

Member since June 1988

NEXT MEETING

November 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 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:

- ♦ July—\$0
- ♦ August—\$52.25
- ♦ Sept.—\$0

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

THE SIGNAL

THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB



VOLUME 26 ISSUE 10

October 2022

MONTHLY MEETING NOV. 17

We are still looking at a budgetary shortfall. If you have not paid your 2022 dues, please do so. Consider paying your 2023 dues and becoming a Utility Sponsor as well.

Upcoming events:

- 2022 Fall Train Show **Canceled**—Next show: April 29, 2023
- ExTRAINaganza—November 19, 20, 25, 26 and 27
- Surplus Assets Sale Dec. 10

OCT. 20 MEETING MINUTES

PAUL LODGE — SECRETARY

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

The secretary read the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting from October 13.

Treasurer Owen Buck was not present so Jamie Robinson gave the Treasurer's Report. Jamie noted that we need to have additional income in order to break even by the end of the year.

There was a discussion about our financial status and the annual dues. Some members wondered if the dues should be increased from \$30. It was felt that the dues should remain the same. Members who can afford to pay extra can help the club by renewing their membership at the "Sponsor" level, or by volunteering to join the Utility Team and pay a month's electricity bill of \$150 or a month's water bill for \$30. Pledges for the Utility Team can be made for the full or partial amount. For example, three people can donate \$50 each to pay for one month's electricity bill, or two people can donate \$75 each and pay a month's electricity bill.

Jamie Robinson displayed a smaller version of the train whistle and a dress-up kit containing a hat, bandana one of the small whistles that he had purchased online for a very reasonable price. Jamie noted that larger whistles had not arrived in time for the meeting.



OCT. 20 MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

It was suggested that the club purchase additional dress-up kits and whistles to sell at our events at the club and at train shows. Margo Robinson suggested using a food sealer to create a clean image for the dress-up kits. (The dress-up kits come twelve to a package.)

Jamie Robinson has created ExTRAINaganza family passes with notations showing where they were from. The passes also have our QR code so that interested people can go directly to the club's website for additional information about our event.

Jamie and Margo Robinson wore long-sleeve shirts with the club's logo in two different formats. There has been some interest in having a long-sleeve shirt, and \$30 was suggested as the price.

For our open houses at the club, there was a question about the entrance fee. In the past, we have asked for \$5 each for people 13 and over. At the Balloon Festival, we suggested a donation instead of a set fee. A motion was made, seconded, and passed that the cost of admission for all club open houses be by donation. Terry Obie noted that some people do pay more than the stated admission price.



There were many books available for club members to buy from Don Damour's collection. Prices were typically determined by checking the retail price of the book and then charging half that price. After club members have had a chance to buy the books, the books left over may be sold to book dealers or other interested parties. See the current available list [here](#).

Bob Willard said that this month's Modeler's Forum (October 27) will feature different techniques of weathering. Weathering materials will be shared with those who attend. Buildings and rolling stock will also be available on which to practice. Bob also noted that the combined November/December Modeler's Forum will be held on Thursday, December 1 at 7:00 p.m.

Darin Long reported that the HO Division will have an operating session on Saturday, October 22. Some sections of the HO layout have been improved and other sections are still under construction.

Corners for the modular layout are still under construction.

Steve Doughty reported that the O-scale division has received an additional donation of buildings and rolling stock, some of which will be available for the Surplus Assets Sale. It is planned that an On30 trolley may be added to the town. The Christmas train needs to be retrieved from under the O-scale layout. It is hoped that an O-scale layout can be made to show at next year's Oxford County Fair.

The G-gauge layout is having a problem with the upper line and its automatic switching system.

The main line of the N-scale layout is working, but the sidings still need to be wired properly.

The inventory for the storage shed is about half done. Once that is finished, we will start working on the inventory of the inside of the club building.

Getting helpers for ExTRAINaganza was discussed. It is estimated that we need at least ten members to cover the building. Please contact [Jamie Robinson](#) to volunteer or coordinate any food you plan to bring during the event. This will ensure that we have enough without having a lot of duplications.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Darin Long won the 50/50 drawing. Guy Lovell won the Attendance Prize and took one of the hats.

DONATIONS

The increasing cost of electricity has basically doubled our monthly electric bill. 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.

