

Member since June 1988

NEXT MEETING
September 9, 2023
1:00 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 monthly meeting**

**YOU MUST BE
PRESENT TO WIN!**

Bottles for Basics:

- ♦ June — \$95.90
- ♦ July — \$5.30
- ♦ August — \$30.00

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

THE SIGNAL

THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB



VOLUME 27 ISSUE 8

August 2023

MONTHLY MEETING SEPT. 9 AT 1 P.M.

Upcoming events:

- September 13-16 — Oxford County Fair
- September 30 — Surplus Assets Sale
- October 28 — Joe Landry open house
- November 19, 19, 24, 25, 26 — ExTRAINaganza
- December 9 — Surplus Assets Sale

AUGUST 17 MEETING MINUTES

BRYN DOYLE — SECRETARY

The president, Jamie Robinson, began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance promptly at 19:00.

The Secretary, Bryn Doyle's, meeting minutes were accepted as published in *The Signal*.

The Treasurer, Margo Robinson, gave the financial report for July. Overall, our total income for the month was \$2753.93. It was noted that our cash flow was - \$102.87 last month due to the semi-annual insurance bill. The Club has invested money into the high yield savings account at Maine Community Bank. It currently is showing great potential for growth at a 5% rate; the CD will mature in February.

Margo also noted that there are currently 21 people who are not current with their membership. Please, respond to the email that was sent out if you have not already. If you do not reply, you will be removed from the membership list and can reapply in the future.

There are no updates in regards to the Library.

Steve Doughty introduced Nate, a new member and expressed their interest in a second level for the O gauge layout. He also expressed gratitude to Nate and Jamie for helping with the installation of the plexiglass around the current O Gauge layout. Steve's mobile O Gauge layout is coming along nicely and will be ready for the Oxford Fair.

Shawn Doyle noted that a lot of cleaning and organizing has been done downstairs. The computer for viewing videos and magazine subscriptions, trains have been built and other preparations have been done for the Balloon Festival on Saturday and Sunday. A bookcase may be up for grabs for anyone who may need it - talk to Shawn or Bryce if you are interested.

AUGUST 17 MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

Eric Long noted that there have not been any major updates with the N scale layout.

Bob Willard noted the square footer contest. The contest is open to anyone, not just those who are involved in the Modeler's Forum. It was noted that there is an addition to the cabinet dedicated to Dexter Baum. He encouraged everyone to check it out.

Jamie noted that the modular committee plans to bring their layout to the Oxford Fair.

Bryn noted that there was a large push for publicity for the Balloon Festival. Advertisements on social media have reached over 35,000 people. We are hoping this makes a big difference for attendance during our Balloon Festival Open House. Margo also noted that she has contacted Sam Carr to add all of our events to his newsletter that reached modeler's across New England.

Jamie noted that there is still no one in the facilities position. He also shouted out Nate for his help with cutting the grass and maintaining the property.

Eric noted that there were a lot of people who stopped to look over our layouts and talk with us at the Wiscasset, Waterville, and Farmington Railway event this past weekend. Steve noted that there wasn't great visibility on us and in the future we should have a sign pointing people to our location if we ever go again.

Margo made certificates for the Junior Engineers downstairs and noted Paul's idea for a "shutterbug scavenger hunt." Paul noted that this activity will allow children to take photos and share them to improve publicity for the club.

Following the Balloon Festival, our next major event is the Oxford County Fair. Margo noted that we need volunteers for both events. She also already has a setup for the Fair that includes the modular layout, educational posters, an N-scale table, and a small O-scale layout. We will need help on Wednesday morning of the Fair in particular to help with school groups.

There will also be a surplus assets sale on September 30th. We expect a large influx of equipment and materials in the coming weeks.

If you'd like a shirt, Jamie, noted that you should reach out to Margo to order. If you have already ordered, Margo has them. It is \$15 for a t-shirt and \$25 for a polo. There is no additional charge to have your name embroidered as well. **[EDIT: now a \$2 upcharge for names]**

Margo noted that we have a bunch of new items to sell at the Balloon Festival, the Oxford Fair, and ExTRAINaganza including train bracelets, wooden trains that can be painted, train ornaments, stampers, and more. She also donated prizes for games for Open Houses including notepads and temporary tattoos.

Eric noted that on Saturday the 26th we will be working to disassemble the Herbert layout in Poland. He requested assistance in moving this layout to Jim Teed's. They will meet at the clubhouse at 8:30 to arrive at 9:00 to start working. The layout in question is large and reaches over 15 feet by 30 feet.

