



Members since June 1988

The Signal



November Edition
2016



Signal indicates **STOP AT OUR NEXT MEETING**
November 17, 2016 6:45

Don't forget
Governors Family night!

Involve friends & relatives

Meetings demonstrate how we adhere to schedules

Better three hours too soon than a minute too late.

- - William Shakespeare

Have a story you want to share?

Share your account at the meeting!

Or publish it in our newsletter!
Let us know by November 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 retire with the cash from the winning prize!

You must be present to win!

DONATIONS . . .

Bottles for Basics (B4B)

Total Last Year \$ 814.00

YTD \$457.00

Last month: \$ 77.00

Used Printer Cartridges

Last month: \$ 40.00

YTD: \$ 110.00

Why donate to Great Falls?

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

ExTRAINaganza 2016
November 19, 20, 25, 26

The Christmas "ExTRAINaganza" at the Great Falls Model Railroad Club, 144 Mill Street in Auburn on November 19, 20, 25, 26 will be great fun for the whole family. Model trains will be operating under the Christmas trees and on the club's five permanent layouts.

As guests enter the building, they will see the large G-scale layout, which features an interactive skiing scene and long trains on multiple tracks that pass through tunnels into the next room. Younger children can operate trains with Thomas the Tank Engine and enjoy his friends and special features. The smaller N-scale and Z-scale layouts have added many interesting details. Older children can become Guest Engineers and run trains on the extensive HO layout downstairs, where the scenery includes Bates Mill Building #5 and Lower Lewiston as it might have looked 60 years ago.



Parents can enjoy light refreshments while watching younger children use age-appropriate trains in the children's play area. Other activities in the same room include decorating cookies, creating Christmas tree ornaments, and playing the club's original railroad games.

The ExTRAINaganza is a four-day event with different times each day: Saturday, November 19, from 10 to 8; Sunday, November 20, from 10 to 4; Friday, November 25, the day after Thanksgiving, from 10 to 8; and Saturday, November 26, from 10 to 4. On the last day, winning tickets will be drawn for the club's Raffle Layout and the train sets under the Christmas trees.



TRAIN TIME videos will be shown continuously each day and can be purchased. The club's store has model railroad sets, individual locomotives and rolling stock in a variety of scales, and other train-related items for children and adults.

The FEZtival of Trees at the Kora Shrine Center in Lewiston takes place on the same days, giving families an opportunity to enjoy both events on the same day or alternate days as we make Lewiston-Auburn a family destination during the holiday season. —>

SURPLUS INVENTORY SALE
DECEMBER 10, 2016

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club will hold its third annual Surplus Inventory Sale on Saturday, December 10, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the club. Many of the items available for sale have



never been displayed at any of our shows, and club members will have the first choice. This is a great way to improve your model railroad collection at very reasonable prices.

Each year's selections always include some surprises with items that have been donated to the club and would be great for personal displays.

Whether you're buying items for display or for your own layout or to give as Christmas presents, we hope you will join us on December 10 for this special Surplus Inventory Sale. By Paul Lodge



Members are encouraged to help with setting up and decorating the Christmas trees and putting up the other decorations on Monday and Tuesday, November 14 and 15, beginning at 10:00 a.m. both days.

Because of the variety of activities, club members are needed during the ExTRAINaganza to help by taking charge of games, supervising craft and cookie tables, monitoring layouts and teaching Guest Engineers how to run trains. Please volunteer to help for all or part of a day as often as you can.

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

Tickets may be purchased at the door for \$1 each or 7 for \$5 for the ride-on train for pre-schoolers, HO guest engineers for the older children, decorating cookies and ornaments, and the games with prizes.



By Paul Lodge



Member #076805 00 Since 1988

THE 48TH ANNUAL O SCALE CONVENTION

This September Jamie Robinson was fortunate to be able to attend the 48th Annual O Scale Convention in Indianapolis. It was hosted at the Wyndham Hotel, a large and comfortable venue.



The public show began Friday morning, September 23 and continued into Saturday, culminating with tours of three very nice local layouts on Saturday afternoon. Many vendors were present, including American Scale Models, American Switch and Signal, Custom Turnouts, Des Plaines Hobby, Midwestern Modelworks, P&D Hobby, Precision Scale Company, Rich Yoder Models and Ed Leslie and Norm Pullen of Norm's O Scale from Casco, Maine. The impressive On30 modular layout displayed at the show may well be on the next cover of O Scale Trains.

A number of clinics were presented as well. Jamie attended one on building curved benchwork. He admitted that he did not expect to learn much new information at this clinic, but instead left with four pages of notes and a head full of new ideas!

