

Member since June 1988

**NEXT MEETING**  
**JULY 18**  
**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— \$349.00
- ◆ June—\$40.00

##### PRINTER

##### CARTRIDGES:

Total last year: \$222.00

YTD: \$104.00

Last Month: \$4.00

# THE SIGNAL



## THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

VOLUME 23. ISSUE 7

JULY 2019

## SEACOAST MEETING JULY 20

By Terry King

On July 20, 2019 we will be hosting the Seacoast Division of the N.M.R.A. from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. All members of the club are invited to attend this informative meeting, even if you do not belong to the Seacoast Division or the N. M. R. A. In the past we have had many members actively involved with the division. It is a great way to meet new model railroaders and broaden your horizons.

I am enclosing their meeting announcement:

#### **Presentations:**

##### **NMRA National Convention in Salt Lake City by Tage Erickson**

Tage will present his experiences from his trip to the NMRA National Convention.

##### **Developing a Rolling Stock Roster by Larry Cannon, MMR**

Larry Cannon's clinic explores planning a freight car roster that supports a layout with 260+ car spotting locations and creating the information to plug into a mathematical matrix to test if the car fleet will satisfy basic operating needs of the layout. It includes planning for cars needed to be in route or in staging and an explanation of train assembly/switch lists utilized for operations.

##### **Alternative Structures for the Railroad by Bob Bennett**

Bob Bennett is approaching the final stages of construction on his On30 South China and Sheepscot River Railroad, but that doesn't mean that he has to stop scratch building outstanding structures. Bob will demonstrate how he continues to build a number of Maine-based flagstop stations and water tanks and swaps them out with existing structures on his layout. Many of his structures have been featured in magazines and you may recognize them. Bob will bring in many samples of his work and mock-ups of locations on his layout to demonstrate his technique.

##### **Pulp and Paper Mill Car Fleets by Dr. Jack Lutz**

At the Seacoast Division's 2019 Winter Meeting, Chuck Hastings presented "Modeling a Paper Mill"; where he discussed pulp and paper mill operations and the types of railroad cars that bring materials in and out of those mills. In this presentation, Jack uses published reports and data to estimate how many cars of each type would arrive at or leave a mill in a week (or a year). His research and analysis indicate he needs to add a few more tank cars and several modern high-capacity covered hoppers to his car fleet.

##### **Prototype Railroad Photographs in Maine and New England by Victor Hand**

**Show and Tell and Ask:** Everyone loves to see the modeling of our members. If you have something that you would like to show us, please bring it to the meeting and we will give you a few minutes to describe your efforts. If you have any modeling questions for the group, please bring those, as well. We have plenty of experts in attendance and we can certainly get you some answers to your questions.

**For Sale:** There will be a table set up for any members that wish to buy/sell any surplus modeling items they may have. If you have any model railroad related items (loco's, rolling stock, buildings, etc.) that you don't need and wish to sell, you are encouraged to bring them to the

Continued on page 7, bottom of left column

# EIGHTH ANNUAL TRAIN FEST

By Paul Lodge

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club will celebrate the Lewiston/Auburn Balloon Festival with our ninth annual Train Fest on Saturday, August 17 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Trains will be operating all day on the club's permanent layouts.

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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 trains 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. There will be no charge to become a Guest Engineer on the HO layout.

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 Tami Paine 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 \$5; children 12 and under are admitted free. Tickets for games with prizes can be purchased at the door at \$1 each or 7 tickets for \$5.

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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.





# SPIKEY'S STATION UPDATE

By Tami Paine

The Spikey's Station meeting on June 8, 2019, included planning their modules. They want to create a campground so they were using paper to work on scales of items and figure out where buildings should go. We also talked about putting down turf and ballast. Roger had some of them help him remove old ballast from the HO Layout and then he taught them how to put ballast down. Every child had a chance to put down some turf.

On Saturday, June 22, Spikey's Crew joined several adult members of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club for a tour of the Seashore Trolley Museum. We would like to thank John Middleton for the wonderful job as our tour guide and as the trolley conductor for our ride on the trolley. He gave clear and interesting explanations of the trolley cars and other items in the museum.



