



Members since June 1988

# The Signal



July Edition  
2016



Signal indicates **STOP AT OUR NEXT MEETING**  
**July 21, 2016 6:45 pm**

Notice: Governors will restart Family night in September!

### Involve friends & relatives

Meetings demonstrate how hobbies impart the trades.

Fabrication — Detailing — Electricity

“Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn.”

- Benjamin Franklin

### Have a story you want to share?

Share your account at the meeting!

Or publish it in our newsletter!

Let us know by July 25, 2016

Email secretary Paul Lodge

See back page for contact info . . .

### Do you want to win

## Attendance & 50/50 prizes?

Don't let somebody else score a brass locomotive with the cash from the winning prize!

You must be present to win!

### DONATIONS . . .

#### Bottles for Basics (B4B)

Total Last Year \$ 814.00

YTD \$143.00

Last month: \$ 80.00

#### Used Printer Cartridges

Last month: \$ 32.00

YTD: \$ 48.00

### Why donate to Great Falls?

- Your donations are a perfect way to expedite your summer cleaning!
- Save time and effort with our bottle dropoff; Avoid waiting in line at a redemption center!
- Donations help keep dues low.  
**Low dues = More members.**

## Sixth Annual TRAIN FEST



The Great Falls Model Railroad Club will celebrate the Auburn/Lewiston Balloon Festival this month with our sixth annual Train Fest. The club will be open on Saturday, August 20, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Sunday, August 21, from noon to 5 p.m. The club hopes to enter our parade locomotive for the Balloon Festival parade which starts at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 20. Last year it rained the day of the parade and we did not participate because a large portion of the locomotive is cardboard.



A scavenger hunt will encourage people to go into each room to find specific hot-air balloons. Each balloon donated by Governor's Restaurant will become a hot air balloon with a peanut butter cup in its basket. Paper hot air balloons will decorate the skies above each railroad layout.

As they enter the club's facility for the Train Fest, children will write their names on small paper hot air balloons and add them to a painted backdrop scene. The younger children will enjoy playing with toy trains on the play rug and with the wooden Brio train set on the special layout built at a child's height. In the G-Gauge room, they can operate Thomas the Tank Engine on the recently updated layout and watch the engine named Percy run on the trestle above Thomas. Tickets can be purchased to play the Balloon Bag Toss and the Round House Roulette game and to become a Guest Engineer on the HO layout. For one ticket, the youngest children can ride on the special train donated by **Joseph Gilbert**. The traditional Bubble Blast will be held outdoors, weather permitting. Club members are asked to help on Saturday and/or Sunday for a few hours or all day by selling tickets, running trains, and supervising layouts and games. Please publicize the event by posting and distributing the colorful flyers available at the club and with email and Facebook messages to your friends and family. Admission is \$3; children 12 and under are admitted free.



Admission is \$3; children 12 and under are admitted free.

By Paul Lodge

## Thomas A. Coulombe 1947-2016



Tom Coulombe passed away at his home in Lewiston on Monday June 6, 2016, at the age of 68. While courageously fighting his battle with cancer, he had continued to attend every Great Falls Model Railroad function, including the Hobo Holiday on May 21. Our sympathies are with his wife Carmen, their son Jacob, and all of their other family members.

After graduating from St. Dominic High School in 1966, Tom received his Associate Degree in Accounting and Business Administration from Auburn Maine School of Commerce. He worked at Phillips Elmet for 17 years and was Assistant to the President at Dion Distributors for 6 years. In 2009, he retired from the Department of Education in Augusta, where he managed federal special education funds for 20 years. He earned several awards for his distinguished service to the State of Maine. After retiring, he delivered UTZ products at various locations, including UTZ potato chips to GFMRRC.

Many club members have visited Tom's barn, either for operating sessions, Adult Ed layout tours, or at club picnics held at his home. Some members have hiked on his scenic walking trails and admired his llamas.

Since 1997 Tom has been active in model railroading and contributed much time, energy, and knowledge to the Great Falls Model Railroad Club. As Station Master, he spent endless hours improving the building and grounds. As Treasurer, he managed our funds well and gave clear, complete and well-illustrated reports at club meetings. He organized train shows, participated in adult education programs at the club and family nights at Governor's Restaurant, and helped with all of the club's special events. Tom was a member and treasurer of the Seacoast Division of the National Railroad Association for several years, and in 2014 they honored him with the Robert W. Spate Public Service Award.

