



Member since June 1988

NEXT MEETING

June 16, 2022

6:45 p.m.

*Please bring a
friend to our next
meeting!*

When you send an article
with pictures, please do not
embed them into the arti-
cle—send them as a sepa-
rate file.

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!

Bottles for Basics:

- ♦ March—\$40
- ♦ April—\$54.50
- ♦ May—\$0

**We are no longer
collecting used ink
cartridges or toner
packs.**

THE SIGNAL

THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB



VOLUME 26 ISSUE 5

May 2022

MONTHLY MEETING JUNE 16

Warm weather and nice long days are here. Enjoy while you can, but try not to neglect your modeling. Modeler's Forum always welcomes new faces on the fourth Thursday of each month at 7 p.m.

We still have a significantly negative cash flow due in part to the high cost of oil. You can help—please pay your dues!

The May meeting is history. Elected officials shifted around a little bit.

For the June meeting:

- Concord, NH train show Sunday, August 14
- Balloon Festival—August 20—21
- Oxford Fair—Sept. 14—17

MAY 19 MEETING MINUTES

Paul Lodge — Secretary

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

Topics covered in last month's meeting were reviewed and a motion was made and accepted to approve the minutes as reviewed.

Owen Buck gave the Treasurer's Report which was approved as given. He noted that we earned a little more than \$600 on the Westbrook show. Thanks were given to those who paid for table rentals so that all the money collected could go to the club. It was observed that club flyers were not taken to the show. A suggestion was made that a list of items should be developed as a reminder of things helpful and necessary.

Rick James reported that Josh Stephens has uploaded many of the slides from our collection, but had to stop because he reached the free limit total. After a fee is paid, additional slides will be uploaded. Jamie Robinson noted that he plans to pay the fee, but needs the club's credit card to pay for it, and will then reimburse the club. [Note: this has been done].

The large collection of books donated by Don Damour is still in the process of being catalogued and entered into our computer by Jamie Robinson. It is his objective to have all the books catalogued by the next meeting. Once all the books have been entered into our computer, decisions will need to be made about which books to keep and which to sell.

MAY 19 MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

It was suggested that an auction could be set up so that club members could have first choice on the duplicate books and those which do not fit into our geographic location interest. It was observed that books lose value if a library insert is added to the books. Therefore, if there are any duplicate books, we should retain the one we already have in our library and sell or donate the duplicate. Larry Cannon has suggested that any books we cannot sell could be donated to the NMRA library.

Bob Willard reported that the Modelers Forum will meet on the fourth Thursday as usual. Members were encouraged to bring projects on which they are currently working to share with others.

The HO Division reported that a major upgrade on the main line is being undertaken, but trains can still be run for operating sessions. The N-scale layout is operational. Training is necessary so that club members can turn the system on and run trains to show visitors.

It was reported that a group of Amherst club members visited our club and participated in an operating session. They had a good time and were impressed with our facility, especially the library.

It was noted that we are running out of storage areas for some necessary items. It was suggested that we eliminate some of the HO modules in our storage room in order to make room to store other club items. Since we now have our club's permanent layouts, we do not need to be a modular club. It was noted that they were popular at the Oxford County Fair last year, but we still have alternatives with small layouts as displays.

John Middleton's G-gauge switching layout needs to be available for the Seashore Trolley Museum in Kennebunk once a year. It is currently being housed in our meeting room and rental portion of our building. Jamie Robinson said that he has a contact person at the museum and perhaps they can make arrangement to have it permanently housed in the new building they are constructing for a layout which was donated to them.

We have traditionally participated in the Concord Train show in New Hampshire. This year it will be held on Sunday, August 14. Larry Cannon and others have usually attended the show and sold club's surplus assets. Normally the Concord Show is on the same weekend as the Lewiston/Auburn Balloon Festival. This year, however, the Balloon Festival is August 19 through 21, so we should be able to have members available to help out at the Concord show. Tables for the Concord Show are \$40 each and we usually rent three tables.

Carl Butland has moved to Buffalo and is not available to mow the lawn. It is believed that he took off the plow and attached the mower to the tractor before he left. Adam Long volunteered to do the mowing this year.

The next order of business was the election of officers for the next year. The following were elected by the members:

President: Mike Meserve

Vice-President: Eric Long

Secretary: Paul Lodge

Treasurer: Owen Buck

Librarian/Archivist: Rick James

Directors: Guy Lovell, Daren Long, Jamie Robinson

To finish the meeting the Attendance Prize was drawn. Adam Long was the winner and he selected one of the hats. Jamie Robinson won the 50/50 raffle and donated his portion to the club.

The meeting adjourned.

DONATIONS

There are still lots of opportunities to step up and and join our Utility Team by sponsoring a month of Water (\$30) and/or Power (\$150) fees. Dues only cover a small portion of our fixed costs and this program helps fill some of the remaining gaps.

