

Member since June 1988

NEXT MEETING
MARCH 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:

- ◆ 2018- \$407.00
- ◆ 2019— \$157.00
- ◆ February—\$87.00

PRINTER

CARTRIDGES:

Total last year: \$222.00

YTD: \$36.00

Last Month: 18.00

THE SIGNAL



THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

VOLUME 23. ISSUE 3

MARCH 2019

GFMRRRC CELEBRATES AUBURN'S 150TH BIRTHDAY

By Paul Lodge

On Friday, February 22, 2019, Auburn celebrated its 150th birthday as a city with over 30 "Cake Sites" throughout the city. In honor of Jake & Andy's Donut Shop, the original owners of our building, the Great Falls Model Railroad Club served donuts instead of cake. Auburn Mayor Jason Levesque, who presided at the Auburn City Hall cake-cutting ceremony at noon, toured the railroad club shortly after that and presented the club with a commemorative medallion.

Tizz Crowley, Auburn's Publicity Chairman for the birthday celebration, visited the railroad club the night before the event. She was given a tour of our facility and was enthusiastic about our layouts and railroad history displays. On Friday afternoon Tizz and her friend Migdalia Mass came to the railroad club dressed in attractive 1860's period costumes. During their visit to the HO layout, they were guests at the dedication ceremony in which Travis Johnson unveiled two HO locomotives he had painted and decaled in honor of Auburn's 150th birthday. Using Auburn's 150th Anniversary logo, Eric Long had created the decals that Travis used on the HO locomotives and the larger decals that Dick Clark used on a box car, refrigerator car, and caboose for the G-gauge layout.

More than thirty club members made this a successful event by doing whatever was needed. They created posters and displays, greeted visitors, helped with refreshments, gave tours, ran trains, supervised Guest Engineers on the HO layout, and talked with guests about real railroads and model railroading. Over 100 people attended, and about eighty percent of them were here for the first time.

Auburn officials had hoped that we could develop a history of railroads in Auburn, which we did with the help of Librarian Terry King and others. George Pitchard helped to find copies of old newspaper articles and pictures that dated back to the early days of Auburn's former railroad station. Three static displays included a replica of Maine Central steam locomotive #470, formerly owned by Wally Chase. Since the Interurban trolley was an important part of railroading in Auburn, Eric and Darin Long contributed an HO trolley. Bob Willard's friend Brian Inch loaned us an O-scale replica of the Flying Yankee, which regularly brought passengers from Boston to Auburn and Lewiston. One of our posters included three pictures of the Flying Yankee in Auburn during its initial demonstration run in February 1935. The pictures were enlarged from original photos taken by Frank Lodge, the uncle of club member Paul Lodge. Many visitors showed interest in the GFMRRRC Memory Book created by Brenda Leslie and in the Hobo Holiday display, and some took the brochure explaining the hobo symbols used throughout the country.

Because our building was the home of Jake & Andy's Donut Shop for more than 50 years, we honored the previous owners by serving donuts instead of cake. Rolande and Roger Breton, who owned Jake & Andy's for over 25 years, provided us with several photographs which we displayed. For donuts similar to theirs, they recommended the Italian Bakery in Lewiston. The Italian Bakery's new owner, Brandon Leclair, generously matched our purchases by donating half of the 12 dozen donuts we bought.

(Continued on page 7.)

MODELERS FORUM

By Kent Waterson

Jay Wiley, a new club member and newcomer to the Forum, brought some projects he has been working on. Jay has been a model airplane builder for many years and has begun putting together a 4x8 model railroad layout to share with his three grandsons. One of his projects was a Walther's Coaling Tower, which he had modified with a working coal chute and gate.

The GFMRRRC Modelers Forum meeting on Thursday, February 28, began in a different way than the usual format. Paul Lodge kicked off the meeting with a presentation on the events of the "Cake Site" Open House on Friday, February 22, which was part of the Auburn 150th Birthday Celebration. Paul shared displays of Auburn's railroad history and described the participation by club members and the reception by the public. He finished with a video of the day's events made by Dick Clark.

Kent Waterson explained the progress of his work on constructing a battleship catapult that will be used in a diorama. Parts for the catapult were cut on a Cricut Air 2 machine in 0.030" styrene, making for clean, uniform cuts. The base for the catapult was printed on a 3D printer and detailed with scrap parts, various steam locomotive piping parts, and bits of styrene and solder.

