



Member since June 1988

NEXT MEETING

July 21, 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 article—send them as a separate 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:

- ♦ April—\$54.50
- ♦ May—\$0
- ♦ June—\$34.15

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

THE SIGNAL

THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB



VOLUME 26 ISSUE 6

June 2022

MONTHLY MEETING JULY 21

We all hope you have a safe and happy Fourth of July as we celebrate the birthday of this great nation!

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

For the July meeting:

- Possible book sale—list to be emailed separately later
- Concord, NH train show Sunday, August 14
- Balloon Festival—August 20—21
- Oxford Fair—Sept. 14—17

JUNE 16 MEETING MINUTES

Paul Lodge — Secretary

President Mike Meserve opened the meeting of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Secretary's Report was approved as published in the newsletter.

The Treasurer's Report was approved as printed and distributed through email. It was noted that the cost of sodas and snacks was not listed so we don't know if they are costing the club money. The current snacks have been donated so they do not show up on the Treasurer's Report.

Jamie Robinson reported that all the books donated by Don Damour have been logged into the computer. There was some discussion as to what to do with the 344 books that duplicate ones we already have. It is felt that club members should have the first opportunity to purchase the duplicates. Selling or donating the remainder will then need to be determined.

Reporting on layouts, it was noted that the HO layout is having some track relocated in the warehouse district. None of the other layouts have had any work done since the last meeting.

The Lewiston/Auburn Balloon Festival will be held on Saturday and Sunday, August 20 and 21. It is expected that the club will be open to the public from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. on those days.

JUNE 16 MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club has been invited again this year to participate in the Oxford County Fair. The fair will run from September 14 through September 17. All the arrangements for the club will be the same as last year.

Arrangements are being made to have a fall show at Mt. Ararat High School in Topsham in November.

Before the COVID-19 epidemic, Eric Long had invited the club to his house for the summer picnic. Members will check with Eric to see if that offer still holds. It was suggested that Nancy Weeks be asked if she can serve the food from her special truck.

Jamie Robinson provided the evening's entertainment with stills and video of some layouts he recently visited. One was the Elkhart Model Railroad Club and another was the National New York Central Railroad Museum in Elkhart, IN. He also showed pictures of the Duneland Model Railroad Club in Michigan City, IN. [You can view the presentation [here](#)]

At the conclusion of the meeting, Paul Lodge won the Attendance Prize and selected a club bumper sticker as his prize. Chuck Brown won the 50/50 Raffle.

DONATIONS

There are still lots of opportunities to step up 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.

ALONG THE LINE



Just another day in Lewiston. Nothing to see here...

TOOT N' CHUG UPDATE by Dick Clark

This picture is showing where 2 switches were made and installed in Blue Berry Hill location about 20 some odd years ago.



All that was left of these switches is:



Can they be rebuilt and placed back in service? Remember that a spur runs from Mud Slide Pond up the grade to the main line which is the line making connection right here in front.

Well, this area has been rebuilt connecting the main line onto Mudslide Pond and will also connect to Blue Berry Hill, so those switches have to be rebuilt.



4 days later and viola! Ready to be put back into service.



TOOT N' CHUG UPDATE (cont.)

Know the main lines are independent of the line from Mudslide Pond and Blue Berry Hill village with a stop midway through the line servicing three towns

As a reminder—we'll have an open house September 10th. All are welcome to come and enjoy.

Feel free to call, to make sure I'm home, if you are in the area anytime.



ALONG THE LINE



Late evening RDC idles at Reed Point

AN ALASKAN NARROW GAUGE TO NOWHERE

by Owen Buck

Gold was discovered at Nome in September 1898, and by the spring of 1899 the rush was on. Thousands flocked to the area hoping to make their fortunes, and Nome became a frontier boomtown. Corruption was common, and claim-jumping murders were frequent. Most of the gold was mixed in with sediments in rivers and streams (placer deposits) and could be recovered by panning or by large scale dredging and sorting equipment. Gold could even be picked up right on the Nome beach. Moving heavy equipment was problematic, because when the tundra wasn't icy it was wet, soft and spongy. This looked like a job for a railroad. The Council City and Solomon River Railroad (CC&SRR) was established, and 9 miles of track were laid in the summer of 1903.

Meanwhile in New York City, the Manhattan Railway was converting its elevated urban railways from steam to electric, and was selling off its fleet of Forney 0-4-4T locomotives. Three of these were purchased by CC&SRR and shipped to Alaska, and rolling stock (17 flatcars and 2 passenger cars) was acquired. The line began at a harbor town established near the mouth of the Solomon River (complete with 5 saloons), ran past several mining camps, with plans to extend on into the interior gold fields and distribution hubs.

