



Member since June 1988

NEXT MEETING
December 15, 2022
6:00 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:
 ♦ **August—\$52.25**
 ♦ **Sept.—\$0**
 ♦ **Oct.—\$0**

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

THE SIGNAL

THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB



VOLUME 26 ISSUE 11

November 2022

MONTHLY MEETING DEC. 15 - 6 P.M.

Please note the earlier meeting time!

The December meeting is our annual Christmas Potluck dinner. If you have a Christmas sweater, please wear it—the uglier, the better! Be prepared to be featured in the January issue of *The Signal*!

Upcoming events:

- **ExTRAINaganza—November 25, 26 and 27**
- **Surplus Assets Sale Dec. 10**
- **Topsham Train Show April 29, 2023**

NOV. 17 MEETING MINUTES

PAUL LODGE — SECRETARY

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

Paul Lodge read the minutes from the November 10 Executive Committee Meeting. The minutes were approved as read.

Owen Buck's Treasurer's report was approved as given. He noted that the club needs to be concerned about rising prices in heating oil and electricity. Owen requested that club members who can afford more than the \$30 a year consider giving additional donations to help with expenses. Paul Lodge said that he will ask club members at the December Christmas party to join the Utility Team to help pay for the monthly electricity and water bills.

Congratulations and thanks were given to Jamie Robinson for clearing the meeting room of the library donation received several months ago. The extra space will allow us to hold games for the children at the Ex-TRAINaganza.

Bob Willard announced that the next Modelers Forum will be held on Thursday, December 1, in order to avoid having the meeting on Thanksgiving Day.

It was noted that the third corner for the modular layout has been made.

Steve Doughty reported that we have recently received a donation of a Marx O-Scale train. The donation included a track car which runs but needs some work. It is an unusual piece to be added to our collection. Steve mentioned that a Christmas train will be running during the Ex-TRAINaganza.

Nov. 17 MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

Reports from the different layouts were given. The HO layout has been cleaned, and a Christmas train will be running for the ExTRAINaganza. It was suggested that other trains on the layout be restricted to ten cars or less.

The N-scale layout has some issues, but at least two trains can be running during the event. It was reported that a donation of Peco switches has been received. They will be installed as trackwork is upgraded. The Z-scale layout has also been made serviceable.

The G-Gauge team has worked on the layout and it is ready to go.

Jamie Robinson reported that new signs have been made and will be set out for the ExTRAINaganza. Travis Johnson and Ed Webb volunteered to set out the signs. It was suggested that a map be made of the locations where the signs are put so that they can be retrieved after the event and be available for our next event.

Articles in the *Sun-Journal* and some of the free publications are helping to get good publicity for the ExTRAINaganza.

Bryn Doyle is successfully expanding our exposure on line through Facebook.

NEW BUSINESS

A leak in the roof has been identified. Roofer David St. Hilaire has been notified and will give an estimate for the repairs. He has worked on the roof in the past, and has treated us well. A motion was made and accepted to authorize up to \$2,000 to have the roof repaired.

The electrician has been called to fix the outside LED lights. They are not working properly. One stays on constantly because of an unreliable timer. [Note: all repaired 11/18/22]

The cost of soda and water has increased so that we can no longer sell them at fifty cents. A motion was made and accepted to start charging \$1 for a can of soda or a bottle of water.

President Mike Meserve reported that the club has been asked to set up a railroad display at the Franco/American Heritage Center in Lewiston on December 17 and 18. Mike suggested that we use our HO traveling layout and the N-scale layout for this event. We will be able to hand out flyers and any other materials appropriate for the occasion, especially our Operation Lifesaver materials. Paul Lodge will transport the layouts to the Heritage Center. The display will be held on Saturday, December 17, starting at 7:30 p.m. and on Sunday, December 18, starting at 5:30 p.m.

For the April train show in Topsham, Jamie Robinson is looking into the cost of shopping bags with the club's logo on them. They could be sold individually or they could be given with a sale of \$25 or more. The idea was discussed by the members, and Jamie was given permission to look into the cost and report back at a future meeting. There was also a discussion about charging extra for people who want early admission to the April show and about the ways it is done at other shows and at events similar to ours but in other hobbies.

