



Member since June 1988

NEXT MEETING
September 8, 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 arti-
cle—send them as a sepa-
rate 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:

- ♦ June—\$34.15
- ♦ July—\$0
- ♦ August—\$52.25

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

THE SIGNAL

THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB



VOLUME 26 ISSUE 8

August 2022

MONTHLY MEETING SEPT. 8

At the end of July, we had a \$2,483.42 deficit for the year. Neither the Concord Show nor the Balloon Festival significantly altered that status. You can help—please pay your dues, and consider stepping up to sponsor a month of water or power!

Upcoming events:

- August 27—Joe Landry [Open House](#) 1-5
- Sept. 10—Toot n'Chug [Open House](#) 10-6
- Oxford Fair—Sept. 14—17
- Fall Train Show [Canceled](#)
- ExTRAINaganza—November 19, 20, 25, 26 and 27

AUG. 18 MEETING MINUTES

Paul Lodge — Secretary

President Mike Meserve opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Secretary's Report was approved as published in the *Signal*.

Owen Buck gave the Treasurer's Report and noted that the club made \$520 at the Concord, NH show. Much of that profit was from the sale of books. Since donations in the name of Larry Cannon are still being made, no total has been reported at this time.

Rick James reported that he was able to purchase a new air conditioner for \$300. This will replace the air conditioner in the meeting room. He also purchased a dehumidifier for the HO room and it has been working well. Rick has made "Guest Engineer" labels to give to children who run HO trains during the Balloon Festival this weekend.

Mike Meserve noted that the Warehouse District on the HO layout is ready for this weekend. He invited members to come downstairs and see the new signals which have been installed. It was reported that the G-gauge members have worked on the layout and have it ready to go for the Balloon Festival. The N-scale layout needs someone to be active so that the layout can be shown in operation.

Next month the club will participate in the Oxford County Fair. The fair will run from September 14 through September 17 with advance set-up days and a take-down day.

AUGUST 18 MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

A motion was made and approved to move September's monthly meeting from the third Thursday to the second Thursday because of the conflict with the Oxford County Fair.

It was reported that we will not have a fall show at Mt. Ararat High School in Topsham. It is felt that we will be able to have the spring show on April 29 at Mt. Ararat High School.

Joe Landry invited the club to an open house on August 27 from 1 to 5 p.m. at his home at 19 Or-estis Way in Lewiston. He described the extent of railroad equipment he has on his large back yard of about three acres. If members have children or grandchildren, this would be like coming to a railroad park. His extensive O-gauge indoor layout will also be running. His collection of railroad locomotives and rolling stock is impressive and worth spending the time to enjoy it.

During his recent working trip, Jamie Robinson was able to visit a layout based on Lehigh Valley's Wyoming Division between Pittston, and Northampton, Pennsylvania. He took pictures and video of the layout and shared it with the club. You can take a look at the presentation (as well as older ones) here: <https://www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org/clinics-and-workshops/>.

The meeting concluded with the drawing of the Attendance Prize won by Paul Lodge and the 50/50 raffle won by Sandy Sondheim.

The meeting adjourned and many went downstairs to see the new signals which have been installed on the HO layout.

DONATIONS

There are still 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.

Thank you Kelly Noble and Jamie Robinson for contributing to the purchase of the new de-humidified for downstairs.

We have also received some generous donations of HO and G gauge equipment, as well as a \$60 Power donation from Larry Elsner (a friend of Steve Doughty).

CONCORD, NH SHOW August 14, 2022

On Sunday, August 14, we had three tables at the Concord, NH train show. Show attendance was fair, and we netted \$519 after the \$120 table cost. About 2/3 of the proceeds were generated by book sales. A big thank you to all the members who helped load, transport, set-up, man tables, and tear-down: Owen Buck, Ron Czaja, Travis Johnson, Jamie Robinson, Ed Webb and Bob Wright.



BALLOON FESTIVAL

August 20-21, 2022

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club was open from 9 to 5 for the Saturday and Sunday of the Balloon Festival. Both days were gorgeous and attendance was lighter than we would have liked, but a good time was had by all those who did attend.