Friday night concluded with the convention dinner. Indianapolis was host of the first O Scale National and of the 48th, and the 1/48 theme was reflected in a special cake to commemorate the event. Jim Canter announced his retirement as convention host. **Amy and Dan Dawdy** (of O Scale Resource) will be taking over stewardship of the show and adding S scale to the venue as was done at O Scale West this year with great success. To cap off a wonderful evening, Richard Baldwin gave a fantastic slide presentation recapping his years as a railfan newsman all over the world.

David Vaughn announced that he will be hosting the 50th O Scale National Convention in 2018 in Washington, D.C. Next year, the 49th O Scale National will be very close to home in Enfield, Connecticut, hosted by the Southern New England Model Railroad Club. Please give a thought to attending and seeing what the "King of all Scales" has to offer!

A number of outstanding models were entered in the contests, and the winners of the various categories were announced on Saturday afternoon. More details can be had in the current issue of the online O Scale Resource magazine and the forthcoming issue of O Scale Trains.

Folks wishing to see a few photos and videos from the convention and layout tours are welcome to send an email to j-robinson@roadrunner.com and ask for the link to his Google Drive address.

Jamie Robinson's hand-built P48 turnout received the First Place Award in the Track Work category at this year's national convention.

By Jamie Robinson



MAINE STATE MUSEUM ANNUAL TRAIN EVENT



The Maine State Museum in Augusta will be presenting its annual model railroad event on Friday, December 2, from 9:00 to 4:00 and on Saturday, December 3, from 10:00 to 3:00. The Maine 3-Railers and GFMRRRC will have trains set up in the lobby. For this special event, admission to the entire museum is free. If you have never been to the museum, this is a



great opportunity to see some fascinating displays, including Maine animals, gems, history, and traditional occupations along the sea-coast and in the Maine woods and factories.

By Paul Lodge

RAILROAD HISTORY AT D'YOUVILLE

Tami Paine is the Manager of the Activity Department at d'Youville Pavilion, and she likes to bring special events to share with the residents. The Train Fest she and Mike created for the residents at d'Youville in August was so successful that she suggested another train event for October 24.

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club raffle layout is easy to transport, and Tami and Mike were able to help set it up quickly. Paul Lodge showed the Power Point presentation of the history of Lewiston railroads which he had created for a Lewiston school in May. It held everyone's attention and led to some interesting reminiscences from many of the residents.

By Tami Paine



Come share your projects at our Modeler's Forum





MEETING MINUTES OF October 20, 2016



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

President **Jerry Johnston** opened the meeting and 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.

Kent Waterson made a Power Point presentation for the What's on Your Boxcar Workbench demonstrating and explaining how and why he created a ball signal which he plans to use on his personal layout. After the presentation, Kent showed the finished ball signal and how it functions.

Paul Lodge read the Executive Committee Meeting report. President Johnston is in the process of creating a list of "Repetitive Duties" which need to be taken care of annually. This will include items like having the furnace and fire extinguishers serviced, annual fees paid, etc.

The "Welcome to Coulombe Hall" sign has been ordered. It is hoped that the sign will be installed before the club's annual Christmas party and meeting on December 15. Richard Holman has volunteered to make metal scroll holders for the sign.

Because this is the club's 30th Anniversary, Paul Lodge has been asked to create a Power Point Presentation showing the club's history. This will also be given at the club's Christmas Party.

Terry King reported that table sales are down for the train show at Mt. Ararat on November 5. Some of our regular dealers will be attending a couple of new shows in other states. The school will be providing food for the event. He asked for volunteers to be at the school on Friday, November 4, at 4 o'clock to help unload and set up dealer tables. The truck with the modules will arrive on Saturday morning for unloading.

Bob Willard invited interested club members to join the Modelers Forum on the fourth Thursday of each month. Bob also publicly thanked club members who helped make the National Narrow Gauge Convention a success. He presented certificates of appreciation to **Ken Nettleship** and Jerry Johnston.

Darin Long reported that there will be an operating session on Saturday, November 12, and all members are invited to come and run trains. Darin also noted that there will be the traditional operating session on Wednesday evening before Thanksgiving. Club members are also continuing to upgrade track and fix problems.

Carmen Anastase displayed a British model railroad magazine and noted the size difference compared to American magazines.

It was brought to the members' attention that we will be at the Maine State Museum on Friday and Saturday, December 2 and 3. Modules will be set up in the afternoon on Thursday, December 1.

