



Member since June 1988

NEXT MEETING
Nov. 18, 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:

- ♦ August—\$48.15
- ♦ September—\$44.20
- ♦ October—\$59.00

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

THE SIGNAL



THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

VOLUME 25 ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2021

MONTHLY MEETING NOV. 18

If you thought September and October were busy, wait 'til you meet November!! Yikes—it's ExTRAINaganza time already!! Sat. and Sun., Nov. 20-21, and Fri., Sat. and Sun. Nov. 26, 27 and 28. Please step up to volunteer at Thursday's meeting if you haven't. We need 10 people on hand!

OCTOBER 21 MEETING MINUTES

Tami Paige — Secretary

This Meeting began with a surplus asset sale for Members only.

Followed by – [BNSF Fall River Sub.](#) - Youtube video

Number of Members attended - 17

Treasure's Report = \$16, 500 in the bank

\$2,847.14 Available

Property taxes paid

About \$479. in donations from our events

Secretaries report = accepted as printed in the Newsletter

Librarians report =

Own Buck paid for the first year's subscription to Trains.com so the club have availability to three Train magazines and their archives. This way we can free up space in the library by removing the hard copy magazines.

The library has many duplicate copies of Train Magazines that anyone can have.

Since we will have availability to magazine subscriptions on-line. We will be purging some of the Hard copies in the Library and putting them in cold storage for now.

We will be keeping the books in the Northeastern section

Miscellaneous reports =

H.O. Committee =

* Purchased a Keyboard, Monitor and wireless mouse to set up and use for informational purposes when the public is in the building.

* No new layout projects at this time.

OCTOBER 21 MEETING MINUTES (continued)

O. Scale Committee =

- * Working on this Scale is slow. We will be using a simple layout and it will be operational for the Ex-TRAINaganza in November.
- * There will be two rail and three rail track in the revised O scale layout.
- * After ExTRAINaganza, O scale will restructure with an under/over layout using 3 and 2 rail track.

G. Scale Committee = No Report

N Scale Committee = Nothing done on this layout. It is 1/3 completed

Modelers forum = Will be held Thursday October 28th

Old Business:

Had a power point presentation of the events in September

Discussion about the show at the Maine paper heritage Museum in Livermore.

- This Display was a success.
- Jamie Robinson, Paul Lodge, and Bob Willard facilitated this event, and we received \$79.00 worth of donations—very generous!
- About 100 people attended this event.

Discussion about the Oxford Fair Event

- This event was a big Success, if asked we will do it again.
- This event was no cost to the club
- 7 layouts were set up
- Sold a lot of Thomas the train stuff
- John Middleton's G scale module was used.
- Ron Czar brought T and Z scale layouts.
- Gave away magazines

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

New Business

Planning a Surplus asset sale for December 11.

We will need all hands on deck for the Ex-Train-Aganza

- We will be setting up the trees
- Will be wearing masks and sanitizing equipment and areas
- No cookie or craft area
- We will be asking visitors to sign a waiver at the door.
- This event will take place for 5 days
- We may have a Modelers forum table
- We have had donations of cleaning supplies and masks for this event.

DONATIONS

We received \$89.00 in donations last month. Thanks to everyone who donated—you ARE making a difference!

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

OCTOBER 21 MEETING MINUTES (continued)

Members may not to wear any type of political attire during ExTRAINaganza or any other public events. As a 501(c)(3) corporation, this is strictly prohibited by the IRS and failure to comply jeopardizes our non-profit status.

We will be discussing the resuming of renting our club house for public parties in the future.

Paul Lodge announced being able to order long sleeve club polo's for interested members.

Membership Raffle winner – Eric Long

50/50 Winner – George Pitchard

Meeting was adjourned – 8:15 p.m.



MODELER'S FORUM Oct. 28 by Kent Waterson

Check out many more Modeler's Forum photos on our website [HERE](#).

A larger collection (compared to last month) of modelers gathered for the Modeler's Forum on Thursday, October 28th. It was good to see some of the regulars back, but we're always looking for new modelers and the projects they may bring. Attending were Bob Willard, Carmen Anastase, George Pitchard, Tom McAvoy, Kent Waterson, Jamie Robinson and Dick Holman.