Bob Willard demonstrated a new tool he had purchased, a Proxon Power Sander. The sander comes with various shaped wands, stick-on sanding shapes (to match the wands) and grits. Although the sander makes a job easier, Bob noted that it will quickly take away too much material if the user is not careful. Bob also showed progress on some Railway Express trucks he has been producing. Last month he had demonstrated his process of laying out and cutting the pieces of 0.060" styrene, and this month he showed one of the completed cargo boxes. Bob is also working on a 1/43 1948 Ford Flathead with Arduin O.H.V conversion motor. This motor was originally developed to improve the power in trucks, but hotrodders also realized its potential and began using the motors in their hotrods. The motor is a Shapeways 3D-printed part that fit well into the '32 Ford 3-window coupe hotrod Bob is building.

Dexter Baum was up next with a variety of pieces. Dexter had experimented with trying to form round styrene tubing into a 90-degree angle. The piece he showed had multiple angle cuts and nicely formed the shape he was after.

The last few months at the Modeler's Forum, various members have brought collections of miscellaneous parts that could be used for flatcar loads. Paul Lodge had started the discussion, and Kent Waterson had brought some electronic components that were fabricated into loads. This month Dexter brought a large capacitor out of a radar unit that could be used for a load. In fact, he had seen in a magazine the same capacitor crated and transported on a flatcar. Various parts salvaged from an IBM Selectric typewriter ribbon cartridge and a spool from a lawn trimmer also made for interesting loads.

Dexter had recently purchased some Walther's Gas Station parts for use on his layout, and explained the card file inventory system he uses to keep track of his purchases. Dexter's cards work very well in his system for finding materials he has purchased and eliminates the "I know I have that part ... somewhere?"

Jay Wiley, a new club member and newcomer to the Forum, brought some projects he has been working on. Jay has been a model airplane builder for many years and has begun putting together a 4x8 model railroad layout to share with his three grandsons. One of his projects was a Walther's Coaling Tower, which he had modified with a working coal chute and gate. Jay shared numerous pictures he had found on the Internet providing information on adding the details. He also showed a small building produced by Structure Company that will be a part of his layout. His last item was an RS Laser-cut wagon kit. The HO kit has 37 pieces and makes a beautiful horse-drawn wagon. Jay used horses from a circus kit to pull the wagon.

The Forum welcomes everyone who enjoys modeling of any type to come and share their knowledge and experience, or just come to listen and learn.

SPIKEY'S STATION UPDATE

By Tami Paine

Spikey's Station had another successful meeting at the Great Falls Model Railroad Club on Saturday, March 2. Our theme was "Owney" the Postal Dog. From 1888 to 1897, Owney rode trains throughout the United States and guarded the postal bags carrying the mail. We read a book from the GFMRRRC library about Owney and studied a poster that was made by club member Brenda Leslie in 2011, the year that the United States Post Office created a stamp in Owney's memory.

The kids were given dogs of their own. They used popsicle sticks to scratch-build a model doghouse for their dog. For their snack, they made "puppy chow" with Rice Chex, chocolate, peanut butter and powdered sugar. Each child went home with a model dog, a doghouse they had built, and a bag of puppy chow (if they had not eaten it all at the club).

This was a special Spikey's Station because four of the Station's older members went downstairs to the HO Operating Session and ran trains. Spikey's Station would like to thank Travis Johnson and the other HO committee members for making this possible for Caleb, Isaiah, Serenity and Jasmine. The kids enjoyed the opportunity.

Spikey's Station meets at the Great Falls Model Railroad Club every other Saturday from 9 until noon, and all children ages 3 to 12 are invited to join us. Our next meetings will be March 16, March 30, and April 13. On Saturday, February 16, most of the members of Spikey's Station attended the Model Railroad and Dollhouse Show in Augusta. On Saturday, April 27, we will have another field trip – this time to the GFMRRRC Annual Spring Show at Mt. Ararat High School in Topsham.





March Minutes by Paul Lodge

February 21, 2019

A railroad video of Maine Central was shown from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. while club members were arriving for the monthly meeting and enjoying snacks purchased by Rick James. The meeting room was set up for the City of Auburn's 150th Anniversary Cake Site. There were three tables of pictures, displays, and historic information about our club's building and railroads in Auburn. To illustrate the historic literature, club members had brought in replicas of the Maine Central 470, the Flying Yankee, and trolley cars.

Vice President Mike Meserve opened the meeting and asked for the Secretary's Report.

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

Terry King gave the Treasurer's Report for Owen Buck, who is away on one of his world-tour adventures. Terry reported that the sales at the Augusta show were good and that a final figure will be available later. The report was approved as given.

At a meeting several months ago, the Executive Committee approved the systematic replacement of fluorescent lights. A motion was made and accepted to purchase new lights for the meeting room and the hall with the big table. The cost is \$972 with a rebate of \$246 from the Maine Efficiency Program. It was felt that the club needs to take advantage of the Maine Efficiency Program before it is discontinued.

Refinishing the hardwood floor in the meeting room and hall was discussed. Terry King suggested that the issue be brought up to the Executive Committee to determine the cost of having it done professionally or saving money by having club members do the job.

