



Member since June 1988

**NEXT MEETING
AUGUST 16
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— \$2077.00
- ◆ JULY—\$50

**PRINTER
CARTRIDGES:**

**Total last year: \$107.00
YTD: \$51.00
Last Month: \$14.00**

THE SIGNAL



THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

VOLUME 22. ISSUE 3

AUGUST 2018

EIGHTH ANNUAL TRAIN FEST

By Paul Lodge

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18, 2018

During the annual Lewiston/Auburn Balloon Festival for the past seven years, the Great Falls Model Railroad Club has opened its doors to the public with our Train Fest. This year the Train Fest will take place on Saturday, August 18, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Many people come to Lewiston and Auburn to watch the balloon launchings early in the morning, and opening the club at 8 a.m. gives families a place to visit as they prepare to celebrate the other activities of the day.

As they enter, children will write their names on small paper hot air balloons and use push pins to add them to a scene painted on a sheet of homasote. After they watch Thomas the Tank Engine and his friend Percy on the special layout in the G-gauge room, the youngest children will be able to play with toy trains on a play rug and on the Brio set.

Trains will be running on all the layouts. Visitors will be greeted with many changes, including extensive renovations and improvements on the HO layout. There is no charge for the older children to be Guest Engineers on the HO layout. Tickets for face-painting, decorating cookies, and the games which require prizes (Roundhouse Roulette and the Balloon Bag Toss) can be purchased at the door for \$1 each or 7 tickets for \$5.

Club members are asked to help with publicity by distributing the colorful flyers to stores and other locations to notify families of the activity. Facebook and email messages also help get the word out.

Club members will be needed after the club meeting on Thursday, August 16, to help with decorations and setting up. During the Train Fest on Saturday, members are urged to help for all or part of the day by running trains and supervising layouts, crafts, games and other activities.

Admission is \$3; club members and their families, as well as children 12 and under, are admitted free.



FAMILY NIGHT AT GOVERNOR'S RESTAURANT

By Paul Lodge

Family Night at Governor's Restaurant in Lewiston resumes on Thursday, September 6, and continues every Thursday throughout the year. Each Thursday evening there is a special children's menu for 99 cents. The Great Falls Model Railroad Club provides children's train games and activities from 4 to 8 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month in the restaurant's large meeting room. Members who are interested in helping supervise trains and games at Governor's Restaurant are invited to join us.



GFMRRRC NEEDS YOUR CANS & BOTTLES

By Tom McAvoy

Hey, get your cans into the club!

Bottle and can donations are one way we help fund the club in order to keep the dues as low as they are. Thanks to the generosity of the local recycling center, your bottles and cans donated to the club earn 20% more than you can get by recycling for yourself.

I just took over handling the can donations this year and our donations are down from the previous year. Hey, what are you trying to do, make me look bad? Help this old short guy avoid being perp-walked out of the club for pocketing the club's recycling proceeds. Instead, please donate your cans and bottles generously to the club.

Simply place your bag of cans and/or bottles in the big box inside the ramp door of the club. Please help keep our club dues as low as possible by increasing your donations.

I am openly soliciting suggestions for increasing our collections. If you know of a possible source for bottles and cans where I could pick up donations either in the Lewiston-Auburn or Augusta-Waterville area, please let me know. I live in Sidney and would be glad to stop wherever you suggest. You can contact me by phone at 860-235-0944 or by email at tommcavoy8@gmail.com

Please help by donating your cans and bottles to the Great Falls Model Railroad Club.

Thanks.

Tom McAvoy

Cell: 860-235-0944

tommcavoy8@gmail.com

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2018 Maine Model Railroad Tour

The 2018 Maine Model Railroad Tour will be held Saturday, September 8, from 9 to 4. The self-guided tour will include a variety of model railroad layouts in different scales, gauges, states of construction, and styles of scenery. In recent years the tours have been limited to specific areas of the state, such as last year's "Coastal Route," but this year the tour will feature layouts from York to Bar Harbor and let individuals plan their own routes.

Anyone who wishes may visit the layouts. There is no charge, and membership or pre-registration is not required. Maps and detailed descriptions of the layouts are posted on the website mainemodelrrtour.com and will be updated when there are additions or other changes. The organizers strongly urge all visitors to review these descriptions in advance to plan your itinerary and prioritize the layouts that are of most interest to you.

