



# The Signal

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club



VOLUME 16. ISSUE 5

OCTOBER 2015



Member since June 1988

**NEXT MEETING**  
**October 15**  
**6:45 p.m.**

**NEXT MONTH**  
**Deadline for**  
**November Issue**  
**November 2, 2015**

**MEMBERSHIP**  
**127**

### ATTENDANCE PRIZE

**Jamie Robertson**  
**won the Attendance**  
**Prize.**

**Maybe next meeting**  
**it will be YOU!**

**Will your name be**  
**drawn on**

**October 15?**

**You have to be**  
**present to win!**

### **BOTTLES FOR** **BASICS**

- ◆ **Total LAST YEAR**
- ◆ **\$700.23**
- ◆ **YEAR TO DATE:**
- ◆ **\$322.00**
- ◆ **Last MONTH:**
- ◆ **\$110.00**

**Donations of Used**  
**Ink and Toner**  
**Cartridges:**  
**Last Month:\$54.00**  
**Year to Date:**  
**\$127.00**

## **NOVEMBER 7 SHOW**

### **CHANGED TO**

## **MT. ARARAT HIGH SCHOOL, TOPSHAM**

By Paul Lodge

A variety of events has made the Auburn Middle School unavailable for the club's annual train show in November.

The Saturday, November 7, train show will be relocated to Mt. Ararat High School in Topsham from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Our annual spring train show is held at Mt. Ararat High School, and we are grateful to them for making this site available to us for November 7 on short notice.

Club officers are concerned that we will not be able to contact all the people who plan to come to Auburn Middle School. This has been the location for our show for nearly thirty years and we have included that date and location in our advertising tri-cut handouts all year. Many of these loyal show goers will not be reading about the new location in any of the publications where we will announce the change. We need club members to help us spread the word by flyers, Facebook, e-mails, and personal contact.

A highlight of the November 7 show is the club's large modular layout, which will include new modules created in this fall's eight-week Model Railroading Class held at the Great Falls Model Railroad Club. Because there is more space at Mt. Ararat High School, we will be able to accommodate more layouts. Bob Willard and Gregg Ouellette will have their On30 layout and Frank Knight will bring an Sn2 exhibit. Boothbay Railway Village has also been invited to display their village layout. Dealers from throughout New England will have model railroad items for sale. *TRAIN TIME* videos, produced by the railroad club, will be shown during the day and will be available for sale. Refreshment sales will benefit the Mt. Ararat Boosters Club. Admission is \$4 and \$2 for children with a \$10 family limit.

Paul Lodge has traditionally contacted the Auburn Middle School principal or secretary in July to reserve the first Saturday in November as the date for our model railroad show. This year, however, the school was being renovated during the summer months and the school secretary was not allowed in the building. Paul was told to wait until after school opened to contact her again. During that time, the Drama Club signed up electronically for the first Saturday in November. The school secretary did not know about the Drama Club's selection of that date until Paul saw her in early September to reserve it.

The day that the club was made aware of the schedule conflict, Tom Coulombe made arrangements to hold the train show at Mt. Ararat High School in Topsham. Tom has already contacted the dealers who usually rent tables at our November show.

Jerry Johnston is making a sign about the location change to be used in the Auburn area. During the day of the train show, it has been suggested that a club member be at the Auburn Middle School to redirect show goers to Mt. Ararat High School in Topsham.

## MEET THE MEMBERS

### Ray & Nancy Anderson

By Paul Lodge



Ray and Nancy Anderson are “snowbirds” who remain active in the Great Falls Model Railroad Club from the time they return to Maine each spring until they leave for Florida in the fall. As “snowbirds” they spend the winter in Punta Gorda, Florida, and migrate home to Wells, Maine, in the spring. With all the traveling they do, Ray and Nancy are thinking about building a Z-scale layout inside a suitcase.

At club events, both Ray and Nancy help sell tickets, supervise layouts and games, and do whatever is needed to help make the event a success. Ray has been a club member since 1990 and Nancy joined the club after she met him.

Ray is originally from Auburn. He attended Webster Junior High School where he played football, basketball, and baseball. He was a member of Auburn Boy Scout Troop 106. After graduating from Edward Little High School in 1947, he joined the Air Force and became an aircraft mechanic, retiring in 1967 after serving 20 years.

