

Member since June 1988

**NEXT MEETING
OCTOBER 17
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- \$519.00
- ◆ September—\$56.00

PRINTER

CARTRIDGES:

Total last year: \$222.00

YTD: \$166.00

Last Month: \$66.00

THE SIGNAL



THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

VOLUME 23. ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2019

FALL TRAIN SHOW AT MT. ARARAT HIGH SCHOOL, TOPSHAM

By Paul Lodge

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club's fall model train show will be held from 10 to 3 on Saturday, November 2, at Mt. Ararat High School in Topsham.

The club will have its large modular layout and there will be a variety of layouts from other railroad clubs. The HO Modular group is planning to use two of their new corners for this show. These corners have been under construction for more than a year, and members are excited to see how they function with wider curves that allow for larger locomotives with which to dazzle the guests.

If you would like to have your module included in the club layout, be sure to contact Travis Johnson by Wednesday, October 23, so he and Ed Webb can create an appropriate floor plan. If you have a module that will need to be transported in the GFMRRRC rental truck, please bring it to the club by Wednesday, October 30. We will be loading the truck on Friday morning and there will be room on the truck for these modules. All modules need to be at the high school Friday afternoon between 4 and 5 p.m. or on Saturday morning between 7 and 8 a.m.

Several club members have been creating entries for the Square-Foot Modeling Contest. Their entries will be displayed at the show and visitors will be given ballots to vote for their favorites. At the end of the show, winners will be announced and prizes will be awarded.

Dealers from around New England will be available to answer questions and to sell new and used model railroad items. *Train Time* videos will be shown continuously and can be purchased. The sale of refreshments will benefit the Mt. Ararat High School Boosters Club.

Club members who can help on Friday afternoon are asked to be at Mt. Ararat High School in Topsham at 4 p.m. to help unload dealer tables and club modules and set them up for the Saturday show. We will need help throughout the day supervising layouts and selling excess inventory. After the show we will also need help taking down layouts and packaging unsold inventory.

This will be one of our last train shows in the current high school building. Construction on a new set of buildings is well under way with plans to open in 2020. We look forward to starting a new phase of train shows in their new school.

We hope everyone will help with publicity by distributing the flyers that are at the club and by sharing information about the show with friends and family on Facebook, by email, and in conversations.

Admission is \$5.
Children who are 12
and under are
admitted free.



TENTH ANNUAL ExTRAINaganza COMING IN NOVEMBER

By Paul Lodge

For ten years the Great Falls Model Railroad Club has delighted families with our collection of layouts decorated for the Christmas season. Our facility will be decorated for Christmas and trains will be running on all of our layouts, including the new O-Scale layout made primarily from the donation made by Dick Proctor. George Pitchard has been busy building the layout table and creating several different track designs. Even though he has not made all the final decisions yet, it is an impressive display which everyone will enjoy.

The ExTRAINaganza is a four-day event held on the weekends before and after Thanksgiving, each day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The dates for the 2019 ExTRAINaganza are Saturday, November 23; Sunday, November 24; Friday, November 29, the day after Thanksgiving; and Saturday, November 30.

Volunteers will be needed to help decorate the building on the evening of Wednesday, November 13, starting at 6 p.m. Projects will include setting up and decorating Christmas trees. Members of the HO crew have reminded us that garlands should not be hung near any track since pieces of garland which fall onto the track cause short circuits and disrupt the trains. Wednesday is the regular night for the HO work session. With help from members at the HO work session and/or their friends and family members, the decorating session will go faster.

The building will have a festive look for our regular club meeting on November 14. Any decorating which needs to be completed can be done after the meeting. Many of the decorations will still be in place for the club's annual Christmas party on Thursday, December 19.

Because of the number of days and the different activities going on at the event, club members are needed during the ExTRAINaganza to help by taking charge of games, supervising craft and cookie tables, selling tickets, monitoring layouts, and teaching young "Guest Engineers" how to run trains. There is no charge for children to run trains on the HO layout, but we will still need someone to organize a list to ensure an orderly system of taking turns. Members are encouraged to volunteer to help at the ExTRAINaganza for all or part of a day or as often as you can.



DICK CLARK'S GARDEN RAILROAD VISIT

BY PAUL LODGE

In spite of damp weather, several club members enjoyed their visit to Dick Clark's garden railroad on Saturday, September 14, and some brought their own equipment to run on his Toot n' Chug Rail Lines.





September Minutes by Paul Lodge

September 19, 2019

Before the meeting began, a video was shown of the Georgetown Loop, a scenic railroad in Colorado. Sandy Sondheim had recently visited that region and brought back the video, which everyone enjoyed.

The video was followed by the monthly Power Point presentation showing club activities since last month. As usual, club members involved in the activities added interesting details.

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*.

Owen Buck gave the Treasurer's Report, which was approved as given. He noted that the liability insurance has been increased to 5 million dollars at an additional cost of \$300 per year.

