

Member since June 1988

NEXT MEETING
June 17, 2021
6:45 p.m.

**Have a story
you want to
share?**

**Send it to the
Editor
(gfrsignal@greatfallsmodelrrclub.org) 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 MUST BE PRESENT TO
WIN**

DONATIONS

Bottles for Basics:

- ♦ March— \$33.00
- ♦ April—\$55.00
- ♦ May—\$11.00

**When you send an article
with pictures, please do
not embed them into the
article—send them as a
separate file.**

THE SIGNAL



THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

VOLUME 25. ISSUE 6

JUNE 2021

MONTHLY MEETING JUNE 17

Thank you to everyone who attended the May meeting! It was nice to see you all. We look forward to seeing more at the June meeting, coming up very soon!

Not a lot of news in this issue. If you would like to share an article about what you are doing at the club, or on your home layout, please submit it to our new email address: gfrsignal@greatfallsmodelrrclub.com.

Check out our website, too: <http://greatfallsmodelrrclub.org>! Many changes and improvements.

There's a new page for the [library](#) so you can easily check if we have that book you need for your current research or modeling project.

[Josh Stevens](#) is uploading our Train Time videos to YouTube so you can view them on line. Just go to the [Train Time Video List](#)

[page](#). If the video has been uploaded, just click on the title and it will open in a new browser tab for you!

Proposed new 'Signal' features: we'd like to include two new elements in the Signal.

- 1) Your Workbench—submit a photo or two of your bench with a paragraph or so about your current project, or modeling; and
- 2) Along the Line—photos of your layout. Could be overviews, or up close. Could be awesome, or maybe not so much...

These topics won't go far without participation, though. We would also put Workbench and Along the Line submissions onto the website on pages dedicated to those topics.

ELECTED OFFICERS

At the Great Falls Model Railroad Club's annual meeting on May 20, members of the club elected these officers for the 2021 through 2022 year:

President: Mike Meserve

Vice President: Jamie Robinson

Secretary: Tami Paine

Treasurer: Owen Buck

Librarian/Archivist:.. George Pitchard

Directors:

Darin Long
Eric Long
Rick James

May 20 Meeting Minutes

Paul Lodge—Secretary

MEETING MINUTES OF May 20, 2021

Before the meeting began, a video was shown of Pan Am Railways shot by Josh Stevens, featuring the train running from Livermore Falls west through Leeds. Josh has developed a good following by uploading his videos on YouTube.

President Mike Meserve opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Because it has been more than a year since our last meeting, no minutes of the previous meeting were read.

Paul Lodge read the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting from May 13.

Owen Buck gave the Treasurer's Report. He noted that since we have not been active in fundraising because of the COVID-19 pandemic, our funds have been declining. It was observed that we were very fortunate that Jerry Johnston had made a major effort in getting the mortgage paid before the pandemic hit. Members who were present gave a round of applause for his accomplishment. Owen remarked that we still need to renew our efforts to have train shows and other fund-raising activities as soon as possible. The club still has approximately \$8,500 in fixed expenses each year. These include insurance, property taxes, heating fuel, and electricity. Club members were thanked for the contributions that have been made as a result of a plea for help in covering these expenses. Jamie Robinson noted that a good amount of money has been received from donations for the Utility Team promotion for electrical power and water and sewerage bills. Owen's Treasurer's Report was approved as given.

Bob Willard reported that the Modelers Forum has continued to meet on the fourth Thursday of each month and invited members to join for the next meeting on May 27.

Jamie Robinson reported that the HO operating session went well. It was the first one in a long time. There has been new construction, new track work has been completed, and some wiring has been replaced. He noted that we are coming out of the COVID-19 clamp-down and will begin to have regular operating sessions on the HO layout on the first Saturday of each month and on the Saturday after the club's regular monthly meeting.

George Pitchard said that the club has received another donation of an O-Scale 1939 Christmas train set and it runs well. It was on the layout for members to watch after the meeting.

