

Member since June 1988

**NEXT MEETING
SEPTEMBER 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:

- ◆ 2018- \$407.00
- ◆ 2019— \$464.00
- ◆ August—\$39.00

PRINTER

CARTRIDGES:

Total last year: \$222.00

YTD: \$140.00

Last Month: \$26.00

THE SIGNAL



THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

VOLUME 23. ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 2019

MAINE MODEL RAILROAD LAYOUT TOUR

The 5th annual Maine Model Railroad Layout Tour is scheduled for the weekend of September 28 and 29, 2019. 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. Model Railroad layouts in two areas of the state will be open for viewing. Maps and detailed descriptions of the layouts are posted on their website: mainemodellrrtour.com

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club is included 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.



CLUB PICNIC AT THE LODGES'

By Paul Lodge

On Saturday, August 24, the Great Falls Model Railroad Club members held a family picnic at the home of Paul and Frances Lodge in West Minot. Several years ago, the club regularly had an annual picnic at the homes of different club members. When everyone got really busy at the club and several members had moved or passed away, we did not continue the picnics. When the idea was suggested this year, club members were enthusiastic to start the annual picnic again.

About twenty-five club members, friends, and children came for the afternoon. Club members had decided to have one of the monthly operating sessions on the HO layout at the club before coming to the picnic, and most of them arrived a little after noon. *Spikey's Station* was well represented with about six kids and four adults, who arrived later when their leader, Tami Paine, had finished working.

Nancy Weeks brought her Food Shack and put up tables, set out food, and cooked hotdogs and hamburgers on her portable grills. The picnic provided an opportunity for members to socialize, tell stories, and share railroad-related topics.

Paul offered tours of his "Mushroom-style" layout, which features a working hump yard, a unique operating technique without using cards, and a coal delivery system. The layout upstairs in the barn has a two-level folded dog bone arrangement. Members were curious about how difficult it would be to convert it to a DCC system with the goal of holding operating sessions in the future.

After touring the layout and eating lunch, several members walked off the meal by taking a trek through the woods and down to the brook. Only the foundation of the old twelve-foot dam is left, but the place on the brook where it was located is still an interesting feature to see.

When the first group returned, *Spikey's Station* members had arrived and were visiting a neighbor who has chickens, ducks, and goats. They delighted in feeding the animals while Nancy was preparing their late meal. After eating and touring the layout in the barn, they walked down to the shallow brook as the adult group had done earlier. Some of the kids played in the water for a while before continuing up the brook to the site of the old saw mill.

Everyone had a good time and we are looking forward to reviving the annual picnic for future years.



A SUCCESSFUL NINTH ANNUAL GFMRRRC TRAIN FEST

By Paul Lodge

At the Ninth Annual GFMRRRC Train Fest, about twenty-five club members helped sell tickets, run games, teach craft projects, supervise cookie decorating, sell surplus inventory in the Company Store, and operate G, N, O, and HO scale trains. Paid attendance was about 60 adults; another 15 adults used free passes from the Auburn Public Library, and many of them purchased some of the 124 tickets used for games and activities. About 50 children wrote their names on balloons that they tacked to the landscape board to show they got in free. As usual, the signs put out by Travis Johnson and Dan Murkowski attracted the largest number of visitors, including New Auburn residents and Balloon Festival participants. When asked how they heard about the event, many visitors mentioned the newspaper articles and our use of the Internet with our website, Face Book page and emails. Several people came to see the progress that has been made on the layouts, and many others came for their first visit to the club.

Families were given a sheet of paper for "The Great Balloon Chase" scavenger hunt activity. People went to all the layouts and other rooms in the building to find unique specialty hot air balloons on the walls. When they finished, children chose a sealed paper bag from the "Surprise Prize" box. Boston & Maine train videos were shown throughout the day. While children worked on crafts, decorated cookies, or played with the Brio set, parents watched the shows and their children.

Tickets were sold at the door so that children could play the "Roundhouse Roulette" and "Balloon Bag Toss" games for prizes, decorate and eat cookies shaped like hot air balloons, and work on craft projects. To further recognize Lewiston-Auburn's Great Falls Balloon Festival, Tami Paine had designed a construction paper blimp and a clever bee pencil decoration. The theme of this year's Balloon Festival celebrated the 75th anniversary of Smokey the Bear, with the slogan "Bee Safe; Prevent Forest Fires." Most of the children became "Guest Engineers" on the extensive HO layout, for which there was no charge. The layouts in all of the scales had new features, and all of the trains ran smoothly.

Club members were able to have lunch prepared by Tami Paine and her family. Some club members also brought food to be shared by those who came to help run the successful GFMRRRC Train Fest.

Thank you for everyone who made this annual event a success again



August Minutes by Paul Lodge



August 15, 2019

Before the meeting began, a YouTube production about the Union Pacific Big Boy was shown. Some of the video commemorated the 150th anniversary of the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad.

