

Member since June 1988

**NEXT MEETING
AUGUST 15
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— \$425.00
- ◆ July—\$76.00

PRINTER

CARTRIDGES:

Total last year: \$222.00

YTD: \$114.00

Last Month: \$10.00

THE SIGNAL



THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

VOLUME 23. ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2019

NINTH 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, 2019 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Trains will be operating all day on the club's permanent layouts, with pictures and models of hot-air balloons temporarily floating in the blue skies above them. A scavenger hunt will encourage everyone to find specific hot-air balloons near the model railroad layouts and in the club's library. This family fun event is a way to introduce the hobby to local families as well as to those who are visiting Lewiston-Auburn for the first time to enjoy the Balloon Festival.

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. Parents can watch them while relaxing at the nearby craft tables.

In the G-Gauge room, children can enjoy Thomas the Tank Engine and the engine named Percy as it pulls another train on the trestle above Thomas. On the main layout, logging trains will run on the large trestle while freight and passenger trains run on the double track below. Members of the G-Gauge Crew have made many improvements to their layout during the past few months, and this will be the first time these upgrades have been shared with the public. The HO Crew has also made many changes; they will continue their renovations and upgrades after the Train Fest, but they're looking forward to showing what's new and different.

Tickets can be purchased to decorate balloon-shaped cookies to eat and 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, crafts, 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 special activities and games with prizes can be purchased at the door at \$1 each or 7 tickets for \$5.



MAINE MODEL RAILROAD LAYOUT TOUR

By Chip Faulter

The 5th annual Maine Model Railroad Layout Tour is scheduled for the weekend of September 28 and 29, 2019. This tour was established to encourage interaction between all model railroaders and to showcase work created in our hobby, regardless of scale or gauge. Model Railroad layouts in two areas of the state will be open for viewing. mainemodellrrtour.com

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club is scheduled to be on the tour for both Saturday, September 28, and Sunday, September 29. Please consider coming for one or both days to help run the layouts and answer questions.

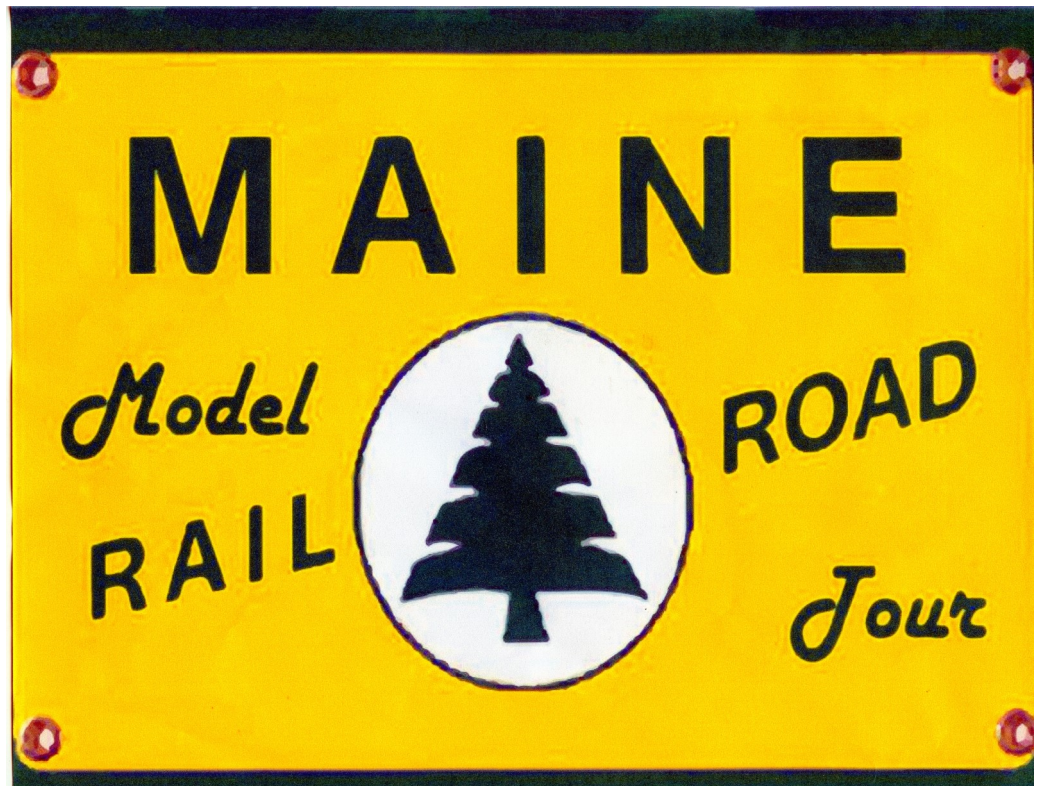
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The free self-guided tour will include a variety of model railroad layouts in different scales, gauges, states of construction, and styles of scenery. Anyone who wishes may visit the layouts. There is no charge, and membership or pre-registration is not required. Maps and detailed descriptions of the layouts are posted on the website mainemodellrrtour.com