As librarian, George Pitchard is making an attempt to enter all the club's library books into the computer so that the list can be available on the website and for use by local libraries and the Maine State Library. George is interested in culling out some of the books that are not relevant to the eastern part of the United States. It is possible that the club could raise as much as \$2,000 by selling some of the irrelevant books. A motion was made and passed to let George build the library around books related to the Northeast and those lines which were prominent in this area. It was noted that we are not a lending library. Non-members can use the library but cannot take selections out of the building. They can join the club and be allowed to borrow books. George volunteered to go to the Auburn and Lewiston libraries to inform them about what is available at our club.

Eric Long reported for the N-Scale Division. Eric and his son Adam have been examining the N-Scale locomotives and rolling stock. They are putting new couplers on appropriate cars and getting ready to sell others that are not candidates for the layout. They have been fixing turnouts and increasing the wiring to accommodate DCC locomotives.

May 20 Meeting Minutes

John Middleton's G-gauge layout is at the club and available for the Seashore Trolley Museum when they request it.

The next order of business was the election of officers for 2021 and 2022. The Nominating Committee presented the slate of officers who have all agreed to accept the positions. Members were asked if there were any additional nominations from the floor. There were no additional nominees. A motion was made that the Secretary cast one ballot for the nominees. The new officers for the next year are: President, Mike Meserve; Vice President, Jamie Robinson; Secretary, Tami Paine; Treasurer, Owen Buck; Librarian/Archivist, George Pitchard; and Directors, Rick James, Darin Long, and Eric Long.

A motion was made and accepted to give a life membership to Paul and Frances Lodge. Paul thanked the membership for their thoughtful appreciation.

Steve Doughty made a presentation of a book about the history of Maine railroads and the people who made the railroads work.

President Meserve reported that as part of our fund-raising for this year, it has been decided to have the ExTRAINaganza on the weekends before and after Thanksgiving. He noted that one additional day has been added to help with our fund-raising effort. The event will be on Saturday, November 20; Sunday, November 21; and then after Thanksgiving on Friday, November 26; Saturday, November 27; and Sunday, November 28. Sunday, November 28, is the additional day.

Josh Stevens asked for permission to add the club's *Train Time* shows to YouTube. Permission was granted. The show will also be linked to the club's website.

Jamie Robinson had received a request from a group in Livermore Falls about having a model railroad display. We have the

layouts available and can bring Operation Life-saver materials as well as our games. They plan to be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on a Saturday which has not yet been determined. Jamie reported that he has also received two other similar offers. People are reaching us through our website.

Jamie proposed setting up some generic email addresses for certain positions at the RR club, such as prez@greatfallsmodellrrclub.org or vp@greatfallsmodellrrclub.org. That way, when office holders change, they would simply provide their password to the new office holder who would then take over the email account, change the password, and use the account themselves. In this way, we could place email links on the web page without exposing an individual's email address.

President Meserve wanted to clarify that our club is open to members all the time. The HO and G-Gauge Divisions have been meeting at the club for work sessions and socializing. The G-Gauge members have been working on their layout and they say it is ready to use anytime it is needed.

In addition to being able to collect money directly for our sales, we now have a Pay Pal account available. We can accept cash, checks, credit cards, and Pay Pal.

President Meserve asked club members to send any pictures they have of the club's history. Pictures that were taken during the time the building was under renovation would be interesting as part of the club's history and can be used on our website.

Steve Doughty was the door prize winner. Several excellent books were available as prizes.

