



Member since June 1988

NEXT MEETING
August 17, 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 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:

- ♦ May — \$0
- ♦ June — \$95.90
- ♦ July — \$5.30

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

THE SIGNAL

THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB



VOLUME 27 ISSUE 7

JULY 2023

MONTHLY MEETING AUG. 17 - 7 P.M.

Upcoming events:

- August 12-13 — Wiscasset, Waterville & Farmington Show
- August 19-20 — Balloon Festival Open House
- September 13-16 — Oxford County Fair
- November 19, 19, 24, 25, 26 — ExTRAINaganza

JULY 20 MEETING MINUTES

BRYN DOYLE — SECRETARY

Eric Long, the Vice President, started the meeting promptly at 7:00 pm with the pledge of allegiance.

Bryn Doyle, the Secretary, gave the Executive Committee's meeting minutes and they were approved as given.

Margo Robinson, the Treasurer, reported that we are \$5481 in the positive for Q2. The electric bill has doubled this month to over \$400. Membership renewal reminders were sent out. Only 8 people have responded out of 40 members who are not current. If you did not pay dues, you will be removed from the membership list. The treasurer's report was accepted as discussed.

Rick James noted that the online magazine subscription is set up on the computer downstairs. All of the [Kalmbach Publishing] magazines we have in the library are also available on the trains.com site. He plans to continue organizing and purging clutter in the office area. It was also noted that a decision will need to be made about the fate of the physical copies of magazines. Rick noted that Josh Stevens has continued to work on adding slides to our website; there is a large collection available for viewing. [<https://www.flickr.com/photos/195172041@N07/albums>]

Steve Doughty plans to continue to add the plexiglass around the O-scale layout and clean out what is beneath the layout. He is planning to bring a 4'x4' O-scale layout to the Oxford Fair to add more scale representation at the event. He currently has foam and other scenery completed and has formalized the layout.

Shawn Doyle noted that there is an operating session this Saturday and that more work has been done to the mountain face on the HO-scale layout. Roger Plummer added a derailed Maine Central locomotive, fresh ballast, etc. to add to the scene.

JULY 20 MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

Dan Malkowski and Benton Hayes have brought the idea of a narrow gauge logging operation on top of the quarry area that will connect to Mountain Junction. Shawn noted that John Hebert's layout had supplied us with a few cars that are in current operation on the layout, a few buildings for the warehouse district, and other miscellaneous pieces. Shawn expressed that we are grateful for the donation.

Eric Long noted that not much progress has been made on the N-scale layout due to commitments with the surplus assets events. They plan to work on the mainline in the future.

Paul Lodge noted that the modeler's forum will meet as usual. Bob Wright noted some of the rules for the square foot contest include that nothing may protrude from the 12"x12" area, but it can be as tall as you'd like.

Bryn Doyle brought up the benefits of advertising on Facebook and Instagram for club events. It was noted that there has been a large increase in people who have attended our events since we have made a push online. Donations for advertising, where ads run upwards of \$50 per event, are appreciated so they do not dip too deeply into club funds.

It was noted that we need a facilities chair. If you are interested in volunteering for this commitment, let one of the members of the Executive Committee know.

The NMRA Seacoast Division had their meeting on Saturday the 15th of July. 16 members attended in person and 7 members viewed the meeting through Zoom. Tage Erickson, the president, thanked us for hosting again this year and expressed his gratitude for our hospitality.

We will be at WW&F for their annual club picnic on August 12th and 13th. We are bringing the portable HO and N scale tabletop displays and two tables for surplus assets due to space constraints. The event runs on Saturday from 9:30 am to 5:00 pm and on Sunday 10:30 am to 3:00 am. The club will be located in the car barn throughout the duration of the event.

The Great Falls Balloon Festival Open House runs on August 19th and 20th. We will need help at the clubhouse prepping for the event. General housekeeping and cleaning and volunteers are needed for the event. There will be a potluck lunch each day. Reach out to Margo to volunteer or with any questions.

The Oxford Country Fair setup will begin on September 12th from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm and tear down is the 17th from 9 am to 12 pm. We need volunteers from the 13th to the 16th from 8 am to 9 pm each day.

Paul Gardner, the future potentate of the Kora Shrine, presented the idea of a fall train show at their facility in Lewiston in 2024. The event will benefit both GFMRRRC and the Shrine. No rental costs are associated with the planning of the show. The details of the show will become available as the date approaches. A motion was put forth to go ahead with this show and it was accepted by the majority.

