



Members since June 1988

The Signal



November Edition
2017



Signal indicates **STOP AT**
OUR NEXT MEETING
November 16, 2017 6:45

Governors Family Night
1st Thursday @ 5 to 7 PM !

Involve friends & relatives

Meetings demonstrate how
Hobbies impart the trades
Fabrication—Finishing—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 November 25, 2017
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 \$ 712.00
YTD \$293.00
Last month: \$ 96.00

Used Printer Cartridges

Total Last Year \$ 350
YTD: \$ 104.00
Last month: \$ 12.00

Become a redemption volunteer!

- **Kill two birds with one stone!**
You can redeem the club's bottles during the same the trip you redeem your house hold's bottles!
- **Save Gas!** Volunteers make one trip for two bottle redemptions! You emulate Railroad efficiency !

Fall Train Show at Mt. Ararat High School!

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club's fall model train show on Saturday, November 4, was held at Mt. Ararat High School in Topsham for the third year.

Club members loaded the rented U-Haul truck on Friday afternoon before going to Topsham to help unload tables for the Saturday show. On Saturday morning, Travis Johnson drove the truck to Topsham.



This year there were more modular train displays than we have had in the past, making it more interesting for club members and for people who attend our shows often. Everyone enjoys seeing something new at each show. About thirty club members attended the train show, which seemed to be going very well until a false fire alarm was set off by a child. We waited 20 to 30 minutes to get back inside. By the time everyone was allowed to re-enter the building, many people had left and did not return, much to the disappointment of vendors and club members.



Refreshments were provided by the Mt. Ararat High School Athletic Association Boosters. Some of the athletes went from dealer to dealer offering to

take their orders for the food which was available. This service allowed dealers to stay at their tables instead of leaving their displays unattended.



After the show concluded, members put the sections of the modular layout back in the rental truck, took down the tables, and cleaned the floor. Club sales of surplus assets were brisk until the fire alarm. Despite the slow-down

of business after the false alarm, the club did well financially at the door and with sales of surplus assets.

By Paul Lodge





Member
#076805 00
Since 1988

Come share
your projects & tools
at our
Modeler's Forum

SURPLUS INVENTORY SALE SET FOR DECEMBER 9

The fourth annual Surplus Inventory sale will take place at the Great Falls Model Railroad Club on Saturday, December 9, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The club has recently acquired large quantities of rolling stock, locomotives, and structures which will be available during the one-day sale. There will be many items which have not been seen by the general public. Club members will have first pick from the newly-acquired items to add to their personal empires.

By Paul Lodge

No Modelers Forum meeting In November

There will be no Modelers Forum meeting in November. All club members are invited to come to the Modelers Forum meetings on the fourth Thursday of every month (except November). Share ideas with other modelers. Get answers to your modeling questions or help answer questions for other modelers. Bring a completed project or one that's still in progress, or come just to observe. It's a great way to learn about new products and techniques that can improve your modeling skills.



Bottles for Basics

Bottles for Basics fund-raising has earned over \$700 for the club during each of the past 4 years. Thank you for bringing in your returnable bottles and cans!

Run Trains After the meeting

Some club members have never run a train on the GFMRRRC HO layout and would like the opportunity. Darin Long, leader of the HO group, has agreed to make arrangements for club members to operate trains on the HO layout after the monthly club meetings.

The special HO Operating Session on Saturday, November 11, and those who run the trains after the club meeting on November 16 will be helping to test the layout for our Guest Engineers at the EXTRAINaganza which starts on Saturday, November 18.

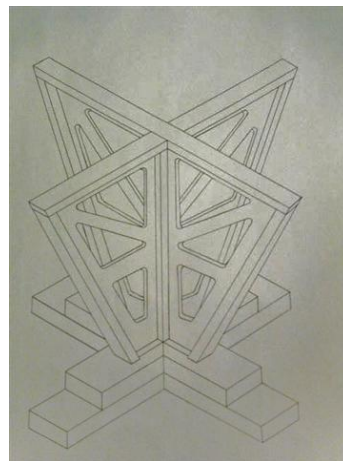
Come to the club meeting, enjoy the special presentation by club member Dexter Baum, and plan to stay later to run trains.