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club is one of the sponsors of the tour. The HO layout will have an Operating Session that day. We hope that the G-Gauge and n-gauge layouts will also be operating.

Several current and former GFMRRRC members have included their home layouts in the list for the 2018 tour. These include Larry Cannon and Joe Landry of Lewiston; Gary Thibeault in Topsham; Peter McKenney in Cumberland; and Peter Amershadian in York. Ed Leslie has helped to create a wonderful layout at Norm's O-Scale in South Casco, which is also on the tour. As you can see, that could be a lot of territory to cover; but there are many other layouts that are located more closely together.

To maximize your model railroad experience and save parking space at the various sites, consider carpooling with others. You can talk "trains" while in the car and you can share observations while visiting the layouts.



LIBRARY UPDATE

By Terry King

July has been a busy month for the Hartt-Swasey Library.

We had a very generous donation of books, time tables, videos and pictures from club member George Beyea. George is interested in anthracite haulers, mainly the Erie, Lehigh & Hudson, Jersey Central, and Pennsylvania railroads. He has donated 24 books to the library, and three are duplicates that we now have for sale. His donation also included a number of large format pictures of locomotives from the above railroads. Thank you, George. It is donations like this that help to make us better diversified and help to attract new members.

Another donation that we received during the Seacoast Division meeting on July 14 was from member Tom Hastings, who models the NYC and NH railroads. His donation consisted of a large number of copies of the magazine *The Shoreliner*; a few copies of the magazine *The Speed Witch*, which is also about the New Haven RR; and a small number of *Layout Design* magazines.

We have a lot of blueprints that are now mounted in 3-ring binders, enclosed in clear sleeves. Of special note, we have the blueprints for the MEC engine houses in Lewiston Upper and Lower as well as blueprints for the old Lewiston Railroad Station that burnt down and was replaced by the one now standing. We have many other blueprints, including the railroad station in West Minot and even the covered bridge in Bangor. Narrow gauge enthusiasts will find a large binder filled with blueprints for every narrow gauge railroad in Maine and for the Billerica & Bedford Railroad. Most of these are done in 1/4 inch scale.

The weather service has predicted that we will be seeing a lot of rain in the next few weeks. This gives you time to check the library for inspiration to start your next rainy-day scratch-built project.

The club library is usually open Monday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. until around noon and most Wednesday evenings. Give me a call at 576-3788 to make sure that I am here or to arrange another time for you to visit.



July Minutes by Paul Lodge

July 19, 2018

With the new meeting schedule, a railroad video of the Finger Lakes Railroad in New York 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 June and July 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*.

Treasurer Owen Buck reported that the mortgage for the building has been paid. Our current goal is to pay off the balance of the account for the new storage building this year. During the summer months, we have fewer fund-raising projects. It was suggested that anyone who has made a pledge for the Utility Team can pay during the next couple of months in order to have a better cash flow. Owen expressed concern about the coffee, chips, and soda sales. We are currently running a negative balance of over \$80. He asked members to remember to pay for their drinks and chips so that we can at least break even on those sales. The Treasurer's Report was approved as given.

Librarian Terry King reported that the club has recently received two donations. There are a number of books on the coal industry which would be useful for some modelers. Tom Hastings has donated several years of New Haven's Shoreliner Magazine.

Mike Meserve reported for the HO Division and noted that track work is being done on the Lewiston Lower part of the layout and other track work is still in process.

Rick James said that he was told by the Hayes family that there is a need for DCC N-Scale locomotives. The storage cabinet has been rebuilt to add more security for stored N-scale items.

President McBride reported that the Executive Committee has approved repairing the roof, including fixing some rips and tears and drip edge problems.

People putting on the train show in Phillips want to know if we are going to participate again this year. This is not a traditional train show but more of a community celebration. Based on low sales last year, the members at the meeting had no enthusiasm for participating again this year. Bob Willard volunteered to contact Pam at Phillips and let her know.

Rick James, Chairman of the Train Fest, reported that decorating for the event will take place after the next monthly meeting in August. He is requesting that members stay and help with decorations after that meeting.

In order to help alleviate some of our storage problems, a storage area will be set up along the wall in the meeting room. It will extend into the room about two feet and run about 15 feet along the

wall. In addition to making the entrance storage room available, this should help solve our current storage problems. George Pitchard will supervise the construction.

