



Member since June 1988

**NEXT MEETING**  
**Aug. 18, 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:**

- ♦ May—\$0
- ♦ June—\$34.15
- ♦ July—\$0

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

# THE SIGNAL

THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB



VOLUME 26 ISSUE 7

July 2022

## MONTHLY MEETING AUG. 18

We lament the untimely passing of Larry Cannon on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. He was a long-time club member, former officer and a very skilled modeler. Larry—your many talents will be missed; may all your switches be properly lined and your signals green from now on.

**At the end of June, we still had almost a \$2,000 deficit for the year. You can help—please pay your dues, and consider stepping up to sponsor a month of water or power!**

The Concord, NH train show is Sunday, August 14. We have three tables and need help for the show. If you can help, please let us know!

For the August meeting:

- **Balloon Festival set-up (Aug. 20-21)**
- **Oxford Fair—Sept. 14—17**
- **Fall Train Show Nov. 5**
- **Advancing the September meeting one week to September 8**

## JULY 21 MEETING MINUTES

Paul Lodge — Secretary

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

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

Treasurer Owen Buck was on a trip so President Mike Meserve gave the Treasurer's Report, which was approved as given. It was noted that donations for Larry Cannon have been made and the total will be reported later after all the contributions have been received.

Librarian Rick James reported that the large book donation has been sorted, and some of the books have been priced to sell to club members. A plan is being developed to have a computer available at the lower level so that members can look up titles and borrow books. Rick noted that Josh Stevens is continuing to add Train Time episodes and slides from our extensive collection to our club's website.

Rick James suggested that a new air conditioner be purchased for the meeting room.

## JULY 21 MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

Sunday, August 14, is the date for the train show in Concord, New Hampshire. Volunteers are still welcome to help out at the show.

We will hold an Open House during the Balloon Festival from 9 to 5 on Saturday, August 19, and Sunday, August 20. There will be food available for club volunteers. Family passes are traditionally given to the Auburn Public Library and Governor's Restaurant. Rick James said he would make the passes. Governor's Restaurant graciously donates cookies for these events.

We have been invited to participate in the Oxford County Fair again this year. We will be in the same building and at the same times. The fair dates are September 14 to 17.

On November 5, the first Saturday in November, the club will host the annual fall train show at Mt. Ararat High School in Topsham.

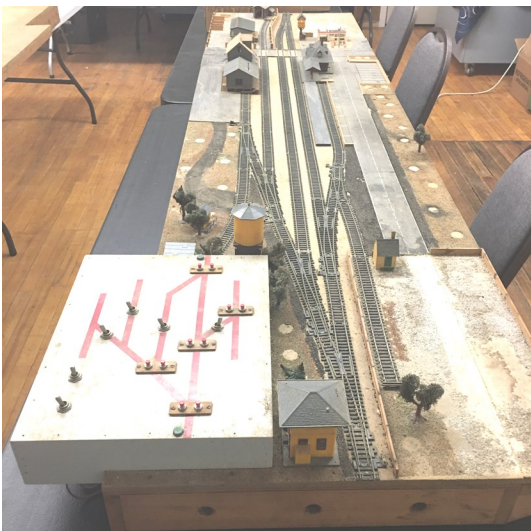
It was observed that no action has yet been taken on fixing the leak in the roof.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Attendance Prize was won by Art Letourneau, the 50/50 Raffle was won by Paul Lodge. The meeting then adjourned.

## 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.

We received a nice donation from Tom Stypinski of Harpswell. It included some portions of a layout, some buildings and some freight cars. Thank you, Tom!



