

# The Signal

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club



VOLUME 15. ISSUE 2

JULY 2015



Member since June 1988

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

**NEXT MONTH**  
Deadline for  
August Issue  
July 31, 2015

**MEMBERSHIP**  
130

### ATTENDANCE PRIZE

**Bob Purington**  
won the Attendance  
Prize.

Maybe next meeting  
it will be YOU!

Will your name be  
drawn on  
July 16?

You have to be  
present to win!

### **BOTTLES FOR BASICS**

- ◆ Total LAST YEAR
- ◆ \$700.23
- ◆ YEAR TO DATE:
- ◆ \$154.00
- ◆ Last MONTH:
- ◆ \$52.00

Donations of Used  
Ink and Toner  
Cartridges:  
Last Month: \$8.00  
Year to Date:  
\$49.00

## A WONDERFUL DONATION

By Paul Lodge

A parade locomotive has been donated to the club by Bill Soule and his wife Lois of Orono. Bill is an Operation Lifesaver Authorized Volunteer who has visited the club several times and appreciates the goals of our club. Because Bill and his wife are moving from their home into a smaller rental apartment, they are downsizing.



Lois & Bill Soule with the train in Paul Lodge's van

Bill is a retired University of Maine math professor. His engineering background helped him design and build the locomotive. Bill and some of his friends finished building the locomotive in 2006, and it has been used in about twenty-five parades since then.

Our club has talked about building something that we can use to promote the club in parades in our area. This is the perfect solution. The locomotive has some signs on it that were important to the Soules' family history. We can change those signs to reflect our club's

name.

Bill mentioned that a feature which worked well was using a child's battery-operated soap-bubble generator/blower, hidden INSIDE the stack, to represent smoke. Even though the device didn't like the bumpy ride, it created a charming effect when it worked. For the Christmas parades, LED lights were attached and operated by battery. We may be able to use one or both of these ideas.



Donated Locomotive from Bill & Lois Soule

We are looking forward to using the locomotive to promote the club at Greene Village Day, Lisbon Falls' Moxie parade, West Paris Old Home Days, and Auburn's Parade of Lights after Thanksgiving. The locomotive, along with our club's banner and our new mascot "Spikey," should be quite an attraction.

**MEET THE MEMBERS**

**Phil Clough**

By Paul Lodge



Phil Clough grew up outside Boston and graduated from Tabor Academy in Marion, Massachusetts. He was drafted into the Army in 1944. During World War II he worked on a high velocity anti-tank destroyer, arriving in Germany just after the Battle of the Bulge.

After serving two years in the Army, he graduated from Yale University. He taught Geology for 36 years in the Northwood School system in Lake Placid, New York. While at Northwood, he coached swimming and soccer. Before he had ever seen a game of lacrosse, he was asked to coach that as well.

Phil moved to Bridgton in 1996 and joined the Great Falls Model Railroad Club the following year. He took our Model Railroading class and built an HO layout in his home. He attends as many of our functions as he can. At our club shows, Phil always brings the test track so that train buffs can check locomotives to see that they run properly before buying them.

Phil has always been an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed hiking and outdoor sports. For 53 years he has worked at Camp Winona in Bridgton during July and August. He used to lead the youngsters on mountain hiking trails. He says he does not do that now because he cannot keep up with the 14-year olds. He currently teaches riflery at the camp. The rifle range is open seven days a week and Phil is sometimes there both morning and afternoon. Camp Winona is a boys camp in Bridgton which began in 1906. With its sister camp Wyonegonic, it is the oldest brother/sister camp in the United States.

Hockey, soccer, and lacrosse are Phil's favorite sports. For many years, he coached both soccer and lacrosse. Phil is a mainstay at Hebron Academy where the team has adopted him as a mascot. He is loyal to the Academy's soccer, lacrosse and hockey teams. He attends most of their games, both home and away. He even travels with them on the team bus. His interest in Hebron Academy began when one of his former campers at Camp Winona started teaching there.