We have posted some photos and videos on our website which you can access here:

[Balloon Festival 2022 – Great Falls Model Railroad Club \(greatfallsmodelrrclub.org\)](https://www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org/Balloon_Festival_2022)



Steve Doughty's grandson Austin was gracious enough to do the climbing and ducking necessary to stick many balloons to the various layout backdrops. One of the many benefits of an open house is that it gets us to clean up! And clean we did. Lots of help from various folks straightening things out both upstairs and down.

We made a really big push in the last couple of weeks to get the new HO main track connected so that the big layout would be operable, and we were able to complete that task. You can watch the first test train here: <https://youtu.be/N77TJdrgcxc>. The first test of the new crossover didn't quite go as well, as you can see here: <https://youtu.be/HSUpbDeLfFQ>.



BALLOON FESTIVAL cont.





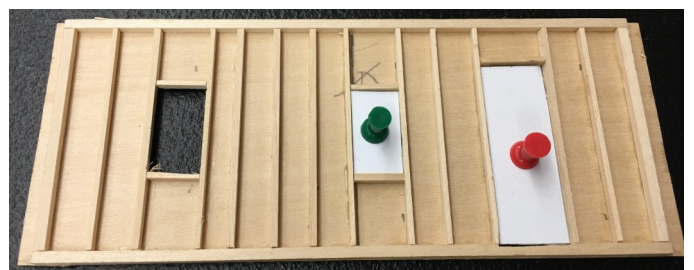
A big **Thank You** to all the members who turned out to help and who brought food for the crew. The public may not have turned out in droves to see us, but we had a great time anyway!

We do have some lessons learned from this. We will discuss at the September meeting so that we can improve going forward.

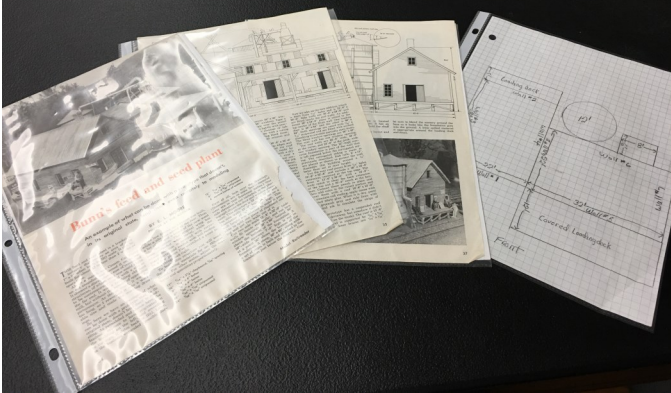
MODELER'S FORUM June 23 by Kent Waterson

The Modeler's Forum met again on July 28th with one of the largest groups we've had. Seven regular members and two visitors made for a busy evening. Attending that night were Bob Willard, Jamie Robinson, Kent Waterson, Dick Holman, John McMullen, Paul Lodge, Carmen Anastase, and the two visitors, Bob Wright and Kevin Twine.

Bob (Willard) started out the night showing the beginnings of a new structure project, E. L. Moore's "Bunn's Feed and Seed Plant." An article from the August '73 issue of Model Railroader provided the inspiration and plans for the mill. Drawing in the article were HO scale so Bob upscaled the plans to O scale. At the time of the meeting, Bob had one wall constructed and described his methodology. Instead of placing wall studs at a standard 18" or 24" centers, Bob simply places the studs where they are needed for structural integrity. Bob places foam-board shapes of the windows and doors he will use and builds the framing around these shapes thereby guaranteeing a perfect fit. The siding is then added to the outside and the doors and windows cut out. A simple and effective solution.



MODELER'S FORUM (cont.)



Carmen didn't have anything new to present, but instead brought a gift! He had been out to the NMRA convention last year and entered several raffles. One of these raffles yielded him a \$50 gift certificate to scaletrains.com. After going to the site and discovering anything he might want happened to be out of stock, he offered the gift certificate to anyone who thought they could use it. Bob Wright was the fortunate one who came away with the certificate.

Dick as well didn't have anything new to present, but also came bearing gifts (see why you need to come to these meetings!). Dick handed out some more used credit card receipt paper cores; roughly 2.5" by 5/8" plastic tubes that could be used to model various items. Carmen and John both grabbed the cores.