# June Minutes by Paul Lodge



**June 20, 2019**

Two YouTube railroad-related videos were shown for the first forty minutes.

The videos were followed with the monthly Power Point presentation showing club activities since last month.

President Mike Meserve 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*. The Executive Committee report from June 13 was read by Paul Lodge.

Owen Buck gave a brief Treasurer's Report and reminded members that the detailed report is posted on the bulletin board.

George Pitchard gave the Library Report. He noted that Tom Hastings has made a large contribution of about eighty books and half of them will be added to our library.

Bob Willard reported for the Modelers Forum and invited members to attend the gatherings on the fourth Thursday of each month. Bob announced that the club will be sponsoring a "Square Foot Contest." (An article in the newsletter will give more details about the "Square Foot Contest.")

Darin Long reported that work on the HO layout includes improving track and switches and removing excess ballast. Jamie Robinson was applauded for the work he is doing on the layout.

Eric Long said that track work is being done on the N-scale layout and that new lighting is being planned so that the layout can be viewed better.

George Pitchard is building a new O-Gauge layout in what was the conference room area. Thanks to an outstanding donation made by club member Dick Proctor, the club has more than enough building materials and model equipment to make an outstanding layout. A little more than 30 linear feet of skirting material needs to be acquired to dress up the layout when it is completed. One member noted that Walmart is having a fabric sale.

Because several large dying trees are close to the building and parking lot, it was suggested that they be removed. Carl Butland was authorized to contact Webster Tree Service to get a quote for their removal.

Carl Butland said that the driveway sand will be removed this week.

Paul Lodge distributed a sign-up sheet for those interested in going to the Seashore Trolley Museum on Saturday. (The final count was that about thirty people will be going, including about ten children.)

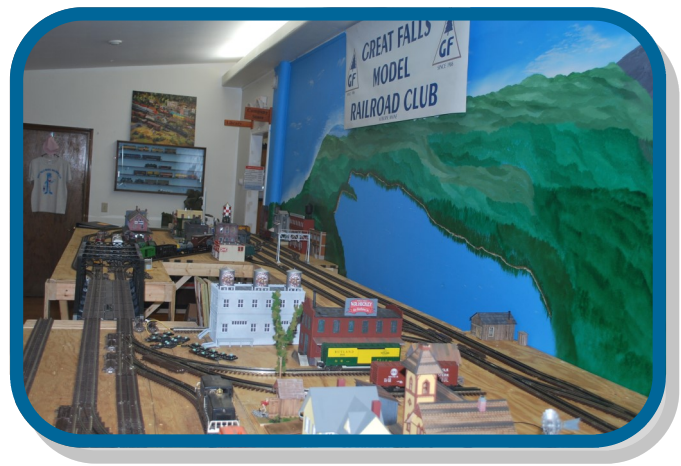
It was announced that the club picnic will be revived again this year. Paul and Frances Lodge will host it at their

home in West Minot on Saturday, August 24, from 10 a.m. until late afternoon. (More details are included elsewhere in this newsletter.)

There was a discussion about changing the monthly meetings from Thursday evenings to Saturday afternoons, immediately after the HO Operating Session ends at noon. All members were contacted by email about the potential change and encouraged to respond with their opinions. Over 20 members have replied, and the majority were in favor of the change. The topic will also be discussed at the club meeting on July 18.

At the end of the meeting, the winners for the Attendance Prize and 50/50 raffle were drawn. Sandy Sondheim won the Attendance Prize and selected a set of DVDs about American Railroads. Jamie Robinson won the 50/50 raffle.

The pictures below are of our new Lionel layout. The mural on the wall was painted by Paul Lodge



See more of these on page five.



## SQUARE-FOOT MODELING CONTEST

By Paul Lodge

At the June monthly meeting of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club, Bob Willard announced that the club will sponsor another "Square Foot" modeling contest. This will be the club's third modeling contest, and we're looking forward to some interesting and imaginative creations.