As a youngster, Phil modeled ships and planes and liked working with balsa wood. These days he spends more time building model ships than working on his railroad layout. Phil donated the prefabricated bench work which is being used as the base for the club's N-scale layout. He has also donated HO equipment and supplies to the club.

Teaching railroad safety through Operation Lifesaver has been one of Phil's activities for the past few years. He has presented many programs for driver education classes.

Phil is a rail fan who enjoys watching trains more than operating model trains. He is particularly interested in the trains in Pennsylvania. He has been to Horseshoe Curve and Sandpatch, and would like to return to Pennsylvania to see the



**CLUB MASCOT T-SHIRTS**

By Paul Lodge

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

Jerry Johnston is taking orders for the T-shirt featuring "Spikey." The "Spikey" T-shirts will sell for \$10. To buy yours, contact Jerry at 966-2932 or email him at [jjchef@megalink.net](mailto:jjchef@megalink.net)



**2016 NATIONAL NARROW GAUGE**

**CONVENTION UPDATE**

By Paul Lodge

At the club meeting on June 18, Bob Willard reported that the committee for the 2016 National Narrow Gauge Convention at the Augusta Civic Center has already verified that at least 90 clinics will be offered. They plan to include 13 model layouts in the Civic Center and 2 live steam layouts outdoors.

This convention is a big deal! Guests will be attending from all parts of the United States and from foreign countries. This is the first time in many years that the National Narrow Gauge Convention has been held on the East Coast.

Layout tours during the convention will include the Great Falls Model Railroad Club and several members' layouts. Modelers who are opening their layouts for this convention will need volunteers to help run the layouts and to keep an eye on the layout while the owner talks with guests.

On September 19, we will be part of this fall's Maine Narrow Gauge show by opening our club and the layouts of individual members for layout tours. The layout tours will be a test run for next fall's national convention. This year's local show will be held at the Gray/New Gloucester High School on Saturday, September 19.



Train set BN 181, for sale in GFMRRRC Gift Shop



**GET READY FOR AUGUST**

**TRAIN FEST & AUBURN MALL**

By Paul Lodge

On August 22 and 23, the Great Falls Model Railroad Club is hosting *Train Fest* during the Auburn/Lewiston Balloon Festival. We will be open on Saturday, August 22, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sunday, August 23, from noon to 5 p.m. In addition to our club layouts, there will be special activities for the children. The building will be decorated with pictures and models of hot air balloons to help create a festive atmosphere.

As they enter, children will be able to write their names on small paper hot air balloons and push-pin them onto a painted backdrop scene. Younger children can play with the wooden Brio train set and toy trains on the play rug. In the G-Gauge room, they can operate Thomas the Tank Engine and watch the engine named Percy run on the trestle above Thomas.

Tickets can be purchased to play the *Balloon Bag Toss* and *Round House Roulette* games and to become a Guest Engineer on our HO layout.

Club members are asked to come and provide help by selling tickets, running trains, and supervising layouts and games. We also need help publicizing the event during August with email and FaceBook messages to your friends and family, distributing and posting flyers, and other ways you think of.

On Saturday, August 29, the club will hold a train show at the Auburn Mall. This will be the third time we have been invited to offer something different for the shoppers at the mall. The modular HO layout and our children's games will provide entertainment. A children's play area will be available for the youngest children. Again this year we will have the popular scavenger hunt, with about a dozen stores displaying railroad-related items for the children and their families to find. We hope many club members will help with the layout and other activities as well.

# June Minutes by Paul Lodge



## MEETING MINUTES OF

**JUNE 18, 2015**

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

The evening's TRAIN TIME show featured a fall foliage trip on the Belfast & Moosehead Lake Railroad from Belfast to Burnham Junction in 1997.

Because there were new members present at this meeting, President Jay Calnan asked those present to give their names and what their scale interests are.

President 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.

