



Member since June 1988

**NEXT MEETING
JUNE 21
6:30 p.m.**

Have a story
you want to
share?

Send it to the
Editor today
and you may be
published!

*Bring a friend to our
next meeting.*

DO YOU WANT TO WIN?

Attendance & 50/50 prizes are drawn at every Meeting, on the 3rd Thursday of the month.

**YOU HAVE TO BE
PRESENT TO WIN!**

DONATIONS

Bottles for Basics:

- ◆ 2017 - \$720.00
- ◆ 2018— \$157.00
- ◆ MAY—\$74.00

PRINTER

CARTRIDGES:

Total last year: \$107.00
YTD: \$18.00
Last Month: \$18.00

THE SIGNAL



THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

VOLUME 22. ISSUE 1

JUNE 2018

Animal Policy (May 17, 2018)

Service animals will be admitted to the clubhouse as per applicable law. Documentation to prove service animal certification must be presented to an Executive Committee member upon request.

No other animals may be admitted to the clubhouse, except as described below.

Non-service dogs may be brought into the building provided that the following is adhered to:

The owner is in visual contact with the dog at all times, and the dog's behavior is supervised at all times. The dog must not be allowed to wander the building. The dog must be leashed if verbal control is not effective.

The dog must not display any aggressive or disruptive behaviors in the building, such as barking, running about, or growling. The owner will be required to remove a dog displaying such behaviors from the clubhouse immediately.

Leashes present a tripping hazard. Owners who have dogs on a leash must remain at the periphery of a room so as to not to impede the movements of others.



Nancy Weeks and Goldie

SPIKEY'S STATION

By Tami Paine

All children from the ages of 3 to 10 are invited to meet at Spikey's Station as often as they can come. Light snacks will be provided, so parents are asked to let us know if a child has any food allergies, such as eggs, nuts, or chocolate.

On Saturday, May 5, the Great Falls Model Railroad Club held the first meeting of our new children's program called Spikey's Station, led by Tami Paine and her daughter, Tina Wyrick. The first event included Brio play time and a movie with Thomas the Tank Engine. The club's mascot Spikey, designed by Carmen Coulombe, was introduced with Carmen's story about Spikey and a poem about Spikey written by Sally Joy, Paul Lodge's sister-in-law. We taught the children about spikes and tracks, and they had fun creating some track with popsicle sticks. Everyone enjoyed making and eating track snacks with graham crackers, frosting, Kit Kat bars, and red licorice.

Tami and Tina hope to create one or two Spikey's Station events for children each month, usually while parents, other adults, and older children in their families are participating in HO Operating Sessions downstairs. Until now there has been nothing appropriate for the younger children at that time, and Spikey's Station is designed to fill that need.

All children from the ages of 3 to 10 are invited to meet at Spikey's Station as often as they can come. Light snacks will be provided, so parents are asked to let us know if a child has any food allergies, such as eggs, nuts, or chocolate.

Parents are encouraged to check the emailed Monthly Activities Schedules for Spikey's Station meeting dates. Our current plans include meetings on June 2 and 23, July 7 and 21, and August 4.



SPRING SURPLUS INVENTORY SALE AND DCC Q & A

By Paul Lodge

On Saturday May 19, the Great Falls Model Railroad Club conducted its first spring surplus inventory sale and HO Question and Answer Clinics for DCC systems from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Many club members and about 45 non-members came to purchase items, see the layouts, and participate in the HO DCC Q & A. Most of the non-members came between 8 and 10 a.m. As the day went on, the attendance dwindled considerably. Members who attended the event recommended that the next surplus inventory sale should begin at 8 a.m. and end at 1 p.m.

Most people who came to buy items from our surplus inventory went downstairs to see the HO layout. Some came specifically to get additional information about DCC. Darin Long answered DCC questions for about four hours, and those who participated were thankful for the help he provided. Throughout the day several club members ran trains on the HO layout, demonstrating how DCC works. Visitors who had not seen our layout before were impressed with its size and the variety of scenes.

