



Member since June 1988

NEXT MEETING
July 20, 2023
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:

- ♦ April — \$0
- ♦ May — \$0
- ♦ June — \$95.90

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collecting used ink
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THE SIGNAL

THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB



VOLUME 27 ISSUE 6

June 2023

MONTHLY MEETING JULY 20 - 7 P.M.

Upcoming events:

- July 8 — Surplus Asset Sale
- July 15 — NMRA Seacoast Division Meeting @ clubhouse
- August 12-13 — Wiscasset, Waterville & Farmington Show
- August 19-20 — Balloon Festival

JUNE 15 MEETING MINUTES

BRYN DOYLE — SECRETARY

President Jamie Robinson opened the Great Falls Model Railroad Club meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. The Secretary's meeting minutes from the May 18th meeting, published in *The Signal*, were approved as written.

Margo Robinson gave the Treasurer's Report and noted we need to be cautious with spending and to be sure yearly membership dues are paid. It was noted that we have a spending limit of \$60; any amount over \$60 must be approved by the Executive Committee if reimbursement is expected. The report was approved as given.

Jamie Robinson brought up our current subscriptions to magazines and whether we should continue to subscribe in the future. Paul Lodge made a motion to discontinue the purchase of physical print copies and only subscribe virtually to Trains.com which includes *Classic Trains*, *Classic Toy Trains*, *Garden Railway*, *Trains*, and *Model Railroader*. The motion was seconded and had no opposition - the Club will discontinue purchasing print copies of magazines. Margo will investigate the cost of obtaining a virtual subscription to the magazines published by White River Productions.

Margo Robinson noted that a large portion of the membership is not up to date on their dues. Reminders will be sent out following the meeting. If you have questions about your membership status, please email Margo at treasurer@greatfallsmodelrrclub.org.

There have been no changes to the G-scale layout, but it was encouraged for members to check out the Thomas the Train portion of the layout if you have not seen it.

JUNE 15 MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

Steve Doughty noted the addition of plexiglass around the O-scale layout to prevent damage. He will finish installing the plexiglass and augmenting it to ensure it does not have sharp edges that may cut visitors. A Lionel donation from pre-1942 was presented in immaculate condition. It is Standard Gauge and so is not compatible with the O- or G-scale layouts; it was suggested it be displayed in one of the Club's glass cases.

There have been no changes to the N- or Z-scale layouts. The HO Modular Layout Group has been working to prepare for the Vista of Maine event Father's Day Weekend.

Shawn Doyle noted that the HO-layout has been maintained and no significant work has been done to Northern Maine Junction or any other major layout projects. Paint on the cliffs in the mountainside, general track work throughout the layout, etc. has been performed.

Kora, the shrine in Lewiston, has invited us to come to their facility in October to display our modular layout. More details will be available next month.

The Vista of Maine event will be from 11:00 to 5:00 on Saturday the 17th and Sunday the 18th. A barbeque lunch is available both days and an ice cream truck will be there Sunday. We plan to set up our modular layout on Friday afternoon.

The Club will have a surplus assets sale on July 8th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The NMRA Seacoast Division will be having a meeting at the clubhouse on Saturday July 15th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. They have invited us to join their meeting which includes clinics and presentations. The meeting will be broadcast via zoom. It was noted that we will have a potluck lunch for them.

The Wiscasset, Waterville & Farmington Railway Museum has invited us to their Sheepscot Valley Steam Train event on August 12th and 13th. We will have a small sales table and tabletop layout. More information will become available once details are finalized.

Bob Willard spoke about the Modeler's Forum's square footer contest to be judged at Ex-trainaganza in November. Details, including size restrictions and specifications, are available. Novice and master classes will be judged by people's choice and winners will receive a prize.

The Balloon Festival is held in August from the 18th to the 20th. We will need volunteers to hold our event throughout the weekend.

The Oxford County Agricultural Society has invited us to have a display at their fair again this year. The fair is held from September 13th to the 16th. It was noted that on the first day of the fair, we need to be there early to meet the demand of the number of children at the fair from field trips.

We have been looking into setting budgets for each layout. Legwork from each layout is necessary to determine what is generally used each year. It was noted that \$1500 has been the undocumented total budget for all layouts.