As the Station Master, Tom reported that about half of the outside parking lot wall has been power washed in order to get it ready for repainting. He noted that John Visco has volunteered to start working on the display case for the steam engine that was donated by Mike Reed. Bob Willard and Greg Ouellette will finish attaching the detail parts to the locomotive. A new counter top and a cabinet with doors have been installed to take the place of the smaller cabinets which had no doors.

Librarian Terry King displayed one of several notebooks containing articles from railroad magazines. These articles have been sorted by topics with each topic filed in a separate notebook. Having all the articles about one topic in the same place makes it easier for someone to find all of the available information quickly.

For the HO group, Gary Thibeault announced that a new control panel has been installed for the Helix Division. He reminded members that there is an operating session this Saturday, June 20.

Bob Willard invited members to come to the Modelers Forum on the fourth Thursday of each month. This month the group plans to discuss weathering. Members who plan to attend can bring something to weather. He also plans to have a "Show and Tell" portion at the meeting.

Paul Lodge announced that a topic has been selected for the first course in "Modeling: the Next Step." About half of those responding to the survey of potential subjects for classes indicated an interest in air brushing. Bob Willard, Darin Long, and Gary Thibeault volunteered to create a

course outline for the air brushing class and to start the class in the fall. As the details are decided upon, the information will be made available to all club members.

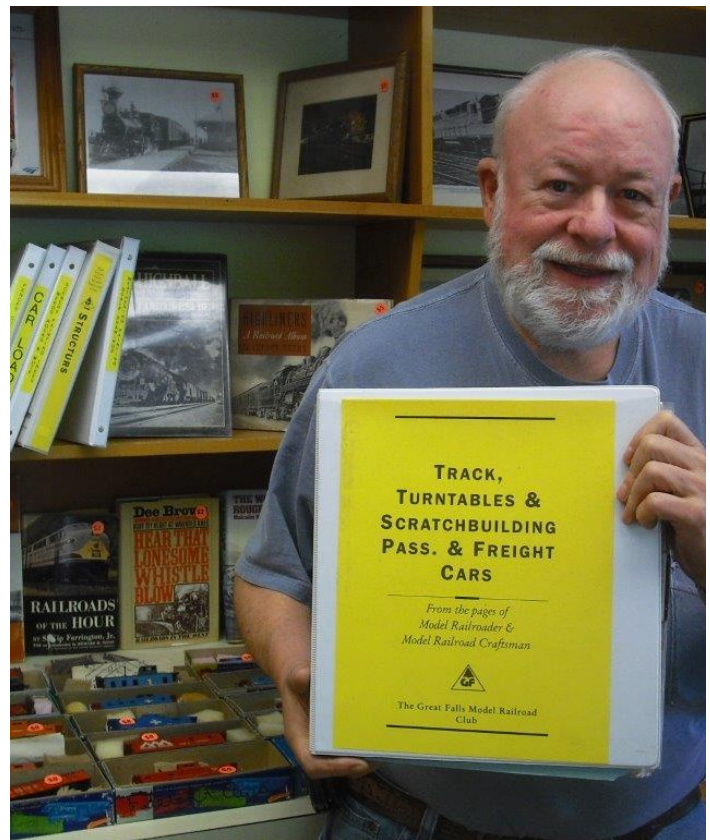
Bob Willard reported on plans for this fall's Maine Narrow Gauge show to be held at the Gray/New Gloucester High School on September 19 and the National Narrow Gauge Convention which will be held at the Augusta Civic Center in September, 2016. (See separate article elsewhere in this newsletter.)

Paul Lodge reported that train safety Operation Lifesaver State Coordinator Fred Hirsch died unexpectedly on Thursday, June 11. Several club members attended the funeral in Bangor on Sunday, June 14. Operation Lifesaver is an integral part of our club, providing us with handout materials about railroad safety, a concept which our club needs to promote constantly.

Art Letourneau's name was drawn for the 50/50 prize.

Bob Purington won the Attendance Prize, and he selected a U.S. Navy hat.

The meeting adjourned.



