



Members since June 1988

# The Signal



December Edition  
2017



Signal indicates **STOP AT**  
**OUR NEXT MEETING**  
**December 21, 2017 6:45**

**Christmas PARTY!**  
**@ December 21 Meeting**

## 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 December 28, 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 \$389.00  
Last month: \$ 69.00

### Used Printer Cartridges

Total Last Year \$ 350  
YTD: \$ 114.00  
Last month: \$ 10.00

## NINTH ANNUAL ExTRAINaganza!



The ninth annual Ex-TRAINaganza was held at the club for four days on the weekends before and after Thanksgiving. About forty club members came to help or support this major event. Many club

members wore their club vests and/or special club shirts, including the ExTRAINaganza and Spikey T-shirts.

About 465 adults attended the ExTRAINaganza on November 18, 19, 25 and 26. About 280 children put their names on our Train Tree. Over half of the adults said this was the first time they had been to the club. Many people came because they saw the signs which Travis Johnson had put out. Others mentioned seeing the message in local newspapers, on our website, or on other social media. On Saturday, November 18, the first day of ExTRAINaganza, Lewiston Sun/Journal photographer Russ Dillingham took pictures and Liz Marquis wrote an article about the event, which generated a lot of traffic on Sunday. Because the Portland Sunday Telegram also printed the article, more people from the greater Portland area attended than have come in the past.



About 650 tickets were sold and used for making crafts, decorating cookies, and playing Roundhouse Roulette. Many children enjoyed the opportunity to be Guest Engineers on the HO layout, and this year tickets were not required. In the craft area, about 75 Christmas tree ornaments were decorated and nearly 50 children created tri-bead candy canes and snowmen to hang on their Christmas trees at home. Children decorated and ate more than 200 gingerbread cookies

made by Dick Clark and by Frances Lodge's sister Beverly Spofford and sugar cookies made by Nancy Weeks. Rick James made the

frosting that was used to decorate the cookies. When we ran out of Christmas cookies on the last day, children put frosting on Nancy Weeks' chocolate chip cookies and on brownies.



Thomas the Tank Engine and his friends are always a highlight for our youngest visitors. Many children had fun pushing the button and watching the waterwheel turn. They were also shown how to make the sound of a loud diesel or steam engine whistle on our special sound system. Children enjoyed watching trains on all the layouts and under the Christmas trees. Children as young as nine months old had a chance to play with trains in the younger children's play area and on the wooden Brio layout.

While children were working on the crafts, parents enjoyed watching Train Time shows which were available for sale and were shown

on the television near the crafts and play area. Operation Life-saver coloring books were given away as families left. (See page 4)





Member  
#076805 00  
Since 1988

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

## CHRISTMAS PARTY AND DECEMBER MEETING

Traditionally, our December club meeting is a pot-luck Christmas Party to which club members' friends and relatives are invited.

Paul Lodge reminds members that >>>>**CHOCOLATE**<<<< is a part of the pot-luck dessert menu because of its sweet relationship with the season. Because not everyone can eat chocolate, however, we are glad that there will be a variety of foods and many desserts with other flavors as well. This year many of the Christmas decorations have been removed in order to make room for tables for the Surplus Inventory Sale on Saturday, December 9. The club meeting on December 21 will still be a festive occasion.

By Paul Lodge

## SURPLUS INVENTORY SALE DECEMBER 9 A REAL Success!



## Modelers Forum meeting In December !

All club members are invited to come to the Modelers Forum meetings on the fourth Thursday of every month. 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.



## CLINIC SCHEDULE

At the monthly club meeting on November 16, club members decided what they want for clinics for the next six months. As part of a new meeting format, a railroad-related video will be shown from 6:45 until 7 p.m. The traditional 15-minute Power Point program featuring club events for the past month will be shown next, followed by one of the clinics below. Members who attended the November meeting volunteered to be presenters for the following topics:

- ◆ December: Club Christmas Party
- ◆ January: EXTRACT CAD, Kent Waterson
- ◆ February: Model Railroading Sites on the Computer, Darin Long
- ◆ March: Locomotive Sound Systems, Jamie Robinson
- ◆ April: Locomotive and Rolling Stock Maintenance, Travis Johnson, Ed Webb, Eric Long
- ◆ May: DCC Programming, Darin and Eric Long

Other topics were also suggested, but it was decided to stop the clinics in May because so many members are not available during the summer months.

By Paul Lodge

## TRAIN SHOW IN BREWER

On Saturday, November 18, three members of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club went to Brewer to sell surplus inventory at the Eastern Maine Model Railroad Club's annual train show. The Brewer show typically conflicts with the first day of our ExTRAINaganza, but Terry King, Larry Cannon and Ed Webb took advantage of the opportunity to sell more than \$500 worth of our excess supplies.

By Paul Lodge





## MEETING MINUTES OF November 16, 2017

The order of the November 16 meeting was changed and a TRAIN TIME video was shown from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. After the TRAIN TIME show was over, the Power Point slide show of club activities in September and November was shown. This arrangement worked well and will be repeated.

President Whitethunder McBride was ill and Vice-president Mike Meserve 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.

The report of the November 9 Executive Committee Meeting was used for talking points for Old Business and are as follows:

Ed Webb reported that the library has received a donation of Classic Toy Trains in binders.