Tom was responsible for much of the preparation for our annual spring and fall railroad shows in Auburn and Topsham, arranging for venues and vendors and many other important details. The club's van has been kept in Tom's driveway, and surplus inventory has been stored in his barn. He enjoyed attending train shows in West Springfield, Massachusetts, sometimes with members of his family. When the club received the blue ribbon for the "Best in Show" exhibit at the West Springfield show, Tom was a major contributor in helping to transport and set up the huge display.

For over 40 years, Tom participated in Boy Scouts in various capacities, earning the District Award of Merit and the Silver Beaver. As a Boy Scout leader, he used our meeting room to teach several Scout groups

Con't page 2 ==>



Member  
#076805 00  
Since 1988



Come share  
your projects  
at our  
Modeler's Forum



## MORTGAGE REDUCTION UPDATE

We are not there yet, but we are very close. In April when we started the initiative to pay off the 15-year mortgage, the 4th of July was to be our Independence Day for retiring the \$96,000 balance on the mortgage.

Club member **Owen Buck** made a generous offer of a \$10,000 matching challenge for donations made before July 4. As of July 3, the \$10,000 had been matched by cash gifts and by club members' purchases at our monthly meetings. These gifts included several hundred dollars that were donated to the club in memory of **Tom Coulombe**, who passed away during the campaign.

In addition to the \$10,000 challenge, **Dan Collins** donated \$2,000 in a special matching effort. If four club members would donate \$500 each, Dan would match that total. Together with Dan's \$2,000 and the contributions of these four club members, another \$4,000 was raised.

Members who have not yet donated to the Mortgage Reduction Initiative are still encouraged to make donations throughout the month of July. **Checks may be made payable to The Great Falls Model Railroad Club and mailed to Treasurer Owen Buck at the club's address: Great Falls Model Railroad Club, 144 Mill Street, Auburn, ME 04210.**

**Jerry Johnston** had originally mentioned that his estate would pay half the mortgage if he passed away before the mortgage was retired. As this could create a problem for an executor of the will, Jerry suggested that an attempt be made to simplify the arrangement by paying off the mortgage before the fifteen years were up. So the pledge drive was started. After this drive, it appears that there will be about \$24,000 left to pay on the mortgage. As of this writing, the club plans to refinance that \$24,000 balance with a five-year loan. This makes it possible that the mortgage will be paid off during the lifetime of many of the older members.

Thank you to everyone whose contributions have made this goal a reality.

By Paul Lodge

## NEW MEETING FORMAT AT MONTHLY MEETING

President **Jerry Johnston** has suggested a new format for the club's monthly meetings on the third Thursday of each month. Various parts of the meeting will be rearranged.

The meeting will still have the fifteen-minute Power Point presentation of club activities since the previous month. The train video will be shortened from thirty minutes to fifteen minutes.

President Johnston is reinstating the clinics portion of the meeting, which will occur after the train video. President Johnston is calling the clinic portion "What's on Your Boxcar Workbench?" Members who make presentations at the Modelers Forum will be asked to repeat the presentation at the monthly meeting.

The club's monthly business meeting will be the last segment. This will also include minutes of the most recent Executive Committee meeting. It is hoped this format will provide more interesting meetings.

By Paul Lodge

(Tom Coulombe — Con't from page 1)

about model railroading so that they could earn their railroading merit badge. For many years, he was affiliated with the Catholic Committee on Scouting, helping to organize numerous camporees, and he was awarded the St. George Medal for his efforts. He continued to assist scouts to earn religious awards until shortly before his death. He attended five National Scout Jamborees, serving as a railroad merit badge counselor. At Boy Scout Jamborees throughout the country, Tom used "Time Saver" layouts to help youngsters get their railroading merit badges. He also used the "Time Saver" layout during the many times he helped at Governor's Restaurant Family Night railroad activities on the first Thursday of each month. He assisted Girl Scout Troop 318 on trips to Washington D.C. and Pennsylvania. Over the years, Tom also managed softball teams, served as an advisor for Junior Achievement, a tax preparer for AARP and a presenter for Operation Life Saver.

