

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- \$484.00
- ◆ December— \$.00
- ◆ January—\$49.00

When you send an article with pictures, please do not embed them into the article. Please send them as a separate file. This way we can lower the number of MP's. This way we can send the Signal as one file.

THE SIGNAL



THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

VOLUME 25. ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2021

PROOFREADER'S APOLOGY

By Frances Lodge

In the January 2021 newsletter, I made many mistakes in rewriting and proofreading the article about the S-Scale and O-Scale and scrapbook donations. The original article, for example, correctly listed the date on which Warren Saunders began work on the Sandy River Railroad as 1882 and I mistakenly typed 1822. This certainly raised questions about some of the other dates in the article, all of which were correct.

I hope the author of that article and all others who have submitted articles will accept my apologies for my re-writing and proofreading mistakes. Whenever I make any changes on a newsletter article, I try to remember to send the author a copy of the article before it is printed. In the January issue, there were several articles in which I made changes without sending a copy to the authors, and I should have been

WINTER WEATHER

After each snowstorm, Carl Butler clears and cleans the railroad club parking lot as soon as possible. Tire tracks pack down the snow, making the work more difficult and sometimes leaving icy spots which make the parking lot more dangerous. Even though there are now very few activities at the club because of coronavirus concerns, we know you want everyone to be safe. Please help us keep the club parking lot empty of cars until it is empty of snow.



Denise Purington

1963 - 2023

By Paul Lodge

Beloved club member Denise Purington died January 19, 2021, at the Androscoggin Hospice House in Auburn. Denise and her husband Bob joined the Great Falls Model Railroad Club in 2008, shortly after club members had begun working to renovate the building. Since they lived across the street at the Barker Mill Apartments, Bob came to see what he could do to help and both of them continued to help with all our club events and activities until she became seriously ill. We have missed Denise's warm smile, outgoing personality and friendly interest for the past few years as she battled various illnesses.

Many of us will long remember Denise as the outstanding Raffle Layout ticket salesperson. Her record-setting ticket sales began with our first club event, the GFMRRRC Dedication Open House on September 19, 2009. Whenever we displayed the Raffle Layout for ticket sales, Denise would sell more than twice as many tickets as anyone else who tried. She had a technique that worked well for her. In her friendly way, she would sit at the layout and ask every person who passed if they wanted to buy a ticket. After they had walked past the layout for the third or fourth time and had been asked each time, they would relent and buy a ticket. Her friendly smile and persistence melted them down.

Our next club event was the ExTRAINaganza, held annually during the last two weekends in November from 2009 to 2019. The first few years, Denise and Bob worked at the club for every day of the ExTRAINaganza, which was originally a five-day event. Denise sat in her usual place near the library and sold raffle tickets on the portable Raffle Layout; Bob sat at the entrance to the meeting room and sold raffle tickets on the trains under the Christmas trees. Denise always enjoyed the traditional final night get-together at Governor's Restaurant with club members who had worked at our special events.

Denise had a sincere interest in people and seldom missed a monthly club meeting. She could remember people's names even if she had not seen them for months. This is a skill many of us would like to have. After Denise became ill, Bob continued to help at most events and brought her from the nursing home to the club for a short time so she could enjoy seeing friends and other club members. Bob always kept watch over her and cared for all her needs. When she became too ill to participate, Bob spent his time at the nursing home with her instead of coming to the club, and he was with her when she passed away.

We will miss Denise's friendly smile and caring interest in all of us. Thank you, Denise, for being part of our Great Falls Model Railroad Club family.



Mark A. McClintick, A Life Well Lived!

