

Member since June 1988

NEXT MEETING
April 20, 2023
7:00 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:

- ◆ Dec. — \$48.65
- ◆ Jan. — \$0
- ◆ Feb. — \$13.00

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

THE SIGNAL

THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB



VOLUME 27 ISSUE 3

March 2023

MONTHLY MEETING APRIL 20 - 7 P.M.

Upcoming events:

- April 8 — Dine & Slide 12 noon (see page 7)
- April 29 — Topsham Train Show
- May 18 — Annual Business Meeting
- July 8 — Surplus Asset Sale

MARCH 16 MEETING MINUTES

PAUL LODGE — SECRETARY

President Mike Meserve opened the March 2023 meeting of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club with the Pledge of Allegiance. The Secretary's Report was approved as published in the newsletter. Owen Buck gave the Treasurer's Report and noted that the furnace was recently fixed for \$600. In order to help pay for this unexpected expense, Owen challenged members for fundraising by matching donations up to \$300 to help pay for the repairs.

Rick James reported that the library has received some new books and magazines, and he invited members to utilize the library. He noted that Josh Stevens is continuing to add slides to the club's web site.

The HO Division reported that the helix switch installation has been finished.

Members were invited to attend the Modelers Forum on Thursday, March 23. Meetings start at 7:00 p.m. Bring your own projects or come to get ideas and see what other modelers are doing.

Steve Doughty is requesting donations of Plexiglas to use on the outside of the O-scale layout. Plans are being made to include a trolley and sidewalk feature to the town. Steve requested that an O-scale locomotive be painted in the Great Falls Railroad paint scheme. [Ed. Note: Jamie Robinson will paint the spare F-unit body while repairing the one damaged during EXTRAINaganza].

The G-Gauge layout has installed a sign on the covered bridge honoring Ralph Luby who created and donated the bridge and showing 2023 as the year the bridge was installed at the club. They have now placed a three-foot Ferris wheel in the center of the Thomas the Tank Engine display.

During the winter, problems have arisen with the tractor and the snow

MARCH 16 MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

blower, making them unusable until they are fixed.

A motion was made and approved to give keys to Shawn Doyle and Bryce Weeks. They have been working on the grounds and have a need to get into the building.

Margo Robinson reported that many vendors have signed up for the Topsham show. If we have requests for six more tables, we will need to ask for use of the auxiliary gym.

A Nominating Committee was selected for the upcoming election of officers in May. The duties of the committee were explained. Bryn Doyle, Margo Robinson, and Eric Long were appointed to the Nominating Committee. Since officers have sometimes been unable to finish their terms, it was suggested that an understudy or "assistant" be selected also. The Nominating Committee will be asking people who would be willing to be considered as candidates. Interested parties may also submit their names to the Nominating Committee. For more details, see the article elsewhere in the newsletter.

Roger Plummer promoted the Dine and Slide event scheduled for April 8, starting with a pot luck lunch at noon. Bruce Davison will be leading the slide show. Members may also bring some of their own slides or Power Point presentations to be shown if time allows. Bring a potluck dish for lunch and come enjoy the afternoon.

Jake Carr has asked the club for help in creating an HO model of the Portland Union Station which was torn down during the urban renewal craze of the 1960's. If you are interested, contact [Jamie Robinson](#) for details.

The club voted not to charge a fee for a birthday party for a young boy that has stage 3 leukemia. [Ed. Note – the visit was planned for Sunday, March 19, but had to be postponed due to the young fellow suddenly falling ill).

The monthly electricity bill has been high, and it was suggested that the computer be turned off in order to help save money. It was suggested that our lights be converted to LED lights. Several suggestions were made as to stores which might have a budget for donating this type of equipment to a non-profit organization like ours.

Rick James noted that there are several club members who are ham operators. Ham operators from throughout the state will be holding the [2023 Maine State Convention and Hamfest](#) at the Ramada Inn in Lewiston on March 24 and 25.

Margo Robinson has received an invitation for the club to set up a model railroad display using our HO modular layout. The display would be located at the Vista Room in Greene. The club would also be allowed to sell excess inventory and the railroad packets of hats, bandanas, and whistles. Several dates were available, and those present suggested that June 17 and 18 would be the best for the club.