It was noted that we need to manage our soda and snack expenses. Margo noted that last year, we made a total of \$97.44. This year we have only made \$2.11 and have spent over \$300. Jamie Robinson suggested that we consider stopping reimbursing for soda and snacks and that the club stops purchasing soda and snacks to reduce overhead costs.

Bob Willard made a motion that we get out of the soda and snack business. Bob's motion was seconded and accepted following a discussion by the membership that notice should be made to club members about this discussion. It was noted at minimum, we must be self-supporting monetarily to continue purchasing more rations. A motion was made and accepted to publicize the decision to no longer sell snacks and drinks if the membership is not paying prior to ceasing such operations.

NMRA has a model railroad directory on their website. We are not currently listed in the directory. A motion was made that we should list our layouts on their site to publicize our club. The motion was accepted presuming there is no cost and Margo Robinson volunteered to go through the steps to list us.

Jamie Robinson presented a PowerPoint highlighting other model railroad clubs including K&I Model Railroad Club in Louisville, Kentucky, the Northern Lights Model Railroad Club in Anchorage, Alaska, and the Oklahoma City Model Railroad Association and Museum in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Margo Robinson won the door prize and donated her winning ticket to Bob Wright who chose a Bangor & Aroostook bumper sticker.

Bryn and Shawn Doyle won the 50/50 raffle and donated the \$26 in winnings to the club.

The meeting adjourned at 8:44 pm.

need to return to separate the benchwork modules and remove them from the home. The modules will likely be offered for sale; if you think you might be interested in them, please contact Eric Long (sales@greatfallsmodelrrclub.org).

In addition, we received several brand new railroad-themed jigsaw puzzles which will make a great addition to the store and for future sales and/or raffles.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We had a good meeting in June and made a difficult decision about sodas and snacks. Sodas and snacks are not intended as a revenue stream for the club, but are priced to return about 130% of their cost as a hedge against some small amount of shrinkage. As of 6/16/23, YTD actual costs were \$393.41, and income was \$412.36, for a net of \$18.95. This does **NOT** take into account any of the considerable number of sodas that had been donated by several members without any request for reimbursement.

Margo is working out our foreseeable costs going forward this year. Currently we're on track to break about even, and we still have several revenue-generating events ahead before year's end. We're very hopeful that we can finish up on the positive note established by our success in Topsham.

Jamie

DONATIONS

There are still two spots open for Power Sponsorship @ \$150. Current power costs are about \$250/month...

Thank you to all those who have signed up. Please note that you can sign up at any time! These sponsorships are of great value to the club.

We received large donation of splendid American Flyer S Scale trains, and an entire HO layout constructed on Sievers modular benchwork. We have already removed the rolling stock and buildings from the layout, but still

ALONG THE LINE



Vista of Maine Event

BY JAMIE ROBINSON

On Father's Day weekend, June 17th and 18th, the [Vista of Maine Vineyard and Cider](#) in Greene hosted the Great Falls Model Railroad Club's modular layout and a couple of informational and sales tables.



We had an outstanding crew. Travis Johnson used his trailer to bring all the modules and supporting materials to the venue (two trips) and the modular crew set up a nice 24' x 20' layout that ran very well.



We also set up two tables and some display racks to offer Operation Lifesaver materials, magazines, and a few items for sale.

THE SIGNAL

You can take a walk around the modular layout and display [here](#).

It rained all day Saturday. The Vista folks said that when it rains, they get no visitors. But there were visitors on Saturday, and most of them came because we were there!



Sunday was a busier day. We had more visitors and the layout continued to operate well.



Margo, Bryn and Haley did a great job at the tables and talking with the visitors.

The modular folks kept lots of trains running, and there were enough people that nobody had to be on their feet every minute of the weekend.



Liam Brown (age 2) came to visit on Sunday and looked great in his cap and bandana, touting a small whistle!

Between sales of books, whistles, inexpensive freight cars and other items, we generated \$291.08 in revenue.

The Vista folks were very happy with our display and the visitors that it drew. It is likely that this will lead to some future opportunities as well.

