



Member since June 1988

NEXT MEETING
January 19, 2022
7:00 p.m.

*Please bring a
 friend to our next
 meeting!*

When you send an article
 with pictures, please do not
 embed them into the 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:

- ♦ Sept. — \$0
- ♦ Oct. — \$0
- ♦ Nov. — \$41.00

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

THE SIGNAL

THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB



VOLUME 26 ISSUE 12

December 2022

MONTHLY MEETING JAN. 19 - 7 P.M.

Upcoming events:

- **Maine 3 Railers Show February 18 in Augusta**
- **Topsham Train Show April 29, 2023**

DEC. 15 MEETING MINUTES

PAUL LODGE — SECRETARY

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club held its annual Christmas Party with a variety of food brought by members of the club. Attendance was good, and several Christmas sweaters were in evidence... After the pot-luck meal, the club had its monthly business meeting.

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

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

Jamie Robinson gave the Treasurer's Report for Treasurer Owen Buck. The club did very well financially from the ExTRAINaganza. The Surplus Assets Sales on December 10 were also very good and helped the club finish the year on a positive note.

Reports from the layout divisions were given next. The HO Division is continuing to adjust track work to make for better operating sessions. A motion was made and approved to spend \$400 on HO layout improvements. The O-scale Division plans to make some track changes and add an On30 trolley line through the town. During the ExTRAINaganza, the N-scale layout ran well with a train hauling about forty cars. Travis Johnson reported that the modular group plans to finish the corners in time for the February 18 train show in Augusta. It was still not clear as to how much room will be allotted at that show for our modular layout. Travis also requested help in setting up and taking down the layout and noted that some members have adopted modules to help clean and upgrade them.

It was felt that special recognition should be made for George Pitchard, Dexter Baum's display case, and the O-scale Proctor contribution.

Jamie Robinson reported that the roof has been repaired by St. Hilaire Roofing just in time before the expected snow storm. The electrician has fixed the outside lights so that they are all working properly now.

DEC. 15 MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

Jamie also mentioned that [Tangent Scale Models](#) has reached out to the O Scale community with an invitation to sign up for their newsletter and an advisory to watch for future developments. Tangent produces some fine models in HO and smaller scales. Though they do not currently produce models in O Scale, this sounds very much like they are about to announce something significant. [Note: a few days after this invitation, Tangent announced a beautiful multi-dome brass tank car available in both O Scale and Proto:48].



The train show on April 29 at Mt. Ararat High School in Topsham is still on the docket. Mike Meserve plans to contact some model train manufacturers at the January show in West Springfield and invite them to our Topsham show.

Iowa Scaled Engineering, producers of the [ProtoThrottle](#), has just announced a new version of their WiFi base station to work around some significant availability issues for electronic parts. Scott Thornton (ISE) requested some volunteers for beta-testing the new base, and the Great Falls Model Railroad Club was selected as one of the test locations. Three members currently have ProtoThrottles, and the layout and layout room are complex enough to give the new base a decent workout. If successful, the club will be given the base station to keep after reporting on its functionality.

Jamie Robinson reported his research on shopping bags. Hamilton Screen Print on Minot Avenue in Auburn had the best price on bags which could be used at train shows and at our company store. With approval from the membership, this initiative will move forward. Once in hand, the bags will be available for sale to the membership and at train shows. We also plan to give customers a bag if they purchase more than a specific \$ amount at our sale table. [NOTE: the bags have been ordered and should be available at the January meeting].

The attendance prize was won by Bryce Weeks and the 50/50 drawing was won by Guy Lovell.

With that, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved. A good time was had by all!



DONATIONS

The increasing cost of electricity has significantly increased 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 a nice donation from Peter Brill of Wells, ME which included a genuine locomotive coal shovel that appears to be from the NY, NH & H.

UTILITY TEAM SIGN-UPS

BY PAUL LODGE

At the Christmas party, members of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club were invited to become participants in the Utility Team for 2023. Every year the club pays approximately \$2,500 for electricity and water and sewer expenses. Electricity costs the club more than \$150 per month; the monthly bill for water/sewer is about \$35. Club members who can afford more than the annual dues of \$30 are asked to help pay for these fixed expenses.

Members can have the option of paying \$150 for the electricity bill for one month. The \$150 can be achieved by three members pledging \$50 each, two members pledging \$75 each, or one member pledging the entire \$150.

After the Christmas party sign ups, there were still eight \$150 electricity options available. Only three \$30 water/sewer options still need to be filled.