When Ray came back to Auburn, he worked in automotive maintenance for Roland Maheux, a locally famous aviator who owned a VW dealership on Minot Avenue in Auburn. (Maheux was once featured in a Ripley’s “Believe It or Not” picture that showed him walking on the wing of his aircraft while it was in flight.) In 1972, Ray went to work for Higgins Office Products.

Ray coached Little League baseball in the summer and volunteered for the National Ski Patrol for thirty years. He was “on call” from the Governor’s office as part of a rescue team to help find lost individuals, and he remembers participating in a Mt. Katahdin rescue. He was a “Mountaineering and Rock Climbing” instructor for Valley Sports in Auburn and for four years volunteered as a Bike Trail Ranger where he helped supervise the trail.

At the Canal Street Alley club location, Ray installed the electrical system for the layout, which at that time was wired for both DC and DCC. Ray created a handbook of all the electrical schematics for the layout. The handbook was about an inch thick when completed and was color-coded for easy reference for those who were not familiar with technical electrical symbols.

Ray has four children living in Maine, Florida, and Washington. After his first wife died, Ray moved to Florida and eventually became a “snowbird.” He joined a yacht club in Florida, purchased a 28-foot sailboat, learned to sail, and became a sailing instructor. He loves to sail and made one memorable trip from Florida to the Chesapeake.

In 2010, Ray met Nancy on the Internet. They both enjoyed similar activities, especially traveling. In 2013 they married in an outdoor wedding with about a hundred people joining them in this festive occasion. They bought a motor home and together they have visited all of the American national parks.

### Nancy Anderson

Nancy has a large resume of achievements of her own. She has 5 children, 14 grandchildren, and 8 great-grandchildren. Her children live in Maine, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania.

One of Nancy’s first jobs was working in a shoe shop in Rochester, New Hampshire. She also worked nine years for General Electric in Somersworth.

For twenty years, Nancy owned her own business in Arundel—Mainely Dolls. She sold everything to do with the making of dolls. In a separate building on her property, she “manufactured” porcelain dolls. She became a Grandmaster by achieving 1500 credits through an accredited college in Oneonta, New York, and won a Seeley Blue Ribbon for one of her creations.

After she retired, Nancy spent winters in Florida and for twelve years has returned to Wells in the summer. Nancy is very popular wherever she is. In Florida she volunteers for the Kiwanis Thrift Shop and is famous as a Bingo caller for the Elks Legion in its Trailer Park Bingo events. When back in Maine, she volunteers as a House Ushers Manager at the Arundel Barn Theater.

Nancy is interested in making figurines from Sculpty, a product that Sharon Clark uses to create people for Dick’s layout and for the G-gauge layout at the club. Perhaps we could add some of Nancy’s people as well.

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club is lucky to have snowbirds like Nancy and Ray Anderson who help with our spring and summer events.

## SURPLUS INVENTORY SALE

### DECEMBER 12, 2015

By Paul Lodge

On Saturday, December 12, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., the Great Falls Model Railroad Club will have available for sale many tables of surplus inventory which was not shown at any of the train shows. Because we usually are limited in the number of tables we rent at a train show, not all of our inventory can be displayed at the same time.

Club members have asked that they have first choice of the surplus items for sale. Last year we were surprised that some buyers showed up before 8 a.m. as they were on their way to work.

Tom Coulombe mentioned that there may be some surprises this year. We have had items donated to us that are of older vintage and may be great for personal display items.

This is one of those club events when we can say that your wife notified us that “You are free to spend as much money as necessary to improve your model railroad collection.”

## MODELERS FORUM

By Ken Nettleship

On Thursday evening, September 24, the Modelers Forum held their monthly meeting at the GFMRR Clubhouse. The evening's topic was "bring what you are working on." Jerry Johnston started the meeting with a small digital unit he had recently purchased from Micro Mark that measures how many ounces an HO scale locomotive is capable of pulling on a flat surface. Mr. Hobo had built a "test track" to demonstrate how the unit works and ran two diesel locomotives to show the group. The unit can actually be pulled or pushed to get a reading. The unit would be helpful in letting an owner know how many cars a locomotive can reasonably pull/push without harming it.