By Jolene McClintick

Mark McClintick passed away on January 15, 2021 at the age of 60, after a 6-year valiant resistance to Alzheimer's. Mark and his wife Jolene joined the Great Falls Model Railroading Club in the spring of 2017, while they were members of our model railroading class. He built both an N Scale and an HO Scale layout. After he became ill, his wife, Jolene joined him in the train hobby and together, with help from his father and brother-in-law, Charlie, they created a wonderful HO model layout with a lot of scenery, engines and cars. They attended and helped at many GFMRRRC shows and helped with our special events at the railroad club. Model railroading brought him much joy.

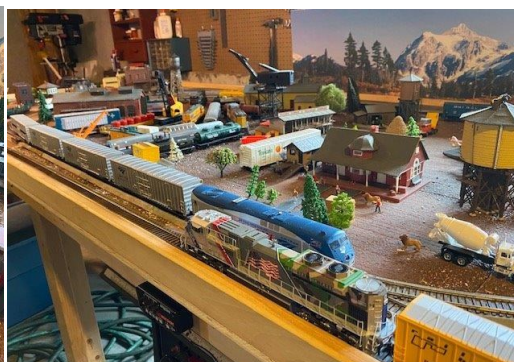
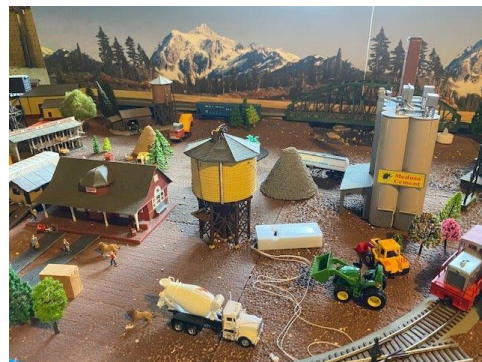
Mark was a man of many talents, interests, and hobbies including trains, photography, gardening, hiking and biking. Mark and his father each built a bike for road cycling from the frame up. Mark had a great eye for photography and his specialties were nature – animals, birds, flowers, scenery, sunrises and sunsets. He loved taking close-up shots of flowers, bees and dragonflies.

Mark grew up in Bingham, Maine. After earning an Electronic Technology degree from Eastern Maine Vocational Technology Institute, he was hired by Fairchild Semi-Conductor in South Portland as an Electronic Tech. In 1984 he took a leave to attend Berkshire Christian College in Lenox, MA to study the Bible. While there, he met his future wife, Jolene Pino, in Theology Class. They were married after dating for only 10 months, and both earned Bachelors' Degrees in Theology. They moved back to Maine in 1988 and Mark was hired by National Semi Conductor, where he worked as both an Electronic Tech and Process Engineer until 2009. He was hired by Rochester Electronics in 2011 and worked there until 2014 as a Process Engineer.

Mark often helped their daughter Torri with her creative projects, and they enjoyed taking walks and discussing nature together. When Mark became ill, Torri helped with his caregiving and would set up projects for him like painting and would take him to a local gym where Mark loved shooting hoops. They would also watch nature shows together.

His business travels included many places in the U.S., England, Poland, Germany, and South Korea. That whet his appetite to travel as a family. They visited the Grand Canyon, Sedona, Grand Tetons, Yellowstone, Costa Rica, Florida, Alaska and Prince Edward Island.

He was a member of Pathway Vineyard Church since 1995 where he ushered and participated in worship and prayer events. His favorite part of church was worship and he loved to build worship sets on YouTube. He was a lifelong reader of Scripture and memorized hundreds of verses over the years. He had the gift of service and loved helping others in practical ways. He had a strong, unbreakable relationship with his Lord, Jesus and loved his fellowship with Him.



MODELERS FORUM

By Kent Waterson

The Modelers Forum was back in the clubhouse on January 28 after a three-month absence. It was great to see everyone again. Those attending were Bob Willard, Carmen Anastase, George Pitchard, Kent Waterson, Tom McAvoy, Jamie Robinson and Ed Webb.