On Saturday, December 10, the club will hold its 3rd Annual Surplus Inventory Sale at the club.

Jerry Johnston asked volunteers to sign up to bring food for the crew during the ExTRAINaganza.

The ExTRAINaganza will be held November 19, 20, 25 and 26.

An unusual well-made module was donated to the club. Its size and shape made it impractical to store in the club's truck. Kevin La-Marre volunteered to be the caretaker of the module and bring it to train shows.

The Attendance Prize was won by **Dan Collins** who chose a mug. The 50/50 raffle was won by **George Pitchard**.

Terry King reported that there were 28 members present.

The meeting adjourned.

By Paul Lodge

.Carbonite of Lewiston had invited the GFMRR to bring railroad games for their special Family Day on October 17



HALLOWEEN AT DICK CLARK'S OCTOBER 31, 2016

Halloween night was chilly, but about 35 people braved the cold to enjoy the annual garden railroad display at **Dick Clark's Toot 'n Chug Rail Lines** in Greene.



The special lighting at Mudslide Pond and many of the familiar buildings adds to the unusual scenes of skeletons, ghosts and goblins. Dick has added a new trestle with a wider curve, which Ken Nettleship agrees is a great addition to the layout.



.By Paul Lodge



**NEW ENGLAND STEAM CORPORATION
MAINE CENTRAL 470**

"The Last Run for Steam" with Maine Central locomotive 470 took place on June 13, 1954. GFMRRC member Paul Lodge has a special interest in the 470 as his uncle Frank took him on the passenger train that day for "The Last Ride for Steam."

← The MEC 470 has been on static display as a steam-era symbol in Waterville for the last half century, but it has badly deteriorated over the years. In 2014 the New England Steam Corporation (NESCO) was formed for the purpose of restoring the 470.

The rest of this article has been adapted from the 470 website and emails by Richard Glueck, NESCO Board President.

Maine Central locomotive 470 has been disassembled and moved from Waterville, where it had been displayed since its "Last Run for Steam" in 1954. It is now safely resting at Washington Junction Yard in Hancock, near Ellsworth, for further restoration and eventual use by the Downeast Scenic Railroad in Ellsworth. Many individuals, companies, foundations, and railroad clubs contributed to New England Steam Corporation (NESCO) to make this progress possible and more will be needed to help complete the work that remains. The move to Hancock was an enormous effort accomplished with donated and discounted services by several companies. Governor's Restaurants

deserve special recognition for their constant feeding of work crews year round and their introduction of the Big Locomotive Burger throughout the state at the start of NESCO's 470 Restoration fund-raising campaign in 2014. The shop building for housing and restoring 470 has been delivered to Hancock and is now safely stored until the service and drop pit is cast. The pit will be 60 feet long and 12 feet wide in the drop section. After it is poured and cast, the land will be graded and the building will be raised. The floor plan has already been laid out with stakes and tape. Once this project is completed, the 470 will be sheltered in a large, adequate home.

When the frame and drivers were lifted by cranes in Waterville, the rear driver set was pushed up into the journal boxes and "jammed" in place. Getting these to settle has been a problem as hydraulic jacks could not be placed well to push the drivers down again. A threaded tool is being constructed to force them down and relieve the pent-up energy in the springs.

The next step was removing the rods and loosening the valve gear. The Baker valve gear

linkage swings freely. The welded nuts and cotter pins haven't always cooperated, but the bushings and cross pins are smooth and shiny. All have been lubricated repeatedly over the past three years and they have retained shop grease since the engine's "Last Run for Steam" in 1954.



The eccentric rods came free with relatively few hours of work. The left side electric crank came off using mostly "sweat equity," but the right one required placement

of hydraulic jacks to free the pin and a hammer and wedge to encourage its release. Both parts have been placed in secure storage, along with the right rear drive rod.

The frame and drivers are being made ready to roll freely once again. It will take some delicate grinding and torch work to turn the remaining rods to a position where the pins can be removed without damage. Once this is completed, NESCO can work on contracting the casting of the pit and erecting the building. While that is being done, volunteer mechanics will start work on the tender trucks and frame.

A fund has been started to replace the tender tank and coal bunker. Rebuilding that portion of the tender will ultimately require about \$100,000. NESCO is asking for donations to help underwrite that objective with a gift specifically noted for that purpose. A grant has been received that will cover the tender frame, brakes, and trucks, but the tank replacement will be labor intensive.

Flexible staybolts, sleeves, and caps will be purchased with another fund for which donations have started to come in. Each set will cost an estimated \$250, and 470 will require over 400 of them.

