

Member since June 1988

NEXT MEETING
Oct. 21, 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:

- ♦ July—\$61.80
- ♦ August—\$48.15
- ♦ September—\$44.20

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 10

OCTOBER 2021

MONTHLY MEETING OCT. 21

Wow - What a time we've had since the last meeting!

We spent four days at the Oxford fair. We held a Surplus Assets Sale. We ran a display at the Maine Paper & Heritage Museum. It seemed like we could barely catch a breath between these events. It feels like it's been "forever" since we have been so busy.

SEPTEMBER 9 MEETING MINUTES

Tami Paige — Secretary

Treasure's Report We received a \$1,000 dollar anonymous donation recently. The Fall property tax will be due in September estimated cost \$1,600. We are still looking for donations for the power and the water bills.

Secretaries report = accepted as printed in the Newsletter

Librarians report =

- There will be DVDs for sale at the Surplus asset sale.
- We had another donation of books that George will be going through.
- Since we will have availability to magazine subscriptions on-line. We will be purging some of the Hard copies in the Library.

Miscellaneous reports =

HO Committee =

- * Operating sessions have been Successful
- * No new projects at this time.

O. Scale Committee =

- * There will be some restructuring of the upper level on the layout.
- * Working on this Scale is slow but it will be operational for the Ex-TRAINaganza in November.
- There will be some O Scale items available at the Surplus asset sale.

G Scale Committee = John Middleton's modules are up and running

N Scale Committee = No Report

Modelers forum was canceled in August

SEPTEMBER 9 MEETING MINUTES

(continued)

Old Business:

Discussion about the show at the ME Paper & Heritage Museum. We will be bringing the HO display layout.

New Business:

Discussion about setting up at the Oxford Fair in the Community Roots building:

- John Middleton's G scale module will be used at the Oxford Fair.
- Ron Czaja will be bringing Z, T and TY scale layouts.
- We will be giving away magazines
- There will be a play area set up.
- Train Time videos will be played.
- Our exhibit at the Oxford fair is on the front page of the Fairs Website.

We will not be doing the Fall Show at Topsham this year but will be planning the Spring show for late April

Planning a Surplus asset sale for December

Membership Raffle winner – Ron Czaja

50/50 Winner – John Macmullen

Meeting was adjourned – 8:15 pm

HO display layout at the ME Paper & Heritage Museum 10/9/21



DONATIONS

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

OXFORD COUNTY FAIR CLUB EXHIBIT by Paul Lodge

Officials of the Oxford County Fair invited the Great Falls Model Railroad Club to exhibit at the fair from Wednesday, September 15, through Saturday, September 18. Nearly two weeks before the event, they showed Jamie Robinson and Paul Lodge the separate building which we could lock when GFMRRRC members would not be present. The club voted to attend and set up displays that would highlight model railroading as a hobby. The fair's website showed the Great Falls Model Railroad Club at the top of their flyer as a main attraction.

On Tuesday, September 14, several club members loaded trucks and vehicles with layouts and supplies to use at the fair. John Middleton's G-gauge switching layout was one of the displays. Travis Johnson took the week off from work to transfer, display, and run some sections of the HO modular layout. Ron Czaja brought his extremely small-scale model layouts to help show the full spectrum of model railroads. These layouts, along with the HO display layout and the Operation Lifesaver N-scale layout, filled the room with a wide variety of model railroads. The HO display layout and the Operation Lifesaver N-scale layout had not been used for about two years. Jamie Robinson and his wife Margo took two weeks to refresh the layouts by cleaning and replacing buildings and scenery and adding more details. Jamie upgraded the electrical portion of the HO layout so that it can be used for DC or DCC.

The exhibits were planned to be open from noon until 9 p.m. daily, though in actuality we were open before 10 a.m. Ron Czaja had the key to the building and opened the doors early every day so that members could get in and get organized. On the first day of the fair, a dangerous rain storm destroyed some other people's displays that were outside under tents. Although the fairgrounds did not experience the actual tornado which was predicted for the area, the heavy rain and strong winds blew items all over the fairgrounds and across Route 26 half a mile away. The fair closed around 5 p.m. so that repairs could be made before the next day.

The fair officials had said that we could sell items at the fair. We brought our inventory of whistles, hats, and Brio items and sold nearly all of them. Margo Robinson sold her etched glass art work (much of it railroad-related) at a separate table and was pleased with the interest shown in her displays.