Bob Willard opened the evening's meeting by presenting a new glue he has discovered. Always a fan of the Gorilla Glue line of products, he has started using Gorilla Clear Grip contact adhesive. The product works well for joining dissimilar materials and has a working time that allows for adjustments after contact. Bob used this glue with the fire station (in progress) he showed. The top molding was built up from a variety of materials, and the glue worked well to provide strong bonds for all the different materials.

Bob then displayed a variety of O-Scale vehicles he continues to build. He showed a fire engine that started out as a British fire engine on which he had replaced the cab with the cab from a '36 Ford. He had converted a toy ambulance into a milk delivery truck. To a bulldozer, he had added a cab, winch, side curtains and shutters enclosing the engine. Last in this group was a 1946 Ford Station Wagon that he had changed to a 4WD setup with winch, gas cans, running boards and a roof rack. To wrap up his presentation, Bob also showed a pulp car on skids that he had built from a set of plans.

Jamie Robinson was up next with a further update on some projects he has been working on for Dexter Baum. The first was a Walthers Plymouth ML-8 Industrial Switcher. Jamie had re-lettered the small locomotive and was impressed with what the little switcher could handle. The switcher ran well and included a built-in keep-alive. The second locomotive was the 44-Toner he had previously shown. Both powered trucks have been completed, accounting for 20 hours work! After repeating the paint job a few times, he finally has the appearance he was looking for.

Tom McAvoy followed with a kit, the Cornerstone Backwoods Locomotive or Carshop, he is working on. After Tom had assembled the base of the kit, he realized it was glued on upside-down – we've all been there! Tom looked for advice on how best to remedy the problem. Leaving it that way is not an option since the upside-down base interferes with the engine house entry doors. A few suggestions were offered. Tom could try to separate the pieces with either a hobby knife or razor saw. Another option was applying more glue with the hope of softening the joint and being able to separate the pieces. Perhaps the best suggestion was to cut the section that stretched across the engine house doors and then separate that smaller section from the structure. Much of the base will eventually be covered with scenic materials and would probably never be noticed once placed on the layout.



More pictures on last page.

FREIGHT HOUSE KIT

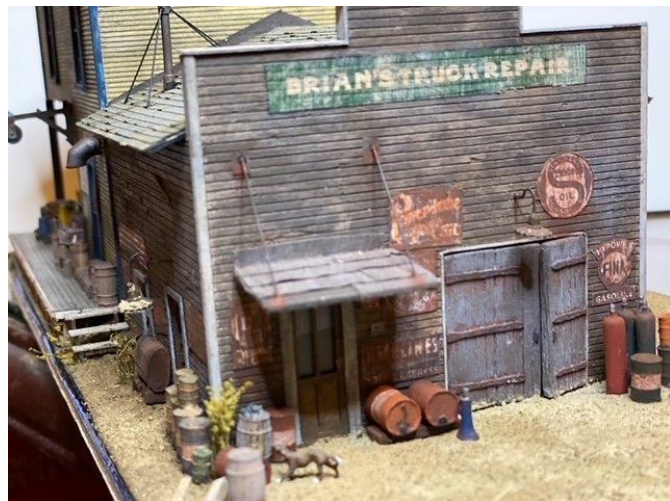
By Mike Ricci

In just a month I finished this Sierra West kit of a freight house/repair shop. The vehicle was from Reynauld's. It was fully built and a very nice model.

This Sierra West kit was an out-of-production limited edition marketed in 2000, and I got it on eBay. I love Sierra West! Brett Gallant runs Sierra West (sierrawestscalemodels.com). I've built several of his kits and they are excellent, with the best castings I've seen in the way of details.

The Ford vehicle is made by Artitec and I got at Reynauld's, an online model train hobby shop, (www.Reynaulds.com). Weathering is my effort. It's a very fine model but a bit pricy (\$41.52).

I used mostly Vallejo or Reaper paints. Sierra West offered a complete set some time ago. I did the weathering with chalk powders from Dr. Ben's or pastels I get from an artist friend.