As typical, Bob started off the evening by showing four older Revell 1/48 scale (O-Scale) kits. The kits were originally produced in the 50's, many of which Bob built as a kid. The kits he brought with him included:

Honest John Missile with Mobile Carrier



White Gas Truck



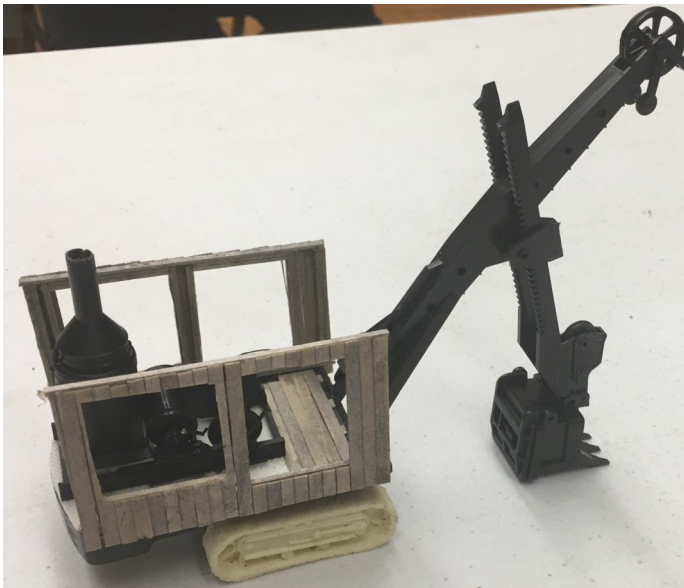
Ford Pick-Up Truck

Chevrolet 2-Ton Truck

Bob has started a few projects based on these models, a modified trailer from the missile carrier and a shortened version of the gas truck.



Another project Bob presented (still in a mock-up phase) was a steam shovel on tracks. The frame and shovel mechanism are from a Lionel steam shovel, the winch and steam plant are from a Bachmann car. Both the boiler and the stack needed to be shortened for the new vehicle. The tracks are a set that Bob had molded previously and used again for this project. The cab sides are basswood and will eventually have a corrugated tin roof.



Perhaps the item that generated the most attention was a O-Scale Kemtron brass GP7 painted in the Maine Central scheme. The model hasn't been run in a while and will need some cleaning and lubricating (after chasing the spiders out!), but hopefully will be running on the club O-Scale layout at some time in the future.



Carmen followed Bob with a couple projects. He completed fabricating the pipes for his pipe truck and load. Using styrene tubing, he cut caps for the flared joints and then thinned them down with a Dremel. The completed truck and load looked great!



Carmen is also making a mock-up of the US Pipe Seal Unit, a very large structure for his layout. He laid out the footprint for the building (which took four 8.5x11 pieces of paper), one building end and a side section (made from foam board). Due to the size, he may need to "selectively compress" the structure. Carmen was looking for thoughts on how to fabricate the rolled-up door on the building end. Suggestions included either a quarter or half round tube, or perhaps being able to find something similar in another kit.

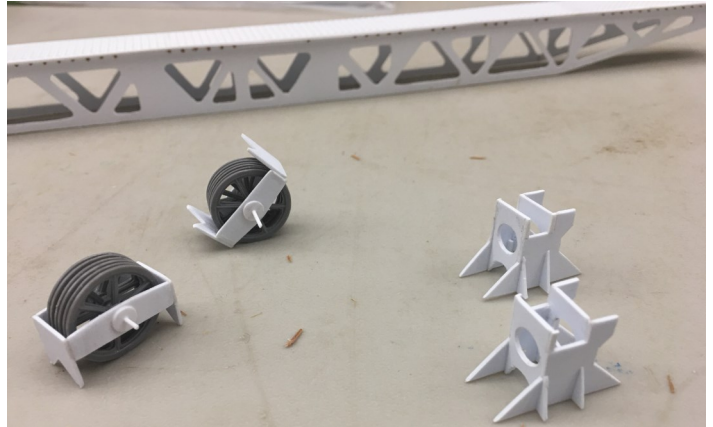


George commented that he has not been doing much modeling, instead focusing on the club O Gauge layout. Modifications are being done with the hope of having everything running by ExTRAINaganza.

