



Member since June 1988

**NEXT MEETING
?????????
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:

- ◆ 2020- \$431.00
- ◆ August— \$56.00
- ◆ September-\$38.00

PRINTER

CARTRIDGES:

2019: \$579.00

YTD: \$100.00

August: 52.00

MEMBERSHIP:

132

THE SIGNAL



THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

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MODELING ADVICE NEEDED

By Tom McAvoy

When I submitted my first article on August 7, the work on my home layout was in summer dormancy. As I begin the fall projects, I'm looking for answers to several questions that may be of interest to other club members as well. I understand the Modelers Forum discussions might offer helpful advice, but not all of us are able to drive at night.

My next step is to add steel wheels to all my 181 American HO cars so I never have to run plastic wheels on the track. When replacing the wheels, I am encountering a problem with losing the small springs in the trucks and not being able to reassemble the trucks with the tiny springs. I need to find a source for reasonably inexpensive trucks that do not use separate easy-to-lose springs. Does any club member have suggestions for a source and/or techniques for replacing the wheels? All Marklin cars have steel wheels so no upgrade is necessary there.

Once the wheel upgrade is done, I want to run the NCE system extensively to work out all the bugs before moving onto turnout motors, more layout details and landscaping, lighting streets and buildings, ballasting, etc. One area I really need help with is how best to automate at least some of the roughly 30 turnouts on my layout in order to cut down the need to run around using manual throws on all of them.

Another major project on my layout will be illuminating many of the buildings and streets once they are built. It will probably be a mixture of incandescent and LED lights. If anyone wants to offer a workshop on "wiring LEDs and resistors for dummies" that would be a great way to give me and others in the club an introduction to the subject. With the basic knowledge, I'm sure we could save a bundle of money assembling our own LED light systems to make basic lighting and custom projects such as welders and campfires. Buying inexpensive components and assembling the light systems ourselves would be much better than buying expensive modules that are already assembled.

I hope future newsletter articles by club members will help beginners and others like me who are experimenting with modeling techniques. I would really appreciate any and all advice on the best way to handle these projects. I don't want to waste time pursuing dead ends or doing things incorrectly. Any advice, training, or reference material on these subjects that anyone would like to offer for improving my limited "skills toolbox" would be eagerly and gratefully accepted. Anyone who would like to share their knowledge with me directly can contact me at tommcavoy8@gmail.com.

THE TOM COULOMBE G-GAUGE CONSIST

By Carmen Coulombe

From the time that Tom Coulombe was introduced to the Great Falls Model Railroad Club around the early 1990s until his passing in 2016, his approach to model railroading was much like that of a wide-eyed kid in a candy store. He was fascinated by all gauges and aspects of the hobby. He delved right in wherever he was needed and served in many capacities, including Station Master and Treasurer. For more information about Tom's involvement with the club, see *Signal* of June 6, 2016.

Tom's favorite railroad to model was the Great Northern. At one point he acquired a G-gauge Great Northern Consist which was later donated to the club and was often run during the ExTRAINaganza and other special events. To honor Tom's memory and dedication to the club and its mission, some of the G-gauge members this summer decided to name the engine and two coaches after him and members of his immediate family. Because this is a cause for celebration, the coaches were loaded up with mini passengers. One seat on each coach was left unoccupied so that Tom or his family members could ride the G-gauge rails in spirit anytime they wanted. The pictures that accompany this article were taken at Dick Clark's Toot n' Chug outdoor garden railroad in Greene, including the consist as it passes the Middleton Station building which was later installed on the G-Gauge layout at GFMRRRC.

Special thanks is extended to those who worked on this project: John Middleton, Ray Parent, Richard J Cosgrove Sr., Ken Nettleship, David Kierstead, Paul Lodge, Peter Cole and Mark Christopher. Tom's family is very thankful to have such a beautiful and thoughtful tribute to him.



MODELERS FORUM

By Kent Waterson

The (masked) Modeler's Forum met on Thursday, September 24, for more information sharing and display of modeling skills. Back for another round were Bob Willard, George Pitchard, Larry Cannon, Dexter Baum, Kent Waterson and Carmen Anastase.

