



Member since June 1988

#### NEXT MEETING

**Feb. 17, 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 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:**

- ◆ November—\$44.00
- ◆ December—\$0
- ◆ January—\$0

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

# THE SIGNAL



THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

VOLUME 26 ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2022

## MONTHLY MEETING FEB. 17

Happy February—shortest month of the year and the days are already noticeably longer!

As promised, “ugly” Christmas apparel from the December meeting. We all wish there were more. Perhaps a prize next year...



**Carmen Coulombe**



**Jamie Robinson, Rick James, Andrew James**

## JANUARY 20 MEETING MINUTES

Paul Lodge — Deputized Secretary

Vice-President Jamie Robinson opened the January 20, 2022, meeting of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club with the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made and accepted to approve the Secretary's report as published in [The Signal](#).

Owen Buck was traveling so Jamie Robinson gave the Treasurer's Report which compared results for the last four years. We have maintained a good account balance and have increased the total throughout the years. The report was approved as given.

The Modelers Forum planned to meet on Thursday, January 27, at the usual starting time of 7 p.m.

Reports from the different divisions were given. The HO Division reported that they will be having an operating session on Saturday, January 22. The N-scale Division layout is operational and work on it is continuing. The O-scale crew is planning to wire the layout so that it can run with either DC or DCC. The G-gauge layout has a problem with the locomotive on the upper level, but everything else is working fine.

A decision needed to be made about participating in the annual Dollhouse and Model Train Show at the National Guard Armory in Augusta on February 19, 2022. The facility is currently being used for COVID-19 testing and vaccinations. We are low on excess inventory to sell, and the cost of renting tables is high enough that a good profit is questionable. **Because of these factors and the current problems with COVID-19, a motion was made and approved not to participate this year.**

Since the death of our valuable librarian, George Pitchard, the position of Librarian/Archivist is vacant. Rick James volunteered to take the position and asked for additional volunteers to help him with this task. A motion was made and approved to make Rick James the new librarian/archivist. Because Rick is also one of the directors of the club, the vacancy for that position needs to be filled. **In accordance of Article VIII Section 2 of the Bylaws, a special election will be held at the February meeting to fill the Director's position vacated by Rick James for the remainder of the term.**

For several years, Rick James has suggested that the Great Falls Model Railroad Club have a Membership Committee to welcome new members and orient them to the club. He feels that it is also important to find out why members drop out of the club. Members were asked if having an Orientation Session with new members would be useful. This would allow new members to learn about the club and its history. We could also find out what specific areas of the club are of most interest to each new member.

The club has access to "Time Saver" layouts which could be used for fun competitions and for teaching switching moves. One of the layouts belonged to Tom Coulombe, and Paul Lodge has another one. We also have the G-gauge switching layout donated by John Middleton.

The meeting concluded with the drawing of the Attendance Prize and the 50/50 raffle. Rick James won the attendance prize and Bob Willard won the 50/50 raffle.

# DONATIONS

It's a whole new year with 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 \$55 in donations in January, as well as some Water/Power sponsorships.

Thank you to Owen Buck, Ron Czaja, Terry Obie and West River Services Inc. for stepping up!

## UTILITY TEAM PLEDGES

By Paul Lodge

One way that members of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club can help the club financially is by donating to the Utility Team with contributions toward the monthly expenses of electricity and water bills. Members who can afford more than the annual dues of \$30 are encouraged to pledge donations for these utilities.

The water bill is \$30 monthly. The electricity bill averages about \$150 each month. One person may volunteer to pay an entire month's bill for either water or electricity. Two individuals can pledge \$75 each towards the electricity bill, or three people can pledge \$50 each. This creates a variety of options.

Donors are noted on our [website](#).

When all twelve months are covered, more than \$2,000 will be raised to help pay the year's utility bills.

To make pledges for the Utility Team, please see Treasurer Owen Buck or send an email to: [treasurer@greatfallsmodelrrclub.org](mailto:treasurer@greatfallsmodelrrclub.org).

## ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE FEBRUARY MEETING

In no particular order:

- New Librarian
- Special Election for Director vacancy
- Invitation to the Westbrook Show May 14
- Upcoming need for Facility Manager

Give these some thought; they will be on the agenda for discussion at next week's meeting.

## MARX TRAINS

Are you familiar with Marx trains? We have received a help request from a person who has a vintage set that will only run in reverse. If you would be willing to help her, please advise me ([vp@greatfallsmodelrrclub.org](mailto:vp@greatfallsmodelrrclub.org)) and I'll put you in touch with her.

## RICK JAMES—LIBRARIAN

by Paul Lodge

At the January 20 monthly meeting of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club, Rick James was voted as the new Librarian/Archivist. He will be replacing George Pitchard who passed away in December.

Rick James volunteered to help maintain the library and asked for additional volunteers to help with the library responsibilities. As new books and magazines are donated to the club, they will need to be catalogued and added to the library. Anyone interested in helping Rick should let him know how you can help.

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club maintains the largest railroad club library of railroad books and magazines in this part of the country. We need to keep it and help it grow.



## MODELER'S FORUM

Modeler's Forum scheduled for January 27 was canceled. The next Modeler's Forum is scheduled for Thursday, February 24.

## HO OPERATING SESSIONS

January 22, 2022



OBHC-X tackles the grade on the Mountain Sub.



Mike and Austin keep Obie under control



Dan organizes the paperwork at Hillcrest



The crossovers at Riverton proved problematic for CPOB-X...



CPOB-X tiptoes thru the Warehouse District due to congestion on the main line



February 5, 2022



3103 filled in for the usual Thurston Switcher



Colby and Guy question their motives at IP



CK climbs the Port District while Mike approaches Wilder



Ean Johnson eases his train through the crossovers at Hillcrest



Maine Eastern 488 stands at Reed Point with an excursion train.

Model and photo courtesy of Benton Hayes



8803 and a sister switch Obie North



## THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

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### An Educational Foundation

## OFFICERS:

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## THE SIGNAL

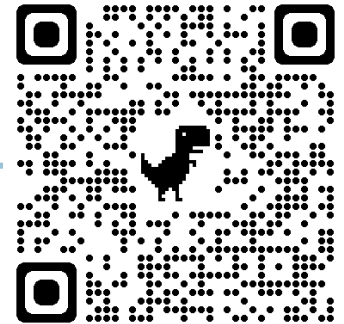
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## Address Change

If your mailing or e-mail address changes please notify us at:  
[gfrsignal@greatfallsmodelrrclub.org](mailto:gfrsignal@greatfallsmodelrrclub.org).



[www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org](http://www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org)

## Upcoming Events

## Recurrent Activities



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



[Please check us out on Facebook.](#)

### Operating Sessions

Saturday, February 19

Saturday, March 5

Theme: Alco/MLW locomotives only

### Regular Monthly Meeting

Thursday, February 17 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, February 24 at 7:00 p.m.

### Executive Committee

Except for extraordinary events, Executive Committee meetings will be combined with the normal member meeting beginning March 17.