Operation Lifesaver posters were used to teach visitors about hazards related to railroads, with a sheet of ten questions as a "scavenger hunt" for visitors. Around the hall, we had placed seven posters with railroad safety information, including the answers to the ten questions. Even though the children were most interested, parents also learned the valuable information.

Train Time programs were shown on the television shared by Operation Lifesaver and the Great Falls Model Railroad Club. These videos showed the St. Lawrence and Atlantic Railroad going through the Oxford County area and included scenes familiar to fair goers. In one serendipity of the videos, a guest was explaining that he is going to build a layout in his large barn on Fore Street. As he was speaking, his attention was directed to the television which happened to be showing the train going by his home. A great coincidence!

The exposure the club received by participating in the fair will contribute to additional memberships, visitors to the club, and potential attendance at our ExTRAINaganza. We distributed many flyers about the club, the ExTRAINaganza in November, and the Surplus Inventory Sale on Saturday, September 25.

On Sunday, September 19, several club members took down the displays and transported them back to the club. Some of the exhibits will be used at the Paper Heritage Museum display on September 25 in Livermore Falls. (Because weather forecasts all week had predicted rain for September 25, the Livermore Falls event was rescheduled for October 9.)

The Oxford County Fair was a good experience for the Great Falls Model Railroad Club and gave new members an idea of the ways we display our hobby to the general public. Thanks to the many club members who helped out during this six-day project by setting up, exhibiting and tearing down the displays.



MODELER'S FORUM Sept. 23

by Kent Waterson

A small collection of modelers formed the Modeler's Forum on September 23rd. Various travels kept some of the regulars away, but attending that night were Bob Willard, George Pitchard, Larry Cannon and Kent Waterson.

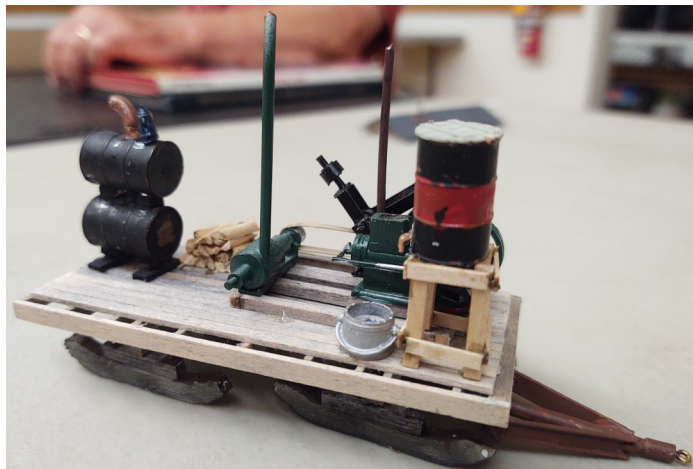
Bob led off with a collection of various creations. Back in February, Bob had shown the start of a unique log skidder contraption. The model started out as an M30 Ammo Carrier with a radial engine. Bob replaced the radial with a 6-cylinder diesel motor and scratch built the rest of the vehicle. A nicely weathered paint job completed the project.



Bob's next creation was a conversion of a promotional model from Bluebird busses. Built on a Model T chassis, Bob replaced the wheels with wheels and tires from Train Troll and shaved off the side curtains. The roof was replaced with a sheet of styrene covered with medical paper tape.



The last model was a mobile pump house for pumping lake water into an icing sled. The model again was totally scratch built with various details added.



Kent next presented a few tools he's acquired recently. At our last meeting, a discussion had started regarding various paint stirring tools. In response, Kent brought in a vortex mixer he recently purchased. The mixer is designed for mixing test tubes in a laboratory environment, but with adding a few ball bearings to a jar of paint, makes an excellent paint mixer. The device is rather pricey (unless you get it free like he did!), but a very nice tool.



The second tool is called a beading tool and makes a very nice punch and die set. The set included a series of punches for forming small disks and/or holes.

MODELER'S FORUM (cont.)



Kent also presented some preliminary designs for the layout he will be building. Construction of the space the layout will inhabit is almost complete and benchwork will hopefully start over the winter.

Larry finished up the evening by presenting a pair of rolling stock he recently built in support of the Fairbanks Scale Co. annex he has been working on. The scale company had on its premises a foundry for making castings. One of the loads that needed to be supplied to the company was casting sand (a mixture of sand and clay). The sand was shipped in covered hoppers. Larry based his model on a Round-house Halliburton Covered Hopper kit. Larry altered the paint scheme by masking off the lower red portion of the car and painting the remainder with a Krylon shade of grey that matched the lower frame. Rounding out the model were custom decals he created.