A memorial gathering was held on Friday, June 24, at the Pinette, Dillingham & Lynch Funeral Home in Lewiston. A memorial mass honoring Tom's life was celebrated on June 25 at Holy Family Church. In lieu of flowers, Tom requested that gifts be made in his memory to the Great Falls Model Railroad Club, 144 Mill Street, Auburn.

The name Coulombe Hall, which was unanimously approved at our May 19 meeting, will be a permanent tribute to Tom for his many contributions and endless activities in the name of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club.

By Paul Lodge

## BOTTLES FOR BASICS (B4B) Goal: \$90 per month

Since 2009, Bottles for Basics—B4B has raised over \$3,200 in additional revenue for the club. Those five cent contributions add up when everyone pitches in. Thanks to everyone who has donated bottles to the club and to **Jim Vatter & Jerry Johnston** for signing up to take them to the bottle redemption recycling center each month.

Donating \$90 worth of bottles per month will meet our goal of setting a new B2B \$1,000 record next year! Meeting this goal will keep **Owen Buck, our new treasurer**, smiling! Thanks for making B4B a success!



## MEETING MINUTES OF

### June 16, 2016



The evening started with a fifteen-minute Power Point program showing club activities since last month's meeting. That was followed by a TRAIN TIME video of the Sierra Railroad in California, the site of many western movies and television programs.

After the Power Point and TRAIN TIME video, **President Jerry Johnston** introduced the evening's clinic. He reinstated a favorite portion of the monthly meeting: "What's on Your Boxcar Workbench?" **Ed Leslie** talked about creating a floral element for model railroad layouts.



President Jerry Johnston asked for the Secretary's Report. A motion was made to accept the report as published in the Signal. **Owen Buck** gave the Treasurer's Report which was approved as given. Owen noted that the mortgage reduction drive is scheduled to end on July 4, Independence from Mortgage Day. He asked for additional donations to help reach the \$10,000 matching challenge.

As a new feature of the monthly meeting, the minutes of the previous week's Executive Committee Report were read. This included comments about the following information which had been updated by accomplishments since the meeting.

At the Executive Committee meeting on June 9, Owen Buck asked about the insurance renewal. It was suggested that the liability be increased to \$32,000 and the medical section be increased to \$10,000. When it comes time to obtain a loan on the balance of the mortgage, Owen said he would appreciate help from Jerry or Larry with arranging the loan. **Larry Cannon** has banking experience with Androscoggin Savings Bank and could also help with the loan.

**Terry King** has taken pictures of the clubhouse to be used for insurance purposes.

Terry King noted that the club has received several unopened sets of playing cards that were sold by railroads on passenger trains. He plans to display them in the new display case that was donated by Norm of Norm's O-Scale and brought to the club by Ed and Brenda Leslie. Terry also reported that we have received a donation of O-scale buildings.

**Bob Russell** reported that **Wally Chase** is concerned that books from his collection are being sold. Wally is especially concerned about the valu-

able set of Rio Grande Southern books. Since this is the third time Wally has questioned the whereabouts of that set of books, it was decided that we should take that set to him. Paul Lodge and Terry King went to see Wally with the set of books and a list of the books in the library showing the books donated by Wally. No books from Wally's donation have been sold. Jerry Johnston asked to have some clarification on the brass locomotives and rolling stock which he is storing at his house. Jerry suggested that the brass be sold and part of the proceeds be given to Wally's daughter. Wally indicated that he does not want the brass sold yet.

It was suggested that the sign "Welcome to Coulombe Hall" be placed on the light fascia in the meeting room area. The size of the letters should be based on the size of the lumber that was used to make the fascia.

The list of contact data for club activities or emergencies has been started. The list includes names and contact information for club officers and people we need to contact for train shows, insurance, building repairs, utilities, etc.

**Sharon Barber** has suggested that the club create an award in Tom Coulombe's name.

The Seacoast Division of the NMRA will be meeting at the club on July 23. They have announced to their members that there will be an HO Operating Session that day. No birthday parties should be scheduled for that day. The Seacoast Division has offered two free passes for the National Narrow Gauge convention in Augusta in September. They are valued at \$100 each. At this meeting interested club members will be able to put their name in a "hat" and have a drawing for the two tickets. Larry Cannon noted that additional help is needed at his house and at the club for layout tours during the National Narrow Gauge convention.