Joe Landry has offered for us to visit his newly redone layout. He has redone all of his scenery and has been working on it since January. It has upgraded LED lights and is done with joint compound. He would like to share what he has learned over 75 years of modeling. The layout is 16' wide and 32' long with an 8'x8' addition. He has trains to view from floor to ceiling. If you'd like to see the trains running, check out Joe Landry Trains on YouTube [<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h2GqLDKdIQk>]. Joe noted he has more than just trains; there are trucks and automobiles to see as well. We are planning on visiting his home at 1:00 pm at 19

Orestis Way, Lewiston on October 28th.

The Abbott Memorial Library in Dexter has reached out for us to do a presentation. There will be more details to come.

Now that it is starting to get dark earlier, Jamie brought up that we might consider changing the meetings to Saturday afternoons to accommodate those who cannot drive at night. The only conflict for this year would be ExTRAINaganza. Eric Long and Paul Lodge noted that transitioning to a Saturday meeting from September to March would make the most sense. After much discussion, a motion by Steve was made that our next meeting will be September 9th at 13:00. If that meeting time works out, we will transition to this new schedule, the second Saturday of the month at 13:00 through March. If not, we will adjust appropriately.

Margo also noted that our website calendar has been updated through the end of year with all of our events. [<https://www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org/calendar/>]

Bob Willard won the door prize and Jamie Robinson won \$32 in the 50/50. The \$32 was donated to the club.

The meeting adjourned at 20:29.

DONATIONS

There is still one spot open for Power Sponsorship @ \$150. Current power costs are over \$400/month!

Thank you Ron Czaja for your Power Sponsorship!

The HO layout donated by John Herbert has been moved too the basement of its new owner. We will be assisting with setting it up and getting it running again, and we hope it will provide enjoyment for a long time to come!

We received a nice donation from Conrad Davis—a couple of tubs of HO and On30 equipment. Thank you

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Well, August was a pretty busy month between the two-day show at the Wiscasset, Waterville & Farmington and our two-day open house for the Great Falls Balloon Festival.

Get a little rest; we're right back at it in September for the Oxford County Fair on the 13th —16th and then on September 30th for another Surplus Assets Sale!

We made an important decision at the August club meeting to move the member meetings to the second Saturday of the month (we'll have to adjust in December — the Surplus Assets sale will be held on Dec. 9th) at 1:00 p.m. We sincerely hope that this will allow more members to attend. While lots of folks have things to do on Saturday afternoons, there will at least be daylight outside, and it's increasingly difficult for many of us to drive at night.!

I hope to see lots of faces at the September meeting. We'll be finalizing the plans for the Oxford County Fair. We could do a potluck lunch starting at noon if there is sufficient interest. Please drop me an email if you think that's a good idea:

jamie@greatfallsmodelrrclub.org

Jamie



2023 BALLOON FESTIVAL

Well, the Great Falls Balloon Festival Open House was quite successful. We hosted 68 visitors on Saturday, and 70 visitors on Sunday. Every child could pin their name onto the balloon board if they wanted to.



All the layouts were up and running. There was lots of interest and everyone had a good time.



James and Simon P. had a great time!



Roundhouse Roulette is always popular!

WW&F Ry.

We were at the Wiscasset, Waterville & Farmington train show on August 12th and 13th. There were many visitors to our display. Members did a great job promoting our organization and events!

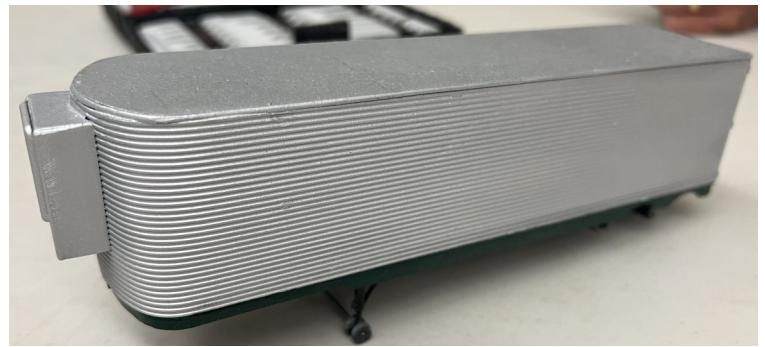


MODELER'S FORUM July 27 by Bob Wright

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

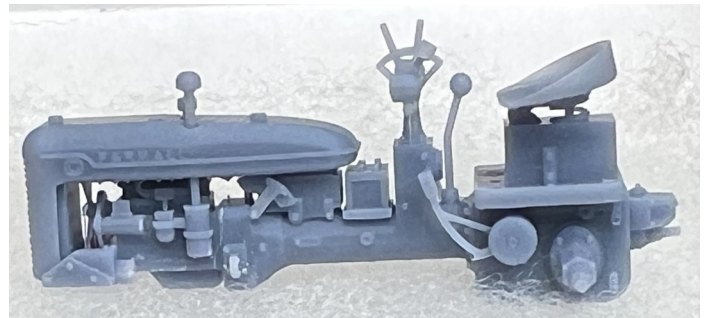
Eight in attendance (Bob Wright taking notes).