The YouTube program was 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 report from last week's Executive Committee was read and approved.

Owen Buck gave the Treasurer's Report, which was approved as given. At the conclusion of the report, Owen suggested that our liability insurance should be raised. After some discussion, a motion was made and accepted to increase our liability insurance to 6 million dollars at an additional cost of \$400 a year. The motion passed.

Librarian George Pitchard reported that several new books have been added to the library. One was on American narrow gauge railroads and another on dining in a Pullman. He noted that several magazines are missing, including some from the *Classic Trains* series.

Reports from the layout divisions were given. The HO Division has completed a clean-up project, and they are ready for the Train Fest. George Pitchard noted that there will be two trains running on the new O-Scale layout. The N-scale Division has made wiring improvements and the trolley set-up is now working.

The proposed Donation Policy was discussed. Everyone at the meeting had a copy of the draft. After some discussion, a motion was made and accepted to approve the draft proposal of the new Donation Policy.

The Library Box concept was discussed. A motion was made and accepted to pay a one-time \$40 fee to have our box registered as part of the official free library boxes in Auburn.

The drawings for the evening's raffles were held. Mike Meserve won the Attendance Prize and Paul Lodge won the 50/50 raffle. The meeting adjourned.



LIBRARY AIDS TROLLEY RESEARCH

By Terry King

Toby Haber-Giasson, a writer for *LA Metro Magazine*, visited the Great Falls Model Railroad Club on August 20 for research about trolleys in Lewiston-Auburn. Although she had visited both Auburn City Hall and the Androscoggin Historical Society, she still had some questions about the trolley's route from Lewiston to Danville Junction. We found three books on this subject and our Librarian, George Pitchard, and I were able to answer all of her questions and provide her with a scanned copy of a map of the route.

If Ms. Haber-Giasson's name sounds familiar, you may have read her article in the summer issue of LA METRO MAGAZINE. Starting on page 30, her article "Trains, Tolls, and Trolleys: Transportation Evolution" is a very well-researched and well-written article. I particularly liked the section on Lake Grove resort. Take the time to find this free magazine and read that article and her next article in the fall edition of LA METRO MAGAZINE, which should be out around October first.

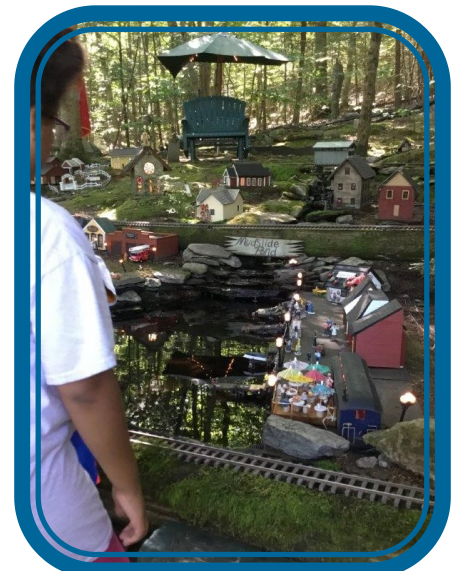
You can read the summer article online by using this rather long link:
https://issuu.com/la-metro-mag/docs/la_metro_magazine_summer_2019/32?fbclid=IwAR3_zTiAZmFew4eddACujEMEe6vw96T2KtmFnE7lhEc7HP0OtT2Gsi1emY



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



SPIKEY'S STATION UPDATE

By Tami Paine

The Spikey's Station schedule for August was truly unusual because of the Train Fest and other commitments. On August 17, several members of Spikey's Station helped with the crafts projects, cookie decorating, and Fish Pond at the Train Fest. The crafts included making construction paper blimps and Bumble-Bee pencil toppers.

On August 24 the Spikey's Station crew members – six kids and four adult helpers – went to the Great Falls Model Railroad picnic at the home of Paul and Frances Lodge in West Minot. They arrived in late afternoon because Tami Paine had to work that day. While they waited for Nancy Weeks to cook hamburgers and hotdogs on her grill, they visited the farm animals at the home of the Lodges' neighbors. Some of the kids had a chance to feed the ducks and chickens, and nearly everyone fed leaves to the goats. After they ate, Paul Lodge took them upstairs in the barn to see his two-level HO layout. Then they walked along the woods path to the brook, where several of them went wading in the shallow water.

On August 31 about 10 members of Spikey's Station with parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents visited the Toot n' Chug Garden Railway at the home of Dick and Sharon Clark in Greene. Children and adults were fascinated with the unique buildings designed and constructed by Dick and the people created by his wife Sharon. There were two locomotives running most of the morning. One train carried passengers and the other carried freight. Mudslide Pond and the water wheel are among the special features inspired by the woodland setting.