At noon, Jerry Johnston grilled sandwiches for the club members so they would not have to leave the building to get lunch while the events were going on.

On Sunday morning, club members took down the sales tables and re-boxed the items that did not sell to get them ready for the next train show.

FISCAL AND MEMBERSHIP YEAR CHANGES

By Owen Buck, Treasurer

Since its founding in 1986, the fiscal year for the Great Falls Model Railroad Club had begun on May 1 and ended on April 30 of the following year. The dates for the club's fiscal year have now been officially changed to the calendar year in order to simplify financial operations. For example, sometimes the expenses and the income from a fundraiser would fall into different fiscal years. Also, most of the businesses with which we interact, particularly for paying bills, operate on a calendar year. So do the various levels of government with regard to reports, fees, taxes, etc. Little things such as these add up, causing your treasurer to lose more of what hair he has left!

By vote of the Executive Committee in July 2017, the fiscal year 2016-17 ended as usual on April 30, 2017. We then had a short fiscal year in 2017 of eight months, from May 1 to December 31. The club's fiscal year 2018 matches the calendar year; it began on January 1 and will end on December 31, 2018.

For most club members, the only noticeable change will be that dues are now being figured on a calendar year basis for everyone. The previous system, tracking 12 months from the various join-up dates of over 100 members, was just too complicated! Anyone who had made earlier payment under the old system has had a pro-rated credit applied for 2018, with dues prorated at \$2.50 a month (\$3 a month for family) until all members are on the new annual schedule. About half of the membership was already on the new schedule by December, and each member should have been notified by now how much their 2018 dues will be to get them aligned with the calendar year.

January 1 of each year is now the date on which annual dues will be billed, but members have until July 1 to pay the dues. The deadline for the year is July 1, but earlier payments are certainly welcome. We still offer the "pay for 4 years get the 5th year free" option.

Thanks to everyone for their support, financial and otherwise!

YOUR LIBRARY TODAY

By Terry King

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club has one of the most extensive railroad collections in Maine, and all of it is available to club members. As of today the Hartt-Swasey Library has 1649 books, around 8,000 magazines, over 3,000 photos, over 600 timetables, over 300 videos and much more.

We now have two new sections in the library. The first is a "G" scale section, thanks to a donation by Ray Parent.

The second is Railroad Folklore. Thanks to some recent donations we now have three books with railroad diner recipes. Some sound a little weird, and some will just make you hungry! One of the latter is "Baked Potato Surprise", Southern Pacific Style. This has potatoes, eggs, parsley, mushrooms, bacon, cheese, watercress and filet mignon. How can you miss with steak and bacon!

Our library has *A Treasury of Railroad Folklore*, *Those Pullman Blues*, and *Writing the Rails*. Do you like Hobos? We have several books on these. One is dated 1887, another is 1911, and a couple were written in the 1940's, but most are newer. *Bronnie the Boomer* will introduce you to men called Boomers who moved from railroad to railroad whenever they were bored or in trouble. We have books on Ghost Trains and wild caboose chases. *America by Rail* consists of copies of railroad posters from the Library of Congress. Other specialty books include *The Great Machines*, *Poems and Songs of the American Railroad* and *Singing Rails, Railroadin' Songs, Jokes & Stories* by Wayne Ernsen.

Thanks to member Kevin LaMarre, we have a large donation of DVD's, including *Ride the Sandy River Railroad* and three videos of the Alaska Railroad. I believe that we have the entire series of *GREAT AMERICAN RAIL JOURNEYS*. We also have DVD's of all the *TRAIN TIME* episodes produced by Paul Lodge with video taped by several club members on railfan trips throughout Pennsylvania, California and New York as well as in Maine and the other New England states.

Our children's section has a good collection of books that younger family members will enjoy. Tami Paine and Tina Wyrick will be reading some of these at Spikey's Station meetings, and members can also sign them out.