It was noted that the next Surplus Assets Sale will be on July 8. The club has many excellent buildings available, and it would be good to sell them to make more storage room for rolling stock.

At the close of the meeting, Bryce Weeks won both the 50/50 Raffle and the Attendance Prize, taking the Alaska Railroad coffee mug.

DONATIONS

All the Utility Sponsor vacancies for Water have been spoken for, but there are still six spots open for Power @ \$150. Thank you Owen Buck, Dick Clark, Carmen Coulombe and Mike Meserve for adding your names to the [Honor Roll](#).

Thank you to all those who have signed up. Please note that you can sign up at any time! These sponsorships are of great value to the club; as you all know, our dues cover less than 25% of our fixed costs and those costs are increasing every month.

FUNDRAISING CHALLENGE

A hearty **Thank You** to all the members that stepped up to meet the Fundraising Challenge for the boiler repairs: Peter Cole, Steve Doughty, Jerry Johnston, Paul Lodge, Eric Long, John McMullen, Mike Meserve and Bob Wright. Thanks to you, and to the generous matching by Owen Buck, that unplanned cost has been addressed.

2023 OFFICER & DIRECTOR ELECTIONS BY JAMIE ROBINSON

According to the Club's Constitution and By-laws, an election of Officers and Directors must be held every year during the Club's annual business meeting in May.

Positions which must be elected are:

- President
- Vice-president
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Archivist/Librarian
- Three (3) Directors

As reported in the meeting minutes, a Nominating Committee was established at the March meeting.

What does the Nominating Committee do?

The purpose of the Nominating Committee is to identify and nominate candidates for these positions. This typically includes querying the incumbents to determine whether or not they wish to "run" again, and soliciting additional candidates.

The Nominating Committee appointed for 2023 is: [Bryn Doyle](#), [Eric Long](#) and [Margo Robinson](#).

Prospective candidates may submit their names for nomination at any point prior to the commencement of voting at the May business meeting; there will be write-in slots available on the ballots for last-minute submissions.

If you wish to submit your name for an Officer or Director position, please contact one of the committee members. They may be reached by email (just click on their names) or directly at the April 20 meeting.

At the April 20 meeting, the Nominating Committee will present their current slate of nominees. It will not be a final list, but will serve to advise the membership who the current candidates are. Additional nominations will be welcome at that time.

At the May 18 business meeting, the Nominating Committee will again present their slate of candidates. After the slate is read, nominations of additional write-in candidates will be accepted from the floor.

Once this process is completed, voting will commence. As provided in the Club's Constitution and Bylaws, voting is open to all members present and in good standing (please note that there is no provision for voting other than in-person). All members are invited to attend to make the process as representative of the entire body as possible.

A simple majority of votes is sufficient to declare a winner for any elected position. In the event of a tie, another vote may be held if either party requests it, otherwise it will be decided by a coin-toss.

G GAUGE MARCH UPDATE

BY RAY PARENT

Covered Bridge: We completed the covered bridge installation and have begun discussions on what to do with the newly expanded space created by the work.



Prior to our brainstorming session on 3/11, Ken installed the new placard honoring the bridge's original designer/builder, Ralph Luby. Ralph sold the bridge several years back to Dick Cosgrove who graciously donated it recently to our club. Ralph had also designed/built the G Gauge layout for the GFMRR Club that won the **Best Layout Award** at the Amherst Railway Society's 2014 Springfield Train Show!

Sodor Wheel: Much progress has been made since our last monthly report. In the latter half of February, assembly of the initial 12 pod batch was completed in the Sandy River & Rangeley Lakes Shops and shipped via rail to the Great Falls Model Railroad Clubhouse. Below is an amateur photographer's photo of the consist crossing the Baker Stream bridge. The 12 extremely heavy pods were being transported by SR&RL's largest Forney (2-4-4T), old dependable #10. It was the only Forney engine with enough tractive power to pull the weight; otherwise, the train would have required double heading – thus costing more. Due to the weight limit of the rails during early mud season, the transit took longer than usual due to the posted lower speed limit...