Both of the meetings on Spikey's Station's schedule for September will be held at the railroad club. On September 14 from 9:00 a.m. to noon, our theme is "You can make mountains." The kids will be learning techniques for building mountains, hills, lakes and streams on model railroad layouts. Spikey's Station will be participating in the club's square-foot challenge, and these techniques will be helpful for their module and the square-foot challenge.

On September 28 our theme will be model railroad buildings. We will talk about kits and scratch building, and we will start working on the Train Station Kit that will be going on our module. These are techniques they will need for their projects.



MODELERS FORUM

By Kent Waterson

The Modeler's Forum met on August 22, our usual fourth Thursday of the month. Those attending were Bob Willard, Jamie Robinson, Carmen Anastase, Dexter Baum, Kent Waterson, Paul Lodge, Tami Paine, and George Pitchard.

Jamie started off the evening by showing a series of locomotives he is building for Dexter. The first was an SW1. The frame had been milled out to provide space for the keep-alive capacitors; the speakers will be mounted in the cab. For a decoder, Jamie showed the new LokSound 5 micro he will be using: (<http://www.esu.eu/en/products/loksound/loksound-5-micro-loksound-5-micro-dcc/>) The footprint for this decoder is only 21mm x 10mm (0.83" x 0.39"), a very small package with great features. The cab and hood had been painted with Testors Model Master Italian Red, and the color drew many favorable comments.

Jamie had also been working on an O-6-0 for Dexter and showed the locomotive with a round speaker that fit perfectly inside the smokebox. The decoder and keep-alives had also been mounted.

Carmen next sought advice on painting with Tamiya's acrylic paints. Bob mentioned that he had been spraying these paints directly out of the bottle (with a single-action airbrush), but the paint is typically thinned with either 70% or 90% alcohol. The general rule is "thin to the consistency of skim-milk," but trial-and-error will determine the best results for a user's particular airbrush.

Dexter brought a series of kits that he had found with corresponding how-to-build articles in old *Model Railroader* issues. The first was a Revell Operating Engine House and an article on building a Two-Stall Engine House from *MRR* in January 1955. One wonders if the design for the kit was based on the article or vice-versa. The second kit was the Fine Scale Miniatures Coal & Sand Shed (Kit #115). Again, a corresponding article for the kit was found in the June 1955 *Model Railroader*.

Along with these two kits, Dexter showed a variety of supporting pieces, including an ash pit and clean-out rack from Durango Press and cast ash buckets. Dexter also brought a Walther house kit with an interesting method of lighting the structure. Light blocks for each window were provided with a system called "Individual House Illumination."

Although Kent didn't bring anything, he remembered Carmen's road experiments and pointed him to the following pair of forum discussions from *Model Railroad Hobbyist*:

Great-looking roads without airbrushing: <https://model-railroad-hobbyist.com/node/32229>

Paved Roads: <https://model-railroad-hobbyist.com/>

[node/26411?page=1](https://model-railroad-hobbyist.com/node/26411?page=1)

These roads were built on EVA Foam that is available in most craft stores as well as online. The author of one of the forums gave a link to the cheapest source on eBay.

Tami then talked about her experiments with producing snow for the upcoming Square-Foot contest. Her plan is to try out some of the methods with the kids at the next Spikey's Station meeting.

Bob rounded out the evening with a nearly completed scene for his On30 module. Pieces of the scene which he had shown previously have now been completed. The scene was composed of a few small buildings, a vertical oil tank, and a loading platform. Behind a "chicken wire" cage was a collection of 55-gallon drums. To mass produce painting the barrels, Bob started by painting the barrels red. Then he placed the barrels in a previously created mold so that only the tops were exposed, and he painted the tops white. After masking the middle of each barrel, he flipped them upside down, stuck them to some tape and sprayed the barrels black. When finished, he had a nice collection of barrels that looked good inside the "chicken-wire" cage. We look forward to seeing the scene on his On30 modules at future shows.

Bob also brought a cutting tool whose purpose was cutting out intricate shapes. The blade pivoted as it was moved along the cutting path. A few people tried out the tool by cutting paper, with mixed results.

Bob also demonstrated how he used a drafting circle template to mask off round objects to be painted. With numerous circles, simply find the circle that matches the object, then tape off around the surrounding circles and paint away!

The meeting wrapped up around 8:15. Seeing the work of others is both inspirational and educational. For those looking to develop their modeling skills, the Modelers Forum is a great



way to learn. Come check it out sometime!



THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

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Upcoming Events

*Sept. 14—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. 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Sept. 28. - Sandy River & Rangeley Lakes Railroad Train Show.

Sept. 28, & 29—Maine Model Railroad Tour 9:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Please check web site or Facebook page.



Recurrent Activities

Operating Sessions

September 7—9:00 a.m. until Noon

September 28—9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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

September 14 & 28—9:00 a.m. to Noon

Work Session

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