Donors can select any month that is available. The payment, however, can be made at any time. The money goes to the club's treasury and is used to pay the utility bills as they become due.

These extra donations are really appreciated. Members who can help with this responsibility keep the cost of membership at a minimum for all families.

ALONG THE LINE



NELSON "DEXTER" BAUM

6/11/37—11/20/22

Dexter Baum, a valued member of the Modeler's Forum group, passed away in his sleep on November 20, 2022. Dexter had suffered from declining health this past year.

He was quite skilled at design and had developed a plan for constructing a handicapped-accessible layout.

Dexter donated a nice display cabinet to the club which has been dedicated to his memory.



SURPLUS ASSETS SALE

BY JAMIE ROBINSON

On December 10, we held a surplus assets sale at the clubhouse from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Though we had the tables previously in place, no merchandise was on display and club members did a great job of getting set up that morning!

We made a table available for Kent Waterson who was selling items from Dexter Baum's collection to benefit Dexter's widow.

By 9:45, there were people coming in the door and we were busy! Foot traffic ebbed and flowed during the day as it usually does, but by the end of the day, it was obvious that we had a tremendous success on our hands.

Thanks very much to all the members who came to help out, who bought stuff, and who brought food.

Special thanks to Paul Lodge for choosing this event to begin selling his collection for the benefit of the club.

Unfortunately, no photos of the event have come to light, so it's possible it was just a dream...



Modeler's Forum 3/28/19

Jay Wiley (l), Dexter Baum (c) and Kent Waterson (r)

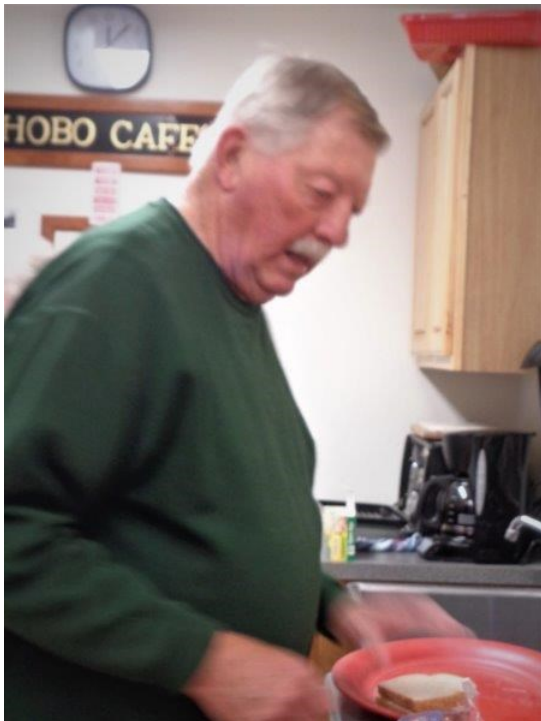
ExTRAINAGANZA 2023 WEEK 2

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club was open Friday through Sunday, November 25, 26 and 27, for the second weekend of ExTRAINaganza.