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Fortunately, all of the components were in house to begin final assembly on 3/11.



The superstructure supporting the wheel was leveled and prepared to receive the wheel. Percy even stopped by to admire the craftsmanship that went into its construction. He was especially excited with the choice of color!

Ken & Mark (hands on the right, next page top) began the painstaking work of installing the critical journals holding the axle in place.

Wheel rotation was tested and met all required operational specifications!

Next began the work of installing all 24 pods populated with properly scaled figures. Our installation crew was joined by Peter whose teaching pedigree helped ensure that the cars were placed in their proper order and position.



Note that Dick Clark (aka Gizmo) is filming the entire process (right hand side of the picture). This should make for a nice video to share at a future monthly meeting.

The finished installation is now ready to be admired by all future kids (young & old) visiting the clubhouse. [NOTE that no kids of any age should be allowed to try to spin the wheel, thus avoiding putting any of our paying passengers at risk!]



Over the next few weeks, we will be adding several food stands in the public concession area between the Sodor Wheel and the Sodor Passenger Station. This will include a replica of South Portland's famous Red's Dairy Freeze. [Incidentally, the Sodor Station was also designed/built by Ralph Luby].

In closing I'm reminded of that famous quote "I love it when a plan comes together!" A Team's **Colonel John "Hannibal" Smith** (1983)...

CONSTITUTION & BYLAW REVISION

BY JAMIE ROBINSON

We are in the process of revising the Club's Constitution and Bylaws. As time passes and processes evolve, the paperwork doesn't always remain current, and everybody hates paperwork. Well, we're no different! Time has passed, we have evolved, and our paperwork is firmly rooted in the past. Now it's time to move forward.

At the April meeting, we will present hard copies of the proposed revisions. In a nutshell, this is what we're revising to bring the bylaws into line with what we are functionally doing including:

- Officer job descriptions;
- What we're doing in general; and
- Permitting meetings to be moved from the Third Thursday, either seasonally or permanently

If you want an electronic copy of the current Constitution and Bylaws, or the present draft revision, please [email me](#) and I'll get it to you.

MODELER'S FORUM

was canceled on Feb. 23

G GAUGE



APRIL 29 TOPSHAM SHOW BY JAMIE ROBINSON

Margo is busy coordinating the floor layout for the show to merge accessibility requirements with dealer needs and requests.

We're going to need some serious manpower for the show. We have stuff to load up, move, unload and unpack on 4/28. We have the door and tables to man on 4/29, as well as lots of stuff to pack, load and move after the show. We'll need help on 4/30 as well to unload at the clubhouse and get the stuff put away. We don't have to set up non-club tables or take them down, but there's still lots to do.

