



Members since June 1988

# The Signal



March Edition  
2018



Signal indicates **STOP AT OUR NEXT MEETING**  
**March 15 2018 6:30! pm**

**Clinic: Computer Sites run HO trains after 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 March 25, 2018  
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 \$506.00  
Last month: \$ 13.00

**Used Printer Cartridges**

Total Last Year \$ 350  
YTD: \$ 105.00  
Last month: \$ 2.00

**MANY CLUB MEMBERS ATTEND AUGUSTA SHOW**

On Saturday, February 17, about thirty members of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club attended or helped at the Whitefield Lions Club Dollhouse and Model Train show in Augusta. More than a dozen club members set up the modular layout and ran trains from the beginning to the end of the show. The sales tables were manned all day by more than a half dozen devoted club members. About ten members came just to enjoy the show. We appreciated all of the ways club members supported the event.



The modular group had spent many hours upgrading the modules with wiring for DCC. When the doors opened at 10 a.m., trains were already running. During the day multiple trains ran at the same time on both the outside and inside tracks. There were still some recurring electrical shorts which will need attention, but the guests had a chance to see a lot of trains in operation.



A large number of the surplus sales items were sold, and the club profited financially from the show. Handouts were available to let people know about our surplus inventory sale and DCC training day at the club on May 19 and about the train show at Mt. Ararat in Topsham on April 28.



Each year there seem to be fewer and fewer dollhouse exhibits, which is sad because they are a companion hobby from which both hobbies benefit.

It was noted that attendance dropped off to nearly none after noon. It has been suggested that we change the times of our shows to match the new demographics of show goers. Some of those attending the show thought that an earlier start time such as 9 a.m. and an earlier end time such as 1 p.m. might be tried at some future club event.

A big "thank you" to all the club members who came and helped at the show in Augusta.

By Paul Lodge





Member  
#076805 00  
Since 1988

**A SECOND SURPLUS INVENTORY SALE  
SLATED FOR MAY 19**

On Saturday, May 19, the Great Falls Model Railroad Club will hold a Surplus Inventory Sale at the club house at 144 Mill Street in Auburn from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sales items will include locomotives, rolling stock, railroad memorabilia, books, DVD's and videotapes. Many of these items have never been displayed at railroad shows.

On the same day and at the same times, on the lower level of the club building, members of the HO crew will hold a continuous series of clinics on the installation and use of DCC, the control system used on our HO layout. Model railroad fans are invited to see the HO layout in operation and to attend as many clinic sessions as you would like.

Both the Surplus Inventory Sale and the DCC clinics are open to the public, and there is no charge for admission.

**GFMRRRC events**



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

**4000 EGGS FOR WW&F**

After the HO operating session on Saturday, March 3, nearly twenty Great Falls Model Railroad Club members filled 4,000 plastic eggs with candy. The candy-filled eggs will be used at the Wiscasset, Waterville & Farmington Railroad Museum in Alna Center, Maine, for their annual Easter Eggspress on Saturday, March 31.

The WW&F Railway Museum will celebrate Easter with steam train rides from 12 noon to 3 p.m. It is suggested that you bring your own Easter basket for your children to collect the candy-filled eggs while you ride the train to Alna Center station to find a special egg. Locate the special egg, and a large basket of goodies will be yours. Separate egg hunts for children will be held on each trip. If the special egg is not found, the basket will go to the child who finds the most eggs. Train tickets are only \$5.00 per person and free for children under the age of 3.



**NEXT CLINIC:  
ADDING DCC SOUND**

At the club meeting on March 15, Jamie Robinson will explain how to add sound units to locomotive units that are running on DCC.

Upcoming meeting clinics:

April: Locomotive and rolling stock maintenance, Travis Johnson and Ed Webb.

May: Programming DCC locomotives, Eric Long.

June: Computer sites for information on model railroading, Darin Long.



Joe, Dawn and Leanne Fox spearheaded the egg-filling event after the HO Operating Session with the help of the following Great Falls Model Railroad Club members: Trina Bacon, Carl Butland, Jamie Robinson, Roger Plummer, Guy Lovell, John Middleton, John Erickson, Rick James, Lawrence Grant, Gordon Chapman, Ed Webb, Travis Johnson, and Darin, Eric, Analise, and Adam Long. Special thanks to Mike Meserve and Dawn Fox for their communication during the previous week that helped to get this project organized in a very short time. Travis Johnson noted that this egg-filling activity utilized our club members to help another volunteer non-profit organization, and that's good!