**Travis Johnson** has accepted the position of modular layout coordinator at club shows. A motion was made, and accepted, that Travis also be the designated driver for the club truck.

Jerry Johnston and **Bill Carson** recently went to Peru and purchased several items, including Tortoise machines and switches, for the club or for surplus inventory sales.

**Our New Leader,**  
(with GFMRRR blue ribbon)  
**Jerry Johnson ==>**

Because of the many activities currently going on, it was voted not to have a club picnic this year.

On Sunday, August 21, during the second day of our Train Fest, Jerry Johnston and Larry Cannon will attend the Concord Train Show. Three tables have been rented for the show.

President Jerry Johnston asked that the officers have a back-up or assistant (listed in parenthesis) for their positions.

President: Jerry Johnston  
Vice President: Roger Plummer  
Secretary Paul Lodge (Tami Paine)  
Treasurer: Owen Buck (Larry Cannon)  
Librarian Terry King (George Pitchard)  
Show Sign Set Outs:

Jerry Johnston & Ed Webb  
Soda & Chips: Mike & Tami Paine  
Returnables: Jerry Johnston & Jim Vatter

President Johnston announced that he is not going to ask for separate reports from the layout divisions. Instead, if anyone from the several activities has something to report, that person can be recognized and given the floor.

Terry King gave an explanation about the playing cards donated to the club by Ralph Kingston. Terry also announced new minimum prices that were set for the silent auction at the meeting.

**Bob Willard** reported for the Modelers Forum. He also mentioned that they will have another "Show and Tell" at their July 28 meeting.

President Johnston emphasized the importance of cottage industry items which can be sold to help the club's treasury. The Tuesday morning Retired Renovators group has been helping to improve rolling stock and structures so they can be sold at higher prices. That group will not meet again until September 6.

Club members have been purchasing items on layaway. From this time on, purchasers should write their names, list the items, and record the price on a sheet of paper and give it to Jerry Johnston. Jerry will hold the items until they are paid.

Jerry reminded the group to be at the club at 9 a.m. on July 9 to help with weed whacking.

The 50/50 raffle was drawn and Paul Lodge won. The Attendance Prize went to Owen Buck. He took an Amtrak mug.

The meeting adjourned.

By Secretary Paul Lodge

Check out our Facebook page at:

Great Falls Model Railroad Club

For up to date Reports on our Activities...

Visit our web page!

See Facebook page And Web Site for posted pictures of club events

### Meet the Members Meet Kevin LaMarre

Kevin LaMarre says he was born into the hobby of railroading. When he was a child he used to hang out at the railroad yard in Water-ville, watching the Maine Central trains come and go. He enjoyed the yard so much that he actually



took his prom date there before the dance. He was very proud that he was wearing his Maine Central Railroad colored socks that day. His prom date was not impressed.

Kevin continued his interest in trains, even when he entered the Maine Maritime Academy and joined the Merchant Marine. He was later a ferry boat captain for Frye Island and a tugboat captain. Kevin and his wife Susan have celebrated 31 years of marriage. After several years on the water, he decided it was time to work near home so he could help raise their three children. Kevin worked for the Public Works Department for several years until health issues forced him to retire. His wife Susan is the head ranger for Tassel Top Park on Sebago Lake in Raymond.

With the extra time on his hands since retiring, Kevin has found that he can now start enjoying his passion of trains, especially the Maine Central trains. Two years ago a friend who was moving and did not have the time for model railroading gave Kevin an HO train set he could no longer use. The train set was still in the original boxes. Kevin is painting all the box cars Maine Central colors. He has started the bench work for his layout, but he is not in a rush to complete it. The big plan is to start small (24X26) and take his time and enjoy it as he goes along. Cost is also a factor. Since Kevin is retired, he wants his hobby to fit into his budget so he "railroads cheap". His layout will be based on his memories. It will start around the 1970's and work its way to the present. He calls it the "What if?" layout. He is even writing a story about his layout. The first piece that must be on the layout is a Lincoln Continental.