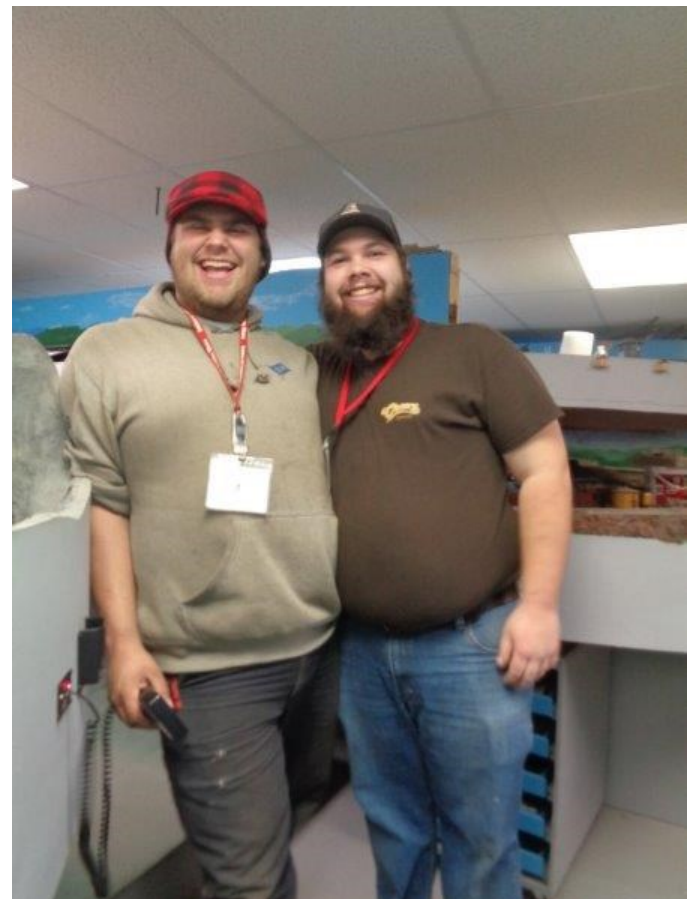
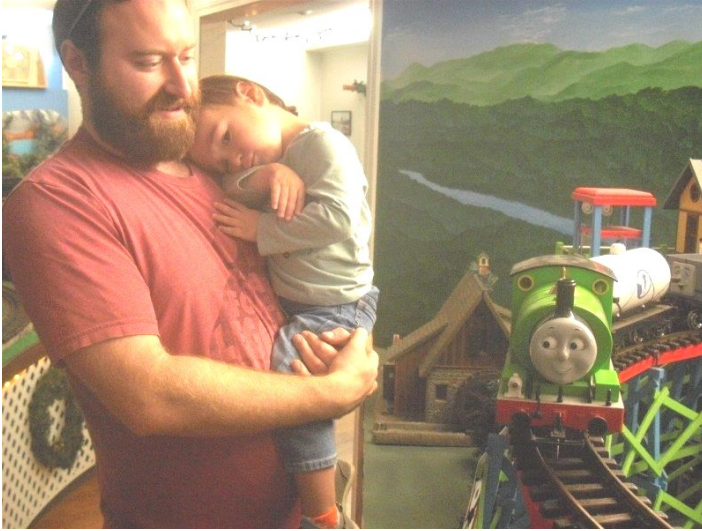
Scout Fischman, a reporter from WCSH, Channel 6 in Portland, visited on Friday. She spent over two hours at the club, and ended up actually running a train on the HO layout. We got some fantastic exposure on the 4:00 and 6:00 news on Friday, and more on Saturday morning. You can check out the clip here: <https://www.newscentermaine.com/video/news/model-railway-club-scout-4pm-natpkg/97-0d76451c-7665-4636-99cc-be038e381043>.

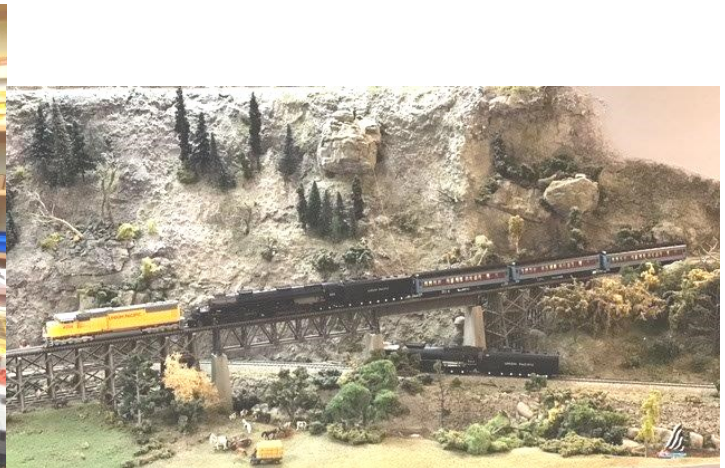
This timely TV exposure ramped up attendance on Saturday and Sunday tremendously, and we closed the event Sunday as our most successful ExTRAINaganza ever!

We are very grateful to all the members who spent so much of their time helping out, and a BIG thank you to Hobo Chef Jerry for making his specialty hobo sandwiches on both Saturdays. Welcome back, Jerry, we've missed you!



EXTRAINAGANZA 2023 WEEK 2







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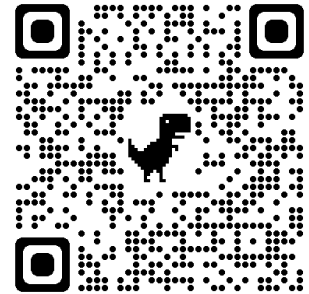
THE SIGNAL

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Address Change
If your mailing or e-mail address changes please notify us at:
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www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org

Upcoming Events

February 18—Maine 3 Railers show
April 29—Topsham Train Show



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

January 1 at 9:00 a.m.—Op 'til you Drop
January 7 at 9:00 a.m.
January 21 at 9:00 a.m.

Regular Monthly Meeting

Thursday, January 19 at 7:00 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, January 26 at 7:00 p.m.

Executive Committee

Thursday, January 12 at 6:30 p.m.