By Paul Lodge

BENCHWORK CLINIC FOR NOVEMBER CLUB MEETING

At the next club meeting on November 16, Dexter Baum has volunteered to display and explain the purpose of his special benchwork creation. It is designed to help handicapped modelers to have a layout on which they will be able to work. Dexter will display portions of the finished workbench and explain how it can provide an opportunity for handicapped modelers to be able to still enjoy the hobby. He has been working on this unique design for some time and has now built portions of it that can be displayed.

Dexter noted that he has not been able to find any other source with suggestions for building benchwork for handicapped people interested in the hobby. His innovative design may become the subject of a magazine article as soon as he has completed the project.



Come to the club for the November 16 club meeting and see how this new and exciting project can be used.

By Paul Lodge

MEETING MINUTES OF October 19, 2017

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club meeting on October 19 featured guest speaker, Rick Seyb, who gave a Power Point presentation on the steel industry as a topic for model railroad-ing.

The evening's Power Point presentation of the past month's activities was cancelled because the computer decided it was time for an update that took more than an hour. While the computer was updating, the business meeting was held. President Whitethunder McBride opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made and accepted to approve the Secretary's report as published in the Signal.

Paul Lodge gave the Executive Committee Report, which was approved as given.

Ed Webb noted that there was nothing new to report on the Library.

President McBride reported that the foundation dig is on hold and the club truck is still for sale. A volunteer is needed to take care of the Bottles for Basics contributions. The Company Store manager position is still open. It has been suggested that a clothes rack would be useful to display T-shirts and other clothing items the club has for sale.

The Executive Committee voted not to hold the Hobo Holiday and Balloon Festival next year. Attendance has been declining and there is a lot of preparation needed for the events. No decision has been made on holding the ExTRAINaganza next year. The decision will be based on attendance this year and the amount of volunteer help in setting up and tearing down for the event. The events topic will be discussed at the November club meeting. There was a suggestion that the club try to get listed on the Tour D-Chooch.

It has been voted not to be part of the Maine State Museum exhibit on December 1 and 2.

There was a discussion about the module specifications. It was agreed that the length of the legs should be such that the distance from the floor to the top of the rail should be forty inches. The modular group is attempting to install T-nuts on all the legs so that any needed adjustments can be made on site.

President McBride reported that the Auburn Fire Department inspector came to the club and made a couple of recommendations that have been addressed. A re-inspection will be needed to satisfy the recommendations, and then a certificate will be given noting the conformance for safety.

Although it was out of the traditional order, but Owen Buck gave the Treasurer's Report late in the meeting and it was approved as given.

While the club was waiting for the computer to update, Paul Lodge asked those present what they would like to see for clinics at future monthly meetings. An attempt will be made to find club members to lead the clinics. The following topics were



The Christmas season at the Great Falls Model Railroad Club starts on Wednesday, November 15, as we begin decorating for the four-day ExTRAINaganza which will be held at the club on November 18, 19, 24, and 25. This will be our eighth annual ExTRAINaganza and for the first time the hours for all four days will be 10 to 4.

The building will have a festive look for our regular club meeting on November 16. Any decorating which needs to be completed can be done after the meeting. Many of the decorations will still be in place for the club's annual Christmas party on Thursday, December 21.

The ExTRAINaganza, held on the weekends before and after Thanksgiving, will be great fun for the whole family. From the moment they walk through the door and see trains running on the G-gauge layout, children are fascinated by the sights and sounds. Their first view of the

suggested: Servicing Rolling Stock and Locomotives, changing from DC to DCC, programming DCC locomotives, EXTRACT CAD, Operations on Model Railroads and Dispatching, learning more about the NCE system, adding sound to existing units, NMRA Standards, how to scratch build, and learning about model railroading sites available online. Dexter Baum volunteered to bring and display part of the layout table he is creating so that handicapped modelers can enjoy the hobby.