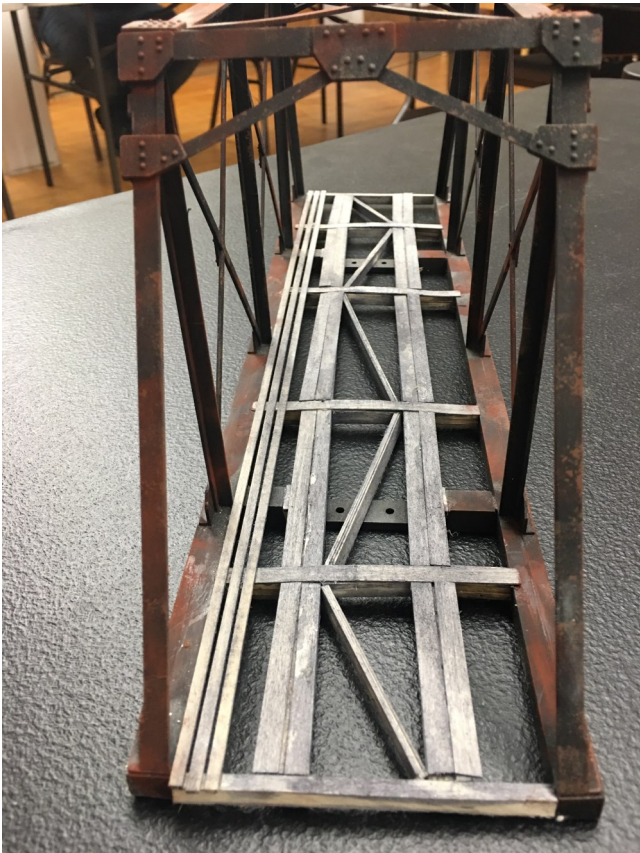
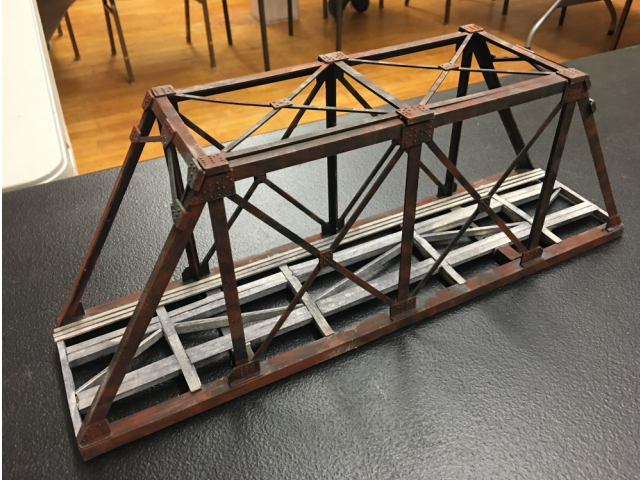
The meeting adjourned.

MODELERS FORUM

By Jamie Robinson

The Modeler's Forum met on Thursday, May 27 with 7 interested parties in attendance.

Bob Willard kicked off with an update on the On30 layout he is rebuilding at home, then whipped out a small Plasticville through-truss bridge he had built up to span a small creek.

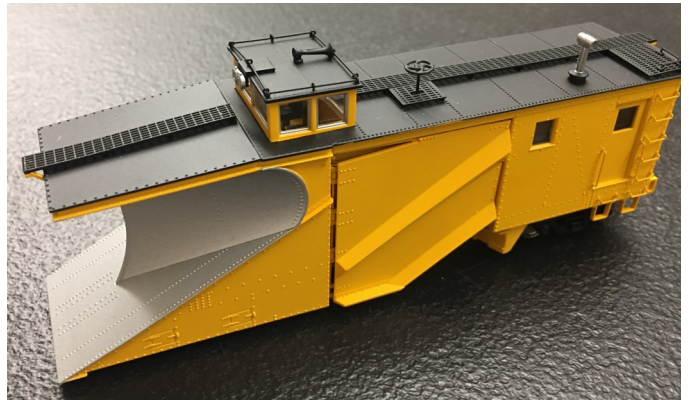


The bridge was sprayed flat black, then weathered. A scratchbuilt deck was added to hold the track. Nobody would suspect that this bridge began as a snap-together kit!

Bob followed that act by reaching into his top hat once again, and pulling out a pair of scratchbuilt piers to support the bridge! These were washed with an India Ink/alcohol mix, and then weathered with Pan Pastels.



Dick Holman then stepped to the plate with an HO Walther's Russell single-track snowplow that he had worked on. It began as all yellow, and he really made it pop by painting the plow silver and the roof black. A home run, for sure!



MODELERS FORUM

Not content to rest on his laurels, Dick also brought a tray of vintage HO freight cars that he had repaired and refreshed.