At the end of the meeting, drawings were held. The limited raffle of a \$25 gift certificate for Governor's Restaurant was won by John McMullen, and he was also the winner of the 50/50 raffle. Owen Buck won the Attendance Prize and selected a coffee mug.

The meeting adjourned, and many members stayed to decorate the hall for the ExTRAINaganza, which began Saturday, November 19.

DONATIONS

The increasing cost of electricity has effectively 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.

We received some donations of equipment and accessories from Scot Therrien and Bill Hamilton.

BOTTLES FOR BASICS

Returning bottles at the Bottle Redemption Center, located at [120 Spring Street in Auburn](#) diagonally across the street from the Hannaford Supermarket, is pretty easy! Let the clerk know you are bringing in bottles for the Great Falls Model Railroad Club. He or she will let you know where to put your bag(s) of bottles and give you a paper to fill out. It asks for your name, but please make sure you also put on the form that the return is for the Great Falls Model Railroad Club!

Your family and friends can also help us by bringing their cans and bottle donations to the Bottle Redemption Center and doing the same!

THROWBACK—THE LAYOUT ON CANAL ST. ALLEY



OPERATING SESSION

NOVEMBER 5



An Amtrak Extra pulls into the Lewiston Lower station!



Shawn (l) and Bryce check out a piece of problem equipment



We had a bunch of visitors during the Op Session

MODELER'S FORUM Oct. 27

BY KENT WATERSON

The Modeler's Forum met again on October 27th with more sharing of ideas, projects and questions. Attending that night were Jamie Robinson, Dick Holman, Carter McNally, Kelly Noble, Carmen Anastase, Kent Waterson, Paul Lodge, Shawn & Bryn Doyle, John McMullen, and Jerry Grass.



The theme for the Forum that evening was weathering. We did our normal "around the table" updates, but it was more of a free-flowing discussion on the different ideas presented. A variety of different techniques were presented by different modelers.



Starting off the discussion was Dick with his method of making washes with craft paints. Often models come with a sheen on them, and a simple wash will help to dull down the finish. Dick thins the craft paints with blue windshield washer fluid and liberally applies the wash. Carmen mentioned his methods of using chalk and dry-brushing.



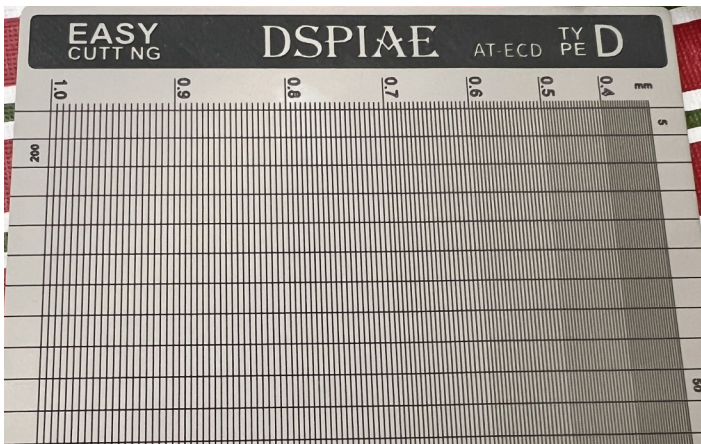
Kent followed this discussion with some general modeling items. A neighbor recently handed him a box of 3-Rail O-Scale track and a single locomotive. He brought the locomotive to the meeting, and it was placed on the O-Scale layout as a test – the locomotive ran fine. Some cleaning would probably improve the operation, but it was impressive that the locomotive still functioned after what appeared to be years of sitting idle.



Kent also presented some tools he's recently acquired. The first was a [Proxxon Pen Sander](#). The tips of the sander were a bit large for one task he tried, so a few minutes in Fusion 360 and over to the 3D printer produced some smaller tips which worked great.



Also presented was a tip: when trying to sand in a very tight space, using a small piece of sanding sponge held in a pair of cross-locking tweezers makes great tool. Lastly was a [Dsipae Masking Tape Cutting Mat](#). These mats have a grid of varying widths with the grids being a very fine engraving. A piece of masking tape is placed on the mat and using a hobby knife various widths of masking tape can be produced similar to what could be done with a piece of tape and a steel ruler.