Kent Waterson was shingling the roof of an HO scale structure he has been working on. The shingles are made of a "coated craft paper" type of material which I believe is laser-cut into ruled strips, then notched to HO scale width and depth. Kent discussed the method he used to weather the shingles by applying several layers of paint in various shades in random directions. He had used a straight edge and marker on the roof base to lay out where the different courses of shingles would be laid. Each strip of shingles has an adhesive backing. After gently peeling off the backing paper, he carefully placed the shingle strip along the roof, using the aforementioned lines as a guide. Kent's random painting technique gives an incredible "weathered" look to the shingles. Edges are trimmed using a hobby knife and the next course is applied.

Carmen Anastase brought in his light-rail passenger unit which was built using a 3D printer. This HO scale unit has an amazing amount of detail. Carmen had created some window tinting, using various colors of window film. He was also looking for input on detailing passengers inside the unit. It was discussed that the Northwest Shortlines drive unit he has purchased to power the unit will have to dictate whether he paints the people on the "window" area or is able to use HO scale people to create the effect he is trying to achieve.

Ed and Brenda Leslie brought in a small broom made from twig material. Ed and Brenda said this is something that can be purchased inexpensively at most craft stores and is great for making tree armatures. The material can be used with or without foliage to create the desired effect in almost any scale from Z to G.

Bob Willard brought an O scale bulldozer project he has been working on. Bob is an excellent "molderler" (which is short for mold maker and modeler) and discussed the various pieces he cast to create the dozer. The tracks, engine, frame, and radiator were all made from separate molds. Bob has a wealth of knowledge in mold making and I would encourage members to view his pieces and try his techniques.

Ken Nettleship brought in a Bachmann Big Hauler 10 wheeler that is in the process of being "bashed" and will hopefully resemble #74, which used to run on the Rutland RR. The inspiration was two photographs of the prototype (luckily one from each side). This project is not a "rivet counting" expedition but rather utilizing a broken unit that was on hand and using the "Paul Lodge" school of thought by not throwing anything away. All details to this point have literally come out of the scrap box.

These Modelers Forum meetings are always interesting and touch on a variety of subjects. We have an extremely talented membership at the Great Falls Model Railroad Club. I encourage all of you to come join us on the fourth Thursday of every month from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the clubhouse. The next meeting will be Thursday, October 22, and the subject will be airbrushing. Bob Willard, Gary Thibeault and Darin Long will be sharing their talents with the group. The clinic will include different types of airbrushes, paints, and techniques. We look forward to seeing you all there!



### BACKDROP PAINTING CLASS

**OCTOBER 31, 2015**

By Paul Lodge

At the conclusion of this fall's model railroading course, we will offer "Backdrop Painting for the Reluctant Painter." The class will start at 9 a.m. on Saturday, October 31, and finish at about noon. This is the third year the backdrop painting class has been offered, and it is open to all club members and friends. Our experience has taught us that a maximum of eight students works best.

Registration for the class is \$10. Proper tools can be purchased at the class for an additional \$20. The painting tools used for the class include a #3 fan brush, painter's metal pallet knife, and two rectangle brushes (a one- and two-inch brush). Students who already own these tools do not need to purchase them at the class.

The students will be painting a one- by four-foot module backdrop. These are the same backdrops which are used on all the modules that the club uses at train shows. This much surface allows for painting clouds, mountains, foothills with trees and forests, and ponds or lakes.

A sign-up sheet is available at the club so that all club members and friends who are interested can sign up early before the class is full. A waiting list is also provided so that an additional class can be offered if it is needed.

# September Minutes by Paul Lodge



## MEETING MINUTES OF

**September 17, 2015**

After the Power Point slide show of activities since the last meeting, the TRAIN TIME program featured the Belfast & Moosehead Lake Railroad in the fall of 1997.

President Jay Calnan opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

New members Carl Buckland and Jamie Robertson introduced themselves and shared their model railroading interests.

President Calnan 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 accepted as given.

As Station Master, Tom noted that some of the walls on the upper level have been painted. When all the walls have been completed, the floor will be polyurethaned. Painting the lower level floor will need to wait until funds are available to buy the paint. Progress is still being made on power washing the mural on the outside retaining wall. He reported that we have acquired three 36-inch cabinets and three additional cabinets of eight and nine feet in length. Some of these will be used for displaying sales items in the Company Store.