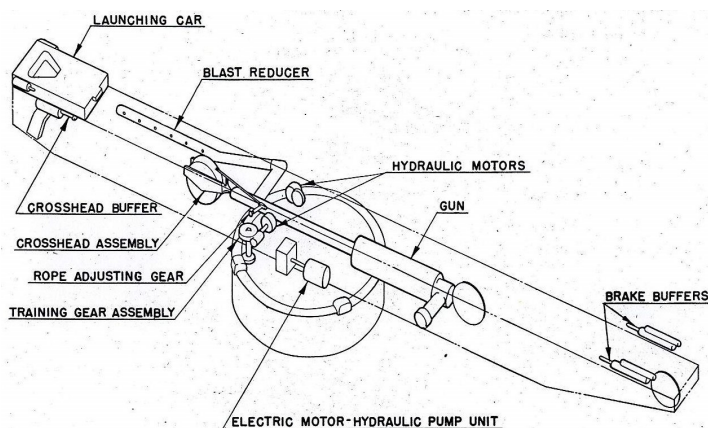
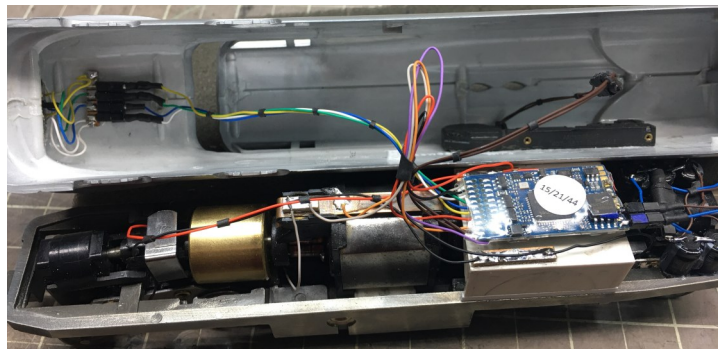
Tom followed with a few questions. He had seen people commenting about the use of the desiccant packs that often are included with materials. Where these effective and/or useful for removing moisture? A discussion followed on using these packs, primarily in toolboxes or other places that were moisture sensitive.

A second question had to do with Dwarvin fiber optic lighting (without wires). After watching the videos and reading about the product, Tom was impressed and sought the groups options. None of us had much extensive knowledge of either the product or fiber optic lighting (perhaps there is someone else in the club that is more knowledgeable and could help Tom out).

Kent then presented an update on his battleship diorama. He was able to visit the USS Alabama last month and was able to extensively photograph the only remaining battleship catapult. With the additional research, time has been spend creating a variety of parts that form the internals of the catapult (bulkheads, the gun propulsion mechanism and pulley system).



Jamie next presented his work on project for Whitethunder McBride. The project involves converting a Varney toy Aerotrain into a functional HO model. The motive power for the locomotive is a power unit (modified from an Athearn chassis) specifically made for the Aerotrain. Jamie then added a platform to support a Loksound v5 decoder, added keep alive capacitors, and wired up the five lights on the front of the locomotive. An iPhone 4 speaker was mounted in the shell.



SKETCH NO. 17

P6 TYPE CATAPULT-GENERAL ARRANGEMENT

Dick closed out the meeting with a display of unique vehicles. Dick started with a Magnuson 1948 pickup, a solid body truck, and made a mold for the truck. Out of that mold, numerous versions of the truck were produced. Even copies that produced defects were adapted to turn the defect into worn or rusted sections of the truck. In some cases, the entire bed was removed, and then scratch-built beds were created with various functions attached to the bed. Different wheels and different paint schemes altered the year of the truck and made for more variances. Grinding out the wheel wells made space for larger wheels which then were built into a heavier duty truck.



Dick also presented a more traditional hollow cab version of a similar truck, and then another duplicated truck off a 1938 GMC.



THE SIGNAL

Although Dick does not have a home layout, these vehicles are brought to our various shows and then setup on his module for the club layout, be sure to look for them at an upcoming show.

It was great to see the variety of projects each was working on. We wrapped up about 8:30 after a robust evening of sharing. The next meeting will be a combined November/December meeting, meeting on the first Thursday in December: December 2nd. Come join us on the 2nd and catch up on the various projects and show us what you have been doing as well. Hope to

ALONG THE LINE



Repainted fascia on the HO layout.



Scheming on the O Gauge layout...



Laying out the two-rail loop on the O Gauge layout



N scale rides again! With DCC, no less!



Some of the usual O Gauge suspects...



John Middleton's G Gauge modules are up and running!



THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

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Upcoming Events

**Surplus Assets Sale—Saturday,
Dec. 11 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.**



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



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

Recurrent Activities

Operating Sessions

Only one November Op Session to accommodate ExTRAINaganza

Saturday, December 4

Saturday, December 18

Regular Monthly Meeting

Thursday, November 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, December 2 at 7:00 p.m.

Executive Committee

Thursday, Dec. 9 at 6:30 p.m.

ExTRAINaganza

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