Bob Willard – Showed off a new Gordon Deluxe Hobby Knife Set, 39 Piece he had purchased at Harbor Freight for about \$12 (on sale). Cushioned handles with a small protrusion to help prevent rolling off the worksurface (for safety). He also showed off a Corgi Volkswagen model car to remind him of the full size 1961 vehicle he owned. Last item he brought was a Long John body he created out of styrene for a tractor trailer frame.

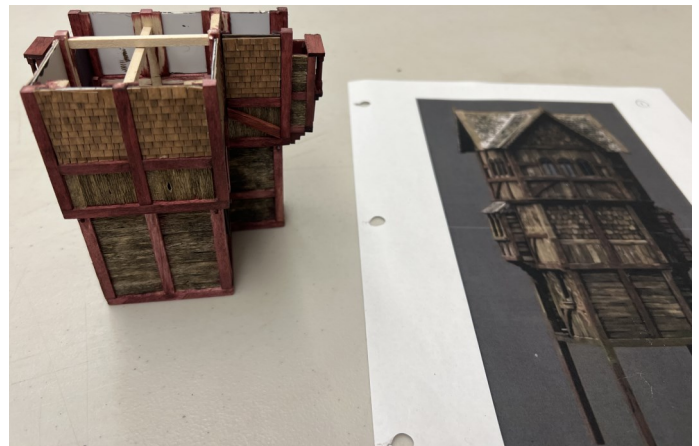


Jamie Robinson – Brought a Sierra West 1/48 scale 3D-printed model kit of a Farmall Model "C" tractor that he purchased recently. Very nice detail.

https://www.sierrawestscalemodels.com/3DP_tractor.html



Kent Waterson – Brought a Glue Dot dispenser he has been using for holding items for painting, working on parts. Mistakenly purchased a 50 mm table saw blade for modeling and passed it on to Jamie. Showed off LED (automotive) lights he purchased for his Laketown O scale project. Brought in more 3D printed windows he has produced and a first stab at a Laketown building with 3D and scale wood components.





Carmen Anastase – Asked for comments and advice on a 1-foot section of a future home rail-road layout.



Steve Doughty – Brought in a water feature he is going to use for a 4' x 4' O scale layout to take to future GFMRRRC events. He had created it at a past NMRA convention clinic/class.



Dick Holman – Showed off two 1 foot square scenes created in the past, a Christmas scene and a boat yard scene. Also showed off quite a few other model building he and his daughters had created over the years; Indian Island Lighthouse off Rockland (school project), out-house challenges (5), house and woodshed. All of which were highly detailed and well done.





Paul Lodge – Brought a filled battery organizer and discussed his upcoming Christmas presents to grandchildren(?). He was looking for ideas for how to construct a “lightning in a bottle”. One thought was to purchase a small battery powered LED light string that can be placed in the bottle.

Hope to see you at the next meeting!



Do you know where these photos were taken? Email your guess to:

gfrsignal@greatfallsmodellrrclub.org

No guesses last month, so I guess I'll leave these here until September...



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<https://www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org/>
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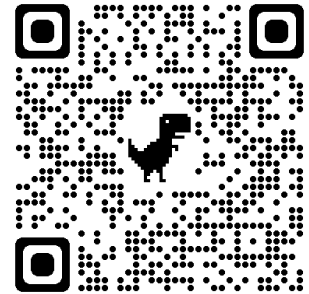
THE SIGNAL

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If your mailing or e-mail address changes please notify us at:
gfrsignal@greatfallsmodelrrclub.org



www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org

Upcoming Events

September 13-16 — Oxford County Fair

Sept. 30 — Surplus Assets Sale

Oct. 28 — Joe Landry open house

November 18, 19 and 24-26
ExTRAINaganza

December 9 — Surplus Assets Sale



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

September 2 at 9:00 a.m.

October 7 at 9:00 a.m.

October 21 at 9:00 a.m.

Regular Monthly Meeting

Saturday, Sept. 9 at 1:00 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, Sept.. 28 at 7:00 p.m.

Executive Committee

Concurrent w/monthly meeting Sept.. 9