Bob started off the evening displaying a boom & mast for the ship he presented last month. Due to the lack of any specific information on the vessel, Bob had found plans for a similar boat (a "stick lighter"). Using those plans, he constructed an assembly jig (often just as complex as the final part) and built the boom & mast.

Carmen returned with the commuter rail locomotive that he has been working on. Carmen showed the chassis that had been milled down by Jamie; he is now working on attaching the body. With no internal locating steps on the inside of the shell, it is difficult to find the correct height for mounting the shell to the body. Carmen solicited suggestions on how to temporarily fasten some styrene L-channel strip stock to the body such that a proper depth could be located before permanently mounting the channel. Various glues were suggested from Aleen's Tacky Glue to SoBo fabric glue.

Kent then presented some more components for the ship diorama he is constructing. Part of the diorama will include some aircraft that will need to have rivets added. To assist in the task, he purchased a set of "Rosie-the-Riveter" pounce wheels. The various tools gave a variety of rivet spacing.

Kent also presented his current work on a crane that is mounted on the quarterdeck. The crane was entirely scratch built from various styrene rod and sheets. The crane is about 2/3 done and he hopes to complete it by next month. To go with the crane, various size sheaves are needed. To fit that need, he printed a set of sheaves on his 3D printer.

Dexter was up next and showed a poster which was the inspiration for his layout. The waterfront railroad is named Acadia Dock & Terminal. Dexter brought with him a Climax 50 Ton Two-Truck steam locomotive (that Jamie had painted for him), a pair of hopper cars (one loaded) and an American Refrigeration Company reefer. Dexter also showed some of the various kits he has purchased that fit his theme and will occupy the layout. Two kits were from Bar Mills: Cundy Village and Franklin & South Manchester and a BEST kit General Store & Post Office.

Larry then presented his completed coal dock that he had displayed last month when it was still a work in progress. The coal bays are filled with coal made from a foam interior covered with scale coal and then glued and dull-coated to hold in place. To add to the bays, he built a coal loader from various scrap pieces in his parts box.

Last up was George with a variety of 2' gauge pieces he had recently completed. Many of these pieces had set idle for some time waiting for detail parts. Recently he was able to find a few collections of those Grandt Line parts with which he completed the models. The rolling stock included a generic flat car, a gondola for coal, and a tank car based on a car from the Bridgton RR. The tank car was built from a pair of kits to give the desired length and completed with the previously mentioned detail parts. Last was a wooden boxcar built to represent Bridgton RR car #67. The piece is yet to be painted but he hopes to have it completed (with lettering) by next month.

The meeting adjourned about 8:15. Again, the variety of items provided much discussion and interesting information on techniques for building and detailing. We welcome others to join us and share their ideas and skills; we are all open to learning. Come join us this month, October 23, at 7:00 p.m. We'd love to see what's on your workbench. Hope to see you here!



WYOMING & WESTERN

By Tom Jones

Hi, my name is Tom Jones. Some of you may remember I left Maine for Colorado some 7 or 8 years ago. I still maintain my Great Falls' membership and read the newsletter each month so thought I would take Paul up on his request for articles and let you know what I have been up to.

I built the new "Wyoming & Western" in a large room over my garage and shop. Still Union Pacific and CB&Q, I have been building the layout for about 7 years now. 4000+ feet of HO scale track and over 380 turnouts later I am 99.9% finished with track work and 90% finished with electrical. I have started some scenery but have a long way to go. I belong to a club here in Grand Junction (Grand Valley Model Railroad) and we have a web site and face book page if you are interested. We have our own building with an HO scale layout based on the Rio Grande RR in the 1950s. We also have an active group of G scalers who have an extensive outdoor layout here as well. Ten months of the year people are playing outdoors in the mountains and it is hard to get them together to play trains--but we try. Attached are a couple pictures of the layout. If you get to Western Colorado, drop me an email at tomjones4884@gmail.com and I will invite you to visit my expanding empire.



THE SIGNAL

Pictures for next page (5)

The first photo is the last CMQ job 211 crossing route 1A. The second is MEC 380 leading a PORU across Depot St. in Livermore Falls. The third is NBSR 6200 leading a job 908 across route 171 in Wypitlock, ME. (Next Page) The fourth is BM 326 leading a snowy PORU across Main Street in Livermore Falls.