LARRY CANNON MEMORIAL SERVICE

Ruth Cannon, Larry's widow, has asked us to invite all members of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club to join with Larry's relatives and friends for a memorial service for Larry. The "Celebration of Life" will be held at the Park Street United Methodist Church in Auburn on Saturday, October 29, beginning at 11 a.m. After the service there will be a time for refreshments and conversation in the fellowship hall of the church.

Those GFMRRRC members who will be participating in the weekly HO operating session or work session might want to consider leaving the club a little earlier than usual and coming to the church as a group, perhaps wearing your GFMRRRC vest or shirt.

To help the women of the church estimate the amount of food to prepare, they would like to know in advance approximately how many people plan to attend.

If you plan to attend this memorial service for Larry Cannon, please advise [Paul Lodge](#); Paul will let Ruth Cannon know how many GFMRRRC members plan to attend. Even if you make your decision at the last minute, however, we do hope you will join us at this memorial service for Larry Cannon.

BOTTLES FOR BASICS NEW OPPORTUNITY

BY PAUL LODGE

The management of the Bottle Redemption Center in Auburn has offered to set up an account for the Great Falls Model Railroad Club. Members of the club, **or any other person**, can bring in bottles or cans and have their value added to the club's account. A member of the club will periodically collect the money from the Bottle Redemption Center and add it to the club's income.

The Bottle Redemption Center is conveniently located at [120 Spring Street in Auburn](#), diagonally across the street from the Hannaford Supermarket.

We can suggest that friends of the club who are interested in helping us financially can bring their cans and bottle donations to the Bottle Redemption Center and the club will benefit from their contributions.

ALONG THE LINE



MODELER'S FORUM Sept. 22

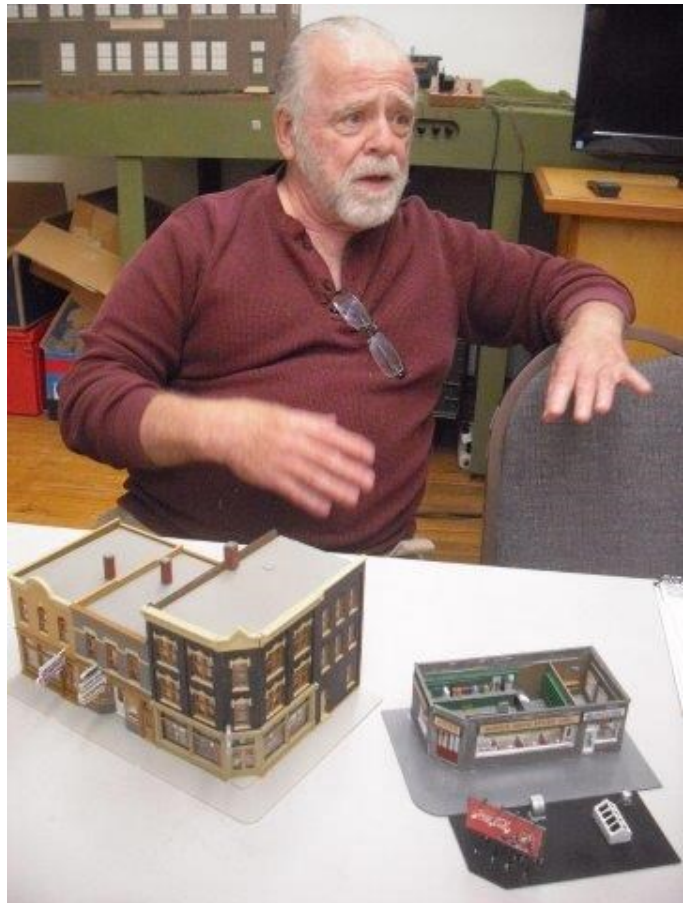
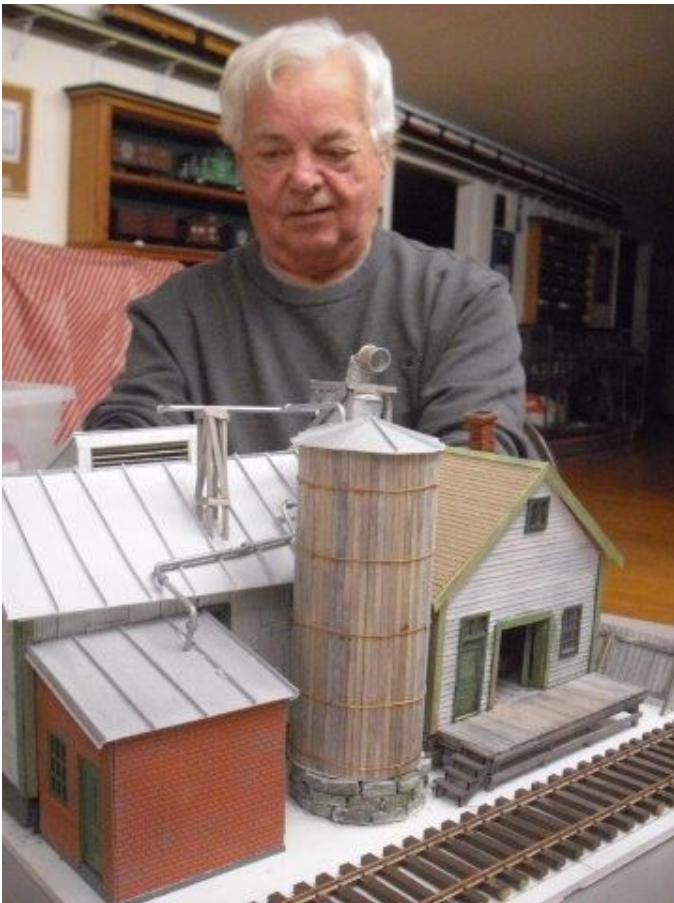
BY PAUL LODGE