THE SIGNAL





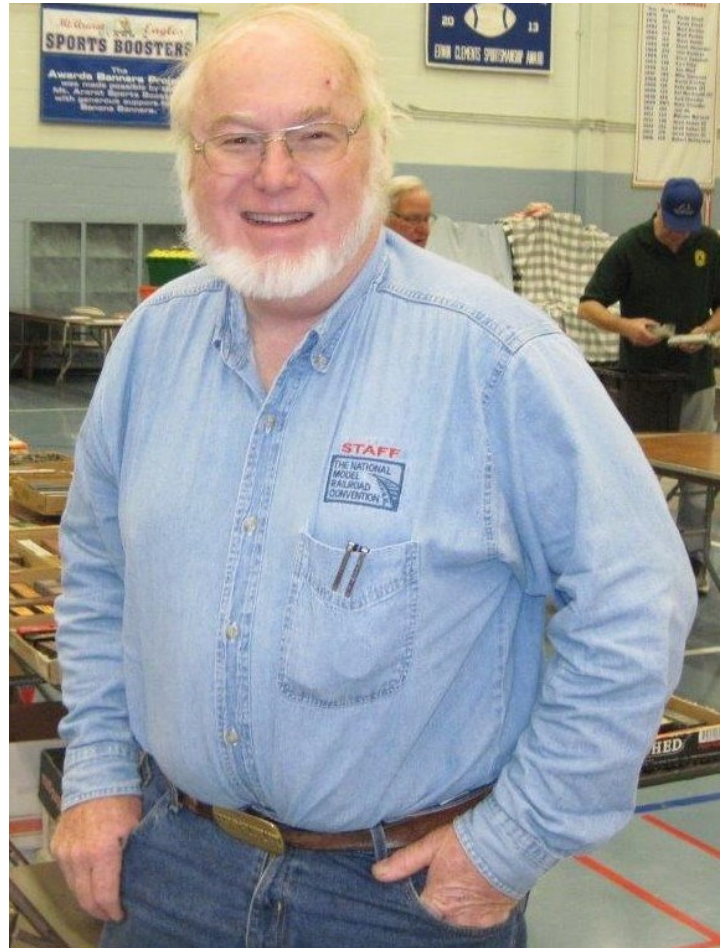
## LARRY S. CANNON MASTER MODEL RAILROADER 1947—2022

by Paul Lodge

Larry Cannon, 74, passed away on Saturday, July 2, 2022, as the result of a fall at his home in Lewiston. Larry was one of the founding members of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club in 1987. He was club president from 1994 to 1996 and from 2007 to 2009. As Past President, Larry joined the incoming President Stephen Martelli for the special ceremonies at the Dedication Celebration in September 2009 as we held our first Open House at Mill Street in New Auburn.

Larry and his wife, Ruth, moved from Vermont to North Auburn in 1983. They later renovated a newer house in Lewiston, becoming neighbors to Tom and Carmen Coulombe who lived on the same road. His personal layout always featured Vermont rail lines and locations. When Larry lived in North Auburn, he had an impressive garden railroad and an extensive HO layout in his barn. He often invited modelers to run the layout. Our adult education classes sometimes met at his house to build modules in the basement. Several of our Raffle Layouts were also built there. In Larry's own words, "We learned some valuable lessons building club corners in my barn in North Auburn, among which were: You can melt foam with a blow torch to create scenery, but you can't always get dependable results. Badminton rackets are the ultimate, but messy defense against June bugs." Larry's son Dan commented that he personally "preferred a tennis racket for swatting June bugs."

Larry became a Federal Bank Examiner for the FDIC in 1969 and was Controller at Bates College from 1985 until 1998. He continued to do consulting work for commercial banks during his retirement years. Larry used this experience and expertise to help the railroad club in many ways. He was instrumental in setting up a financial plan for the club that ultimately resulted in our owning the building we currently occupy on Mill Street in Auburn.



One of his most important contributions was helping to get the GFMRRRC approved as a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization so that donations to our club may be tax deductible. Larry and Terry King spent several months with paper work and trips to Augusta to obtain final approval. This designation has significantly helped the club obtain additional donations of cash and model railroad items.

With his mind for numbers and values of model railroad equipment, Larry provided valuable information in determining the prices on model railroad supplies for sale at train shows. At our train shows and those sponsored by many other clubs, you would find him negotiating with buyers to sell excess inventory items. In recent years, he also helped the club by acquiring layouts and determining their value. Taking an inventory of donated supplies is a major task, and separating useful donations from those that are no longer serviceable is time-consuming, but Larry did it well.