It was noted by Eric that Maine Model Works no longer has a storefront in Yarmouth. They will continue their online business and will continue to attend GFMRRRC shows. They are looking for another option for a storefront and it was requested that if a member knows of a reasonable location, to let them know.

John Herbert's modular layout will be broken down and stored off site for safekeeping until we are able to sell it. If you have any questions regarding the layout, let Eric Long know. **[NOTE: there is a party that has expressed interest in the layout]**

VOLUME 27 ISSUE 7

Eric noted that the Executive Committee considered the idea of establishing budgets for each scale layout. Heads of each scale will be consulted for their needs and what seems reasonable for each year going forward.

Margo noted that much of the club's savings are sitting in a generic savings account and that moving money to a high yield savings account. It was proposed that \$10,000 of the Club's savings, out of roughly \$30,000 be moved into a 6 month CD into a yet to be determined institution. It was noted that the money may be removed from the account at any time, but we would forego any interest and may pay a small penalty. A motion for the \$10,000 to move into a CD was approved.

The club is planning to place an order for t-shirts and polo shirts. If you are interested, contact Margo with your preferred design, and shirt preference. There is no additional cost to have your name embroidered on the shirt.

At the close of the meeting, Sandy won the door price and chose a new hat as the prize. Steve Doughty won the 50/50 raffle and donated his winnings back to the club.

The meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m..

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Thank you to Eric Long for chairing the July meeting, and to all of those members who attended. Congratulations to Sandy and Steve, winners of the prize drawings.

We have a number of events upcoming in the near future — August 12 and 13 at the WWF, Open House August 19 and 20 for the Great Falls Balloon Festival, then the Oxford Fair September 13 — 16. We will need help for these activities; if you can assist us, please reach out to [Margo](#).

Though not noted in the meeting minutes, I understand that Bryn spoke about the path forward for snacks and soda. A heartfelt "Thank You!" to Bryn and Shawn Doyle for accepting that challenge.

The HO layout committee continues to move ahead with cleaning and organizing the downstairs. It's much needed and greatly appreciated. They continue to add structure to operating sessions as well. Layout improvements are still being worked on too. Roger continues to add mainline ballast and scenery, and it's looking great!

Jamie

DONATIONS

There are still two spots open for Power Sponsorship @ \$150. Current power costs are about \$400/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 a very generous donation of an entire HO layout from John Herbert. The layout is constructed on Sievers modular benchwork. We have already removed the rolling stock and buildings from the layout, and have separated the segments. We have one remaining trip to remove them from the owner's home.

ALONG THE LINE



2023 BALLOON FESTIVAL

We will be having an open house for the Great Falls Balloon Festival from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, August 19 and 20.

As was noted at the July club meeting, we'll need plenty of help for this: HO layout operators (to keep trains running and guide student engineers), in the Store, G, O and N scale layout operators, welcome table staff and "front-of-the-house" help,. And that's not to mention set-up!

We need some folks to help set up on Friday, August 18. There are the normal umpteen balloons to stick up on layout backdrops, floor-sweeping, restroom cleaning and tables to set up and prepare.

If you can help, please reach out to [Margo](#) and let her know!

We have some new ideas for kid activities, and will have some new "kid-type" items in the store as well.

We are very grateful to the Balloon Festival organizers for having mentioned our open house on their Facebook page. Between that publicity and all the work Bryn Doyle has been doing, I'm very hopeful that we'll have a better turnout than we did last year.



Right: at long last the Intermodal yard lead is tied into the new switches! One more connection to go!

THE SIGNAL

2023 OXFORD COUNTY FAIR

We're going back to the fair again in 2023! We have accepted the official Oxford County 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.



MODELER'S FORUM June 22

by Bob Wright

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

22 June 2023 Great Falls Model Rail Road Club Modelers Forum Notes

Eight members were in attendance (Bob Wright taking notes)

Bob Willard – Brought copies of the Square Foot Contest Rules, and also brought seven O Scale structures that he had scratchbuilt in the past, including a Crossing Shanty, Engine Shed, Hand Car Shed, Run down shed with tree top fallen onto it, Gas Station, Outhouse, and a Covered Bridge. The amount of details he includes makes them very interesting to see.



John McMullen – Asked about glue(s) to use with Styrofoam and benchwork, several types were put forth, also different methods of cutting foam were discussed, including hot wire, old steak knives, rasp files.