This egg-filling activity happened after the Saturday HO Operating Session. The March 3 Operating Session was one of the most successful sessions we have had. Travis Johnson acted as dispatcher for 24 trains which completed their assigned tasks and 2 trains that were

## FEBRUARY MODELERS FORUM

Great Falls Model Railroad Club members who attended the February 22 meeting of the Modelers Forum brought an interesting variety of projects.



Nobuharu "Su-San" Suzuki and his son, who recently rejoined GFMRRRC, brought an n-scale Acela locomotive and rolling stock, hoping that members could help to make the set run better.



Jamie Robinson had taken home from the club a locomotive in need of repairs. As he began repairing it, he decided to make it look more like the prototype by adding details. To some extent, the repair project became a restoration project.



The Modelers Forum meets on the fourth Thursday of each month. All members of the railroad club are invited to attend any and all sessions. Come to share your finished modeling projects or works in progress, or come to observe and learn about new products, tools and techniques to help in your projects.



George Pitchard has been using wood and plastic to scratch-build a collection of On2 rolling stock. He has regauged a locomotive to the standards of the two-foot narrow gauge railroads such as the WW&F and the Sandy River & Rangeley Lakes Railroads.



By Paur Lodge



## MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 15, 2018



A new format has been tried at the last two monthly meetings. A thirty-minute video is shown from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. At 7:00 p.m., the meeting starts with a Power Point presentation of activities in which the club has been involved since the last meeting. The Power Point slide show this month was not very long because there was not a lot of club activity in January.

In the absence of President Whitethunder McBride, Vice President Mike Meserve opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Two visitors from Windham were present and recognized. Dave and Carol Manchester had gone online to find a model railroad club in the area and found ours. Dave explained where he was in the hobby and appreciated being given a tour of the club before the meeting.

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

Owen Buck gave the Treasurer's Report and explained that he plans to pay down the mortgage at \$600 a month and hopes to have the mortgage paid within the next year when we will become "debt free." (We need to plan a party for that occasion.)

Larry Cannon noted that the Seacoast Division of the National Model Railroaders Association (NMRA) will meet at the club on Saturday, July 14.

Paul Lodge read the minutes from the Executive Committee Meeting of February 8. Items of interest included the following:

Ed Webb reported that some repairs still need to be made to the snowblower, but it did work to clean the snow after the recent storm.

President McBride said that he has reserved a rental truck to be used to carry the equipment and sales items to the Augusta show.

New T-nuts and adjusting bolts will be added to the legs of the modules for leveling the layout during the show.

It was reported that the furnace has been cleaned as the result of a call from President McBride.

Mike Meserve said that the new security system has not yet been purchased. It will need to be installed in the spring when access to the outside of the building is easier.

At the January club meeting, it was voted to have the Train Fest during the Balloon Festival. It was suggested that Rick James be asked to be the chairman of the Train Fest because of the interest he showed at the club meeting.

For the past few weeks, the Bottles for Basics donations have been taken care of by club member Tom McAvoy, and he has volunteered to continue that responsibility.

Joan Meehan has told President McBride that the youth group is not functioning at this time. Most of the boys who had been in the youth group have now entered high school, and their interests have changed.

There was a discussion about what kind of door should be installed in the hall leading to the lower level. It was decided to check with the fire department personnel when they come for the next inspection to see if there is a preference as to which way the door should swing.

Work is planned to set up a shorter route on the HO layout that small children can use to run trains.

There was a discussion about the use of the facility for the combination Surplus Inventory Sale and the Clinic Day. It was decided to have the Surplus Inventory Sale on the upper level as we have done in the past. The lower level will have on-going clinics throughout the day on various aspects of DCC instruction. The HO layout and workbench area will be used as a location and teaching tool to share information about installing DCC decoders, programming locomotives, creating multiple locomotive lash-ups, and answering questions about DCC. A handout needs to be created for distribution at the Augusta show on February 17 since both events will be open to the public.

President McBride notified the Executive Committee that he is not interested in being a candidate for president for next year. Members thanked him for the good job he has done in some difficult circumstances.

