



Member since June 1988

**NEXT MEETING
JULY 19
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
- ◆ JUNE—\$17.00

PRINTER

CARTRIDGES:

Total last year: \$107.00

YTD: \$38.00

Last Month: \$20.00

THE SIGNAL



THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

VOLUME 22. ISSUE 2

JULY 2018

EIGHTH ANNUAL TRAIN FEST

By Paul Lodge

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club will celebrate the Lewiston/Auburn Balloon Festival in August with our eighth annual *Train Fest*. The club will be open on Saturday, August 18. Trains will be operating on all of the club's permanent layouts.

As they enter the club for the Train Fest, children will write their names on small paper hot air balloons and add them to a painted backdrop scene. The younger children will enjoy playing with toy trains on the play rug and with the wooden Brio train set on the special layout built at a child's height. In the G-Gauge room, they can enjoy Thomas the Tank Engine and the engine named Percy as it pulls another train on the trestle above Thomas. Tickets can be purchased to play the *Balloon Bag Toss* and the *Round House Roulette* game and to become a Guest Engineer on the HO layout. The traditional *Bubble Blast* will be held outdoors, weather permitting.

Club members are asked to help on Saturday for a few hours or all day by running trains and supervising layouts and games. Let this year's Train Fest Coordinator Rick James know if you are available, or come ready to help wherever you are needed. Please publicize the event by posting and distributing the flyers that are available at the club and with email and FaceBook messages to your friends and family.

Admission is \$3; children 12 and under are admitted free. Tickets for Guest Engineers, face-painting, and games with prizes can be purchased at the door at \$1 each or 7 tickets for \$5.



SPIKEY'S STATION

By Tami Paine

HO CIRCUS TRAIN CHALLENGE

Spikey's Station wants to challenge the members of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club to a contest for the HO layout.

The children's loop on the HO layout is complete and ready to use. The members of Spikey's Station would like to see a Circus Train run on this new loop. They are challenging you to create an HO Circus Train that can be pulled on the new loop during the Train Fest on August 18. The children of Spikey's Station will judge the circus cars during the Train Fest and vote for their favorite.

Are you up to the challenge?

The members of Spikey's Station would like to see a Circus Train run on this new loop. They are challenging you to create an HO Circus Train that can be pulled on the new loop during the Train Fest on August 18.



The theme for Spikey's Station on June 2 was Railroad Crossings. We started with Chuggington movies. Then we went to the club library and looked at the youth section. We talked about railroad crossings and crossing safety and read the book *Country Crossing*. This book is now in the library for all club members to check out. Next we went to the layouts to find crossings. Then the crafts began. We made crossing bucks with popsicle sticks, painted paper plate crossing signs, and frosted crossing signs on sugar cookies. Everyone liked the snack! We ended the morning with a crossing game played like "red light - green light" using the sound of a crossing bell.



HO WORK SESSIONS IN WATERFORD

By Darin Long and Travis Johnson

On two successive Saturdays, June 9 and 16, several members of the HO Crew held work sessions in the barn of James Long in East Waterford, in the woodworking workshop where James and his sons Eric and Darin build cabinets and do other carpentry projects for their company.

The HO crew is currently working to create new corner modules to use at model railroad shows, including the Great Falls Model Railroad Show at Mt. Ararat High School in Topsham on November 3, 2018. Ed Webb had designed the new structures, which will allow for a broader curve so that steam locomotives can be run on the HO modules. This idea has been in the works for some time now at the Module Committee level and we are very grateful for the help from the HO committee, especially to Darin, Eric and their dad, James Long for opening up their company's workshop for our use.

The HO woodworking crew each week has consisted of John Middleton, Travis Johnson, Ed Webb, and Darin Long. Gordon Chapman helped out the first week and Mike Meserve helped on June 16. James Long was also on hand both weeks, offering help and wisdom.



The first Saturday the HO crew worked on the modules and completed the framing. On the second Saturday, John and Travis focused on modifying the legs while Ed, Darin, James and Mike worked on topping the modules.

The modules still need the legs installed, and there is a little work left on two of the modules before the woodworking crew turns them over to the track crew. The track crew should have their part of the project completed in time for the Topsham show on November 3. Darin Long is also working on a bridge scene to hold the club's TV and DVDs above the tracks. The members of the scenery crew will have their work cut out for them. These new corner modules will provide even more successful operations at the



YOUR LIBRARY TODAY

By Terry King

Last month I reported that the Great Falls Model Railroad Club had over 300 DVD's and 1649 books in our library. Thanks to a recent donation we now have 481 DVD's and 1781 books.

The last donation included a half dozen DVD's on painting backdrops, creating scenery, and weathering techniques. Painting backdrops and creating scenery are often projects that several members of a family can enjoy together. Doing these things on a rainy day can be fun and may lead to increased popcorn consumption.

We also have a good selection of children's books, and we're glad that members of Spikey's Station have learned about the library and where to find the children's book section.

Stop in and ask about the new books that we have. The books in the folklore section are very interesting. Remember you can borrow all books and DVD's for up to 30 days.

Hope to see you soon!



June Minutes by Paul Lodge

June 21, 2018

From 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. while club members were arriving for the monthly meeting, a *Train* Time video of the Lehigh Gorge Scenic Railway in Pennsylvania was shown.

President Whitethunder McBride opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Secretary's Report was approved as published in the newsletter.

Treasurer Owen Buck was on vacation so Terry King gave the Treasurer's Report, which was approved as given.

Paul Lodge read the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting from June 14. The report included the following topics:

Terry King reported that the library has received a major donation of books and railroad videos.