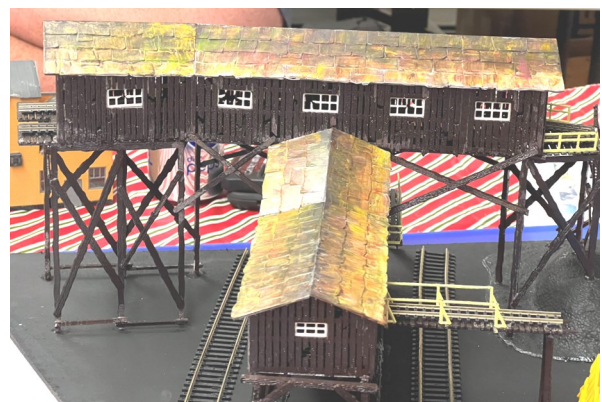
Paul then returned us to the weathering clinic. Paul demonstrated using pastel chalks that he scraped with a hobby knife and then collected the shavings in old 35mm film canisters. The dust can then be applied with brushes or sponge pads.

Paul showed the technique of cutting a small notch in a 3x5 card and using that notch to focus where the chalk is applied on a model. With chalks, the material needs to be secured to the model with some type of flat coat. Precautions were mentioned of spraying the seal coat from a distance such that the chalk is not blown off the model.



A discussion then broke out regarding the nature of weathering – it's random! Some general areas are constants such as wheel dirt and drip spots, but otherwise it can be anywhere.

John then gave an update on his building construction progress and showed a beautiful build coal mine that he had put numerous hours into.



MODELER'S FORUM (CONT.)

Somehow at this point the discussion drifted to various roadbed materials. It was mentioned that the standard cork roadbed supply was stretched, and alternate proposals were discussed.

Jamie finished out the evening and the weathering clinic with his method of using various washing and weathering powders from [Vallejo](#), [MigAMMO](#), [AK Interactive](#) and [Doc O'Brien's](#). The pigments make good crusty deposits on freight cars. Application of the materials is done with cheap brushes, micro brushes, and cheap makeup brushes.



A lot of good information was shared and there are certainly more techniques that were left out. We welcome others who may have had success in their methods to come share those techniques; we will all be better modelers because of this sharing of knowledge. The next meeting is a combination November/December meeting on Thursday, December 1st, we hope to see you there.

[Editor's note: More and larger photos are available on our website:

<https://www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org/modelers-forum/>]



ExTRAINAGANZA 2022

BY JAMIE ROBINSON

As I write this, the first weekend of ExTRAINaganza 2022 is in the history books. We had a very successful couple of days with 81 visitors on Saturday, and 71 on Sunday.

Russ Dillingham from the *Sun-Journal* popped in on Sunday and we got a nice spread in the paper on Monday, Nov. 21. You can check that out here:

https://www.sunjournal.com/2022/11/20/photo-gallery-wide-eyed-at-extrainaganza/?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Daily+Headlines%3A+Kudos%3A+Turner+teen+leads+effort+to+restore+cemetery&utm_campaign=SJ+Daily+Headlines+ND

We saw lots of smiles, and a bunch of familiar faces from folks who have come in years past. A big **Thank You** to all the members who helped decorate, put out signs and posters, bring food, welcome guests, operate layouts and generally be goodwill ambassadors. Without all of you, this simply could not happen.







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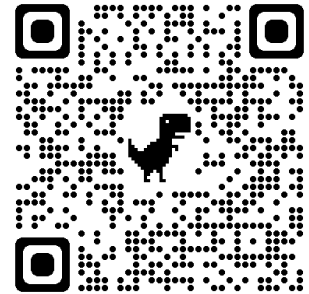
THE SIGNAL

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www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org

Upcoming Events

November 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](#)
December 3 at 9:00 a.m.
December 17 at 9:00 a.m.
[Regular Monthly Meeting](#)
Thursday, December 15 at 6:00 p.m.
NOTE the start time!!
[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 1 at 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, January 26 at 7:00 p.m.
[Executive Committee](#)
December 8 at 6:30 p.m.