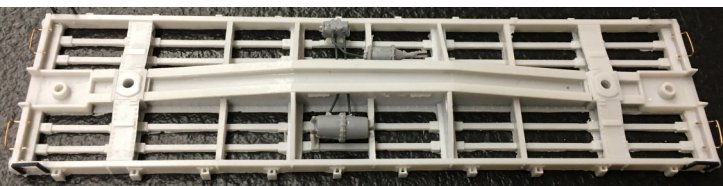
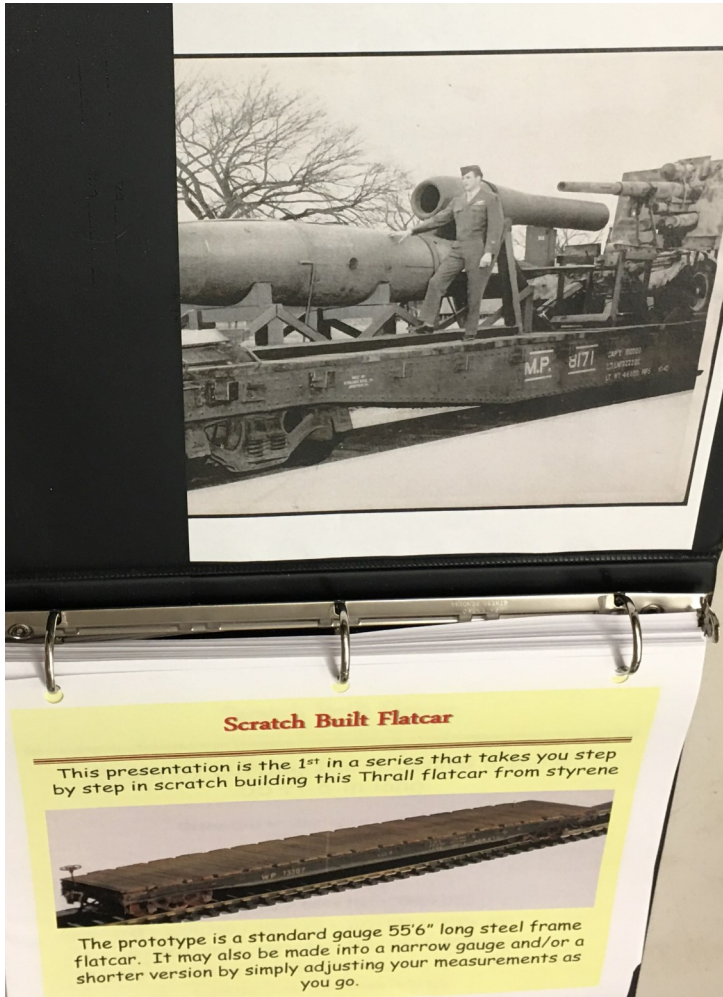
Paul then presented (we let him talk this month!) an example of kitbashing he had done for a specific location on his layout (with a semi-triangular shape). Using a pair of kits, Paul assembled a pair of the backs and fronts (with a door between the fronts) for two of the sides. The third side came from a different kit and provided the loading dock doors. A walkway covering was made from strip wood and a pair of workers putting on some corrugated roofing made from aluminum foil. AC duct work was added to the roof, one section of which Paul made from a razor handle - to which Dick asked: "What's a razor?"...



Paul added a single florescent bulb to the interior to light the structure and then created the signage for "W. E. Drain Plumbing." Finally, some exterior wall poster advertisements were made from magazine picture cutouts that were sanded thin and applied to the brickwork. The signs looked great!



Kent followed with an update on the O-Scale flatcar he is scratch-building. Some progress had been made mostly with the braces and cross beams and the sub-deck above. Kent also brought a pair of resin HO scale flatcar kits he is building. The current state has the frame completed with the various grab irons added and some of the brake work added.



Bob (Wright) then introduced himself and added his basic purpose being there was for inspiration. Bob was interested in joining the club and we hopefully provided that inspiration as well as see him return again.

John followed with a quick thanks to Dick for some decaling hints that provided useful in some projects he is working on. John is in the process of constructing three stations and showed a section of brick wall that he had added the mortar lines. While he was looking for suggestions of ways to do this task, his method of simply painting the mortar color on the brick and wiping off the excess looked great. Other suggestions were added, but the bottom line was "if you're happy with it, then that's the best method."