As the computer was finishing its update, it was decided to select the raffle winners before the guest speaker made his presentation.

The Attendance Prize was won by Darin Long, and he selected a Boston & Maine hat. Rick James won the Staples credit card for new ink cartridges, and Whitethunder McBride won the 50/50 Raffle.

Rick James requested use of the building for a special needs group his son is involved with. It would go from 3:30 to 6:30. Since Ed Webb was the only volunteer available to help, Rick withdrew his request.

The meeting adjourned and the guest speaker, Rick Seyb, of Valley Center, Kansas, was introduced. He gave an interesting Power Point presentation on the steel industry. Rick is a member of the NMRA, the Steel Mill Modelers Sig (special interest group), and the Wichita Area Model Railroaders (WAMRR). When the NMRA holds their 8-day national convention in Kansas City in August 2018, Rick will be giving one of the clinics on the steel industry as a representative of the Steel Mill Modelers Sig.

By Paul Lodge

ExTRAINaganza in November !

layout includes the interactive ski slope in an attractive winter scene and trains on multiple tracks that pass through tunnels into the next room.



As they enter the main room, guests will see brightly decorated Christmas trees with trains beneath them. Around the corner, young children can enjoy Thomas the Tank Engine and his friends on a separate layout in the G-gauge room. The G-gauge layout has many features that were hidden from the first vantage point, including an impressive new trestle for the logging train. In the next room, interesting details have been added to the club's permanent layout for the smaller n-scale.

Club members have continued to develop the scenery on the extensive HO layout downstairs. They have recently upgraded the track, added switches, and created a second line in one section. Local residents may recognize many of the 1950's scenes reproduced in the Lewiston Lower section of the layout, including Bates Mill #5. Older children can sign up to be "Guest Engineers" and operate one of the HO trains.

Children will enjoy decorating and eating gingerbread cookies, creating Christmas ornaments to take home, and playing the railroad games designed by the club. The younger children always have fun with the Brio layout and age-appropriate trains in the children's play area. While watching these activities, parents can enjoy light refreshments from conveniently located tables and chairs in the craft area.

Train-related items which can be purchased at the club's store include locomotives and rolling stock in a variety of scales, railroad hats, whistles, T-shirts, books, and other train-themed items. TRAIN TIME videos, produced by the Great Falls Model Railroad Club and seen on many local cable channels, will be shown continuously each day and will be available for sale.

Tickets for games with prizes and for decorating Christmas ornaments and cookies cost \$1 each or 7 for \$5. For this event, there will be no charge for children

to be Guest Engineers on the HO layout. Admission is \$3 for adults; all children 12 and under are admitted free. All club members and their families are also admitted free.

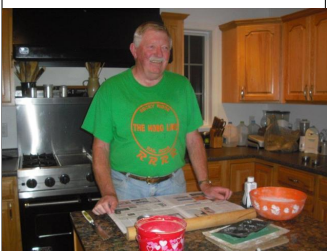
By Paul Lodge





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

MODEL RAILROAD CLASS FINISHES

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club finished this fall's Model Railroading course at Jerry Johnson's house on Tuesday, October 24. Class members toured Jerry's layout, the Rocky Ridge Railroad. Jerry also taught them about dyeing sawdust and lichen and the uses for the finished product. Class members were shown how to make scenery items from plaster molds using different types of plaster, and their varied drying



times were explained.

After more than thirty continuous years of classes, it was decided not to offer the class again until more interest is created. This year two club members signed up for the course and no one else attended any of the sessions. Many club members joined the club after taking the course, but times change and we need to adapt to a new generation.

Throughout the years, a large number of club members have helped teach the class and keep it interesting and entertaining. Thank you for the years of dedication to the teaching of model railroading as a hobby.

When there is an indication of interest for starting the class again, there are several club members who are skilled and are willing to teach the class or individual sessions.