The club is in the process of creating new corners for the traveling modular layout. A motion was made and approved to purchase a new rack to hold the new corners after they are completed.

The Power Point presentation included pictures from the recent Dollhouse and Model Train show in Augusta, Spikey's Station, Modelers Forum, work sessions of HO and G gauge crews, and an HO Operating Session.

Travis Johnson explained the video project currently under way. The project is an attempt to help members (and non-members) learn how to run the equipment on our extensive HO Division layout.

Before the meeting adjourned, the Attendance

THE SIGNAL

Prize was won by Paul Lodge and the 50/50 raffle was won by Bob Willard. Paul selected the set of historic railroad collector plates.

The Company Store now has a good supply of vests in all sizes, including some for children. The new vests are a sturdy permanent press fabric. The cost is \$25 for the vest and the sew-on patch.



Left to right, Migdalia & Tizz Crowley

MARCH MADNESS RECIPES

By Terry King

The 2019 Railroad Recipe Contest which was postponed from January 31 has been rescheduled for the monthly club meeting on March 21. Our library has two books with recipes actually used in dining cars on the railroads: *Dining by Rail* and *Dining on the Shoreline Route*. You can choose a recipe from either of these books, make a copy of it at the club library, and take the recipe home to test it. Then bring the food to the March 21 meeting to share with club members and be eligible for a prize.

These recipes include a good number of quick snacks which are easy to make and require very little time. Depending on how much time you need, you might even be able to make the snacks at the railroad club just ahead of the meeting.

If you are going to participate in this fun event, please contact me I can help you find a recipe and copy it. I am usually at the library from 9 until noon on Monday through Saturday, but please call ahead to make sure that I will be there and can let you into the building My cell phone number is 576-3788. After you've tested the recipe and are confident of the results, let me know that you are definitely planning to enter the contest so we will have an idea of how many are going to participate. You can call me at 576-3788 or send him an e-mail at greatfallsmodelrailroadclub@yahoo.com. There will be a small prize for first place. If more than two people enter the contest, there will be a second place prize also.

The more club members who participate, the more food selections we will have at the March club meeting.



The second annual HO Steam Session was held on February 23. The next special event on the HO layout will be the Union Pacific Session on April 20, using only Union Pacific locomotives.



SLIDE & DINE

By Terry King

Saturday, April 13, 2019, is the date for the Great Falls Model Railroad's second Slide & Dine. What is a Slide & Dine? Back in times past when people used their cameras, they did not have little memory cards to record their pictures, but had to use film in the camera. Depending on the film that they purchased, they could have pictures printed and mailed to them, or they could have 35 mm slides made, which they could view with their friends by using a projector.

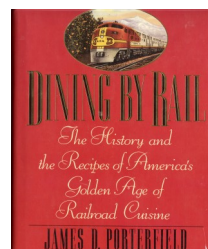
Slides became very popular with train enthusiasts who, of course, have always wanted others to view them as well. So people started hosting slide shows with their own slides. Soon this evolved into slide shows, which gradually became Slide & Dine shows. "Dine" obviously means that food is part of the event.

Two large collections of slides have been given to GFMRRRC over the years. The first one was from the estate of Waldo Kingston and was around 11,000 slides. The other was from Wally Chase and amounted to around 4,000 slides. So far we have about 5,400 of these scanned into the computer.

On April 13 from 10:00 a.m. until around 3:00 p.m. we are hosting a Slide & Dine here at the club. (The snow date is April 14, *and with the way this winter has been going, we may need it!*) Of course, we will be showing some of the GFMRRRC collection and hopefully others will also bring slides to show. At noon we will have a pot luck lunch. When we had our first Slide & Dine two years ago, it was very successful. We had some great slides and good food.

People who bring slides can use our Kodak or GAF projectors, or our computer projector. They can, of course, bring their own equipment.

This promises to be a very pleasant day. There is no admission charge. We hope to see a lot of people here.



THE AUGUSTA TRAIN SHOW FEBRUARY 16, 2019

By Paul Lodge

THE AUGUSTA TRAIN SHOW FEBRUARY 16, 2019

By Paul Lodge

Many members of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club helped with our modular display and sales tables at the Whitefield Lions Club Dollhouse and Train Show at the Augusta Armory on Saturday, February 16. During the 30 years that we have participated in this show, we have connected with old friends and made many new contacts, some of whom have joined the club as a result of meeting us there.

