

Member since June 1988

**NEXT MEETING  
DECEMBER 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— \$519.00
- ◆ November—\$83.60

##### PRINTER

##### CARTRIDGES:

Total last year: \$222.00

YTD: \$319.60

Last Month: \$63.60



# THE SIGNAL



THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

VOLUME 23. ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2019

## SURPLUS INVENTORY SALE SET FOR DECEMBER 14, 2019

By Paul Lodge

Are you looking for the perfect gift for a friend or relative who likes trains? Would you like to add to your own railroad book library or to your personal model railroad empire? We have great way to improve your model railroad collection at very reasonable prices.

The annual pre-Christmas Surplus Inventory Sale will take place at the Great Falls Model Railroad Club on Saturday, December 14, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Each year the club acquires large quantities of rolling stock, locomotives, and structures. Many of the items available for this sale have never been displayed at any of our shows.

Whether you're buying items for display or for your own layout or to give as Christmas presents, we hope you will join us on December 14 for the Surplus Inventory Sale.



# CHRISTMAS PARTY AND DECEMBER 19 MEETING

By Paul Lodge

Traditionally, our December club meeting is a pot-luck Christmas Party to which club members' friends and relatives are invited.

Paul Lodge reminds members that CHOCOLATE is a part of the pot-luck dessert menu because of its sweet relationship with the season. Because not everyone can eat chocolate, however, we are glad that members will bring a variety of foods and many desserts with other flavors as well.

*Remember, we do not need cups (paper or plastic), silverware, or any type of paper or plastic plates or bowls, as we have a large supply of all of these items.*

This year many of the Christmas decorations have been removed in order to make room for tables for the Surplus Inventory Sale on Saturday, December 14. The club meeting on December 19 will still be a festive occasion.





# SPIKEY'S STATION

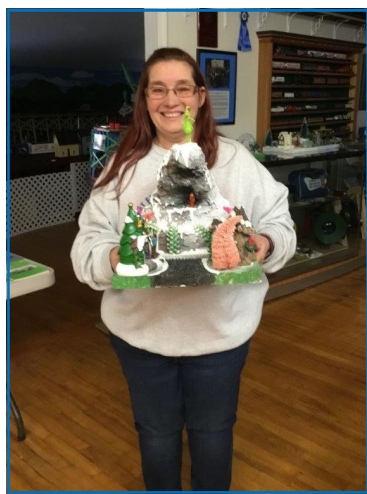
By Tami Paine

At the November 9 meeting of Spikey's Station, the kids worked on their module. Each child will have his or her own campsite on the Spikey's Station campground module. At this meeting they used paper to lay out where everything will be located. On December 7, Travis will help them lay the track on the module.

On Wednesday evening, November 20, several Spikey's Station members helped to decorate the railroad club for the ExTRAINaganza. Jasmine Pelletier and McKenzie Wyrick helped with the crafts and cookie tables at the ExTRAINaganza on November 23, and Jasmine worked with Adam Long at the admissions table on Sunday morning, November 24.

During the four-day ExTRAINaganza, the Spikey's Station entries for the Square-Foot Module Contest at the Topsham Show were displayed across from the Lionel layout, and several people commented on their outstanding work. Many families took flyers for Spikey's Station while children were decorating cookies and working on crafts.

Spikey's Station is planning a Christmas party at their meeting on December 21 and have picked names for a gift swap. They have a \$5.00 limit.





# NOVEMBER MINUTES by Paul Lodge

**November 21, 2019**

Before the meeting began, Josh Stevens' video of the Pan Am Railroad Executive Train was shown. Josh had several shots of the train from Livermore Falls west through Leeds. Everyone enjoyed his selection of views and their composition.

The video was followed up with the monthly Power Point presentation showing club activities of the past 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*.

Paul Lodge read the minutes of the Executive Committee from November 14, and they were approved as given.

Owen Buck gave the Treasurer's Report and reported on the revenue from the recent train show in Topsham. The report was approved as given. Comments about the Mt. Ararat train show were made. Dealers appreciated having the Sports Boosters offer a menu of food items for sale that they could order. Having the food delivered to them at their displays allowed them to stay at their locations. It was suggested that next time the club should set up tables near the food area so that guests would have a place to sit and eat. The club has acquired about fifteen tables which could be used for this purpose and for other places at the show, such as inside the club modular layout and for the ticket sales tables at the entrance of the show. If all of our tables were used, the club could save the rental fee of about \$10 per table.

George Pitchard reported that Dexter Baum has donated several bound volumes of *Railroad Model Craftsman* magazines and bound volumes of Walther's Catalogs. He noted that each volume has a unique Maine railroad picture inside the the front and back covers. A label has been placed inside each volume indicating it was donated by Dexter Baum. George has also purchased a small table which will be placed just outside the library door for those who wish to research items from books or magazines.