By Paul Lodge



PRODUCTIVE DAY AT WW&F

Over 80 people helped us have a very successful day's work at the WW&F on October 7. About 2.5 miles up the track from the museum yard, 47 people did the hard work of building track, shoveling stone, aligning track, and helping the tanner crew. In just two hours we built 120' of track on the mill spur, which will soon serve a shingle mill and saw mill. Many new and familiar faces were on hand to help, including several members of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club and a little boy who was eager to assist in any way he could.

For those who have never attended a WW&F work weekend, they are a lot of fun. Everyone works at his own pace; and we are all together for the same reason, to rebuild the railway. Meal times give us a chance to socialize, talk to new friends, and regroup. I have never seen a more spectacular volunteer effort perform backbreaking labor and enjoy each other's company like one big family.



Several trains were run, including passenger trains, ballast trains, and the railcar. Rides were available to the public for the five-mile round trip, which takes about an hour. Nancy Weeks and crew helped provide the meals for the workers. As usual, a special evening train was run for the workers as a great way to conclude the day.

Anyone who is interested in attending or watching future spring or fall work weekends is welcome to come and see what brings people from all over North America to help keep the museum growing.



The WW&F invites everyone to celebrate its annual Victorian Christmas at 97 Cross Road in Alna on two Saturdays, December 16 and

23. The museum grounds will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Steam and diesel trains will be running from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Depending on the weather, the train trip will include a ride in a horse-drawn sleigh or wagon. This is a free event, but donations are greatly appreciated.

By Joe Fox

**Dick Clark's
Halloween 2017 !**

Many Halloween activities were cancelled or postponed this year because of a tropical storm with high winds and heavy rain which began the day before Halloween. Various locations throughout the state lost electricity for several hours or several days and some roads were closed because of fallen trees.

Thanks to an accurate weather forecast, Sharon and Dick Clark were able to prevent major damage to their garden railroad layout by working after dark the night before the storm, removing everything and putting it all in his train station to keep it safe. Dick lost electricity at 5 a.m. on Monday and got it back around 6 p.m. on the same day. Clearing debris and setting up the railroad and scenery was too much work to do because of the storm, and Toot 'n Chug Rail Lines did not operate on Halloween. Nine kids, all dressed up, and five adults, not dressed up, came for "Trick or Treat." Dick met them at the end of the driveway and passed out candy. Everyone was disappointed that the railroad wasn't operating, but they all understood.



The Great Falls Model Railroad Club was represented, however, at the Buckfield "Trunk or Treat" event on Halloween. Paul Lodge brought the club's "Hoop a Caboose" and "Roundhouse Roulette" games. The three roundhouse buildings were filled with candy and small prizes. The wooden stand-alone locomotive, box car, and caboose held candy and prizes for "Hoop a Caboose" winners. About 200 children and their parents enjoyed the games and the candy provided by the Buckfield branch of the Eastern Star in the parking lot of the Buckfield Town Office.

By Dick
Clark



GFMRRRC Activities



**N-Scale
Portable
Layout**



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 2017 Special Events

November 16 — 6:45PM

Clinic by Dexter Baum (see article); stay later to run trains at GFMRRC

November 18, 19, 24, 25 — 10 AM to 4PM

ExTRAINaganza at GFMRRC

December 9— 8 AM to 3PM

Surplus inventory sale at GFMRRC

December 21

GFMRRC Christmas Party



GFMRRC Recurrent Activities

Please check web site or Facebook page

1st Thursday of each month - 5 to 7 PM

Family Night at Governor's Restaurant

1st Saturday of each month - 8 am to noon

HO Operating Sessions,

ONLY November 11 this month

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

HO Work Sessions

Except for Operating Sessions and special events, work sessions are scheduled:

- Every Saturday 8:00 am to noon
- Every Wednesday 6:00 pm - 8:00 PM

NOTE: There will be no Operating Session on November 18 or 25 because of the ExTRAINaganza. Instead, there will be a **special HO Operating Session on Saturday, November 11** and all club members are invited to run trains after the club meeting on **November 16**. There will a special HO operating session on Thanksgiving Eve, **November 23**, starting at 6 P.M.

There will be no Modelers Forum meeting in November .

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