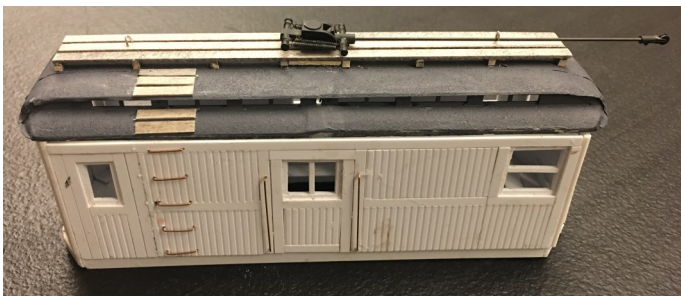
We have received several donations of equipment on HO and O scales from local folks.

MODELER'S FORUM April 28 by Jamie Robinson

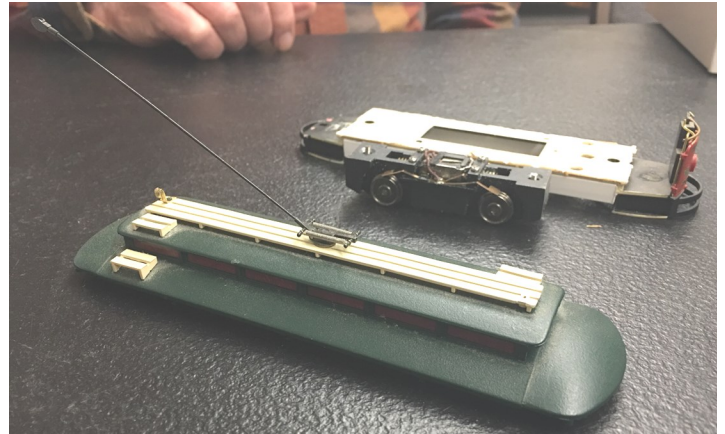
More and larger photos, as well as the May Modeler's Forum notes are available on our website: <https://www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org/modelers-forum/>

The modeler's forum gathered at the Great Falls Model Railroad Club at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 28, 2022. In attendance were Bob Willard, Roger Plummer, Paul Lodge, Dick Holman, Rick James, John McMullen, and Jamie Robinson.

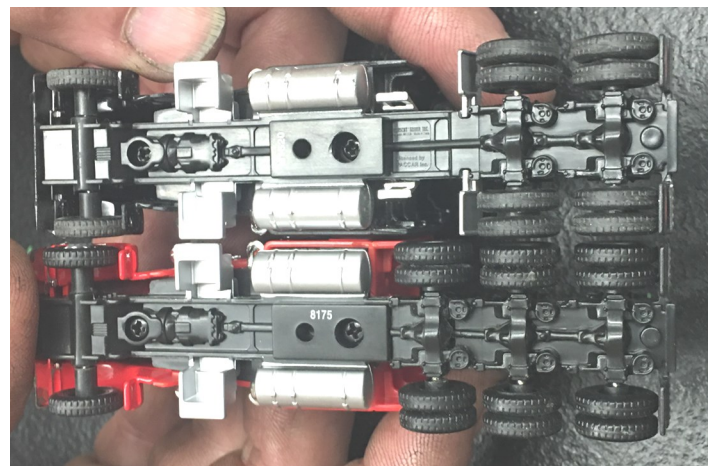
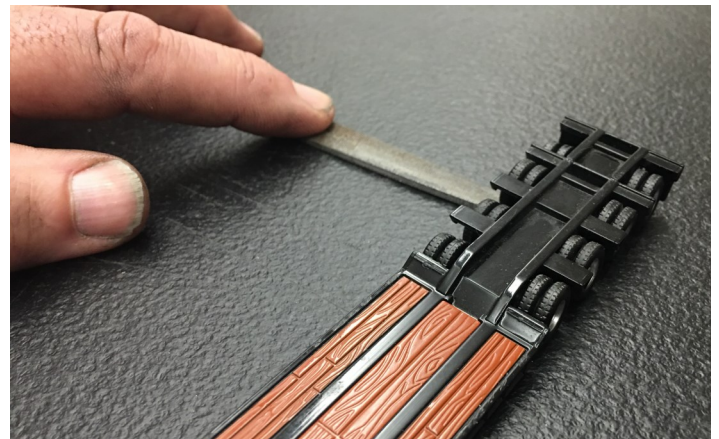
Bob kicked off the program with an On30 Box Motor with a body that he had scratchbuilt from styrene. The body was made to fit onto an HO scale switcher chassis. Bob used several layers of styrene to get the proper look for the window and doors.



He followed that with an On30 open trolley that was built to operate on a Bachmann HO trolley mechanism. Bob had cut down a "Christmas Trolley" and scratchbuilt a frame for it.