Continued next column ===>

### Operation Lifesaver & Movie "Divergent"

The action-adventure film "Divergent," depicts a future world where people are divided into factions based on human virtues. Unfortunately, like the young adult novel upon which it is based, in the movie members of the Dauntless faction travel to different parts of their post-apocalyptic city **by jumping onto and off of moving trains.**

Although this movie depicts a fantasy world, in real life, **about every three hours a person or vehicle is hit by a train in the United States.**

We raise this issue because we want Americans to think about that statistic each time they approach a railroad crossing or ride a commuter train, light rail or intercity passenger train. The film-making community has shown increased awareness of the dangers around train tracks in light of recent incidents; we want to spread that awareness to the public.

With the help of our federal government and rail industry safety partners, **Operation Lifesaver** will soon launch a new national public awareness safety campaign highlighting the need to stay safe around tracks and trains.

Together, we can make a difference, and save lives.



Kevin has been a member of the Great Falls Model Railroad club for less than a year. Ed and Brenda Leslie invited him to a meeting and he soon joined. He regularly attends the Modelers Forum and the monthly club meeting. He would also like to help with the Cottage Industry, making items that can be sold in the Company Store at the clubhouse and at train shows.

Kevin is the Reverend Prior of Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Benedictine Priory in Raymond, and he has a web-page where he posts daily meditations. Kevin and his wife Susan have a small farm in Raymond where they rescue animals of many sizes and varieties. At times they have over 100 animals. They started their animal rescue when their neighbor used to buy animals he felt sorry for and then leave them in Kevin's yard. One day Kevin came home and found a donkey tied to his front door and a cow tied to his mail box.

By Tami Paine



**FORUM HINTS**  
**LET THERE BE LIGHT IN MODEL BUILDINGS**

Installing interior lights to your model buildings will improve their appearance, whether in daylight or nighttime operations. Strip LED 12 V lights are economical and have a long life span. To eliminate light shining through opaque plastic, paint the interior of the buildings before installing the lights. Basically, there are two colors, "bright white" for contemporary building lighting and "warm white" for the older yellow light. The LED strips come in 16-foot lengths with about 18 LEDs per foot. (That's a lot of lights!) The LEDs are wired in strings of three. All you need to do is solder a 28 AWG wire to the '+' and '-' conductors and connect it to 12V DC. Try it.

Supplies: Where: Amazon.com

Product: Bright White: Triangle Bulbs T93007-1 (1 pack) - 25 watt, 300 "3528 SMD", 12 volt, 16.4 ft, Waterproof Flexible LED Strip Light, Pure White - 1 Pack (FYI: There will be enough lights for a lot of buildings, and many buildings require a lot of lights.) Cost: \$9.99 (as of April 2016)

Warm White: Rayhoo 16.4 ft/5m Flexible LED Light Strip 300 Units 5630 LEDs Waterproof IP65 DC12V 60W Light Strips, LED Tape (3000K Warm White). Cost \$9.99 (as of April 2016)

Degree of Difficulty: 4

(Difficulty Scale: 1 = easy to 10 = most difficult).

By Paul Dugas

**THE FORUM**

On the fourth Thursday of each month from 7 p.m., members of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club meet to share modeling techniques and ideas. Future newsletters will have a "Tip of the Month" submitted by club members who want to share their modeling experiences. All club members are invited to come and learn or share their modeling skills. New model railroaders as well as those with many years of experience have participated in the Modelers Forum.

At the May Forum, fourteen club members shared some outstanding modeling tips and ideas. Some of the presentations will be used as part of the clinic portion of our monthly meetings.

To learn more about Wally Chase and his influence on model railroading in the Lewiston/Auburn area, see the February issue of The Signal.

By Paul Lodge



**SUMMER READING**  
**FROM THE LIBRARY**



July is here and everyone is enjoying a beautiful summer, in their backyard next to the pool or at the lake.

Summer is also a time that some people catch up on their reading. How about you?

New to the Great Falls Model Railroad Club library this month is The Illustrated Atlas of Maine's Street & Electric Railways 1863 - 1946 written by Charles D. Heseltine & O. C. Cummings and published by the Kennebunkport: New England Electric Railway Historical Society in 2015. This book is full of maps, pictures and mileage charts for the entire state of Maine (and into New Brunswick). Even if you do not model traction, wouldn't it look neat to have a street railway crossing the right of way on your layout!