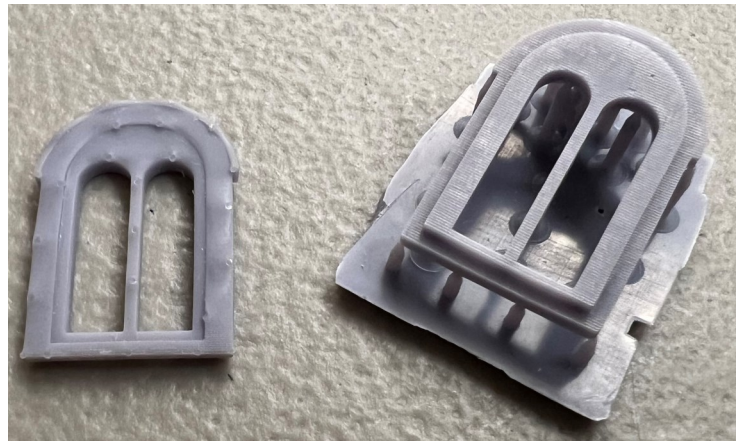
Paul Lodge – Brought in a box of G Scale items (loco, boxcar, track and has more at home) to suggest a raffle at Christmas time.



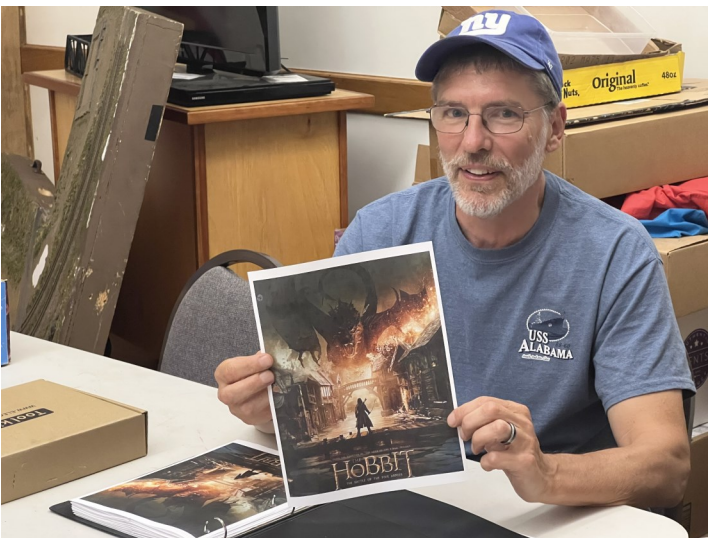
MODELER'S FORUM (cont.)

Carmen Anastase – Has been building houses for his layout.

Kent Waterson – Has been thinking and gathering information for a new O scale project he wants to create/build using his new Elegoo 3D printer. The subject: Laketown from the Hobbit as Smaug the dragon flies overhead burning it. He has done a couple of proof-of-concept tasks that he brought in to show; several window 3D prints and a working thunder and lightning board.



Dick Holman – Reiterated the Square Foot Contest saying it is a great way to get members to try something new and expanding their skillsets.



Jamie Robinson – Brought in a Proto 48 (Finescale O) turnout that he built several years ago as a test of concept with a working hand throw.



NMRA SEACOAST DIV. SUMMER EVENT

SATURDAY, JULY 15
COURTESY OF TAGE ERICKSON

The Seacoast Division held its 2023 Summer Event at the Great Falls Model Railroad Club this past Saturday, July 15, 2023, in Auburn, Maine. We had 16 members show up in person and 7 members that viewed the Event via a Zoom meeting. The Event was recorded and was subsequently edited by Jim Seroskie. The Event recording is now available for viewing on the Division Youtube site at the addresses below:

<https://www.youtube.com/@nmra-seacoast-division/videos>

<https://youtu.be/ingJIFZfEWM>

Unfortunately, for the first hour of the recording, the audio is quite garbled and unusable. Please accept my apologies for this technical problem. We don't have a dedicated technical person at these events and sometimes it is difficult to get everything synchronized and monitored properly. We will continue to try and make these Zoom recordings better. Thanks for your patience with us.

A brief summary (in order) of each presentation follows:

Up On The Roof by Tom Oxnard MMR. This was another terrific presentation from Tom Oxnard, MMR. Using many pictures from the structures on his layout for illustrations, Tom showed us all the many details that can be added to the top side of buildings/structures to enhance the realism of your layout. These include shingles, chimneys, stacks, vents, water tanks, HVAC components, skylights, junk, billboards, ladders, stairs, wires, cupolas, signs, and "oh yes," seagulls. Tom pointed out the many different manufacturers that make each of these items, and also some that are easily made from stuff you might find at home. Once again, thank you Tom, for sharing your modeling knowledge with us.