This was a successful event for us considering that our costs were zero. It was made a success by the significant investment of time and energy by a number of folks including Austin Campbell, Shawn & Bryn Doyle, Chuck Hobin, Travis Johnson, Guy Lovell, Mike Meserve, Margo Robinson, Ed Webb, Bryce Weeks, Hailey Williams and Bob & Wanda Wright.

Thank you all!

2023 OXFORD COUNTY FAIR

It's official, folks, we're going to the fair again in 2023! We have received and replied to the official fair invitation, so mark your calendars:

Tuesday, September 12 — set-up day

Wednesday, Sept. 13 — Saturday, Sept. 16 — the Fair is OPEN

Sunday, September 17 — tear-down day

We will be back in the Community Roots building with a 24' x 20' modular layout, sales and displays.



We'll need lots of help! Fair opening day, Wednesday, Sept. 13 is the day for school kids. We'll need to be open for 0800 with enough people to handle the crowds. Typically we'll be open until at least 8:00 p.m. each day, weather permitting.

The fair is a great time. Helping us out comes with free admission (if you're signed up in advance). Please communicate with [Margo Robinson](#) to sign up.

If you'd like to see how we were set up in 2022, check it out [here](#).

NMRA SEACOAST DIV. SUMMER EVENT SATURDAY, JULY 15

Courtesy of Tage Erickson:

The annual Seacoast Division Summer Event will happen on July 15, 2023 at the Great Falls Model Railroad Club in Auburn, Maine. The event will begin at 10:00 am and conclude around 2:00 pm.

We have a terrific line up of clinics for you! [Check out the detail [here](#).]

Peter McKenney, Tom Oxnard MMR, Victor Hand, and Will Everett will be presenting clinics. Please check the [attached] Event Notice for all the details. This promises to be an outstanding Event. We will also have Show, Tell & Ask, plus the "For Sale" table. There will also be a convention report from the recent Maritime Federation of Model Railroaders Convention.

The information is in the enclosed notice. If you have any questions, concerns or requests, please contact me. Please save the date and join us at this Event. We would love to see you all there!

Best regards,

*Tage Erickson
Summer Event Coordinator*

Great Falls Model Railroad Club members are welcome to attend this event. Although the NMRA is quite specific that attendees provide their own lunches, anyone planning to attend is welcome to bring a potluck dish or contribution.

NMRA members usually will check out the various layouts. Although it's not a planned HO operating session day, I'm sure there will be at least some trains running on the HO layout.

We can use some assistance to be able to have trains running on the N scale, O gauge and G gauge layouts as well.

MODELER'S FORUM May 26

BY KENT WATERSON

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

With summer approaching, the gathering for the Modeler's Forum was a bit smaller on May 25th, although it grew a bit with a collection of visitors. Eight modelers and three visitors rounded out the evening: Bob Willard, Bob Wright, Kent Waterson, Carmen Anastase, Paul Lodge, Jamie Robinson, Shawn & Bryn Doyle were the regulars and joined by visitors Bud Santos along with Jerry and Teri Aston – Bryn's parents.



Kent started the evening with a re-presentation of the MRH Steam Throttle. This time he brought along the Raspberry Pi WiFi server which allowed the audio portions of the throttle to be heard (the throttle includes a built-in iPhone speaker). Last Month, Bob (Willard) had presented a set of punches he purchased. Kent this month brought another set of punches, a pair of disc cutter sets that use a punch & die arrangement to cut the holes. One set was from Amazon and cut holes from 1/8" up to 1" (<https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B0827NWKZW>), while the second was a micro set from UMM and punched holes 0.5mm to 2mm in diameter (http://umm-usa.com/onlinestore/product_info.php?



Next up was Shawn with a reefer car that was originally a Coca-Cola car but now modeled as one being converted to a Pepsi car. The model is intended to act as an uncompleted mid-conversion paint job. Improvements to the car included metal wheels and Kadee #148 couplers.



Bryn next showed the update on her field with the addition of a mower for the tractor (thanks Roger!). She also brought up from downstairs a "Swamp House." The house was unique in that it depicted an abandoned house that now possessed a tree growing through it and out the roof! Bryn burned the hole in the roof for the tree to give it a random look.



Paul had brought in a very large mill building from his layout. The generic mill had generated many "that looks like the mill at ..." to which Paul would say "then that's what it is!" Around the building was shrubbery made from an exfoliating skin sponge. The sponge was dyed green and looked very nice. The building itself had lights inside along with some figures.