With Larry's inspiration and supervision, fundraising started with the first club cars, 40' Athearn boxcars, which members decaled and sold at train shows, to club members and to anyone interested. These still show up occasionally at train shows and in donations to the club. Another of our early fundraising efforts began when a Bates College faculty member gave Larry a 4'x8' HO layout on a sheet of 3/4" plywood. Larry and Frank Barron cleaned up the layout and bought a new Athearn locomotive. Club members sold raffle tickets on the layout. As Larry explained in an article about our early financial history, "That first raffle layout taught us that 4'x8' was too big to haul around and the plywood was too heavy. The present design evolved from the fact you could get three 4'x64" layouts from two sheets of homasote." Future raffle layouts were carried to various shows and became a major fundraising effort for over 20 years.

After meeting at Edward Little High School in Auburn for many years with no permanent layouts, the GFMRRRC was able to set aside enough money to rent a facility on Canal Street Alley in Lewiston. Larry and Ray Anderson designed and installed most of the electrical work for the HO layout. They also wrote the manual for the layout, including Excel spreadsheets of all the electrical layout control and lighting systems. At our present location on Mill Street, Larry and Tom Jones were heavily involved in planning and construction of the HO layout.

Many members enjoyed running the HO layout at Larry's home in Lewiston, which had 1,200 feet of track and 193 turnouts and covered about 75% of his basement. His railroad lines went from Whitefield, NH, to Rouses Point, NY, with various locations in between. Larry brought several structures from his layout to serve as demonstrations at our club meetings. Larry built with a purpose. If he needed a railroad-related facility, he researched by reading and by traveling to a location which had a facility similar to the one he wanted to model. He took pictures so that his model would be authentic.

Larry's sense of humor inspired many unique railroad cars, including a limo-style stretch caboose, a beer can tank car, and a giraffe's head poking through a modified dome car. A Pine Tree Lines caboose featured a picnic table platform. His Mosquito Dispersal unit, with which the State of Maine could spread mosquitoes throughout the state was so much fun to explain that one of the guards at the Maine State Museum asked us to stop confusing people who thought the concept was real.



As club members, we were particularly proud of Larry for his accomplishments at the national level of the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA). He achieved the distinction of being one of the few modelers to receive a Master Modeler Railroad Certificate from NMRA, becoming #284. The certificate required the completion of seven out of eleven specific projects, including writing and publishing an article in a major model railroad publication. By 1999 Larry had completed all eleven of the projects. At that time he was only the fifth person to have ever done all 11 achievements. He also encouraged GFMRRRC members to become Master Modelers by helping them achieve the first of the steps involved.

Larry was a truly outstanding model railroader, and we will all miss his varied contributions and ideas about improving the club.



## MEMORIES OF LARRY CANNON

by Carmen Coulombe



*Editor's Note: When Larry and Ruth Cannon moved to Lewiston, they lived on the same road as GFMRRC members Tom and Carmen Coulombe.*

Larry was not only a good friend to Tom but continued to be a good friend to me after Tom's passing. He spent countless hours helping to clean out the clutter in our large barn. He never forgot to bring me broccoli and other veggies from his garden, fire starters for my wood stove, and plastic bags for clean up during my walks with Versace. He always gave a friendly toot when he drove past me.

My son Jacob also has fond memories of Larry. He says Larry always went out of his way to say hi to him, and he had a great heart.

## LARRY CANNON N. M. R. A

by Terry King

*Editor's Note: Both Terry King and Larry Cannon were instrumental in bringing the July meetings of the N.M.R.A. Northeast Region (Seacoast Division) to the Great Falls Model Railroad Club.*

Larry Cannon's involvement with the National Model Railroad Association started at a Northeastern Regional Convention that I helped to put

on, I think in Rockland, Maine. Larry did not belong to the N.M.R.A. at that point, but he entered the model contest anyway. After the judging, I was informed that he had won, but could not be awarded a prize because he did not belong to the regional organization. So, I informed Larry that, to receive his prize, he would have to join the N.M.R.A. and the Northeast Region. The look on his face was priceless! After a minute of thought (after all, this involved spending his money), he agreed to join the N.M.R.A. and the Region.