There are loads of new books and DVD's for you to check out. Many have recently been donated by non-members and members who are moving. Thanks to Jerry Johnston, Larry Cannon, Terry King and other club members, these have been picked up from various locations throughout the state. If you want to research railroad lines of the past and present or learn how to create items for your personal layout, we may have exactly what you need. Remember, members can take out a book or DVD for thirty days, so if you can only attend meeting nights you are covered.



May Minutes by Paul Lodge

May 17, 2018

A railroad video of the *Trains to Nowhere* was shown from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. while club members were arriving for the monthly meeting. At 7:00 the Power Point slide show of club activities in April and May was shown.

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 read the minutes from the Executive Committee meeting on May 10, which included the following information:

Darin Long reported that the HO Division plans to have only one operating session each month during June, July, and August. The lower level of the HO layout for little children is nearly complete. Jamie Robinson is putting the finishing touches on it. There is also an effort being made to find the reason for the power problem on the HO layout.

Ed Webb reported that he is trying to find prices of some new books he wishes to introduce to the library. A question was asked if he has a budget for new books. Currently there is no budget for new books.

A budget for the club for the new year needs to be created and approved.

An attempt will be made to build new shelving in the storage shed. Eric and Darin Long will make a materials list of items to be purchased so work can be started on the shelves.

The new device for closing the furnace room door has been purchased and will be installed.

Now that the weather is warmer, the outside doors can be painted and Carl Butland has volunteered to do that.

A team of members will be needed to refinish the hardwood floors on the upper level. A "scrubber" needs to be rented, polyurethane purchased, tools acquired, and a team recruited to do the work.

After the model train show at Mt. Ararat High School in Topsham, it was suggested that the admission fee be raised to \$5 and events at the club house also charge \$5 in order to be consistent. The Executive Committee recommended that this issue be voted upon by the club at the next general session.

Terry King surveyed the vendors at the show about their interest in having the show be a two-day event. The idea of a two-day event was overwhelmingly rejected. A suggestion was made to have a sign made to indicate the location of the GFMRRRC modular layout. A sign indicating the cost of the event needs to be made for the registration table.

Owen Buck has contacted a CPA to get current regulations concerning our 501c(3) educational foundation status obligations and restrictions. There have been questions about our following 501c(3) guidelines and the club does not want to lose its 501c(3) status. The CPA indicated that the club is in compliance with all guidelines.

There was a lengthy discussion about the arrangement of the club modules at future shows and the need to renovate the corners and some of the modules.

The Executive Committee report was approved as given.

Owen Buck gave the Treasurer's Report. We are continuing to pay down the debt, which should be completed by the end of the summer.

Librarian Ed Webb reported that he has ordered some books for the library.

A motion was made and accepted to increase the admission fee for train shows and club events to \$5 per person, with children 12 and under continuing to be admitted free. There was some discussion about a \$15 minimum fee per family, but no action was taken on the idea.

Because there has been an increase in the number of dogs entering the building during events, a Dog Policy has been established. (See the Dog Policy document in another part of the newsletter.) After reading the policy, a motion was made and accepted to approve the Dog Policy for future events.

Club members have been asking for club vests. Terry King has investigated the possibility of buying commercial vests. The places he contacted did not have a source for them. The vests we now have were made by individuals connected to the club.

Club members were asked to help at the Surplus Inventory Sale on Saturday, May 19.

Tami Paine gave an explanation about "Spikey's Station." She and her daughter Tina Wyrick will promote age-appropriate activities for our youngest members while parents and older children are attending work or operating sessions.

Members were asked about interest in participating in the Phillips Train show on Saturday, September 28. One club member indicated he is going.

MODELERS FORUM

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.

PRIZE-WINNING DIORAMA

By Kent Waterson

Several years ago I saw a picture from World War II that I thought would make an interesting diorama. The photograph of the Japanese Mitsubishi Zero and its story have since appeared in numerous publications and can now be found in multiple versions on the Internet. In the last five to ten years, some additional photographs of the scene have been declassified and made their way to the Internet. With additional information these photographs provided, I decided to build the diorama. I started construction in September 2017, completing it the night before the Downeastcon contest in April.