Many of us use make-up brushes in our model work, and Dick gave us a tip for getting a second life out of them. Once you are done using it for paint, clip off the brush tip, and you have a very fine, fairly stiff plastic handle for burnishing decals or dry transfers with! Very handy!

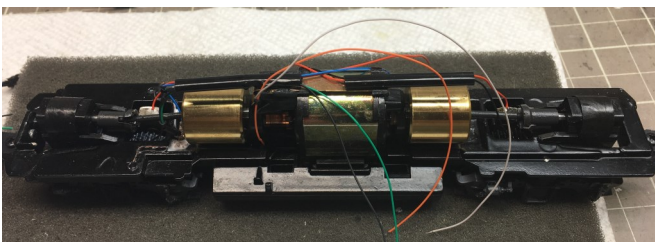
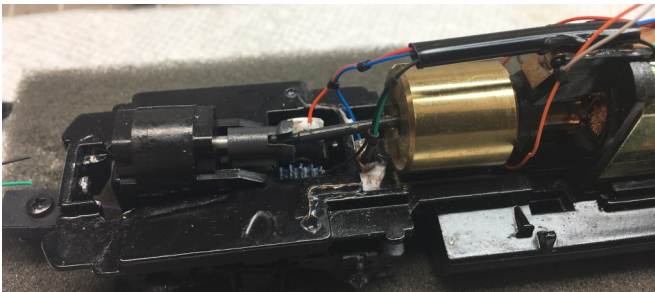
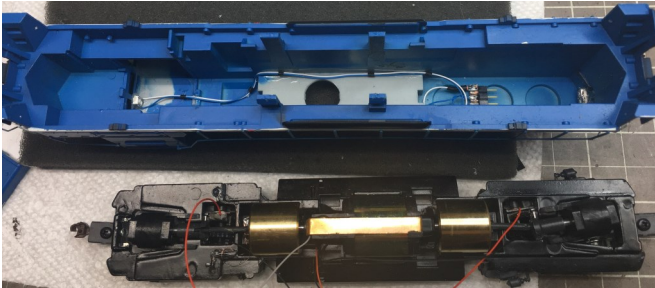


Carmen Anastase has been working on creating HO scale ductile iron pipe for a while and showed his latest efforts. He has explored several different methods to come up with a method that is realistic and reasonably easy to do. This latest iteration has a bell (the enlarged area at one end) made of styrene. He made a couple of different test lengths.



MODELERS FORUM

Jamie Robinson brought a DCC conversion of an HO scale Athearn "Blue Box" GP40-2. This was a straight DC locomotive, not "DCC ready", and was converted to DCC with the addition of an ESU LokPilot 5 DCC decoder. This is not a sound decoder, so no speaker installation was necessary. Also added was a [super-capacitor "Keep-alive" unit](#), LED lighting for the headlights, and LED ground lights over each side of the lead locomotive truck. All lights are controllable via DCC functions. Cocktail straws were used to protect the wire runs over the top of the flywheels.



The Modeler's Forum group then adjourned to the HO scale layout where Mike Meserve showed the loading dock he had scratchbuilt in place at Cave Junction. It all started like this..



And wound up like this!



AROUND THE O GAUGE LAYOUT



A late 1930's vintage Lionel train looks pretty good cruising around the layout!



THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

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Address Change

If your mailing or e-mail address changes please notify us at:
gfrsignal@greatfallsmodelrrclub.org.

www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org

Upcoming Events



Recurrent Activities

[Please check our web site on Facebook.](#)



Summer is here.
Time to get your
Great Falls
Tee-shirts.

Pick them up at
the meeting or call
Paul Lodge to ar-
range pick-up.



Operating Sessions

Saturday, June 19 at 8:30 a.m.
Saturday, July 3 at 8:30 a.m.

Regular Monthly Meeting

Thursday, June 17 at 6:45 p.m.

Spikey's Station

NONE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Work Session

Every Wed. night—6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Every Saturday 9:00 a.m. to Noon
(unless there's an Operating Session)

Modelers Forum

Thursday, June 24 at 7:00 p.m.

Executive Committee

Thursday, June 10 at 6:30 p.m.