The club recently acquired a 1973 annual report of the Maine Central Railroad Company. We also have the annual reports from 1927 and 1968. You could check out all three and compare the operating and freight traffic statistics. Between 1972 and 1973, they shed 421.1 miles

Another new addition is Maine Central Railroad Company - A story of success and independence published by MEC in 1976 and updated and reprinted in 1979.

In the past few months the club has added hundreds of new books to its stacks. Our narrow gauge section is nearly three times the size it was a few months ago. We have received many new books about New England railroads and the Pennsylvania Railroad and a few for the modeling section.

The club has also added a lot of DVD's to our collection for those rainy days.

Terry King is usually at the club from Monday to Saturday from around nine to noon. Give him a call at 576-3788.

By Terry King, Librarian

**MODEL RAILROADING CLASS**  
**STARTS SEPTEMBER 6, 2016**



The fall semester of the Great Falls Model Railroading class starts Tuesday, September 6, at 6:30 p.m. at the clubhouse. During the eight-week class, participants are encouraged to build a 2- by 4-foot module, which teaches all the skills they will need in order to construct their own home layouts. Each class is designed to finish in time so that the newly completed modules can be added to the club's modular layout at the April and November train shows. This provides an ongoing variety for guests to

observe at our shows.

This class is advertised through the Auburn Adult Education program and is taught at our clubhouse at 144 Mill Street in New Auburn. The Great Falls Model Railroad Club has been teaching the class for more than twenty years. Club members have also helped other clubs with module classes and have taught the class in other communities. A large majority of club members have joined the club after taking the class. For the past few years, we have had young people in every class. Many of them are now members of the club and are involved in the Future Master Model Railroaders for 10- to 15-year olds.

All club members are invited to come to the class on any or all Tuesday nights between 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. to help and encourage students in our new class.



By Paul Lodge

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club  
(GFMRRRC)

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**Virtual Address**

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**See us on Facebook!**

Great Falls Model Railroad Club

An educational foundation



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**The Signal**

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**GFMRRRC  
 Special Events  
 SUMMER 2016**

**Please note the following major changes in our activities schedule for the summer months:**

**August 20 and 21**

**Train Fest will be held at GFMRRRC during the Lewiston-Auburn Balloon Festival.**

Saturday 8/20 -8am to 4pm  
 Parade starts at 11am  
 Sunday 8/21— noon to 5pm

**HO Operating Sessions**

8/6 at 8am—noon

**Future Master Modelers**

7/23 & 8/6 at noon—1pm

**HO Work Sessions** will be held on all Saturdays except 7/23, and 8/20.

**GFMRRRC  
 FALL EVENTS**

**September 7th -10th**

**36th National Narrow Gauge Convention,**

Augusta Civic Center  
 For details, see [www.nngc2016.com](http://www.nngc2016.com)

**November 5—10am to 3pm**

**Annual Fall Model Railroad Show**  
 Mt. Ararat High School  
 Topsham



**GFMRRRC  
 Recurrent Activities  
 July 2016**

Please check web site or Facebook page

**NOTICE: 1st Thursday of each month**

**Family Night at Governor's Restaurant  
 No Family night during summer!  
 Will restart in September.**

Come & enjoy good food anyway!  
 1185 Lisbon St, Lewiston, ME 04240

**2nd Thursday of each month - 6:30 PM**

**Executive Committee Meeting**

**3rd Thursday of each month - 6:45 PM**

**Regular Monthly Club Meeting**

Is anybody interested in having dinner before the Regular club meetings? Please email [greatfallsmodelrailroadclub@yahoo.com](mailto:greatfallsmodelrailroadclub@yahoo.com)

**4th Thursday of each month - 7 PM**

**Modelers Forum**

**Tuesday mornings - 9:00 to 11:00 AM.**

**NOTICE: Retired Renovators will not meet during summer.** We normally meet to restore railroad equipment and buildings donated to the club. This helps to sell excess inventory at higher prices. If you would like to help, come whenever you can.

**HO Work Sessions**

Except during special events, work sessions are scheduled :  
 - Every Saturday 8:00 AM to noon  
 - Every Wednesday 6:00 - 8:00 PM