It was reported that the location for the annual November club show has been changed. Because the Auburn Middle School drama club has claimed that weekend, our November 7 show has been moved to Mt. Ararat High School in Topsham.

While at an Operation Lifesaver meeting in Hermon, Paul Lodge and Tom Coulombe were able to acquire from the new Central Maine & Quebec Railroad a large donation of Montreal, Maine & Atlantic (MMA) shirts, patches, pins, and other collectible items. These items are now in the Company Store and are available to club members and guests.

Terry King reported that one of the donations from the MMA is an excellent book about the Bangor & Aroostook Railroad. Terry displayed the 2016 club calendar which is available for sale to club members for \$12. The calendars will also be sold through Norm's O Scale, Ray & Robin's, and Rolly's Diner.

Paul Lodge reported that 13 people are taking the Model Railroading adult education class. They are building

eight modules which will be available for the November 7 show at Mt. Ararat High School.

Ken Nettleship reported that the G-gauge Division has made some changes. They have replaced the European trucks with US trucks. Because of the unevenness of the Thomas table, they plan to put in a plywood base. They also plan to use a Crest Revolution system with two control units. They expect to have it ready by the ExTRAINaganza in November.

Darin Long said that the HO Division is creating a card system to be used during Operating Sessions. It is still a work in progress, but progress is being made.

Bob Willard invited members to come to the Modelers Forum on the fourth Thursday of the month. Bob asked that members send to Jerry Johnston pictures of their work benches. Jerry plans to make a collage from the pictures. In October, they will provide a clinic on air brushing for those who wish to know more about techniques, kinds of air brushes, and paints available.

Bob Willard also noted that the Narrow Gauge show will be held at the Gray/New Gloucester High School on Saturday, September 26, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. In addition to selling surplus assets, the Great Falls Model Railroad Club will be selling refreshments.

The Retired Renovators have been given permission to learn to run the HO layout on Tuesday mornings from 9 to 11.

Club members were reminded that the Shriners have been invited to visit the club on Friday, September 18, during their free day. Club members will have the building open and will greet all those who attend.

The Maine Model Railroad Layout Tours will take place on Saturday and Sunday, September 19 and 20. Saturday's tour will include the railroad club as well as several club members' layouts. Bob Willard and Frank Knight will be bringing On30 and Sn2 layouts to add to the club's offerings.

Dick Clark thanked those members who helped at his open house during the Greene Village Day. He said that 87 people had signed his guest book. His next open house will be on Halloween night.

Tami Paine is using the "Cottage Industry" concept to provide a product for customers of our Company Store. She has donated ten pairs of earrings featuring small half-inch silver steam locomotives.

Terry King has redesigned the club's Application Blank, removing parts which have not been utilized. On the reverse side is a list of "Rights and Responsibilities" of membership. Paul Lodge read through the list of "Rights and Responsibilities" in order to show those present how many op-

portunities there are for members to help the club and keep dues at a low rate. (See the list of "Rights and Responsibilities" elsewhere in the newsletter.)

Sandy Sondhiem was the winner of the 50/50 raffle and Jamie Robertson won the Attendance Prize. Jamie selected a coffee tankard for his prize.

The meeting adjourned.

**CLUB PARTICIPATION IN MAINE LAYOUT TOUR**

By Paul Lodge

On Saturday and Sunday, September 19 and 20, about a dozen club members opened their layouts for the inaugural Maine Model Railroad Tour. There were a total of 31 layouts available for the more than 130 modelers who signed up for the tours. These included layouts of Great Falls Model Railroad members Paul Lodge, Jerry Johnston, Ken Nettleship, Bob Willard, Joe Landry, Larry Cannon, Dick Clark, Tom Hastings, Gary Thibeault, and Scott Gould.

Participants were given advanced information about all of the layouts on the tour. As a result, they could select the type of scale in which they were interested. There were six G-Scale; ten HO-scale; four N-scale; eight O 3-rail Scale; and one each of O, On30, and Sn2 scale layouts. The Great Falls Model Railroad Club had layouts in six scales. In addition to the club's four permanent layouts (HO, N, Z, and G), Bob Willard and Greg Ouellette had set up their On30 modular logging railroad, and Frank Knight displayed his Sn2 WW&F Railway.