Roger Plummer was next in the line-up with some highly modified Norscot model truck tractors and trailers. Roger has added extra axles to some of the tractors and trailers, as well as making the axles fully equalized so that the model's wheels will all sit on the ground in a scene. This sort of work increases realism tremendously, even though adding axles requires the sacrifice of an additional truck tractor or trailer for the project. BTW – if you have any extra Norscot trucks, Roger is always looking for donor vehicles...



MODELER'S FORUM (cont.)

Roger went on to display some of the slot cars he uses. Roger races at several local tracks including Minot Mountain Speedway in Minot



and Fast Laps Raceway in Biddeford.

Paul Lodge brought his dead tree collection. The trees are scavenged ragweed roots that have been dried out. When suitably pruned, they make splendid dead trees. Paul also has initiated a raffle of \$25 gift cars to Governor's Restaurant. For a measly \$5, you could win a \$25 gift card! When 10 tickets are sold, the winner of the card will be drawn. From the \$50 collected, \$25 goes to the club, and \$25 pays for the card. Win-Win!



John McMullen showed two buildings he has been working on. One is a school, complete with a playground and school bus, the other is a firehouse and accompanying fire engine. John made some modifications to the firehouse by bricking up a window in the building and a couple in the hose tower.



Jamie brought in a reference to a comprehensive on-line magazine index about railroading, real and model. If you are looking for research material, try heading to over to <https://rrmagazineindex.org/>. This index will identify magazines where the information you are searching for can be found. Please note that it will only identify the magazine title, year and month of publication, it does not include the information itself because of copyrights. A quick search for "44 tonner" as an example yielded 1,469 results in 30 magazines. Once you have located the magazine(s) you want, we may well have them in our library, or have

MODELER'S FORUM

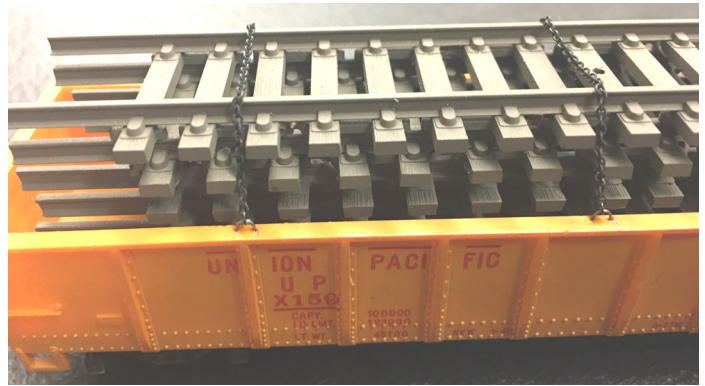
(cont.)

access to the specified article online (if it is a Kalmbach publication).

Jamie also brought in a sample set of spudgers. If you have ever tried to pry the cover off a watch or mobile phone, the tool you are looking for is called a spudger. Spudgers are designed to pry covers off and are far safer than using a jeweler's screwdriver or steak knife... The set Jamie brought came in a handy carrying case, included several pairs of tweezers and cost less than \$15.



Dick Holman presented a couple of gondolas he had worked up to carry panel track. The panels were made from scrap flex track sprayed with rail brown. Dick fitted the gondola sides with u-bolts to hold tie-down chains. The u-bolts are from Cal Scale, while the fine chain is A-Line (27 links per inch). Dick also showed a pair of tweezers he uses to handle those pesky u-bolts. The tweezer tips are lightly coated with Goo, then allowed to dry. Once dry, they hold right onto the u-bolts. Presto! No more u-bolts launched into the stratosphere.



The next Modeler's Forum will be June 23 and we hope to see you there. Notes from the May 26 Modeler's Forum are on our website here:

<https://www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org/modelers-forum/>

NEW FUNDRAISING STRATEGY APPROVED

by Paul Lodge

At the April 21 monthly meeting of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club, Paul Lodge presented a fundraising idea based on Dick Clark's new connection with Governor's Restaurant in Lewiston. Dick Clark has agreed to help keep the restaurant's G-gauge train set operational by fixing and cleaning trains and track as needed. (For more details, see the article elsewhere in this newsletter.) Carlene Barnies, the restaurant manager, offered to pay Dick with gift certificates for meals at Governor's. As a result, Dick has more gift certificates than he can use. Paul Lodge suggested buying the certificates from Dick to use as a fundraising raffle to benefit the club.

Club members approved the idea at the April monthly club meeting. Each raffle will be a limited raffle, with ten tickets sold at \$5 apiece, making a total of \$50: Twenty-five dollars covers the cost of the gift certificate and the additional \$25 will go to the club. Winners of the gift certificates can enjoy a great meal and support the club at the same time.