The club has displayed different modular layouts at the show each year, including many modules that were built by people in our Adult Education Model Railroad Classes. Because our display is so large and takes so long to unload, the Lions Club asked us this year to begin setting up on Friday afternoon. Travis Johnson, Ed Webb, and new club member Dave Blue started loading the club's modules into the rental truck about noon on Friday. With the help of Carmen Anastase, who met them in Augusta, they were able to unload the truck and set up about half of the club's modular layout. They also worked out the floor plan so they could easily hook up the modules that other GFMRRC members brought on Saturday morning. Travis commented that new member Dave Blue was a real help loading and unloading the truck on both Friday and Saturday as well as working at the show all day Saturday.

The club always rents several sales tables, and sales of surplus assets at this show help pay the expenses of the club. Terry King and Larry Cannon reported that GFMRRC sales were successful again this year.

In addition to model railroad layouts from other clubs, there are always many individuals and dealers selling model railroad and dollhouse items. By combining model railroading and dollhouse displays, guests see how these hobbies complement each other. Dollhouse modelers enjoy our scenery, which for them is landscaping. Many model railroaders find small items from the dollhouse hobby which work with model railroading as well. This year for the first time Neva Parsons, the wife of GFMRRC President Thunder McBride, was at the show to sell the dollhouses and furniture that she had made.

Members of Spikey's Station came to the Augusta Armory together as a field trip for their regular bi-weekly group meeting.

Thanks again to all the club members who helped to make our participation in the Augusta show a success.



150th from front page

In addition to the donuts, we served cupcakes made by Terry Obie, sugar cookies from Maureen McAvoy, and brownies by Eddita Felt.

The Company Store sold several items during the day, including club vests, shirts, books, and the entire stock of locomotive earrings made by Tami Paine. Many of the visitors toured the library and were impressed with the volume of important railroad information available and with the variety of books, magazines, and videos.

Thanks again to the loyal club members who came to help and made this event another



G-GAUGE UPDATE

By the G-Gauge Group

The G-Gauge goals for the work session on Saturday, February 9, were to complete and check the wiring of our upgraded layout. This included plans to finish and check out the wiring in the Middleton Yard and the Service Yard. The crew also hoped to install and complete the wiring for a new wye switch and to check out its operation. We are looking forward to scheduling our FIRST Operating Session soon, perhaps after our next work session, which is scheduled for March 9.

Many of these ambitious goals were achieved during the work session. In Ken Nettleship's words, "This was a great group effort...and a tremendous undertaking by a great group of guys."

Wiring and checking out the Middleton Yard is now nearly complete. With one more set of wires and its corresponding control switch, the entire yard will be operational. We also want to add a hidden power switch to ensure that only trained personnel will be able to operate the Yard and its neighboring Reversing Wye. There is probably an hour's work left on this project.

The Service Yard is fully operational! All we have to do is replace a temporary power hookup with a more permanent set up. This will probably require less than 30 minutes.

The new Reversing Wye switch is completely installed and operational. It was a "thing of beauty" watching the first engine pass through and reverse direction without any electrical hiccup!

We need to install the remaining Yard Markers and Industry Signage. John Middleton has the signs that Dick Cosgrove printed on his 3D printer. This will allow him to add the industry descriptors. The signs represent the businesses that will receive and ship goods during "operating sessions".

One of Dick Clark's major tasks for the day was installing the engine yard switches inside the caboose. His photos from the work session showed the completed installation of the switch station for the engine house, and he noted, "The engine house had its lights turned on today as well. The mechanics do not have to work in the dark anymore." Ed Leslie had brought the engine house to the club house a few years ago after his wife Brenda built it. Great job, Brenda! It's a great addition to the G-Gauge layout.

Dick Clark, John Middleton, and Ken Nettleship operated the layout during the February 22 Open House celebrating Auburn's 150th Birthday and enjoyed watching all the smiling faces. John Middleton had temporarily mounted the clever industry signs,



THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

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Upcoming Events

March 21, Membership Meeting & Railroad Recipe Contest 6:45

March 30, 3-rail Train Show, Augusta Elks Lodge, 397 Civic Center Dr., Augusta, 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.

April 6, Southern Me Model Railroad Club Show, Westbrook Community Center, 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

April 13, Slide & Dine at club 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

April 27, Topsham Train Show 0:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Please check web site or Facebook page.



SLIDE & DINE

April 13, 2019

Members and non-members are encouraged to bring 35mm slides, CD's, or power point presentations to show. Lunch will be Pot Luck, so please bring something to share.

Recurrent Activities

March 23— Operating Session 8:00—Noon

April 6 & 20—Operating Sessions

April 20—HO Union Pacific Operating Session 8:00—Noon

Regular Monthly Meeting

3rd Thursday of each month—6:30 p.m.

Modelers Forum

4th Thursday of each month— 7:00 p.m.

Spikey's Station

*March 16 & 30—9:00—Noon
April 13—9—Noon*

Work Session

Every Wed. Evening - 6:00 p.m.