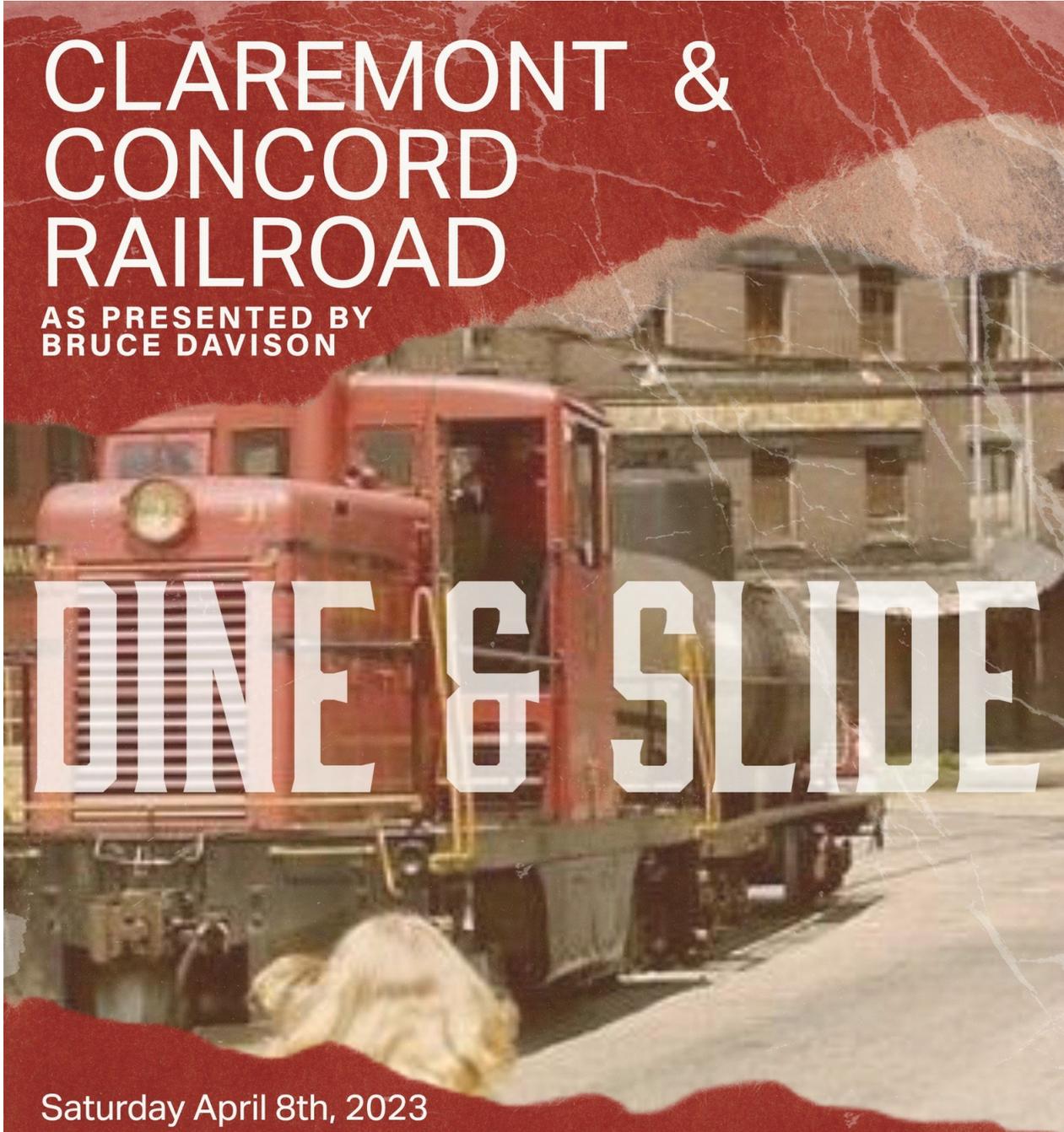
Please reach out to [Margo](#) to volunteer. The more, the merrier.



CLAREMONT & CONCORD RAILROAD

AS PRESENTED BY
BRUCE DAVISON

DINE & SLIDE



Saturday April 8th, 2023
Great Falls Model R.R. Club
144 Mill Street
Auburn, ME 04210
Potluck Lunch @ 12:00 PM
Presentation @ 1:00 PM

more information can be found at
GreatFallsModelRRClub.org

Donations Welcome

For more info, click [HERE](#)



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

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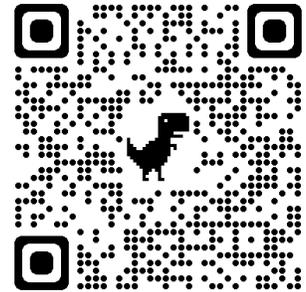
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Upcoming Events

- April 8 — Dine & Slide at 12 noon
- April 29 — Topsham Train Show
- May 18 — Annual Business Meeting
- July 8—Surplus Asset Sale



Grab your Great Falls shopping bag at the Company Store and show us off at the supermarket!



[Check us out on Facebook.](#)

Recurrent Activities

- [HO Operating Sessions](#)
April 1 at 9:00 a.m.
April 22 at 9:00 a.m.
- [Regular Monthly Meeting](#)
Thursday, April 20 at 7:00 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, March 23 at 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, April 27 at 7:00 p.m.
- [Executive Committee](#)
April 20 concurrent w/Monthly Mtg.