After this convention it was awhile before he decided to get involved in regional activities. This happened when he went with me to a regional Executive Committee meeting in Springfield, MA. During the meeting, Larry was asked to wait outside because we had to discuss a sensitive matter. That matter was that our treasurer, who was not present, had stolen our entire treasury. I won't go into that, other than to say that we did eventually recover the money with interest. On the way home Larry asked me, "Who stole what and how much?" I shouldn't have been surprised since Larry was a former Federal Bank examiner and at that time was the Comptroller of Bates College.

Moving along, some time passed and Larry traveled with me to the regional meetings when another opening for treasurer came up. I suggested Larry, and he was accepted. It was around that time that Larry got his first merit award from the N.M.R.A. for region volunteer as association volunteer, and he was reminded that he only had eleven more steps to go before he would receive his Master Model Railroader award. Well, Larry was not one to forgo a challenge. After a few years he received his award. If I remember correctly, that was nine of eleven required achievements. He then told me that he was going to go after all of them, which he did. I believe that he is one of only about 100 N.M.R.A. members to do so.

Over the years, Larry also served as a Contest Judge and as the Contest Chairman for several N.M.R.A. conventions.

## MEMORIES OF LARRY CANNON

by Stephen Martelli, Past President

When I joined the Great Falls Model Railroad Club in January 2002, the first person that I met was Jerry Johnston and the second person was Larry Cannon. At that time, the club was building the layout at the Canal Street Alley location. Larry came up to me while I was looking at the layout, not knowing that he had created that section. He explained all of the how's and why's of it. As we were walking around, he answered my questions concerning the scenery and operations of the layout. I asked him about the ballasting of the tracks in the yard/crossover area of the paper mill, because there was none. His response was that he hadn't had time yet to do it. I asked if I could help. He said yes and proceeded to show me what to use and how he wanted it done. That was the first of many times that Larry and I worked together on a railroad club project over the next 15 years.

As the Canal Street Alley layout neared completion, the Executive Committee realized there was not enough room to include everything that we wanted to do. Larry Cannon, Tom Coultombe and Ray Lagasse presented a plan for the future of the club. The following month, club members voted 44 - 2 in favor of looking at a new place for the club to grow. Larry, Tom, and Ray showed us pictures of a building at 144 Mill Street in New Auburn that was for sale. After a long and heated discussion of the positive and negative aspects of owning the building, the club voted to buy it.

The closing papers were signed on April 5, 2007. The next morning Jerry Johnston and I opened the basement door and turned on the one light bulb that was hanging in the middle of the room. We looked at each other and laughingly said that we should have voted No!!! We knew how much work it would take to transform this hulk of a building into a train museum and clubhouse. Many club members helped with the major renovations and the basic structure for the permanent layouts.



In addition to working on the building and scenery, Larry was GFMRRRC President from 2007 to 2009 and had a major role in the financial plans for paying off the mortgage. When Larry decided not to run for President in 2009, I was elected President in March of 2009. We were nearing the completion of the clubhouse after many months of exhausting work. To give the club a permanent donation for the future, I created the large logo at the deck entrance to the building.

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club planned an Open House and Dedication Ceremony for September 9, 2009, and invited all of our past presidents and members to attend. We held a barbecue with hamburgers, hot dogs and other treats. Past President Larry Cannon and I as President stood on the deck and gave a short speech about the Great Falls Model Railroad Club and its future. Together we then uncovered the logo for the first time. This was the completion of a dream that had started many years earlier with Larry and the other founding fathers, and it came to completion under my watch.

Thank you, Larry, for everything that you did. The dreams and visions that you and other club members had helped the club become what it is today.