The Attendance Prize for the evening was won by Jamie Robinson, who selected a Great Falls Model Railroad bumper sticker. Paul Lodge won the 50/50 raffle.

The meeting adjourned.



These shelves are the start of our increased storage capacity. These shelves will hold Operation Lifesaver materials and the cabinet will hold larger items for Operation Lifesaver plus surplus assists. More on this next month!

NEWS FROM SPIKEY'S STATION

By Tami Paine

The first week in June the theme for Spikey's Station was the caboose. We read the books *Caboose on the Loose* and *The Little Red Caboose*. Then we made our own cabooses out of construction paper. We discussed the history of the caboose, went to the HO layout to find cabooses, and had cheese and crackers with juice for a snack. Every child left with his or her own HO caboose donated by the Great Falls Model Railroad Club.

The theme for July 21 was "Steamers and Diesels." This included a Thomas the Tank Engine DVD called *Steamers Versus Diesels*. We talked about the differences between them. After choosing "Thomas the Tank Engine and Friends" character names for each of us, we colored Thomas train pictures. We went down to the HO layout and found their steamers and diesels. Our snack was cookies and juice.

On August 4 the theme will be "Working on the Railroad." We'll be talking about how railroads were built and maintained. We are looking forward to doing something special with circus trains and with crafts for the Train Fest on August 18.

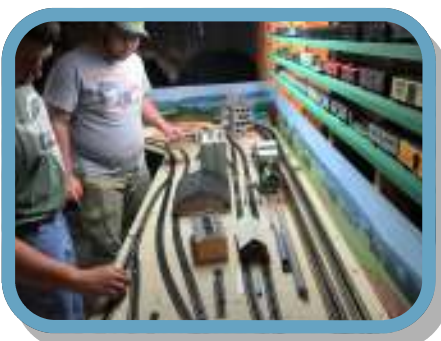


HO SALE ANNOUNCED

Jerry Johnston will be moving soon and has already had several club members help to take down his extensive layout. He will be holding a sale of all HO scale model railroad items that he owns. The sale is open to all club members and the general public on Saturday, August 18, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at his home at 554 Brighton Hill Road in Minot.

There will be a special advance sale on Friday, August 17, from 2 to 7 p. m. for club members only. All items will be on sale with plenty of good deals and a discount for members based on the volume of the sale.

August 18 is the day of the Train Fest, which is scheduled to run from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Come to the members-only sale at 554 Brighton Hill Road on Friday afternoon and early evening and then help out at the Train Fest on Saturday.





THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

144 Mill Street
Auburn, Me 04210

<http://www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org>

Facebook: Great Falls Model Railroad Club

An Educational Foundation

OFFICERS:

President:
Whitethunder McBride
213-6422
wthunder1750@yahoo.com
Vice President:
Mike Meserve
754-1476
yzf250mike@yahoo.com

Secretary:
Paul Lodge - 966-3641
paulodge@gwi.net

Treasurer:
Owen Buck, 485-9736
obuck61@hotmail.com

Librarian/Archivist
Terry King, 576-3788
tpking@roadrunner.com

Directors:
Rick James, 740-1266
Darin Long, 782-3652
Eric Long, 754-4493
Webmaster:

Joe Marshall - 344-7099
joe@del-stardotstar.com
Assistant Webmaster:
Frances Lodge - 966-3641
paulodge@gwi.net

Social Media Editor
Tami Paine, 595-4668
Tami.girardin@yahoo.com

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Editor:
Terry King
tpking@roadrunner.com

Proofreader:
Frances Lodge
paulodge@gwi.net

Address Change

If your mailing or e-mail address changes please notify Paul Lodge at paulodge@gwi.net

www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org

Upcoming Events

August 16, membership meeting 6:30 p.m.
August 17, HO Sale, members only at Jerry Johnston's
August 18, HO Sale open to the public & members at Jerry Johnston's
August 18, Train Fest 8:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.
September 8, Maine Model Railroad Tour, 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
September 29, Train Show in Philips with Sandy River & Rangeley Lakes Railroad.



Recurrent Activities

Please check web site or Facebook page.

HO Operating Session:

August 11 9:00 a.m. *Everyone welcome*

September 8, 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

Spikey's Station

August 18— 9:00 a.m.

September 8, 9:00 a.m.