GOVERNOR'S RESTAURANT AND DICK CLARK CONNECTION

by Paul Lodge

Governor's Restaurant in Lewiston has been a supporter of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club for several years. They have regularly given out GFMRRC flyers and free passes to their patrons for our special events and open houses and have donated dozens of cookies for our events. For more than five years Paul Lodge and other members of the club took Brio sets and small interactive model railroad layouts to the restaurant on their Family Nights, the first Thursday of each month. These activities were suspended during the COVID epidemic.

Governor's Restaurant is noted for their G-gauge railroad running on tracks near the ceiling. While Paul and Frances Lodge were having a meal there in March, four different employees asked if the Great Falls Model Railroad Club could fix their G-gauge train and clean the track. They suspected that some track needed to be replaced and the locomotive and cars needed to be lubricated. Paul contacted Dick Clark and asked if he would be willing to examine the situation. The locomotive and three boxcars were taken to Dick's house where he changed the plastic wheels to metal ones. In order to do that, Dick took the metal trucks from three of his own boxcars.

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Paul set up an appointment with Dick Clark and Carlene Barnies, manager of the Lewiston Governor's Restaurant, so Dick could evaluate other problems. While at the restaurant, Dick examined the track and noticed that some of the rail joiners were not making a good connection. He installed better connectors along one wall until he ran out of connectors. The train ran better on that portion of the loop, which made a noticeable difference. Dick said he would come back to the restaurant after he purchased more supplies.

Manager Barnies asked Dick if he would be willing to help keep the train in good operating condition, and Dick agreed to be the contact person for that.



BUCKFIELD HIGH SCHOOL VISITOR

by Paul Lodge

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club recently had two afternoon guests from Buckfield High School, RSU 10. William, a special education student, had visited the club before and loved it. Since he is encouraged to expand his horizons, he persuaded one of his teachers to plan a field trip for them to the Great Falls Model Railroad Club. After the teacher had made arrangements with Jamie Robinson to visit the club, Jamie recruited other club members to help run the layouts. Two of our members, Austin Campbell and John Patton, came from Conway, New Hampshire, to run the club's large HO layout. Paul Lodge operated the G-gauge layout and served as tour guide with William's help. William took great pleasure in showing his teacher the club house and all its features, including the Company Store and the library; but he was still most interested in the layouts.



ALONG THE LINE



On spot at Wilder

SOUTHERN MAINE MODEL RAILROAD CLUB TRAIN SHOW

by Jamie Robinson

A small group of Great Falls members attended the Southern Maine Model Railroad Club's train show in Westbrook on May 14. Our club had reserved seven tables for the event. The \$175 cost of these tables was underwritten by seven of the members, and all transportation was done with private vehicles, so the net cost to the club was zero. Sales were fair, with the club netting a total of \$698. Having the tables sponsored and not renting a vehicle made a big difference here; had that not been the case, the rewards would have been rather sparse.



AMHERST BELT LINES VISITS GREAT FALLS

by Jamie Robinson

On Friday, May 13, our club hosted a visit from the Amherst Railway Society's Amherst Belt Lines folks. The Belt gang was up for the Southern Maine Model Railroad Club's Westbrook show and we were only a short hop away.

They were given the grand tour and we hosted a special HO operating session for them. From all accounts, it was a great success, and well worth the sacrifice of a few hours sleep...

Photos courtesy Mike Meserve and Steve Belforti.

THE SIGNAL



How did Matt Minson get in there?



Roger Plummer and Wayne Allen check out Lewiston Lower



The G scale is always an attention-getter



Clark Huber and assistant checking out the bridge

READY FOR READING

Every month, Rick lays out the latest magazines to make them readily available to members.



Rick George shows off the N Scale layout



THE GREAT FALLS MODEL
RAILROAD CLUB

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[https://
www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org/](https://www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org/)

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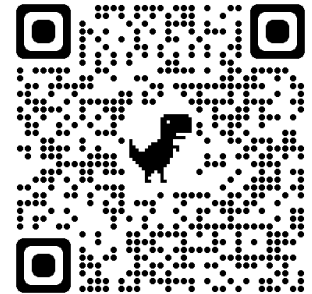
THE SIGNAL

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



Upcoming Events

8/14 Concord (NH) Train Show
8/20-21 Balloon Festival
9/14-17 Oxford County Fair



Grab your Great Falls gear at the Company Store, and join the Blu Cru!



[Please check us out on Facebook.](#)

Recurrent Activities

[HO Operating Sessions](#)

Saturday, June 18
Saturday, July 23

[Regular Monthly Meeting](#)

Thursday, June 16 at 6:45 p.m.
Thursday, July 21 at 6:45 p.m.

[Spikey's Station](#)

NONE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

[Work Session](#)

Every Wednesday 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 23 at 7:00 p.m.

[Executive Committee](#)

Except for extraordinary events, Executive Committee meetings will be combined with the normal member meeting.