John is also working on a Dairy Queen and a Donut Shop and already has eleven houses completed.

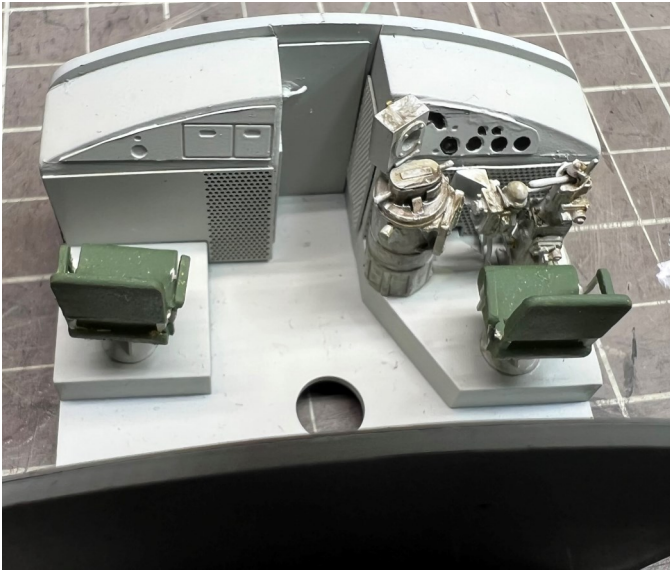
The next guest, Kevin then talked about his layout, a Z-Scale layout with Märklin equipment. Kevin started the hobby a few years ago and looks to join the club as well.

Jamie had spent most of his time this last month working on the HO layout but did show a couple projects in the beginning phase. An O-Scale brass Blomberg truck from P&D Hobbies with fully functional springs. Jamie will make some additions to the truck that we will see in future months.



MODELER'S FORUM (cont.)

Jamie also showed a P&D Hobbies F-Unit cab interior that he picked up from an estate sale. Being familiar with the real thing, Jamie noted a few discrepancies that will need to be corrected in the cab.



Lots of great projects and ideas were presented that evening. The larger variety of people makes for a broader range of subjects and brings out a lot of techniques, tips and suggestions. If you are working on a project, the group provides a great opportunity for suggestions or a chance for the group to learn from what you have done, come join us next month! The next meeting will be August 25th, then September 22. Hope to see you there.

For more photos, visit the Modeler's Forum page on our website here:

[Modeler's Forum – Great Falls Model Railroad Club \(greatfallsmodellrrclub.org\).](http://greatfallsmodellrrclub.org)

PROJECT HADES by Jamie Robinson

Project Hades moved along rapidly once the new crossover was installed. The efforts of Austin Campbell and Roger Plummer installing the sub-grade and roadbed made it easy to install the new track.





BYE, BYE, MISS AMERICAN PIE

Andrew Vick built a farmhouse on his layout that has pies cooling in the window!



Without coffee, this could never have been accomplished.

For a really lousy video of Roger Plummer running a ridiculously long train on the new main line, click here: [https://youtu.be/ UNnEHK7_1g](https://youtu.be/UNnEHK7_1g).



THE GREAT FALLS MODEL
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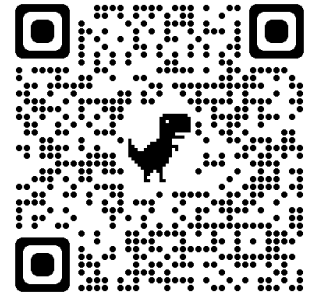
THE SIGNAL

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www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org

Upcoming Events

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Sept. 10—Toot n'Chug [Open House](#)
Sept. 14 thru 17—Oxford County Fair
November 19, 20, 25, 26 and 27—
ExTRAINaganza



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



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

Recurrent Activities

[HO Operating Sessions](#)
September 3 9:00 a.m.
[Regular Monthly Meeting](#)
Thursday, September 8 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, August 25 at 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 22 at 7:00 p.m.
[Executive Committee](#)
Except for extraordinary events, Executive Committee meetings will be combined with the normal member meeting.