The last car was a wood chip car that was basically a boxcar with the roof removed and a wood chip load added. Larry purchased decals for the model from Highball Graphics (and has extras available if anyone is interested).



Looking ahead towards November/December, the forum decided to have a single meeting covering both months on December 2nd.

The evening wrapped up early. The group welcomes others to come and share what you have been working on for your layout. We all benefit from the work of others and the forum provides a great opportunity to ask questions and improve our skills. Hope to see you next month (October 28th).

SURPLUS INVENTORY SALE A SUCCESS by Paul Lodge

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club held a successful Surplus Inventory Sale at the club in New Auburn on September 25. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, this is our first event in more than a year that has been open to the public.

Larry Cannon and several other club members set up tables in the meeting hall of the club and displayed HO, N, and O gauge model railroad supplies for sale. Larry Cannon was instrumental in helping to organize and sell many items because of his extensive knowledge of their value.

About twenty club members helped during the day, and many members purchased items before the doors were opened to the general public.

Some of the guests were local people from New Auburn who remembered the building when it was Jake and Andy's Donut Shop. Many first-time visitors were given tours of the library and the layouts. Thanks to the HO crew, the HO layout downstairs was operating during the sale. One gentleman donated some of his model railroad equipment and was delighted that one of his HO rail cars was immediately put into our display case. Another gentleman brought an engine that needed repair and was able to get it fixed before he left. Our friendly and helpful club members are one of the reasons why this club is successful.

Another Surplus Inventory Sale is planned on December 11, just in time for Christmas gift-giving. We hope the surplus inventory sales will help the club financially for the year.

A special thanks to all the club members who helped set up for the event, sell items, and pack and store the remaining items so they will be ready for our next event.

MAINE PAPER & HERITAGE MUSEUM by Paul Lodge

Four members of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club displayed our HO and N-scale portable layouts at the Paper Heritage Museum in Livermore Falls on Saturday, October 9, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Because railroads have a major role in the production of paper, museum officials had invited the club to participate in this event. Bob Willard, Jamie Robinson, and Paul Lodge set up the GFMRRRC displays on the front lawn and supervised them throughout the day. Bob Willard brought examples of his award-winning, highly detailed modeling skills. Josh Stevens also helped. Operation Lifesaver railroad safety materials were handed out; children (and some adults) wore the engineer hats provided by Operation Lifesaver.

On the porch of the museum, visitors could watch a *Train Time* video explaining how paper is made and showing some of the trains in Maine which moved materials and the finished products.

Although this event was originally scheduled for September 25, it had been postponed because of rain. Sunshine and warm October temperatures provided a relaxed outdoor experience for the guests and club members. The Paper Heritage Museum had removed from storage a train handmade by someone who had worked at the local paper mill. Larger than G-Gauge, the thirty-foot train, with an engine and eight freight cars, was set up on the lawn in front of the museum near the road. Several people saw the train and stopped to find out what was going on.

In addition to the trains, the museum was sponsoring a yard sale in its parking lot and encouraging tours inside the Paper Heritage Museum. The building was originally used as the residence for the plant manager of the paper mill in Livermore Falls. The inside of the museum shows the elegance of a time when there was pride in workmanship and skills to match.

Museum volunteers provided an excellent luncheon which included chocolate chip cookies.

Many people took the club's handouts about the upcoming ExTRAINaganza in November. Several people stopped to talk about their experience with trains as a child and the possibility of visiting the club during one of our events. The club's efforts were very well received, and Great Falls Model Railroad Club members who attended were pleased with the contacts made at the museum.





THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

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THE SIGNAL

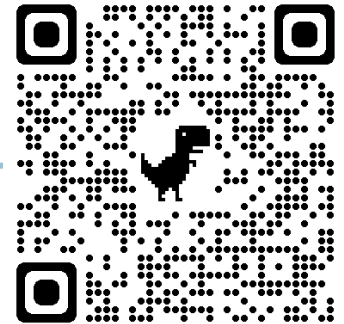
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Address Change

If your mailing or e-mail address changes please notify us at:
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www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org

Upcoming Events

Recurrent Activities

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



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



Operating Sessions

Saturday, October 23 at 8:30 a.m.

Saturday, November 6

Only one Nov. Op Session to accommodate ExTRAINaganza

Regular Monthly Meeting

Thursday, October 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, October 28 at 7:00 p.m.

Executive Committee

Thursday, Nov. 11 at 6:30 p.m.

ExTRAINaganza

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