Please mark your calendar to take a day trip and visit one or more of these fine layouts, catch up with old friends and perhaps use this as an opportunity to explore a scale or gauge that you might not be familiar with ... you will be surprised at what you will learn.

If you are a layout owner in Maine in the areas open this year and are not listed to be on the tour, please consider, or reconsider, opening your layout to your fellow model railroaders that weekend. Contact Mike Pedersen at mpederse@maine.rr.com to sign up.

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FOOD SHACK TO BE AT 2019 SUMMER PICNIC

By Paul Lodge

Nancy Weeks will bring her Food Shack to the Great Falls Model Railroad Club family picnic at the home of Paul and Frances Lodge in West Minot on Saturday, August 24. Nancy has a complete kitchen in her trailer, where she cooks and serves the food she brings for everyone. Paul does not have an outdoor grill, but Nancy's hotdogs, hamburgers, and her variety of other foods will be much better. Nancy uses her food trailer for various events for the Boy Scouts, at the Wiscasset, Waterville & Farmington Museum, etc. You get the idea.

Members and their families are invited to come for all or part of the day, from 10 a.m. to about 7 p.m. Paul's 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 and a horseshoe driveway. There is plenty of parking space in the back field.

Families can relax and enjoy the picnic area under the pine trees, the children's playground, the flower gardens, and the large, open area available for games. It is suggested that members bring their own lawn chairs and any finger foods they wish to share.

Those who want to get their feet wet can walk a short distance through the woods to wade in Bog Brook. It is only about two feet deep, which is ideal for children. Anyone who will be wading should wear old sneakers as there are many small rocks.

Paul's Pine Tree Lines HO layout upstairs in the barn has been attacked by squirrels so trains may not be operating. Guests will be able to see the layout, but the stairs are not handicapped accessible.

Summer picnics are a great way to socialize with other club members and their families and share train stories and modeling hints. We hope to see you at the picnic on August 24!





July Minutes by Paul Lodge

July 18, 2019

The evening started with a You Tube video about Union Pacific trains and was followed up 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 June Secretary's report as published in the *Signal*.

Owen Buck gave the Treasurer's Report, which was approved as given.

Paul Lodge read the Executive Committee Meeting Report from June 13. The report was approved as given.

George Pitchard invited members to borrow books from our extensive library selections. He also pointed out the new shelf that has replaced the original shelf, which was warping to about a thirty percent tilt and not safe for the Bangor and Aroostook G-gauge display. George also commented on the progress being made on the Lionel O-scale display he is constructing.

Bob Willard invited members to come to the Modelers Forum on the fourth Thursday of each month. In addition, he explained the square-foot modeling contest, the rules that contestants will need to follow, and methods for selecting contest winners. (More information about the square-foot contest is presented in another article in this newsletter.)

Mike Meserve reported that the HO Division has installed an unobstructed power supply system to improve locomotive movements. All of the current rolling stock on the HO layout has been set to standards. Track work is being changed and improved, switches are being replaced, and re-ballasting portions of the layout is continuing.

At this point in the meeting, Jay Wiley gave a slide presentation of his vacation trip through Colorado and New Mexico on the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad. His combination of excellent slides and video were appreciated by the members. →→→→→→→→→→

After Jay's presentation, the meeting continued with Old Business. No action has been taken on the trees which need to be taken down or on the potential repairs of the roof.