Vice-President Meserve asked for individual reports. Ed Webb reported that a few more books need to be processed. Members were reminded that the Modelers Forum will meet next Thursday (the fourth Thursday of each month). Mike Meserve reported that the shorter Ho layout loop for younger children will be worked on so that it can be used at the next club event. He noted that the modules were ready for the Augusta show and that plans are being made to create new corners with a radius of 90 inches to accommodate larger engines.

On February 24, there will be a special operating session on the HO layout. It will be a tribute to the steam era. Steam engines will be used as the primary power for the operating session. This themed operating session created a lot of interest and members are looking forward to it (some from as far away as Pennsylvania).

Carol Leblanc visited the club to see if our venue would be appropriate for an Easter Party she is planning for the In-Town Athletic Club. After some explanation of the event to those present, a motion was made and accepted to invite the group to have their Easter Party at the club.

Darin Long was scheduled to make a presentation on finding computer website locations useful to model railroaders. He was not able to attend the meeting, so his presentation will be added to the schedule at the end of the year.

At the end of the meeting, the 50/50 raffle was drawn and John Erickson won. The Attendance Prize was won by Carol Manchester, our visitor. She chose a railroad-related tile as her gift.

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

# RAILROAD CLUB HO STEAM SESSION



The February 24 Steam Session on the Great Falls Model Railroad Club HO layout successfully used steam power with some early diesel yard power. About 20 members and guests, including two children, attended the session.

Eric and Darin Long, Roger Plummer and Jamie Robinson brought in steam locomotives and provided steam power to many who did not have their own to run. Thunder McBride, Ed Webb, and Carl Butland also brought in steam. We ran 15 steam locomotives for the session, mostly with one-man crews. There were about as many more steam locomotives available if we had had additional operators.



Jamie Robinson brought two 2-8-4 Berkshires to the session – one C&O and one Virginian. Both are Proto Heritage Steam with hi-bass speakers and TSU-1000 decoders. He ran CPAY (originated Thurston, left from last session) to Ayer with the C&O, then returned to Hillcrest with AYHC. Benton Hayes ran the Virginian on a turn from Hillcrest to Mountain Jct. after switching Thurston and the CP interchange with a MEC Mikado belonging to Darin Long.

John Middleton borrowed a B&O articulated from Eric Long to run GTHC. From Hillcrest, he ran HCAY and then deadheaded the locomotive back to Obie yard.

There was a lot of activity and we really needed a dispatcher on duty. Darin Long had a very busy day working the Obie yard. He had at least five trains terminate during the day and he dispatched three.



Eric Long reported that the Hillcrest yard dispatched four trains and had three arrive, plus one dispatched from the nearby Canadian Pacific staging yard. Hillcrest was also switched with diesel power for part of the session with a double-headed EMD model 40 lash up. The model 40 locomotives used to start the day in Hillcrest are designed for small, local switchers for places like industrial plants. Eric had a John Deere and a Baltimore and Ohio model 40

lashed up to switch the yard.



Switchers were in short supply. Jamie Robinson finished up switching a track and a half in Hillcrest, using a vintage Atlas S-2 belonging to Eric Long. Guy Lovell worked the IP paper mill with an Alco S1 diesel.

Eric Long noted that overall there was a high operator count and a great session for all. John Middleton summed it up well, "It was a very enjoyable morning's work."

By Members of the HO Division



The Great Falls Model Railroad Club (GFMRRC)

GFMRRC 2018 Special Events

GFMRRC Recurrent Activities

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**See us on Facebook!**  
Great Falls Model Railroad Club  
An educational foundation



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March 15  
Adding Sound to DCC; run HO trains after 6:30 PM meeting

April 28  
April 28, GFMRRC Spring Show, Mt. Ararat High School, Topsham 10 to 3

May 17  
May 17, GFMRRC Annual Business Meeting and Election of Officers

May 19  
GFMRRC Surplus Inventory Sale, 8 to 3  
DCC Clinics on HO layout, 8 to 3

Please check web site or Facebook page

1st Thursday of each month - 5 to 7 PM  
**Family Night at Governor's Restaurant**

2/3 & 2/24, 3/3, 3/17  
**HO Operating Sessions,**

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

3rd Thursday of each month - 6:30 PM  
**Regular Monthly Club Meeting**

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

HO Work Sessions  
Second and fourth Saturdays and every Wednesday evening

**Future Master Model Railroaders**  
**No meetings until future notice**

**The HO Operating Sessions**  
March 17; April 7 and 21

The Signal

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