The recent train show at Mt. Ararat was discussed. A motion was made and seconded to end the show at 2 p.m. After some discussion, the motion was defeated. The conclusion is that the train shows will continue to end at 3 p.m.

Needed storage for club modules, surplus inventory, and miscellaneous items was discussed. Rick James has requested that some other club member contact the person in charge of the Mill Street storage area recently discussed to see if that facility is available and appropriate for our storage. Eric Long volunteered to find the contact person.

The issue with the furnace room door was discussed and Eric Long noted that some have unsuccessfully tried to fix the door. He said he would try again before installing the new door closer.

President McBride reported that he has contacted a company which refinishes floors to get an estimate of the cost to scrub and polyurethane the floor on the upper level. No action was taken on having the company do the job.

The topic of the security system was brought up. In a previous meeting, a motion was made to pay up to a certain amount for a new security system. A motion was made and accepted to rescind the vote on the money allowed for the system. A new proposal will be made and Chandler (the company which installed our current system) will be contacted to help with the transition after we decide what we want. At the July Executive Committee meeting, Mike Meserve will report on what will be proposed for the new security system.

There has been an issue with the N-Scale room locked closet for supplies. George Pritchard volunteered to fix the door and locking system for the closet.

A letter from Larry Cannon asked if members could continue to have lay-away items stored in the library. Librarian Terry King

said that the policy has not changed and that lay-away items can be stored in the library.

Dexter Baum and Kent Waterson came to the meeting with a proposal for handling the monthly newsletter and improving club membership meetings. The board members agreed that something needs to be done to improve the regular meetings. Kent suggested that more clinics useful to novice modelers would be helpful. Topics for the clinics should be reported in the newsletter so that members would know what to anticipate at the next meeting. It was noted that Rick James has volunteered to handle memberships to find out why people joined the club and why they have left the club.

Dexter Baum has received awards for publishing outstanding newsletters and talked about bulk mailing of the newsletter to club members, hobby shops, and other organizations promoting model railroading.

The Executive Committee report was approved as given.

The Power Point presentation of club activities since the last meeting was given next. During the presentation, Tami Paine reported that additional children are being added to the Spike's Station group.

George Pitchard reported that a secure lock has been installed on the N-scale room storage area.

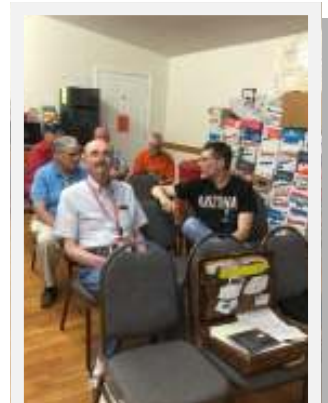
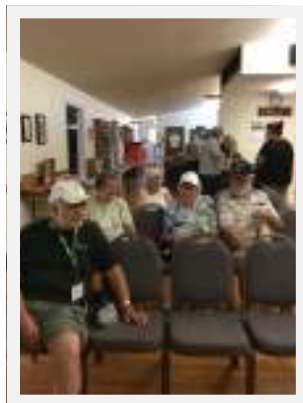
Rick James addressed the gathering and requested help on the Train Fest scheduled for August during the L/A Balloon Festival. He needs people to help decorate, cook, cover the Company Store, and supervise layouts.

Members were reminded that the NMRA regional meeting will be held at the club on Saturday, July 14. They have great clinics and it was suggested that we invite some of the presenters to do clinics at the club during our monthly meetings.

The concern about the diminished attendance at meetings was expressed. It was suggested that there need to be more interesting programs in order to keep people coming back.

The 50/50 Raffle was won by Kent Waterson. Tina Wyrick won the attendance prize and chose a Central Maine and Quebec hat.

The meeting adjourned.



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



DAVID GILCHRIST 1945 – 2018

By Paul Lodge

Dave Gilchrist retired from International Paper in Jay, after a career which included fifteen years as the lift truck safety instructor. He was successful in getting a \$400 grant from IP so that the Great Falls Model Railroad Club could buy materials for the large International Paper Mill on our HO layout. Dave gave credit to Larry Cannon for helping fill out the application necessary to receive the grant. The paper mill was originally built for our previous layout on Canal Street Alley in Lewiston. At that time it was fourteen feet long and created railroad traffic from the north and south sides of the building, which was situated on the peninsula of the layout.

International Paper is still a viable industry on the HO layout. The original buildings were taken from the Canal Street Alley and the paper mill operation has been expanded. The International Paper Plant is one of the largest customers on our current layout, with its own switcher assigned from the railroad. The initial design was approved by Tom Jones in 2010, and Travis Johnson led the effort to lay the tracks. Since then, the trackwork has changed very little. A few switches were recently replaced to improve the mill operations. The HO layout crew is adding a couple of extra sidings and a loop track to use during shows and open houses. This will allow trains to run over the wooden bridge on the front side of the layout. Guy Lovell is in charge of rail operations at the International Paper Plant and has served in this role for about three years. Guy has recently painted and decal'd a C425 engine for IP as a switcher for the mill.

We are grateful to Dave Gilchrist for his contributions to the club. We will miss his bear hugs, warm smile, enthusiasm and friendly greetings.





THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

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Upcoming Events

July 7, 14, 28 & August 4, Work Session.

July 18, Train Fest

July 21 & August 11, Operating Session.

July 19, Membership Meeting 6:30 p.m.

July 14, Seacoast Division Meeting.

Every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.



Recurrent Activities

Please check web site or Facebook page.

HO Operating Session:

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

August 11 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

July 21 9:00—Noon

Spikey's Station

August 11 9- :00 a.m.