There was a lot of discussion about the possibility of changing the monthly meeting day from the third

Thursday to the second or third Saturday. It was decided to table the concept for this meeting and bring up the topic at a later time.

For New Business, Paul Lodge invited members to his house for the revival of the annual picnic on Saturday, August 24, starting at 10 a.m. (See separate article.)

Jamie Robinson presented a draft of a policy clarifying the procedure the club should use when it receives an unencumbered donation. Each member received a copy of the policy draft and was able to ask questions and make suggestions. Jamie appreciated the input and will revise the procedure policy, utilizing some of the suggestions. (His revised draft is included in this newsletter and will be voted on at the August meeting.)

Mike reminded members of the Seacoast Division meeting to be held at the club on Saturday, July 20. Members are encouraged to attend.

The Train Fest open house is scheduled during the Lewiston/Auburn Balloon Festival on August 17. Tami Paine suggested creating some different activities for adults and children for the occasion. Volunteers are needed to bake cookies for decorating. It was also suggested that the club's Parade Locomotive be in the Balloon Festival parade. The locomotive needs repairs in order to be able to participate.

Winners of the drawings for the 50/50 Raffle and the Attendance Prize were picked. Jay Wiley won the Attendance Prize and chose a book on the History of American Railroads. Paul Lodge won the 50/50 Raffle.



SQUARE-FOOT MODELING CONTEST AT TRAIN SHOW

By Paul Lodge

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club is sponsoring a "Square Footer" modeling contest. Members are encouraged to create a "Square Foot" railroad scene with a Christmas theme. The entries will be judged at the Great Falls Model Railroad Club Show at Mt. Ararat High School in Topsham on Saturday, November 2, 2019.

Bob Willard is supervising the Square Footer Modeling Contest and has suggested three categories for entries in order that members with all levels of modeling skill can be included without fear of competing against more experienced modelers. There will be a Junior Division for younger club members; a Novice Division for those who are attempting this for the first time; and a Masters Division for experienced modelers.

The rules for the Square Footer contest are quite simple. The Christmas-themed railroad display must be constructed on a 12-inch by 12-inch base. No part of the display can be outside the 12-inch by 12-inch boundary on any side. It can be any height.

Ballots will be given to those attending the GFMRRRC Train Show at Mt. Ararat on November 2. Winners will receive a "People's Choice" award and a prize.

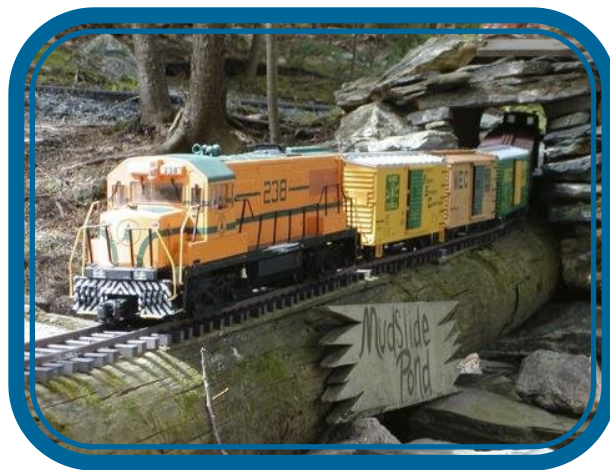
Members, now is the time to get your thinking cap on and come up with an idea for your Square Footer contest model. Having fun with the hobby is a goal of the club.



GARDEN RAILROAD INVITATION

By Dick Clark

All club members and their families are invited to visit Dick Clark's garden railroad display on September 14, 2019, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 23 Barrel Shop Road in Greene. The Toot n' Chug Rail Lines runs through a natural woodsy setting with a babbling brook and pond. It features Dick's hand-made village buildings and hand-made people created by his wife Sharon. Dick uses both steam and diesel locomotives. Those attending on September 14 are welcome to bring your own equipment to run or display.