It was reported that Jerry Johnston has received an offer on the truck.

According to Eric and Darin Long, a new pick-proof lock plate and additional shelves will be installed in the new shed.

The Fire Department has inspected the building and their recommendations are being worked on. The inspector will return to verify that the recommendations have been completed and will forward a final document to the club.



Mike Meserve reported on his findings about the camera security system. He has found a 16-channel set-up with all of the cameras being weather proof. After receiving his report, the Executive Committee voted to purchase the equipment necessary to upgrade the camera security system.

It was decided to hold off refinishing the upstairs floor and painting the doors until next summer.

Carl Butland will see to it that the furnace gets cleaned.

Darin Long agreed that wheels need to be put on the HO workbench so that it can be moved easily.

Paul Lodge reported that the decorations for the ExTRAINaganza were put up on Wednesday, November 15, with the help of several members, including those who were at the Wednesday

evening work session. Their help was appreciated and all the trees were trimmed before the evening was concluded.

Eric Long has taken the job of "Store Manager." Charles Bagley has volunteered to handle the Bottles for Basics program by taking the returnable bottles to the redemption center.

When Vice-President Mike Meserve asked for any additional reports, Eric Long thanked Jamie Robinson for installing a new turnout to replace one which was not working properly.



After the business meeting was over, Dexter Baum presented his design and displayed the benchwork he is building which can be used by people who are handicapped or need special accommodations. There was a great deal of enthusiasm for his project by those in attendance. It was suggested that he have his design patented. Some members suggested that his benchwork design could also be used by people in other hobbies. Dexter received a well-deserved round of applause for his presentation.

Roger Allen's name was drawn as the Attendance Prize winner and he selected one of the coffee mugs. Sam Coley won the 50/50 raffle.



## FACEBOOK NOTES



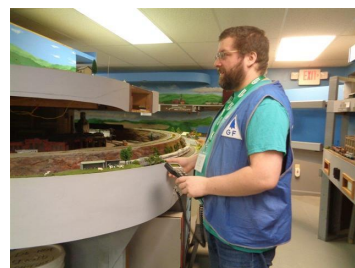
Like us on Facebook. Events, pictures, and announcements are posted often on our Facebook page. Watch for our club's activities, adventures and accomplish-

ments as they happen. Keep updated on what we are doing now and what comes next. You may even see yourself.

Some postings are just for members. These regularly include reminders of the Monthly Meetings, Modelers Forum, and Operating Sessions. Occasionally, there will be other "Members Only" information.

One of the ways to find our Facebook site is to type Great Falls Model Railroad Club Facebook into your browser. Another way is to go to our Web page, [www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org](http://www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org). Find the area to the right that says "Like us on Facebook." Click the blue letters Great Falls Model Railroad Club next to our logo and it will take you to our Facebook page.

By Tami Paine



## NINTH ANNUAL ExTRAINaganza!

Eric Long and Own Buck managed the Company Store, which sold about \$500 worth of books and surplus inventory items, including buildings and model trains.



Nancy Weeks organized the kitchen and prepared and served food for the club members who were helping at the ExTRAINaganza. Some food was also donated by other club members, including those who could not stay at the event.

On Wednesday, November 15, Christmas trees and decorations had been put up by Ed Webb, Eric and Darin Long, and Sam Coley. Sam



was also instrumental in setting up the trains under the Christmas trees. Raffle tickets were sold on the three train layouts under the trees and on large stuffed Mickey and Minnie Mouse dolls.

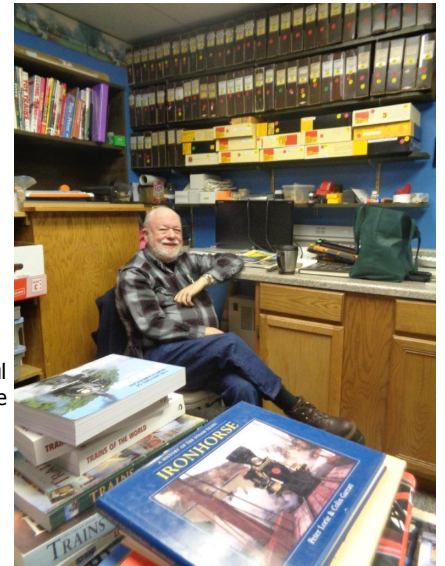
Governor's Restaurant and Bakery not only distributed free passes and publicized the event with our handouts and large display sign but also donated two dozen chocolate chip cookies for us to sell. On Saturday, November 25, the last day

of the ExTRAINaganza, about ten club members went to Governor's for the traditional "after-event" meal to relax, socialize, share ideas, and hear the results from the four days.



The success of the ninth annual ExTRAINaganza is due to all the club members and friends who helped and supported this event. Thank you.

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



NINTH ANNUAL ExTRAINaganza!



## The Great Falls Model Railroad Club (GFMRRC)

### Contact Info:

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### Virtual Address

<http://www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org>

### See us on Facebook!

Great Falls Model Railroad Club

An educational foundation



## Officers

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## The Signal

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## GFMRRC 2017 Special Events

December 16, 23 - 11 AM to 3PM

**Victorian Christmas at WW&F,  
free train rides**

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,  
also December 2, 9 & 23**

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

**December 16 & 30**

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

Have a Merry Christmas!

