned.



President Jay Calnan conducts March 19 meeting



## SHAPEWAYS 3-D PRINTING

By Carmen Anastase

My introduction to Shapeways began with my idea to model the River LINE, a [diesel tram-train](#) light rail with 20 articulated [Swiss-built Stadler GTW 2/6](#) DMU. The River LINE runs from Trenton to Camden, New Jersey, and passes through my hometown of Burlington. Most of its 32 miles are single track. It operates on the former Amboy and Camden line and shares the track with CSX or Norfolk-Southern, which runs freight at night.

How was I to model a railroad when no company would be making models of the cars? My first thought was to find a similar unit and modify it. By chance, I was speaking to my daughter's neighbor, who is an N scale modeler, and he suggested I look at Shapeways. <http://www.shapeways.com>

The Imperial Hobby Productions on Shapeways uses 3D printing and CAD designs to produce unique models and custom projects in various sizes, including G scale, HO, N, and O. Their website shows a wide variety of designs for shells and the floors and detail parts which would go with them. If you are looking for something you can't find commercially, you might want to try looking at the 12,000 images in Shapeways.

Designs can be made using various free online programs. One of the most popular design programs is Sketchup. <http://www.sketchup.com>. I spent some time playing with Sketchup and knew I was in over my head.

Instead of continuing with Sketchup, I decided to find someone else to create the design I wanted. Some of the modelers who use Shapeways are designers who will take your images or plans to create the design for you. I searched on the Shapeways site for model trains similar to the River LINE and found a designer who displayed similar models. I contacted him through the Shapeways website "hire a designer" column. We negotiated a price of \$100 to create the design from the picture of the actual River LINE locomotive I showed at last Thursday's Modelers Forum.

After the design was completed, I sent the TIS file to Shapeways for printing. TIS is a file extension similar in some ways to a PDF or JPG file. Shapeways reviews each file to make sure it can be printed. The kind of plastic I chose first was rejected because it would be too brittle. They suggested I use frosted ultra-detail instead, which I did.

Shapeways has 20 years of experience in the hobby business. Some profit-making model train companies use Shapeways, so you can trust their advice about the strength and quality of their materials. <http://www.shapeways.com/shops/ihphobby>

The cost for the finished product was \$150. I ordered one complete train, and they can make as many as I order.

I have primed part of one box car and it is ready to paint in the River LINE paint scheme.



### SATURDAY, MARCH 28

#### BUSY DAY

By Paul Lodge

An active club has many choices. On Saturday, March 28, there were many railroad-related activities.

Terry King and Owen Buck traveled to Augusta for the Maine 3/Railers Train Show. They took a variety of Lionel equipment and books to sell at our tables. The Maine 3/Railers had a large exhibit of trains which children were encouraged to run. Terry reported that about 150 people attended the show with nearly as many Maine 3/Railers club members. Operation Life-saver also had a display and gave out railroad safety materials.

In Lewiston, Travis Johnson was at the Ramada Inn for a conference with ham radio enthusiasts. He was able to promote railroad safety from his table by supplying Operation Life-saver safety flyers and showing related videos. At one point in the day, he began showing *Train Time* videos to attract more attention to his display.

In Rockland, the Owls Head Transportation Museum held its annual modelers' event. Our club did not participate this year because so many of our members were busy elsewhere, but club members were encouraged to attend.



## 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.

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## THE SIGNAL

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## Upcoming Events



**April 4** Operating Session 8:30 to Noon

**April 7** Model Railroading Class 6:30 p.m.

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

**April 14** Model Railroading Class 6:30 p.m.

**April 16** Club Meeting 6:45 p.m.

**April 18** Operating Session 8:30 to Noon

**April 21** Model Railroading class 6:30 p.m.

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

**May 7** Executive Committee Meeting 6:30 p.m.

**May 14** Club Meeting 6:45 p.m.

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

Future  
Master  
Modelers  
Meeting