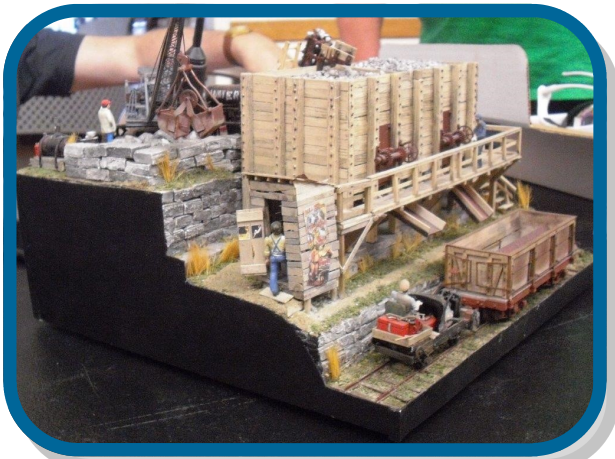
The theme for this year's contest will be a railroad-related Christmas scene. The completed entries will be displayed at our November 2 model train show at Mt. Ararat High School in Topsham. Those attending the train show will be given ballots to vote for their favorite entry. Winners will be announced and prizes given.

Bob Willard suggested three categories for entries, and he will determine into which category each entry will be placed. There will be a Junior Division for young people. Two additional levels of ability will be recognized: a Novice Division for those who are attempting this type of modeling for the first time and a Master Division for experienced modelers.

Members, now is the time to put on your thinking cap and come up with an idea for your Square Foot contest model. Having fun with the hobby is a goal of the club!



More Lionel layout pictures.





# G-GAUGE JUNE UPDATE

by Ray Parent

On Saturday, June 1, the G Gauge Magnificent Seven gathered to officially dedicate the new Middleton Switching Yard. John Middleton was gracious enough to accept the naming of the yard in his honor for all of his hard work in designing and overseeing the new yard. Please stop by and see the new yard building and weathered sign, thanks to the efforts of Dick Clark and Ken Nettleship.

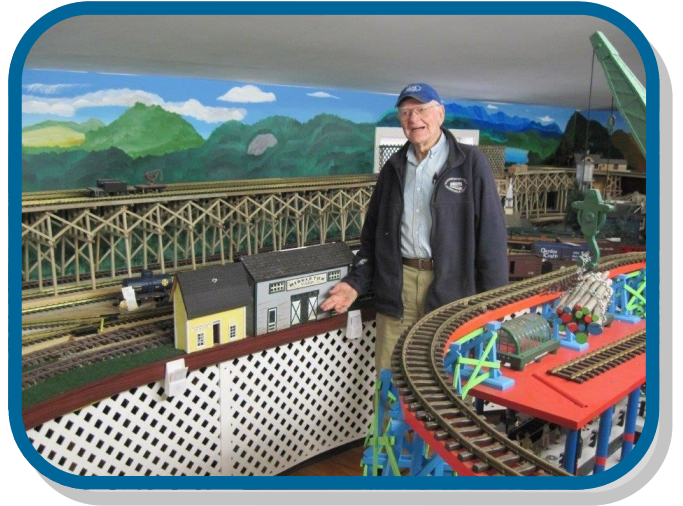
We gathered for refresher training by Yard Master John Middleton before our first official Operating Session. Dick Cosgrove was multitasking as he listened with one ear while simultaneously examining one of the many new yard switches for operational safety!

The operational fun began as Gizmo (aka Dick Clark) held the controller in hand to switch the first few cars. Because of his years of experience "operating" on the HO layout, the rest of the group volunteered him as our first operator. He appeared fully engaged – so we were in excellent hands. Or at least we thought so.

After switching a few cars, we suddenly lost power going through a new switch. We all gathered together to ferret out the problem. Dick Cosgrove, in spite of having his left arm in a sling, hunched over to diagnose the problem as the rest of us admired his dedication. Even Peter Cole tried to help Dick unravel the mystery. The problem was diagnosed as a bent power shoe on the newly acquired MEC GP9. The shoe was repaired and the Operating Session continued with several other members taking control of the yard switching.

At the end of the Operating Session, Ken Nettleship ran his newly upgraded 4-6-0 Kokomo RR steamer to demonstrate his new on-board Revolution controller with sound. It ran flawlessly and the sound quality was excellent!

(BTW thanks to Ken for the great job of capturing pictures of the morning's key events and to Gizmo for capturing even more on video.)