George Pitchard noted that the library now has an additional 16 feet of shelf space as part of a table complex next to the computer. He is also currently working on updating the club's book list.

Bob Willard reminded members about the square foot modeling contest which will be judged by ballots from visitors to our November 2 train show at Mt. Ararat in Topsham. He also invited everyone to attend the monthly Modelers Forum on the fourth Thursday of each month. This is a great opportunity to learn about new products that can add to your modeling success.

The N-scale layout is out of order at this time because of an electrical problem. Attempts are being made to have it operational for the September 28 and 29 Maine Model Railroad Layout Tour.

The G-gauge Division has set up the layout for operating sessions and have already had one operating session.

The HO Division has completed its efforts to make a double-track main line. There will be a special operating session featuring passenger trains on Saturday, October 5.

Between 80 and 90 tables have been rented for the train show in Topsham. It was noted that we are getting low on good inventory. It was suggested that someone keep an eye on Facebook to watch for estate sales.

Nothing has yet been done about fixing the roof,

cutting down the trees, or painting the entrance doors.

At the end of the meeting, Mike Meserve won the Attendance Prize for the second month in a row. Bob Willard won the 50/50 raffle.

SPECIAL PROGRAM FOR OCTOBER 17, MEETING

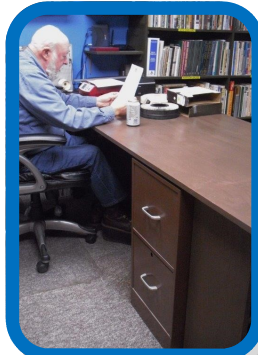
At the regular club meeting on October 17, Jamie Robinson will present a slide show of his visit to the enormous G-scale display layout at EnterTRAINment Junction in West Chester, Ohio. Located near Cincinnati, this is billed as "The world's largest indoor model railroad display." One website adds that this "train-themed family entertainment center features 80,000 square feet of fun adults, children, and groups all under one roof."



LIBRARY UP-DATE

By Terry King

George Pitchard has built a new desk for the library and it includes more shelf space, which was needed. We now have 1973 books in stock, and a visitor during the Model Railroad Tour said he is also going to donate some books. The library now has a collection of O-scale magazines for your enjoyment. Next time you are at the club, be sure to see our new O-scale Lionel layout.



SODA PRICES

By Terry King

When GFMRRRC members buy a can of soda or a bottle of water at the club, they pay just 50 cents. ***This price has not increased since we started to sell soda at our old location on Canal Street Alley.***

Most of the time we purchase soda at Shaw's because they have had the best prices. Their sale prices used to last for a week. Now the sale is for Friday, Saturday and Sunday only, and it requires a special coupon from their sales flyer. Their sales price is typically either three cases for \$9.00 or four for \$12.00. At the sale price we usually pay from 25 to 28 cents per can plus the 5 cent deposit. When Coke products or Pepsi products are on sale, I usually have to make two stops to keep our reserve stock up. In order to save money for the club, I will need two people to donate their coupons and have them at the club on either Friday or Saturday before noon.

These special sale prices on Coke and Pepsi products help to offset the higher prices that we pay for water and other brands of soda. In the near future our cost may go up quite a bit and we will then have to raise prices on water and soda for club members.

SQUARE-FOOT MODELING CONTEST AT TOPSHAM TRAIN SHOW

By Paul Lodge

The theme for this year's Square-Foot modeling contest is 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.

There are three categories for entries: a Junior Division for young people, a Novice Division for those who are attempting this type of modeling for the first time, and a Master Division for experienced modelers.

SPIKEY'S STATION UPDATE

By Tami Paine

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.

Spikey's Station will not meet on October 12.



2019 MAINE MODEL RAILROAD TOUR

By Paul Lodge

The 2019 Maine Model Railroad Tour on September 28 and 29 included the Great Falls Model Railroad Club layouts and the home layouts of several present and former GFMRRRC members. About 35 club members helped at the club on one or both days, running trains and greeting guests. Trains were operating on all of our layouts except the n-scale, but visitors enjoyed seeing that layout as well. On Saturday, guests were treated to an HO operating session, with members of the HO Crew using their full dispatch system. Although the new O-Gauge layout is still under construction, trains were running there. Because this is basically a Lionel type layout, many people were able to relate stories of their younger days when they had a Lionel train in their home.

Terry King noted that the club had 15 visitors on Saturday and 14 on Sunday. He felt that was a good number, especially since Mill Street was closed on Sunday because of the bicycle portion of the Dempsey Challenge.

Some people came with questions about how to model their private layouts, and others marveled at the details they noticed on our HO layout. A few items were sold from the Company Store and a new member was added to our ranks. The sign-up sheets for those two days will give us more names for the "GFMRRRC Friends and Family" e-mail list that we use to publicize our train shows and other special events. It was a pleasure to meet Russ and Rita Breton, who had contributed some of their personal video from the Cog Railroad in New Hampshire that is included in one of our *Train Time* shows.