Some of Josh's photos contain his identification as JS-Rumford Branch Productions.



A Young Man and His Love for Photography and Trains

By Leigh Stevens

Railroading has spurred many different types of followers over the years. Some people like operations, some like modeling, some like the sounds, some like the images. For Josh Stevens, it started at a very early age. As with many children, it started with a love for Thomas the Tank Engine. When Josh was three, his family moved to Livermore Falls. Their home has a view of the Rumford Branch. This got him hooked on his love for trains.

When Josh turned 10, he decided he wanted to take up photography. With limited means, Josh used his Nintendo 3DS to take videos and photos of trains going through town. His love developed as well as his talents. When Josh was 12, he got his first video camera and the videography took off. He developed his YouTube channel, Rumford Branch Productions, which has featured almost daily videos. Most of these videos show the Rumford Job going through Livermore Falls with occasional videos showing other locations.

This was fun, but Josh wanted to expand his talents further. For his 15th birthday, he got a new camera. This opened a whole new artistic avenue for him. As with anything new, it took some time for his talent to develop. After a while he was taking some very nice photographs of trains. Discovering new perspectives and techniques have been a constant with him.

Seeing the talent developing, his parents urged him to enter some of his works in the area agricultural fair exhibition halls. Concerned his work would be overlooked, he was apprehensive about entering his artwork. However, after some convincing, he decided to give it a go. He was not disappointed. At Oxford Fair, he scored two first place ribbons and a second-place ribbon. This encouraged him to go further. Two entries at the Cumberland Fair scored a first and second place. He got brave enough to give Fryeburg Fair a

try and came out with a first, a second, and a fourth-place prize.

While still being a fun hobby for Josh, this experience gave him the courage to develop his talents further. Josh and his dad, Leigh, can be seen many places near the rails snapping photos. Josh has also started a Facebook page for his photography, going by the same name as his YouTube channel, Rumford Branch Productions. The latest venture has been learning how to use Lightroom to edit his work to bring out the quality of the photos. This year, Josh is also getting an invitation from Pan Am Railways to submit some of his work for consideration in their annual photo calendar.

What started as a young boy's fascination with the big, loud, and clunky diesels going through town has turned into a young man's exploration of his abilities and talents. This has been a very fun experience for Josh and his family, venturing out to find the trains and get some photos. His parents are very proud of how he has developed as a photographer and hope he can go further with his talents. Time will tell.



MIDDLETON NORTH STATION

By Dick Clark (aka "Gizmo")

At one of our G-gauge work sessions on the 3rd loop, John Middleton asked if it would be possible to place a building in the blank space by the window. I asked, "What type of a building would you like to see there?"

Without hesitation, he replied, "I want a passenger station. I think it would look great there."

After a few attempts, we finally agreed on the building that you see at Toot 'n Chug Railroad in the picture taken on August 29. The name of the station is "Middleton North Station" and Ray Parent volunteered to make the sign for it.

The red building, which was still under construction at that time, was designed for a space on one of the sidings on the club's G-Gauge layout. The name on this building is "Gizmo's Train Maintenance Parts." Raw material would come to the site and parts would be made and shipped out to the customers per their specifications. "If we make it, you'll need it."

After working on this project for some time, I have finally completed it. On Saturday, September 26, Ray Parent and I went to the club house and installed the Middleton North Station in its permanent location on the upper loop of the G-Gauge layout. Ray made the sign with his 3-D printer. Two windows will be added to the front of the building at a later date. One photo of the layout shows the scene before placing the building. If you look closely in the window of the picture of the station, you will see John looking out over the layout checking on operations.



See last page for one more picture by R. Clark.



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Upcoming Events



Recurrent Activities

Please check our web site on Facebook.



Last picture from page seven.

Operating Sessions

NONE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Regular Monthly Meeting

NONE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Spikey's Station

NONE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Work Session

Every Wed. night—6:00 p.m.

Modelers Forum

Oct. 22 7:00 p.m.