REVIEWING 2014 BEST IN SHOW

By Frances Lodge

On January 30, 2021, the annual Amherst Railroad Society Railroad Hobby Show in West Springfield, Massachusetts, was held online in a "virtual" format because of the coronavirus restrictions and safety concerns. Each January, more than 25,000 people have usually attended the country's third largest train show, which covers over 350,000 square feet and is housed in four buildings at the Big E. This year's "new normal" seemed like a good time to review the excitement at the Great Falls Model Railroad Club regarding an earlier West Springfield show.

On January 26, 2014, the Great Falls Model Railroad Club was awarded "Best in Show" at the Amherst Show in West Springfield. In addition to drawing on information in the February 2014 issue of *The Signal*, many details in this article were included in a Special Edition written for GFMRRRC by Scott Gould and published in February 2014, and I have occasionally used his exact wording.

The engineering genius of member Ralph Luby made the intricate exhibit possible. Ralph designed and built the structures for the G-gauge masterpiece. The display covered a 40-by 40-foot area with 2,000 square feet, three levels, eight individual circuits, and more than 1,000 feet of track on which eight trains ran at the same time. Once the exhibit was up and running, members of the team ran 18 different engines and more than 90 cars. Because of broad curves, long trains of more than 20 cars were possible.

Even though this was a two-day event, some club members worked five days to make the presentation possible by transporting, erecting, and taking down the exhibit. Six members of the club loaded parts of the display to take them from York, Maine, to West Springfield. More than a dozen club members made the trip to Massachusetts and helped to assemble the display and operate trains before and during the event, and many stayed to disassemble it after the two-day show. Three G-Gauge modelers from Michigan added their skills. Groups of between four and seven club members took 15 hours to set up the exhibit; but at the end of the show, nine members were given less than four hours to take down and pack the entire layout for the trip back to York.

Ray Parent, GFMRRRC G-Gauge crew member, created one of the highlights of the exhibit. As Scott Gould explained, "Ray ran a 14-car model of the 1976 Freedom Train, complete with custom cars he had built himself. He also ran his scratch-built model of the Schnabel car, the longest rail car in the world, which is 343 feet when loaded. Ray's 32-axle version stretched 104", or 278' in 1:32 scale, with the capability of expansion to 311'. Together with three vendor flatcars, his American Freedom Train totaled 568" in length, or fully 1500 scale feet."

For the train show Dick Rubin had purchased a dozen Bangor & Aroostook red, white, and blue boxcars, a BAR caboose, and two BAR locomotives. He later donated the BAR locomotives, box cars, and caboose to the club. They are now on permanent display above the doors in the GFMRRRC meeting room along with a picture of those who helped build the exhibit, the "Best in Show" plaque, and the blue ribbon which the club won.



REVIEWING 2014 BEST IN SHOW

By Frances Lodge





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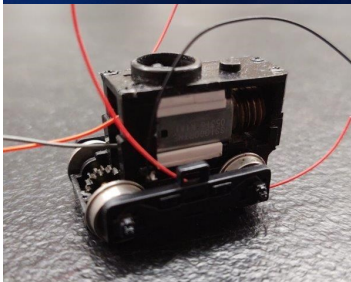
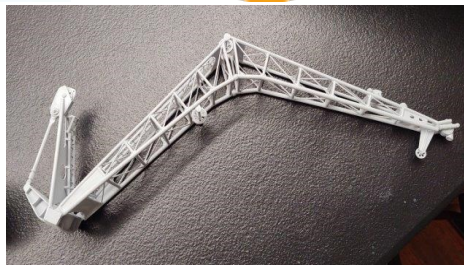
www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org

Upcoming Events



Recurrent Activities

Please check our web site on Facebook.



Pictures from Modeler's forum on page 4.



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.—8:00 p.m.

Every Sat. 9:00 to Noon

Modelers Forum

February 25, 7:00 p.m.