



Member since June 1988

NEXT MEETING
Sept. 9, 2021
6:45 p.m.

*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!

DONATIONS

Bottles for Basics:

- ◆ June—\$ 24.60
- ◆ July—\$61.80
- ◆ August—\$48.15

We are no longer collecting used ink cartridges or toner packs. Even if we return 15 cartridges each month, it is still cheaper for us to purchase toner online!

THE SIGNAL



THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

VOLUME 25 ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 2021

MONTHLY MEETING SEPT. 9

Please note the meeting date! It's advanced to the Second Thursday to accommodate our commitments at the Oxford Fair.

Set-up will be Tuesday, Sept. 14. The fair runs 12 Noon to 9:00 p.m. Wednesday 9/15—Saturday 9/18. Take-down will be Sunday 9/19.

If you are able to help out on any, or all days, please come to this meeting. The main focus will be on fair planning.

I know some of you stepped up to volunteer. We could use a few more! Ideally we should probably have at least four (4) club members present to operate/explain the displays and to observe the doors (two will be open for the public).

The "Touch a Train" event scheduled for Sept. 11 at the Downeast Scenic Railroad in Ellsworth has been cancelled, according to information released by that organization.

AUGUST 19 MEETING MINUTES

Paul Lodge — (Deputized Secretary)

As members of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club arrived for the meeting, a video was shown at 6:30 of the Conway Scenic Railroad Crawford Notch train in New Hampshire. After the video was finished, the meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made and accepted to approve the Secretary's report as published in the Signal.

It was announced that Paul Lodge would be recording the meeting since Secretary Tami Paine had come in contact with COVID-19 at work and is in quarantine.

Treasurer Owen Buck was not at the meeting so President Meserve gave the Treasurer's Report. The club has received an anonymous donation of \$1,000. Membership has increased from 80 paid members in 2020 to 100 members in 2021. Mention was made about the Utility Team donations where members can offer to pay the monthly electric bill (\$150) or the water bill (\$30).

AUGUST 19 MEETING MINUTES (continued)

Because there were new members in attendance, it was explained that since our dues are only \$30 a year, members who can afford more can volunteer to pay these other bills. Some members asked about the last time dues were increased and suggested increasing the dues to \$35 a year for individuals and \$40 for families.

George Pitchard reported that the library has received a donation of books. He noted that some of the books which are duplicates can be purchased. He also has some books about Maine railroads for sale.

As the O-gauge spokesman, George explained that the track plan for the layout is taking shape. It will be an over-and-under figure eight with a separate line for a second train.

Members were reminded that we are holding a Surplus Assets Sale at the club on September 25 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. The model railroads will be open for the public to see during the hours of the sale.

Also on September 25 some members of the club will be in Livermore Falls helping the Maine Paper & Heritage Museum with an open house. Our display will include the HO layout as an exhibit, and we will distribute Operation Lifesaver materials, Great Falls Model Railroad Club brochures, and flyers for the ExTRAINaganza. One of the museum's featured displays will be a handmade train with several cars, each about four-feet long, on wooden track. Jamie Robinson, Bob Willard, Paul Lodge, and Josh Stevens recently went to the museum to help retrieve the train from storage. The GFMRRRC display will be set up inside the building, but we are hoping for good weather because the museum's large display will be set up outdoors.

Oxford County Fair officials have invited the Great Falls Model Railroad Club to set up a model railroad display in one of the fairground buildings on Tuesday, September 14, and have the building open to the public during the fair hours from noon to 9 p.m. on September 15 through 18. Plans are being made to use John Middleton's G-scale point-to-point layout as part of the display. Additional plans are not finalized, but we hope to have enough members to help monitor the displays. Passes will be available to those members who volunteer to help. It was suggested that wearing GFMRRRC shirts or vests would help identify members and publicize the club. We will be allowed to sell whistles and any other items that would be appropriate for the fair. We can also distribute flyers about our surplus asset sales and the upcoming ExTRAINaganza in November.

President Meserve announced that the club is no longer accepting donations of ink toner cartridges. Because of the restrictions set up by Staples, it is not worth the effort.

We hope to start our train shows again in the spring of 2022 at the new Mt. Ararat High School building in Topsham. Because the new gym floors are made of a soft substance, layouts would need to have cushions for the legs so they will not leave dents in the floor.

Before the meeting adjourned, the 50/50 raffle was drawn and Joe Saunders was the winner. Snowbird Sandy Sondheim won the Attendance prize.

DONATIONS

The donation [Honor Roll](#) continues to grow, and there are still opportunities to contribute to the [Utility Sponsor](#) program, both Water and Electric.

Thank you to Cheryl & Colby Cunningham, Richard Grindrod, Terry Obie, John Robertson, and a special shout-out to **Anonymous** for your generosity this month!

WHAT'S ON YOUR WORKBENCH?

By Jamie Robinson

I don't think it would matter how large my workbench actually is. I put stuff on it and clutter it up, and actually work in about a 14" square space... I use clear plastic shoeboxes to keep projects in while they are "in process".



GFMRRRC TO DISPLAY AT OXFORD COUNTY FAIR

By Paul Lodge

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club will be setting up model railroad displays on September 14 in a special building at the Oxford County Fair. The fair is open daily from noon to 9:00 p.m. on September 15 through 18. Club members who are available to help will be given passes for the fair and are encouraged to wear their GFMRRRC vests or shirts.

In addition to our 4' X 6' HO display layout and the Operation Lifesaver N-scale layout, we plan to have several interesting model railroad-ing displays. Members are invited to bring projects on which they are working to show skills and tools available for creating model railroad structures, scenery, or layouts. We will use Operation Lifesaver materials to talk about railroad safety and give out flyers about upcoming events at the club, such as the Surplus Assets Sale on September 25 and ExTRAINaganza in November.

We will be discussing more details about our Oxford County Fair display at the September 9 club meeting, and we hope more club members will volunteer to help supervise displays. Several members have already volunteered, but we need more help to cover the 4-day exhibit from September 15 to 18. If you can help from 12 to 9 or for a few hours on any of these days, please contact Paul Lodge at 966-3641 or paul lodge@gwi.net to have your name put on the schedule.

We believe this is a great opportunity to introduce new people to the Great Falls Model Railroad Club and to the hobby of model railroad-ing. Even if you are not able to help with our displays, we hope you will come to enjoy the fair and our exhibit with your family and friends.

MODELER'S FORUM was cancelled for August

PHOTO OF THE MONTH - AUGUST 21 HO OPERATING SESSION CPME-Z21 TRANSITS THE GORGE



ALONG THE LINE





THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

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Address Change

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www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org

Upcoming Events

Recurrent Activities

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



With the Oxford Fair and Open Houses coming up, it's time to get your Great Falls gear at the Company Store!



Operating Sessions

Saturday, September 4 at 8:30 a.m.

NO SESSION SEPT. 18

Saturday, October 2

Regular Monthly Meeting

Thursday, September 9 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, September 23 at 7:00 p.m.

Executive Committee

Thursday, Oct. 14 at 6:30 p.m.

ExTRAINaganza

Saturday— Sunday Nov. 20-21
Friday— Sunday Nov. 26, 27 & 28