On June 4, 1942, Japanese pilot Tadayoshi Koga took part in a raid on Allied positions in the Aleutian Islands. Koga's Mitsubishi Zero was hit by Allied ground fire and he attempted to land his damaged Zero on Akutan Island. What had appeared to be a grassy strip, however, turned out to be a soft bog. When the plane touched down, the wheels sank in the bog and the plane flipped, killing Koga. On July 10, a routine patrol over the Aleutians spotted the wreck. The Navy recovered the Zero and brought it to Dutch Harbor, Alaska, before ultimately sending on to San Diego, California, where it was restored and aided in the knowledge of how to combat the Zero. My diorama is based on a photograph of the stop at Dutch Harbor, Alaska

The diorama was entered in the April 2018 Downeastcon, a general modeling contest held yearly in Saco and sponsored by the Southern Maine Scale Modelers, a group that meets in South Portland and of which I am also a member. The contest included 386 models by 91 different contestants, some coming from as far away as Canada. The model, the first and only model I have ever entered in a contest, won first place in its category of "Diorama's and Vignettes – All Scales." From among all the first place winners, the model was selected by the judges as "Best in Show" as well.

The dock portion of the model was described in a previous issue of the GFMRRRC newsletter. The bulk of the dock was built with basswood, and the piles were produced from tree limbs from my yard. Liquitex Acrylic Gel was used to produce the water. The Mitsubishi Zero kit was produced by Hasagawa with an SBS Models interior detail kit. Colourcoats paints were based on colors researched by Nick Millman at the Aviation of Japan website. The 6x6 CCKW was a kit-bash of Tamiya's 2.5 Ton 6x6 Cargo Truck and the 2.5 Ton 6x6 Airfield Fuel Truck.

The third component of the scene, the Loraine M2 Moto-Crane, was largely scratch-built. The frame and wheels came from the previously mentioned Airfield Fuel Truck. The cab components were drawn in a CAD program, and then sent to Ponoko.com where they were laser cut in styrene. The crane components were a collection of parts from Wiseman Model Services, a Walther's 25-Ton HO crane car, a Sheepscot Scale Models boom and miscellaneous parts from Narrow Gauge Modeling, Rusty Rail, and other sources. The outrigger feet on the crane were drawn in Autodesk's Fusion 360 and then printed on a Prusa i3 mk2 3D printer.

The figures came from a variety of sources. Some were 1/48 scale military figure sets, some O-Gauge figures, and some from the scrap box. Roughly two-thirds of them were 3D printed figures obtained from Shapeways.

Building the diorama was fun and it was easily the most ambitious project I have completed in regards to the scratch-building involved. The project gave me opportunities to expand my knowledge of vacu-forming, casting parts in resin, and designing and printing 3D parts. Although I was given the awards, in some respects it was a collective effort since many of the skills and help I received along the way came from members of the GFMRRRC Modeler's Forum and of the Southern Maine Scale Modelers. To them I owe many thanks.



THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

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Upcoming Events

June 21, Membership Meeting 6:30 p.m.

July 24 Seacoast Division Meeting.



Officers elected at the May 17 meeting of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club: front row, left to right, Directors: Darin Long, Rick James, Eric Long; back row, left to right: Librarian/Archivist Terry King;



Recurrent Activities

Please check web site or Facebook page.

HO Operating Session:
June 23 9:00 a.m. Everyone welcome.

July 21 9:00 a.m. Everyone welcome.

2nd Thursday of each month—6:30 p.m.
Executive Committee Meeting

3rd Thursday of each month—6:30 p.m.
Regular Monthly Meeting

4th Thursday of each Month—7:00 p.m.
Modelers Forum

June 23 9:00—Noon

Spikey's Station