## ANNUAL PICNIC SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST

Paul and Frances Lodge will host the revival of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club family picnic at their home in West Minot on Saturday, August 24 from 10 a.m. until about 6 p.m. The annual family picnic was a popular event for many years, and it has been suggested that we hold one again.

The address is 839 West Minot Road, on Route 124 about a quarter of a mile north of the junction of Routes 119 and 124. The two-story farmhouse is white with black trim and has an attached barn. There is a horseshoe driveway and plenty of parking space in the back field.

Families can come and enjoy the large, open area available for games. Because the Ice Storm of 1998 damaged many trees, a portion of the land was cleared and converted to flower gardens, which are near the picnic area. Bog Brook is within a short walking distance. It is ideal for children to wade in because it is only about two feet deep. Anyone who will be wading should wear old sneakers as there are many small rocks.

Many current club members will remember operating HO trains on the Pine Tree Lines upstairs in the barn several years ago. The unique multi-level mushroom layout is only partially operational because of a recent squirrel invasion. Guests may still enjoy visiting the layout, but it is not handicapped accessible.

It is suggested that members bring their own lawn chairs and any picnic food they wish to eat or share during the afternoon.

This is an excellent opportunity for members and their families to meet socially and enjoy a relaxing summer afternoon in Maine. We hope you will join us.

From front page.

meeting. Please put a tag on each item with your name and the asking price. Maybe one of your fellow members might be interested!

**Layout Tours - Please take time to visit these layouts on your way home from the Summer Event!**

### Larry Cannon's Otter Valley Lines (HO)

The HO Otter Valley Railroad layout is 95% complete on two levels and features more than 80 industries with 260+ car spotting locations and well over 100 structures. There are four yards that originate trains and two small staging yards. The layout is NCE DCC. In addition to the home road, MEC, CN/CV, D&H and CP trains operate on the layout. The geographic territory extends from Richford, VT South to Wells River, VT and from Rouses Point, NY East to Whitefield, NH. The period modeled is 1980 into the 1990's.

**There will be a 30 minute break for lunch and socializing. Bring your lunch or buy 2 hotdogs with chili, chips, and a soda for \$5.00**

**There will be a drawing for door prizes, too!**

## POSSIBLE CHANGE OF MONTHLY MEETING DAY

By Paul Lodge

At the June meeting of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club it was suggested that the monthly membership meetings of the club be moved from the third Thursday evening to the third Saturday of each month at 1:00 p.m., starting this fall.

Many members have concerns about driving after dark, especially in the winter. Also, on Saturdays there would be operations and/or layout work going on, so there would already be interesting activities at the club. This could make the travel more appealing for members who live some distance away.

Several club members have already replied to our recent email with their opinions about this potential change. The majority were in favor of meeting on Saturday afternoons, but some members expressed their concerns. We'd like to get feedback from as many members as possible before going any further with this. What do you think, should we leave the meeting day and time as it is or make the change?

For some people the second Saturday would be better and we will also be asking for replies indicating whether members have a preference between second and third Saturdays. If you haven't already responded, please send an email to [paul lodge@gwi.net](mailto:paul lodge@gwi.net) or mail to Paul Lodge, 839 West Minot Road, Minot, ME 04258. Although mail or email is preferred because it gives us a written record, we will also discuss this at the club meeting on July 18





## THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

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## THE SIGNAL

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## Upcoming Events

*July 20, Seacoast Division of the N.M.R.A. Summer meeting 9:00 a.m. Dinner will be available for a small cost.*

*August 17—Train Fest 8:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.*

*Sept. 27 & 28 Maine Model Railroad Tour.*

*Sept. 28. Sandy River & Rangeley Lakes Railway Train Show*

*Please check web site or Facebook page.*

## SEACOAST DIVISION OF THE N.M.R.A.

## MEETING JULY 20

10:00 a.m.  
To  
3:00 p.m.

## Recurrent Activities

### Operating Sessions

*No operating sessions in July*

August 3 - 9:00 a.m. until Noon

### Membership Meeting

*3rd Thursday of each month—6:30 p.m.*

### Modelers Forum

*4th Thursday of each month—7:00 p.m.*

*Spikey's Station*

### **Work Session**