One of the purposes of this Maine Layout Tour was to get ready for next year's 36th National Narrow Gauge Convention to be held in Augusta on September 7 to 10. It is hoped that additional layouts will be available for the 2016 tour.

The tour was sponsored by 18 model railroad organizations, including the Great Falls Model Railroad Club, Eastern Maine Model Railroad Club, Maine 3-Railers, Maine N Track, Maine Garden Railway Society, Maine Narrow Gauge, and the Seacoast Division of the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA). The following model railroad businesses also participated: Norm's O-Scale, Sheepscot Scale Products, Maine Modelworks, and Model Train & Slot Car Shop.

On Saturday, the "Inland Route" covered 95 miles from Casco to Richmond. On Sunday, the "Coastal Route" went from Cape Elizabeth to Boothbay, a distance of 138 miles.

Extensive information about the layout tour was made available online by Peter McKenney. He provided a one-page Summary Tour Schedule which listed the layout names, scales, contact names, addresses, phone numbers, and hours that layouts were open. There was also a detailed description of each layout. Maps indicating the location of each layout and travel charts showing distances and travel times between locations were also provided.

One of the goals of the Maine Model Railroad Tour was to provide an opportunity for modelers to share ideas and resources. Many visitors commented on how many new acquaintances they made and how many great new ideas they came away with. We all look forward to the next tour in 2016.

**BOY SCOUT**

**RAILROAD MERIT BADGE CLASS**

**AT THE CLUB**

By Paul Lodge

Since 1997, Tom Coulombe has been teaching local Boy Scouts about railroads and railroad safety. At the club on October 22 and 29, six local Boy Scouts will finish their twelve hours of study on railroads and will receive their railroad merit badge. On two Saturdays in August the boys spent a total of six hours on part of the curriculum, which includes the following subjects: identifying rolling stock, types of signals, railroad safety with Operation Lifesaver, estimating the cost of a 500-mile trip by rail, constructing a railroad car kit, designing a track plan for a model railroad layout, and correctly moving cars on a "Time Saver" layout. (The "Time Saver" is a small switching layout designed to require special moves in order to get railroad cars to a predetermined location.)

During this course, the boys have also learned about railroad signals from a signal maintainer from the New Hampshire Northern Railroad.

Tom Coulombe worked with Charles Anderson from San Angelo, Texas, and other Boy Scout leaders to develop the national curriculum for the railroading merit badge.



The next Modelers Forum meeting will be an Airbrushing Clinic at the club on Thursday, October 22, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Bob Willard, Gary Thibeault and Darin Long will be sharing their talents with the group. The clinic will include different types of airbrushes, paints, and techniques. We look forward to seeing you all there!



## THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

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## THE SIGNAL

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### 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.

## Address Change

If your mailing or e-mail address changes please notify Terrence King at [tpking@roadrunner.com](mailto:tpking@roadrunner.com)

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

## Upcoming Events



**October 3** - HO Operating Session, 8:00 a.m. to noon

**October 3** - Future Master Model Rail roaders, 12 to 1 p.m.

**October 10** Executive Committee Meeting 6:30 p.m.

**October 15** - Regular monthly club meeting 6:45

**October 17** - HO Operating Session 8:00 a.m. to noon

**October 22** - Modelers Forum, Air Brushing Clinic, 7 to 9 p.m.

**October 27** - Model Railroading Class, (last meeting) 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

**October 31** - "Backdrop Painting for the Reluctant Painter"

**November 7** train show will be held at Mt. Ararat High School in Topsham

**November 12** Executive Committee Meeting 6:30 p.m.

**November 19** - Regular monthly club meeting 6:45

**ExTRAINaganza** at the railroad club November 21, 22, 27, and 28.

**HO Work Sessions** every Saturday morning 8:00 a.m. to noon when no Operating Session is scheduled and every Wednesday evening from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. (times are approximate).

**NOTE:** Retired Renovators meet every Tuesday morning from 9:00 to 11:00 to restore and upgrade trains and buildings.

**September 7-10, 2016,**

36th National Narrow Gauge Convention at Augusta, Me.