SATURDAY OPERATING SESSION & MODLERS FORUM



MODELERS FORUM

By Kent Waterson

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club Modelers Forum met on Thursday, July 25, with the usual variety of projects and displays presented. Those present were Bob Willard, Jamie Robinson, Carmen Anastase, Dexter Baum, Jim Pepe, Kevin LaMarre, Kent Waterson, Paul Lodge, Tami Paine and George Pritchard.

Carmen Anastase started the discussion with more examples of his road construction experiments. He showed a sample of a road section glued to a wood base with Plastruct sidewalk material. Carmen also solicited suggestions on building the passenger station platform. Carmen is modeling his hometown NJ light rail system. A magazine article he referenced suggested a platform length of 120' to 170'. Was this dimension about right? It was suggested that since the light rail train is only two cars in length, a platform that would support this particular train would be sufficient.

Dexter next showed two HO 0-6-0 locomotives that would be used on his layout. He had brought both for Jamie to install sound decoders.

In May, Tami had mentioned she was working on an introductory video for the YouTube Committee. One of the things she was interested in was providing an introduction to the various terms that are unique to Railroading and Model Railroading. It just so happened that Dexter had been working on just such a document. Dexter showed the dictionary of terms and presented a copy to Tami. Leafing through the document, one realizes this is no small task.

Jim was up next, showing a beautiful Rapido Canadian Pacific stainless-steel and maroon dome passenger car. The car was used in the 60's on a train (the Canadian?) that ran from Montreal to Vancouver.

In previous months the group has talked about various textures for a variety of materials from roads to buildings. With this in mind, Kevin brought some cardstock he had used for making roads, and some brick sheets he had scanned and printed. He also brought some decals he had printed on his ink jet printer and asked for sugges-

tions on how to improve them. He was not impressed with the quality of the decals from the printer.

Kevin also presented a boxcar he had built in a small diorama. He will be attending his high school reunion soon. A fundraiser at the reunion is an auction of items, and Kevin built the boxcar for that purpose. The boxcar was a unique throwback to his high school days. He started with a Grand Trunk railroad car and converted it to a "Grand Funk Railroad" car, using some of the custom decals he had printed. The car was nicely presented in a case and hopefully will bring a few bids at the auction.

Tami did not bring anything to present but sought suggestions for how to represent snow on the square foot modules that the Spikey's Station kids are making. Bob suggested the Woodland Scenics materials. Another suggestion that had been used in the past was potato flakes, which would need to be ground down – perhaps in a blender. As with any natural material, steps should be taken to keep the material from molding (or perhaps becoming a food source for mice!). Jamie reflected on what NOT to use -- baking soda, since baking soda and metal rails do not mix!

George talked a bit about the library catalog project he is immersed in. This is a huge task to undertake, but the final product will be a substantial asset to the club. Many thanks to George.

Bob talked a bit about the square foot module contest, then moved on to presenting a few structures he is completing for his On-30 2-foot modules. He showed an Oil Facility which will be a major industry on the module, and a smaller structure for receiving bulk oil and transferring it to 55-gallon drums. The structure was built on a stonework foundation made from poured plaster that is scribed and cut into blocks. The structure also featured what will be three chicken wire sides made from a lace – tulle – that represented the wire very well.

Jamie finished the evening, showing a newly purchased portable soldering iron made by Ryobi. The iron runs off Ryobi's 18V battery system, heats very quickly, and was able to function for a few hours on a single charge. Jamie had used the tool extensively on a section of the HO layout and was very pleased with its performance. After a quick tour of the HO layout and the section Jamie had updated, the meeting adjourned about 8:30.

We welcome everyone to come to Forum meetings, with or without items to present. The Forum provides a great place to both solicit and share information. Hopefully we will see you next month!



THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

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Upcoming Events

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

*August 24 - 10:00 a.m. —7:p.m.
GFMRRRC Family Picnic at Paul Lodge's home.*

*Sept 24 -10:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.
Railroad Open House at Dick Clark's home in Greene.*

Sept. 27 & 28 Maine Model Railroad Tour.

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

Please check web site or Facebook page.



Recurrent Activities

Operating Sessions

August 10 & August 24—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

August 31 , 9:00 a.m. to Noon

Work Session

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