## NMRA NORTHEAST REGION MEETING July 16 by Paul Lodge



The Great Falls Model Railroad Club hosted the annual summer meeting of the Seacoast Division of the Northeast Region of the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) on Saturday, July 16, 2022. Paul Lodge welcomed the gathering of about twenty modelers and commented on the recent death of Larry Cannon, long-time member of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club and of the NMRA.

Tables were set up to display items used for presentations during the meeting. There was also a sales table of locomotives, with the proceeds going to benefit regional NMRA activities.

Using the club's wi-fi connection, the meeting was broadcast so that others interested in participating in the proceedings could watch from home and signal in if they had questions or comments.



The first presenter used Power Point slides to demonstrate soldering techniques. Another member had brought several model trucks and cars to show detailing he had done on the vehicles. Another presenter had brought a cardboard mock-up to show how he uses cardboard as a medium before using more expensive materials for the final structure of a more advanced model. One modeler had emptied his parts box of pieces left over from other projects. He had used those materials, medicine bottles, and lots of imagination to create something that looked as though it belonged to a chemical facility. Two modelers showed how they are planning to build a new model railroad and the progress they have made so far.

Before they ate their lunch, the group was invited to have their picture taken outdoors next to the GFMRRRC welcome sign and rail car.

It is a privilege for the Great Falls Model Railroad Club to be able to host this annual meeting of the Northeast Region of the National Model Railroad Association.

## GFMRRRC OPEN HOUSE DURING BALLOON FESTIVAL 2022 by Paul Lodge

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club will celebrate the Lewiston/Auburn Balloon Festival for our tenth year with an Open House on Saturday, August 20, and Sunday, August 21, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Trains will be operating all day on the club's permanent layouts.

In the G-Gauge room, they can enjoy Thomas the Tank Engine and Percy as they pull their trains around a loop on the trestle above Thomas. Children can also sign up to be a Guest Engineer on the HO layout.

Club members are asked to help on Saturday or Sunday for a few hours or all day by running trains and supervising layouts and games. Let us know if you are available or come ready to help wherever you are needed.

Admission is \$5; children 12 and under are admitted free.

## MODELER'S FORUM June 23

### by Kent Waterson

A small group of modelers got together on June 23<sup>rd</sup> for some more sharing of projects and ideas. Attending that night were Bob Willard, Jamie Robinson, Kent Waterson, Dick Holman, John McMullen, and Paul Lodge.

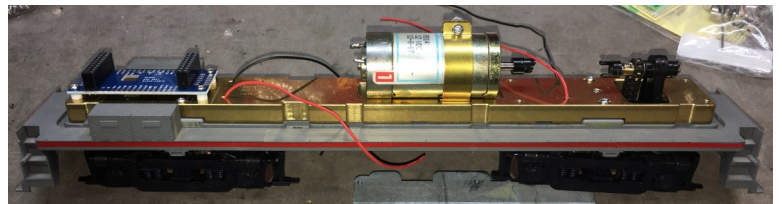
Bob began the evening with a show of an old brass Baldwin-Westinghouse steeple cab. The traction electric locomotive was from an unknown manufacturer, but a very detailed model. The locomotive was not functional but was a very interesting model.