Bob Willard reported that the next meeting of the Modelers Forum will be December 12. This date was decided because holidays in November and December fall on the fourth Thursdays of the month, which is the regular meeting date for Modelers Forum. The theme for the December 12 meeting will be "tree making." Several methods will be displayed and discussed.

Reports from the various layout groups indicated that all will be ready for the ExTRAINaganza, which begins on November 23. The HO layout is up and running well. The G-gauge team has all five tracks operating. The N-scale is still a work in progress with new wiring planned. Thanks to the work of George Pitchard and Carl Butland, Dick Proctor's O-Gauge donation is running and the new skirting has been put up.

It was noted that we still need a team to help put out signs for the ExTRAINaganza.

Paul Lodge reported that the Parade Locomotive does not need extensive repairs, but some are required. The biggest problem is transporting it to events. (After the meeting, the locomotive was measured. It is approximately 4 feet wide, 7 feet tall, and 8 feet long.)

The club was notified this fall that the name "Train Fest" was patented several years ago by a railroad club in another state and we will need to use a new name for our event during the Balloon Festival. Several ideas were expressed, but no decision has been reached. Names for the event can still be suggested at future meetings or by email messages to [paul lodge@gwi.net](mailto:paul lodge@gwi.net)

Jamie Robinson had recently taken pictures of improvements at Hillcrest on the HO layout. He showed a Power Point presentation explaining how and why changes were made to improve the train movements through that area during Operating Sessions. The presentation was really appreciated by those in attendance and a good round of applause was given for the program. Thanks, Jamie.

There was a question about food for club members during the ExTRAINaganza. Mike Meserve reported that members have volunteered to bring in items and offer a "pot luck" arrangement for the food.

Food for the December 19 club Christmas party will also be "pot luck."

At the conclusion of the meeting, Eric Long won the Attendance Prize and Rick James won the 50/50 Raffle.





# WW&F VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS SOLD OUT

By Joan Meehan

Each year in our December issue of the newsletter, we invite club members to visit the Waterville, Wiscasset and Farmington Railway in Alna and have a free ride on the train for their annual Victorian Christmas event. In recent years the WW&F has offered reservations with the understanding that there will still be seats available for people who wait on stand-by.

This year, however, the 900 seats that were available for reservations sold out quickly. About 20,000 people apparently tried to apply for reserved seats - so many that the server for the WW&F computer site crashed. As a result, the event is now listed as sold out and they will not have any "walk up" seats.

It seems that more and more people are interested in these events, and being free makes it even more interesting. On December 14 the WW&F Victorian Christmas will still offer free Christmas treats and hot chocolate to everyone. There will be a model train layout and some vendors in the workshop. The car barn will be open for touring and the trains can be observed coming in and out of the station.

The WW&F has many other special events scheduled for 2020, starting with two weekends of "Steam and Sleighs" on January 25 and 26 and February 15 and 16. Their regular fares apply: Adults, \$10; Seniors (age 60+), \$9; Children 4-12, \$5. Children ages 3 and under ride free. For

## Pictures of ExTRAINaganzia



## CLUB UPDATES & OTHER INFORMATION

By Terry King

As we enter the Christmas season we tend to think about updating our model railroads or to finally start on our own empire.

The first place you should check out is the Hartt-Swazey Library, of The Great Falls Model Railroad Club. We have a very large assortment of track plans, electrical books, scenery books, DCC books, painting books, and books on applying decals and much more,

Are you modeling a specific railroad? We have books on almost any railroad you could want. Most railroads are covered in the library by more than one book. We have blue prints of may MEC structures and a large amount of blue prints for narrow gauge, most of which were drawn by John Derr whom some of you may have heard off.

For those of you that like to read about read railroads or accounts of railroad life we have a variety for books for you to choose from. Did you know that we have a lot of youth books which cover books to read to very small children to books that children that are old enough to read would enjoy. Older youth would enjoy our railroad folk lore section, which is just below our youth section. One off our newly acquired books is about the life of Harry Bedel, who wrote numerous articles for Railroad magazine in the forty's and fifty's.

Also when planning that layout we have a few hundred time tables from Railroads all over North America

We also have a large supply of DVD's on railroads including "How To" videos.

## Pictures of ExTRAINaganza





## Pictures of ExTRAINaganza





## THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

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## THE SIGNAL

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## Upcoming Events

**December 14**  
**Surplus Asset Sale**  
**8:00 a.m.—1:00**  
**p.m.**

Please check web site or Facebook page.



## Recurrent Activities

### Operating Sessions

December 7 & 21—9:00 a.m. to Noon

### Membership Meeting

3rd Thursday of each month  
December 19 @ 6:30 p.m. **Christmas Pot Luck Party!**

### Modelers Forum

4th Thursday of each month—7:00 p.m.  
Next meeting December 12, 7:00 p.m.

### Spikey's Station

December 7 & 21 9:00 a.m.—Noon

### Work Session

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