Some of our club members visited Joe Landry's layout in Lewiston on Sunday and were impressed with the extensive O-Gauge collection on his layout and on his shelves. His display includes a special group of cars created by the Maine 3-Railers to represent several Maine businesses, including Moxie, Oakhurst, Reny's, Hancock Lumber, and B&M Baked Beans. His L. L. Bean car is followed by a flatcar containing two authentic scale-model Bean Boots.



MODELERS FORUM

By Kent Waterson

The Modeler's Forum gathered again on September 26. The usual cast of characters included Carmen Anastase, Dick Holman, George Pitchard, Paul Lodge, Kent Waterson, Dexter Baum and Bob Willard.

Carmen Anastase started off the evening with two products he had seen while attending the NMRA Regional Convention in Syracuse. The first was a mold-making material called "Mold Builder" by Castin' Craft. Typical mold materials consist of two parts, but this product has just a single part and needs no mixing. Carmen had bought the product at a local A.C. Moore.

Carmen bought the second product at the NMRA Convention. It was from a company called Roomettes, which produces building interiors printed on cardstock that can be folded and attached to the inside of windows so the buildings will appear to be furnished. The cards were designed to be used with Woodland Scenics' lighting system with a space in the "ceiling" for an LED to light the room.

Bob Willard had recently traveled to the WWF museum and on his return stopped at Big Al's in Wiscasset. There he found a set of spring clamps with a deeper than normal throat which cost two for \$1.00. Bob also demonstrated a \$14.99 Electric Hot Knife Foam Cutter he found on Amazon. The cutter appeared to work well and left a nice clean surface on the foam – much better than cutting with a saw blade that produces a snowstorm of electrostatically charged particles that stick everywhere!

Bob also showed another building he is working on for his On3 modules. Lucky's Lunch Stand was a printed structure from Clever Models LLC which Bob used as a guide to scratch build the structure from basswood. On the back he added a screened-in porch, using tulle as the screen material. He glued the printed kit sign to a sheet of styrene, then gave it a weathered look by using a section of foam from Bachmann packaging to sponge on a rust-toned paint.

Dexter Baum is in the process of down-sizing and brought a small collection of freight and passenger cars for the group to pick through, with the remainder to be donated to the club. He also brought an article from the May 1955 *Model Rail-*

roader with instructions for creating a wedge-shaped building similar to the one in Portland at the junction of Congress and Free Streets. Dexter plans to scratch build the structure and brought in a Wills Kits structure that contains sheets of brick material that he prefers to build with.

Dick Holman next presented a series of bulldozer tractors that he has been experimenting with. The tractors came from a set of Tyco Flat Cars that contain three of the tractors. Dick had started by cutting a gap between the tracks and the bodies. Since the hood and radiator looked too large, he had cut out a section to narrow the hood, then shortened the length a bit. Lastly, he had drilled a few holes that will contain the operating levers and the operator. With some paint and weathering, the tractors look very good. He also showed an N-Scale tractor to which he had added an HO-scale driver. The result looked just fine as a smaller tractor – the HO figure provided the proper context to set the size.

Kent Waterson next brought some tools he had ordered online from UMM-USA. The company offers a variety of standard and unique tools for the model builder. The tools included a Micro Saw, a scribing set and a template. Kent also gave an update on the status of his garage building project; the 28' x 30' floor above the garage will house his layout and workshop.

Lastly, George Pitchard had stopped at Orphan Annie's (a local antique shop) and picked up a couple of copies of the *Journal of Antiques and Collectables*. On the cover and dispersed throughout the magazine were old signs that could be scanned, scaled and reproduced for a layout.

The meeting adjourned about 8:15. As always, we welcome others to join us and learn from one another. We hope you will join us this month or in January. Because of Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, the Modelers Forum will not meet in either November or December.





THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

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Upcoming Events

November 1, Show set-up 4:00 p.m. at Mt. Ararat High School.

November 2, Train Show at Mt. Ararat High School Topsham 10:00 to 3:00 p.m. Doors open for set up at 7: a.m.

November 2, Square Foot Modeling Contest Voting, at Train Show.

November 23, 24, 29 & 30
ExTRAINaganza 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



Please
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October 17, Meeting

Jamie Robinson will present a slide show of his visit to the enormous G-scale display layout at "EnterTRAINment Junction" in West Chester, Ohio. One website says that this "train-themed family entertainment center features 80,000 square feet of fun for adults, children, and groups all under one roof."

Recurrent Activities

Operating Sessions

October 5—9:00 a.m. until Noon

October 9—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.
(Because of Thanksgiving, and Christmas there will be no meeting in November and December).

Spikey's Station

October 26—Finish Square Ft. Challenge Projects.

Work Session

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