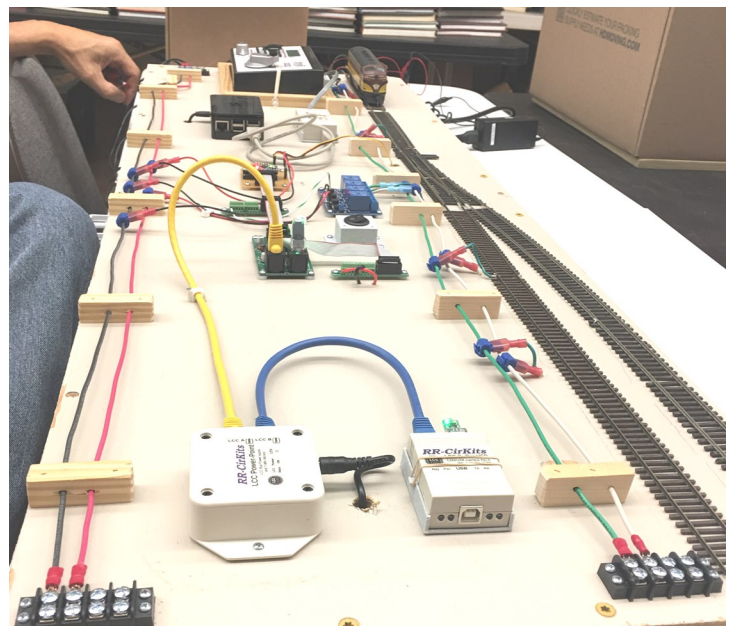
The next piece Bob showed was an older (pre-laser cut days) wooden kit from La Belle. A Niles Manufacturing Freight Motor. Bob emphasized the great quality of the kit. Bob plans to power the freight motor with power trucks made by the Wagner Car Company.



After Bob's O-Scale models, Jamie continued the theme with a Weaver RS-3 that he had completely torn down and will become a B&M switcher. Virtually all the molded-on details were ground off with the intention of replacing them with after-market parts. The frame experienced the same fate with all detail removed and the motor mounts removed. Jamie showed a CNC machined weight and frame that he plans to add, the stiffener replaces the softer model weights. Also, to be added is a working radiator fan and a Hallmark Alco RS-3 interior detail set. Rounding out the model will be a LokSound decoder with the proper modifications to the frame to support the decoder.



Kent was up next with a demo/prototype of the control system he is experimenting with for his layout. The system consisted of a Digitrax command station with Raspberry Pi adding wireless smart phone throttle controls. The control bus will be a Layout Command Control (LCC) bus. Components installed were a LCC Power-Point, LCC Buffer-USB and Tower-LCC (all from RR-CirKits). The LCC bus was built and configured to drive a homebrew Arduino based servo controller that acted as a turnout switch machine. All the various pieces were functioning and can now be expanded as the layout is built.





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Kent also showed the start of a scratch-built O-scale flatbed car he is building as part of a larger project. Pieces were cut on his Cricut cutter and then used numerous varieties of Evergreen styrene to build up the frame.



Dick was up next and started with offering a collection of receipt printer paper roll cores. The round tubing has just too many possibilities to simply throw away!

Dick next showed a collection of pieces from Miniprints 3D prints (miniprints.com). Parts can be ordered individually, or as Dick did, with a subscription service that will send a variety of parts. Numerous pieces were shown including chairs, tables, a horse trailer, horses, cows, and other assorted animals (all in HO). The detail on the pieces was incredible to the point that the pieces needed to be handled very carefully to avoid breaking the fine details. Beautiful pieces but keep them away from small fingers!



Dick also brought in a project he had down for his daughter who is involved in the Rainbow Girls (the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls – A Masonic youth service organization). The pieces were built from 1" & 2" foam board and had the theme of board games. Pieces included a chess piece, dice, a domino, and player pieces from Candy Land, Sorry, Clue and Monopoly.



Finishing out the night was John with a collection of locomotives he had picked up in various stages of functionality. John asked a series of questions on how to disassemble the pieces and what could be done to bring them back to a working condition. Lots of advice was given to get John moving in the right direction.



Paul had planned on presenting as well, but the discussion by this time was approaching 9:00. Paul will plan on presenting at the next meeting and we adjourned for the evening. As always, we welcome others of all skills, interests, and abilities to join us. Not an evening goes by without learning something new, a very valuable time. Come join us July 28<sup>th</sup>!



THE GREAT FALLS MODEL  
RAILROAD CLUB  
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<https://www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org/>  
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### An Educational Foundation

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## THE SIGNAL

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

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## 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

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

### Regular Monthly Meeting

Thursday, August 18 at 6:45 p.m.  
Thursday, September 8 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.  
Thursday, August 25 at 7:00 p.m.

### Executive Committee

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