Membership dues help to cover the purchase of welding gases, specific tools, lubricants, and more. Everything goes to the rebuilding of Maine Central #470, and only that. To begin or renew a membership, download the membership form from the website (www.newenglandsteam.org). Donations and contributions may be mailed to New England Steam Corp., P.O. Box 302, Winterport, Maine 04496. Donations of \$100 or more will receive a "Restoration Supporter" enamel pin.

The website has a lot of interesting information about NESCO and the 470. Regular updates are available on Facebook at "New England Steam Corporation" and "Maine Central 470 Restoration".



For up to date Reports on our Activities...

Visit our web page!

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

Check out our Facebook page at:

Great Falls Model Railroad Club



FORUM HINTS

Track Cleaning Hints

Dust and dirt make model trains run unreliably. Removing the dust can be a lot of work, but traces of moisture can turn dust into dirt, and this can even affect the finish and value of many items.

Relatively large paint brushes can dust trains and most other train items quickly and efficiently during upkeep and repair sessions, even getting into those small, hard to reach places. The ideal size and consistency of brushes for cleaning and dusting trains can be found in the cosmetics section of a large store. The best cleaning brushes are big, soft and puffy. Even though a feather duster is larger, it is not puffy enough and will stir up the dust without holding it so the dust will quickly resettle. One good brush is about the size and shape of a man's shaving brush but without the stiff bristles which might damage paint, details, and decals. Look for a very soft, good quality two- to four-inch brush. The extra price you pay for quality will give better results and the brush will last longer.

These brushes are great on track, switches, wiring and accessories; but they will cause problems with loose ballast. If the ballast is glued down, you can use a vacuum cleaner hose to finish cleaning a large area. To keep the vacuum cleaner from disturbing items on the layout or sucking up tiny ones, use a trick borrowed from vacuum cleaner salesmen. Block off the end of the hose with a piece of cloth like a handkerchief or another cloth with a looser weave that is not too porous. Putting the cloth over the nozzle will force the dust into the vacuum cleaner while people and other layout details will be held against the cloth so they can be put back on the layout.

A good brush will grab and hold large amounts of dust for its size. Every few minutes stop and shake the brush like a household dust mop or suck it clean with the vacuum cleaner nozzle. Keeping dust off your layout will make everything look neater and run more smoothly.

(These ideas were taken from an article by Dean Hammer in the June 1998 issue of O Gauge Railroading.)



MODEL RAILROADING CLASS

STARTS February 14, 2017

The Model Railroading Class for the fall semester held last session on October 25. "Background Painting for the Reluctant Painter" was an additional class held on October 29. Calvin Ames and Roy Bischoff were the only students in this fall's railroading class, but many club members came to offer help. In addition, several club members came regularly to work on upgrading next year's raffle layout.

The next Model Railroading Class will begin on February 14, 2017.

By Paul Lodge



The Great Falls
Model Railroad Club
(GFMRRC)

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See us on Facebook!

Great Falls Model Railroad Club

An educational foundation



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GFMRRC
FALL EVENTS

Nov 19—10 to 8; Nov 20—10 to 4;
Nov 25—10 to 8; Nov 26—10 to 4

ExTRAINaganza, GFMRRC

Nov 26-28, Dec 2-4, Dec 9-11, Dec 16-18
**Maine Narrow Gauge Polar Express,
Portland**

Dec 2— 9 am to 4 pm;

Dec 3— 10 am to 3 pm

**Maine State Museum Model Railroad
Celebration**

Nov 19- Dec 24 — Every day except Thanksgiving

**Holiday Train Display by Garden Rail-
way Society at Maine Mall, Portland**

Dec 17 — 9 am to 4 pm

WW&F, Victorian Christmas, Alna

Dec 10 & 11 with trains at
11, 11:45, 12:30, 1:15 and 2:00 daily

**North Pole Express
Boothbay Railway Village, see**

<http://railwayvillage.org/event/north-pole-express>

Dec 10 — 9 am to 4 pm

Surplus Inventory Sale, GFMRRC

Dec 15 — 6:45 pm

Club Christmas Party, GFMRRC

GFMRRC
Recurrent Activities

Please check web site or Facebook page

1st Thursday of each month

Family Night at Governor's Restaurant
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

4th Thursday of each month - 7 PM

Modelers Forum

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

Retire Renovators. We 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 pm - 8:00 pm

HO Operating Sessions

All members, first Saturday of every month except November.

The only HO Operating Sessions in November will be for all members on Saturday morning, Nov 12 and Wednesday evening, Nov 23.