Scratch-Build a DCC Command Station for \$70 by Will Everitt. Will demonstrated how, by using readily available electronics parts, you can construct your own DCC command station and power your layout. He discussed the use of Arduino circuit boards and then showed us how they assemble together. This included all the cables, plugs and wire that was needed. Additionally, Will discussed the power supply options that are available and the software options. He also included a list of on-line resources where additional information is available. This was a really informative presentation!

Swing Bridge Construction by Victor Hand. Victor's presentation was great! His New York Central swing bridge is a work of art. Victor discussed the history of this particular bridge and how he uses photos to enhance the details that he builds into the bridge. He did not use any engineering plans to build the bridge, just the photos were used. Victor also talked about the different model manufacturers that he used to get parts for the bridge. This was a very comprehensive presentation! Victor's plan was to install the bridge on his layout the day after our event.

Bob Bennett showed us a movable section of his layout that he can install any of 6 different stations, discussing the history of some of the particular stations and how he uses construction paper to make the roofs on many of his buildings on his On30 layout. This short presentation has been documented in a past issue of RMC magazine from March of 2020. As usual, this is great work by Bob!

Report from the Maritime Federation of Model Railroaders Convention by Peter McKenney and Tom Oxnard MMR. Peter and Tom gave us a slide picture presentation of the recent convention which took place in St. John, New Brunswick, Canada, during the last weekend in May. The presentation included an interesting map of the rail lines in eastern Canada in the past and the present. Peter briefly discussed the local history involved with that. There were also some excellent photos of the layouts that Peter and Tom visited and operated on. This presentation was very informative and reminds us all that there is much to be learned from attending a convention.

NMRA SEACOAST DIV. SUMMER EVENT CONTINUED

Progress on the Fort Fairfield Branch of the BAR - Lessons Learned by Peter McKenney. Peter discussed the history of the BAR and his first attempts to design and build a modular model railroad in his basement. This included his collaboration with Tom Oxnard on the construction of the modules which depict the yard in Fort Fairfield, ME and the numerous potato houses that were located there. He then discussed his move and subsequent plans for the model railroad in his new house. Peter discussed his design concepts and his method for doing the research. He also talked about the insights he gained from attending conventions, how he used CAD to design the layout, and his intent to earn AP certificates as he works to complete the layout. Peter went through a detailed description of each section of the layout and how he intends to accomplish a multi-level design without using a helix. He discussed many of the lessons that he has learned over the years. This was a very informative clinic and hopefully an inspiration to the rest of us, to get busy with our own layouts. Thank you Peter!

Show, Tell & Ask: Jay Ehlen brought a beautiful diorama that depicted a waterfront scene, for the "J. Gillum & Son" marine supply company. The structures included a short pier, a float, and a marina building with an amazing amount of detail, both inside and outside the structure. This is very well done! Thanks Jay!

In summation, I thought this was a very good event; it appeared that all of those present enjoyed it and that it was time well spent. I would like to specifically thank the members of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club for hosting this Event for us. Over the years, their generosity and kind hospitality are greatly appreciated by the members of the Seacoast Division.

Again, I want to apologize to all of you, that watched on Zoom and will watch the video, for the terrible audio during the first hour of the broadcast. We will get better at this! I also want to extend my thanks to all of the presenters who took the time and effort to put together these presentations. These Events don't happen unless our members step up and volunteer to assist. In closing, I also want to thank all the members that made the trip to Auburn, Maine and to those that joined the Zoom broadcast. This is your organization and if we all just pitch in once in a while to help out, it makes all of us better modelers.

My best regards to each of you,

Tage Erickson

Summer Event Coordinator

ALONG THE LINE





Do you know where these photos were taken?

Email your guess to:

gfrsignal@greatfallsmodellrrclub.org



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THE SIGNAL

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

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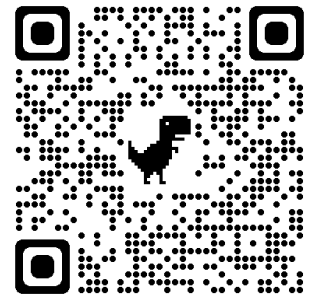
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Upcoming Events

August 12-13 — Wiscasset, Waterville
& Farmington Show

August 17-18 — Balloon Festival

September 13-16 — Oxford County Fair

November 18, 19 and 24-26
EsxTRAINaganza



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

August 5 at 9:00 a.m.

Sept. 2 at 9:00 a.m.

Regular Monthly Meeting

Thursday, Aug. 17 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, Aug. 24 at 7:00 p.m.

Executive Committee

Concurrent w/monthly meeting Aug. 17