But the railroad was destined to be short-lived. The gold quickly ran out. New construction was halted in 1906; bankruptcy soon followed and the CC&SRR was abandoned. Due to the distances involved, it was not economical to haul the locomotives out for scrap, and so they were left in the tundra to rust. It is now an Alaska Historic Site.

AN ALASKAN NARROW GAUGE TO NOWHERE Cont.



ALONG THE LINE



HOn30



Amtrak Extra on the Woodsville Trestle

MODELER'S FORUM May 26 by Jamie Robinson

More and larger photos are available on our website: <https://www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org/modelers-forum/>

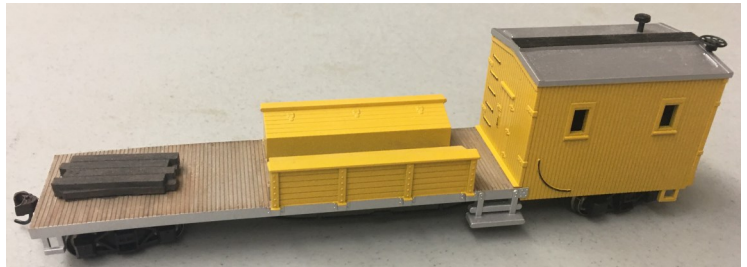
Modeler's Forum kicked off at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 26, with five of the usual suspects in attendance: Bob Willard, Paul Lodge, Dick Holman, John McMullen and Jamie Robinson.

Bob Willard opened with the continuing story of his open trolley. This project began as a Bachmann On30 Christmas Trolley, but utilizes only the mechanism, roof and floor. Bob is building a completely new interior and showed how he sliced up the seats that came with the model to make frames for new open slat wooden seats. For an open car, the wooden seats will be perfect!



Dick Holman was next and showed a crane tender (boom car) that he had repainted. Dick painted the car yellow, which required masking off all parts that were not going to be yellow, a substantial task!

Dick used a black permanent marker to highlight the grab irons on the car. This certainly made them stand out, and made it much less apparent that they are cast in place.



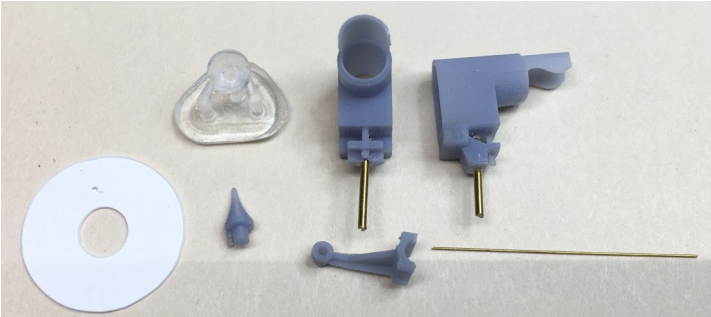
Dick also brought a Kibri HO wheel loader that he had made some repairs to. This is a very large HO model. Dick had to replace a broken headlight and create a radiator grill. Dick used a spare HO auto-rack end door for the grill, cutting it to the proper size and shape for a very convincing effect.



Jamie went next with some new O scale signals and relay cases. These models are cast in resin from 3d printed masters. Every railroad has relay cases at highway crossings (if the crossing is equipped with active warning devices). These are older-style cases, representing models from General Railway Signal (GRS) and Western Railroad Signal (WRRS). One of the cases is very small and could also be used as a phone box. The signals are GRS searchlight type. They could be used as-is for dwarf signals or mounted on a mast for lineside signals. Jamie purchased two signal heads with the intent of creating a B&M-style staggered-head distant signal (the signal preceding an interlocking signal).

MODELER'S FORUM

Cont.



None of the signals or relay cases come with tubing (usually used for a mast or to attach a weather-head for wire entry) but are reamed for a 3/32 tube. Jamie equipped the small box with a tube and noted that he had had to ream it again with a 3/32 reamer.



John McMullen was next. He started off with some intriguing thoughts about welcoming new members into the club, suggesting that perhaps a new-member day might be a consideration. This could serve to recognize new members and provide them with some history of our organization. A representative from each of the various "Special Interest" groups (G gauge, O Gauge, Modular, HO, N, etc) could give a brief background about their projects and help new members become more involved. Tours of local area layouts might also be a consideration.

John followed this worthy suggestion with a number of questions about rail size and type, track components and wiring for DCC vs. DC. The modelers present have quite a few years of experience and are always glad to help with any questions that folks might have.