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club Modeler's Forum met on September 22 with Bob Willard, Dick Holman, John McMullen, Bob Wright, Shawn and Bryn Doyle, Kevin Twine, and Paul Lodge.

Bob Willard brought the O scale Bunn's Feed and Seed Plant on which he has made steady progress this fall. He showed how he had made the wood look older by brushing black powder on the deck. As a result of his quick demonstration, it was decided to have a clinic on weathering at the next Modeler's Forum. Bob also brought three vintage trucks loaded with various items depending on the purpose of the truck. The trucks were all built from the



John McMullen explained that he has completed enough buildings to create a small town. He still hopes to add some government buildings, including a fire station and town hall.



same chassis but look totally different.

Bob Wright brought two Lionel engines. He is not sure they work and was wondering if there was a test track on which he could try them. No one at the meeting has been authorized to start the Lionel layout. It was suggested he bring them on Saturday when there would be members available to check the engines and potentially fix them if there is a problem.



Paul Lodge brought more of his scratch-built models of West Minot buildings. These were built in N-scale to make them look further away on the modular layout. The church, grange hall and two homes were displayed. He had used homemade graph paper for N-scale to help with the accuracy in building the structures. The members got a kick out of his use of "Crazy Wally Made Me a Better Deal" plastic license plates.

The meeting concluded with an agreement to have a weathering clinic at the next meeting on October 27.

More and larger photos are available on our website: <https://www.greatfallsmodellrrclub.org/modelers-forum/>

OPERATING SESSION

OCTOBER 22



CK contemplates Riverton. There's a lot going on there and it can be challenging!



Guy has International Paper under control...

OPERATING SESSION OCTOBER 22



The usual suspects keep the wheels shiny at Obie Yard.



A surfeit of locomotives at Chase!



AYOB09-22 eases by some loose cows in Wilder



Colby is in the Eagle's Nest at Spruce Ridge!



Planning the next move at Hillcrest



The Obie South Drill is hard at work...

ALONG THE LINE



Four-cycle engines burble at Chase during the early evening



Old school on the Lionel layout!

PROJECT HADES



Sub-roadbed for the northbound main line by the Warehouse District.



Roadbed for the new crossovers at the Intermodal Entrance



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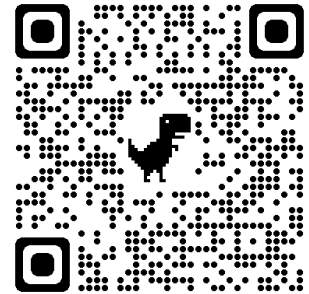
THE SIGNAL

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Address Change
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www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org

Upcoming Events

November 19, 20, 25, 26 and 27—
ExTRAINaganza
December 10—Surplus Assets Sale
Topsham Train Show—April 29, 2023



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](#)
November 5 at 9:00 a.m.
December 3 at 9:00 a.m.
[Regular Monthly Meeting](#)
Thursday, November 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, October 27 at 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, December 1 at 7:00 p.m.
[Executive Committee](#)
November 10 at 6:30 p.m.