Paul had originally added mirrors as well to increase the depth perception of the space and multiply the figures. Paul also brought in a second building that included a large smokestack. Paul passed around the "smokestack" with the challenge of "where did it come from?" The answer: the end of a pool cue! Paul recommended creating a junk box with miscellaneous items that "you never know" where they can be used.



Bob (Willard) then did a short demonstration of his tools and methods for working with wood. Tools included chisel cutters for cutting out windows and doorframes, the standard X-Acto knife with #11 blade, a Northwest Shortline Chopper, a Frisker "finger knife" (a unique handle that assists in applying cutting pressure), a thin beam square (from where else but Micro-Mark) and a Zona keyhole saw. Bob's techniques for building are generally build the support pieces similar to a stud-construction (not any particular spacing, but specifically locating the "studs" where the window and door openings are) and then covering the outside completely with siding (Bob places an arrow on the inside of the siding to make sure the clapboard is correctly oriented). Once the glue sets, the wall is laid siding side down and the chisels used to cut out the door and window openings. For glue Bob uses Gorilla glue (transferred to smaller dispenser bottles) purchased at any hardware store. For coloring his buildings, Bob uses weathering

MODELER'S FORUM May 26 CONTINUED

mixes from Hunterline and Vetro. The stains are applied with cheap acid brushes purchased from Harbor Freight.



Lastly Bob demonstrated a recent purchase (funded by his proceeds from the last train show). Bob purchased a Wonder Cutter, an ultrasonic knife that vibrates at 40,000 vibrations per second. Bob demonstrated the knife cutting through 0.060" and 0.080" styrene with no effort. A very nice toy!



Bob Wright wrapped up the evening with a show of some various model kits he dug out of storage. Kits included a Blohm & Voss BV141B, a pair of F-19 Stealth fighters, and a Lockheed Sea Shadow. Looking forward to seeing them completed at a future forum.



Thus, wrapped up another Forum. Mention was made again of the square-foot contest, hopefully people can find the time (unlike this writer!) to produce a model for entry. If you're looking for ideas or help, come join us at the next Forum on June 22nd. Hope to see you there.

More and larger photos from Modeler's Forum are available on our website: <https://www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org/modelers-forum/>

PROJECT HADES

BY JAMIE ROBINSON

The last turnouts are completed at the entrance to the Intermodal facility. This portion on Project Hades required construction of four powered turnouts (two crossovers) and one hand-throw at the throat of the yard.



The northernmost crossover is completed on the Northbound Main Line; the ties for hand-throw turnout for the yard throat are visible on the left.

Next task was to finish the mating turnout of the crossover. Of the five turnouts, all were long, two were curved and one was equilateral. It would have been impossible to purchase manufactured switches to fit smoothly into these locations like the handlaid ones do.



Here the hand-throw switch is completed. This switch and the crossover switch on the main line are very long curved turnouts. The length will enable us to move trains in and out of the intermodal yard without some of the issues we had in the past.





Great Falls Model Railroad Club
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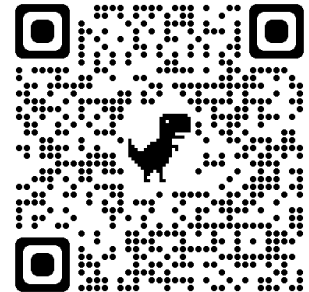
THE SIGNAL

The *Signal* is published twelve times per year by The Great Falls Model Railroad Club.

Copyright June 2023

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www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org

Upcoming Events

July 8 — Surplus Asset Sale
July 15 — NMRA Seacoast Div. Meeting
August 12-13 — Wiscasset, Waterville
& Farmington Show
August 17-18 — Balloon Festival
September 13-16 — Oxford County Fair



Grab your Great Falls shopping bag at the Company Store and show us off at the supermarket!



[Check us out on Facebook.](#)



Recurrent Activities

HO Operating Sessions

July 1 at 9:00 a.m.
July 22 at 9:00 a.m.
August 5 at 9:00 a.m.

Regular Monthly Meeting

Thursday, July 20 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, July 27 at 7:00 p.m.

Executive Committee

July 13 at 6:30 p.m.