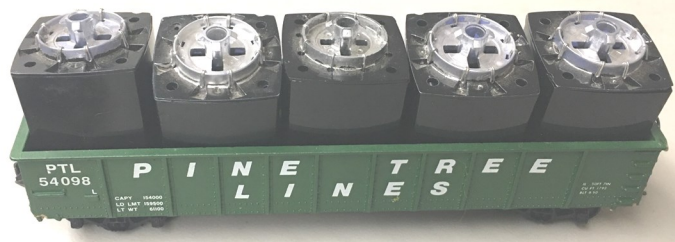
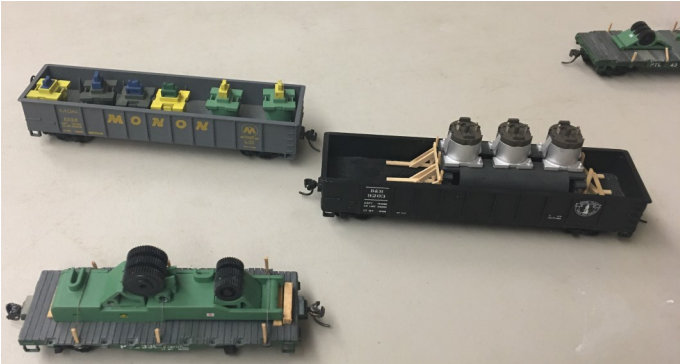


Paul Lodge wrapped up the evening with a demonstration of many diverse loads for freight cars, notably flatcars and gondolas. He has created a wide variety of loads using salvaged or scavenged materials that have been repurposed and repainted. Old printers and VHS tapes can surrender a lot of interesting parts, and it's amazing what a little glue, paint and imagination can accomplish. After all, how many times have we each seen an odd load and wondered what in the world it was...

MODELER'S FORUM

Cont.

Paul related that he liked to ask folks at shows what they thought the load was, and no matter what their response was, he would always exclaim "That's exactly right!"



Jamie noted that he had made a number of special loads equipped with magnets to hold them to the car (as long as the car has a steel weight...), so they could be easily removed when the car was unloaded. This was done following a suggestion at an earlier Modeler's Forum!

The next Modeler's Forum will be held on Thursday, July 28 and we hope to see you there!

Notes from the Modeler's Forum are on our website here:

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

Project Hades

by Jamie Robinson

Project Hades is really an overall concept that involves several separate but inter-related initiatives on the Great Falls HO layout, namely:

- Installing a second main line alongside the existing single track between Chase and the south entrance to the Warehouse District;
- Upgrading the southbound main line all the way to Riverton;
- Removing the north entrance to the Warehouse District;
- Reconfiguring the south entrance to the Warehouse District by moving the entrance switch and adding a switch lead adjacent to the northbound main line;
- Reconfiguring the south entrance to OBIM entirely;
- Relocating the backdrop at the south end of the Warehouse District to provide for conversion of the R&K staging yard to a multi-track reverse loop yard; and
- Reconstruction of the R&K staging yard.

As always, numerous volunteers were ready to dive into the demolition process. Reconstruction takes a bit longer...



Project Hades Cont.



Here's a glimpse of the future!



To be continued...



THE GREAT FALLS MODEL
RAILROAD CLUB
144 Mill Street
Auburn, ME 04210

<https://www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org/>
Facebook: [Great Falls Model Railroad Club](#)

An Educational Foundation

OFFICERS:

President:
Mike Meserve
prez@greatfallsmodelrrclub.org
Vice President:
Eric Long
vp@greatfallsmodelrrclub.org

Secretary:
Paul Lodge
paul lodge@gwi.net
Treasurer:
Owen Buck
treasurer@greatfallsmodelrrclub.org
Librarian/Archivist:
Rick James
librarian@greatfallsmodelrrclub.org
Directors:
Darin Long
Guy Lovell
Jamie Robinson
Webmaster:
Joe Marshall
braintriggers@gmail.com
Assistant Webmaster:
Jamie Robinson
gfrsignal@greatfallsmodelrrclub.org
Social Media Editor:
Tami Paine
secretary@greatfallsmodelrrclub.org
Storekeeper:
Eric Long
storekeeper@greatfallsmodelrrclub.org

THE SIGNAL

The *Signal* is published twelve times per year by The Great Falls Model Railroad Club.

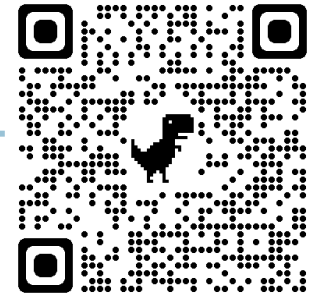
Copyright June 2022

Editor—Jamie Robinson
gfrsignal@greatfallsmodelrrclub.org

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 and 21—Balloon Festival
9/14 thru 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, July 23

August 20-21—the layout will operate for the Balloon Festival; no regular operating session

Regular Monthly Meeting

Thursday, July 21 at 6:45 p.m.
Thursday, August 18 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, July 28 at 7:00 p.m.

Executive Committee

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