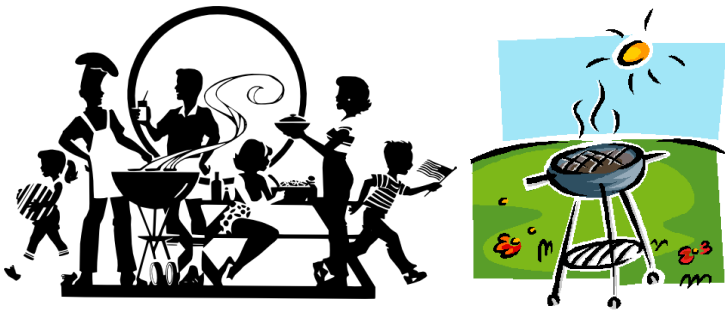


## SUMMER PICNIC AT HOBO HOUSE

By Paul Lodge

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club will hold its annual picnic on Saturday, July 25, at the home of our resident hobo, Jerry Johnston, at 554 Brighton Hill Road in Minot, starting about 11 a.m. Club members are invited to bring their families and guests.

Jerry's Rocky Ridge layout is still a work in progress, but it is impressive. You may bring badminton and/or other lawn games. Please bring lawn chairs if you have them. If you would like, bring food to share for pot luck. Jerry will have hamburgers and hotdogs cooking on the grill.



## JUNE MODELERS FORUM

By Paul Lodge

Club members at the June 25 Modelers Forum displayed various items they had weathered. Some of them also demonstrated techniques for creating the illusion of peeling and chipped paint on buildings.

Bob Willard displayed a filling station which looked aged and deteriorated because of the flaking paint on the side of the building. He then demonstrated how the effect was created by using a combination of hairspray, paint thinner and acrylic paint. Those in attendance were given a handout which explained how to get the desired effect and the supplies that are needed.

Greg Ouellette demonstrated a different technique which achieved a similar result by using a stiff stippling brush. One of his demonstrations showed how to get a rusted look on metal siding.

Dick Holman displayed several sets of resin-casted junk yard items. He had painted individual parts of the junk pile and weathered them. He is still in the process of finalizing the scene with weeds and tall grasses.

There was a brief discussion of items which would be appropriate for this fall's air brushing class for "Modeling: The Next Step." Air brushing has been selected for this class because it was the topic most often mentioned by club members who completed the recent interest survey. After more details are worked out for the air brushing class, a schedule will be announced.



Power washing needs to be completed before the wall is repainted



Greg Ouellette demonstrates weathering



Greg Ouellette's weathered garage



## 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:

#### President:

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[jayceeltc@live.com](mailto:jayceeltc@live.com)

#### Vice President:

Roger Plummer

#### Secretary:

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## THE SIGNAL

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[www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org](http://www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org) or [www.gfmrrc.com](http://www.gfmrrc.com)

## Upcoming Events



**July 4** – HO Operating Session 9 - 12

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

**June 16** – Regular monthly club meeting  
6:45

**June 18** – HO Operating Session 9 - 12

**July 18** – Future Master Model Railroaders 12 - 1

**July 23** – Modelers Forum 7 p.m.

**July 25** – Club Picnic, Jerry Johnston's home 11 to —

**August 1** – HO Operating Session 9 - 12

**August 1** – Future Master Model Railroaders 12 - 1

**August 6** - Governor's Restaurant Family Night 4 - 8

**August 13** – Executive Committee Meeting 6:30

**August 20** – Regular monthly club meeting 6:45

**August 22** - Train Fest during Balloon Festival 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**August 23** – Train Fest during Balloon Festival 12 to 5 p.m.

**August 27** – Modelers Forum 7 p.m.

**NOTE:** Model Railroading Class starts September 1 and continues every Tuesday night for 8 weeks from 6:30 to 8:30

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

#### FOR SALE

- | Push lawn mower. Best offer
- | 45" cabinet w/ formica top. Best offer
- | Switch Stand w/ light \$175.00

Contact Tom Coulombe at  
240-9913