



Member since June 1988

**NEXT MEETING**  
**October 14, 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:**

- ♦ July — \$5.30
- ♦ August — \$30.00
- ♦ Sept. — \$27.25

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

# THE SIGNAL

THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB



VOLUME 27 ISSUE 9

September 2023

## MONTHLY MEETING OCT. 14 AT 1 P.M.

### Upcoming events:

- September 30 — Surplus Assets Sale
- October 28 — Joe Landry open house
- November 18, 19, 24, 25, 26 — ExTRAINaganza
- December 9 — Surplus Assets Sale

### SEPTEMBER 9 MEETING MINUTES

BRYN DOYLE — SECRETARY

Prior to the start of the meeting, an NMRA clinic was shown featuring the use of photographs for creating building interiors

Jamie started the meeting at 1:01 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bryn stated last month's meeting minutes were published in *The Signal*. The minutes were accepted as published.

Margo gave the treasurer's report. We are approximately \$4000 ahead and have already made \$37.50 in our new high-yield savings account. Our electric bill has continued to rise; September's bill is nearly \$500.

Margo also discussed membership. Membership runs from January 1st to December 31st. If you join after September 1st, you are current through the end of the following year. If you do not see your name badge on the hooks near the door, see Margo as you are not current with membership. Margo plans to send renewal reminders after Thanksgiving.

Jamie gave the librarian report for Rick. We have gotten all of the slides back from Josh Stevens. Rick is looking into the costs for proper storage for the slides.

Steve gave the report for the O-gauge layout. The bridge has been replaced by Nate Cheever. Steve noted that the 3-rail is running once again, but the 2-rail is not running quite yet. The portable O-gauge layout will also be ready for the Oxford Fair next week.

Shawn gave the report for the HO-scale layout. Austin is beginning to

## SEPTEMBER 9 MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

rehabilitate the Chase Engine Facility and make it appear more realistic for the era they are working to model. Shawn brought up a request for funds for supplies totaling roughly \$400.

No one was present to give a report for the N-scale layout.

Bob W. gave the report for the Modeler's Forum. He reminded the group about the square footer contest that will be judged during ExTRAINaganza. There was also discussion about moving the Modeler's Forum to after the regular club meeting.

No one was present to give a report for the Modular Committee, but it was noted that they will be at the Oxford Fair next week.

Bryn noted that there are no significant updates in terms of advertising and media.

Nate, the new facilities head, noted that he had cleaned up the asphalt outside and has been maintaining the grounds. Shawn brought up that we should perform preventative maintenance now on the tractor before the snow season begins. [Ed. Note — the tractor was serviced this spring and has not been used since it came back; the snowblower is currently being worked on and should be ready in a week or so.]

Margo spoke about the results for the Balloon Festival. Last year we made approximately \$215, whereas this year we made approximately \$1015 with \$592 made from the door alone. It was noted that advertising and door signs were the most significant ways people had heard about our event.

Jamie spoke about attending the Oxford Fair. We will need help setting up on Tuesday and tearing down on Sunday. Tuesday, we will meet at the club at 8:30 am to begin moving things to the fairgrounds. Otherwise, we will be there from 9 am to 9 pm each day with the exception of Wednesday, where we should have people there by 8 am.

Jamie noted that we will be having another surplus assets sale on September 30th from 10 am to 2 pm. We will need help setting up at the club on the Friday before.

Please, continue to think about a budget for each layout. We will set those budgets going into 2024.

We still have the ability to purchase club shirts. If you would like one, see Jamie or Margo.

The layout we potentially were taking from Thomaston fell through because the owners found a buyer.

We have received a request for a presentation at the Abbott Memorial Library in Dexter. This will be planned for the Spring of 2024 and we will have more details as the time approaches.

Joe Landry has extended an invitation for club members to visit his home and view his layout on October 28th from 1 pm to 5 pm. You can get a preview of his previous layout here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h2GqLDKdIQk>. Since that video, he has updated all of the structures and scenery. If you plan to come, drive down the driveway and park on the land beyond there near the door to the walkout basement.

John McMullen won the door prize.

Steve Doughty won the 50/50 drawing for \$31 and donated it back to the club making the total pot \$62.

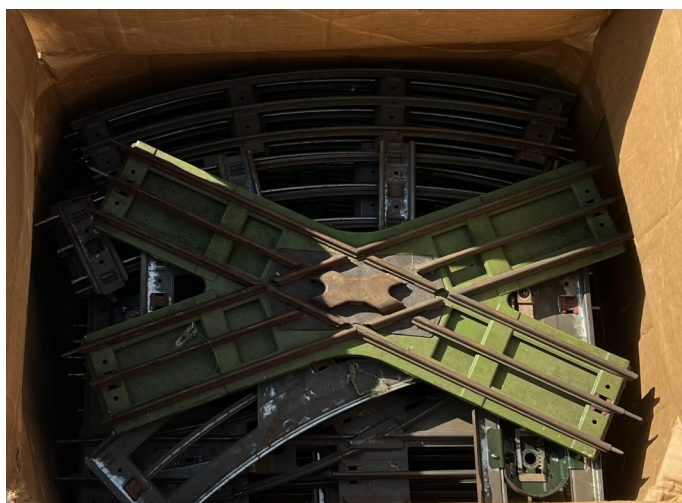
The meeting adjourned at 1:51 pm.

## DONATIONS

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

Thank you to the EL Class of 1958 for your generous donation of \$100.00.

Many thanks to Linda Davis of Oxford who donated her late husband's American Flyer S Gauge collection and a magnificent Lionel Standard Gauge 10E locomotive with matching cars in its original box. This set is pre-war and is truly beautiful! It came with an assortment of track that's in really decent shape, and an original transformer.



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This month's business meeting was short and sweet—less than one hour. We didn't get any response about doing a potluck lunch, so that didn't happen.

In August and September, we aired an NMRA clinic before each meeting. These clinics are interesting, and their availability is a benefit of the Club's NMRA membership.

Don't forget that we have a subscription to Trains.com too. We also have the DVD that Kalmbach produced prior to establishment of the web-based library, as well as a DVD with the complete collection of *Mainline Modeler* magazine. The ability to borrow these DVDs from the library is a benefit of Club membership.

Margo has done yeoman work organizing the membership information and has reorganized the nametags to reflect current members. If your nametag is missing, please check with her.

We're all working hard to build on our past successes. We want the club to be valuable to you, and we can use your help to do that. Thoughts, comments, suggestions? Please drop me an email - [jamie@greatfallsmodelrrclub.org](mailto:jamie@greatfallsmodelrrclub.org).

*Jamie*

Throwback — August 14, 2021

The O Gauge crew: Steve, Carl and George





## 2023 OXFORD FAIR

The Oxford Fair was quite a success for us this year. We had a reasonable day for set-up in the Community Roots building on Tuesday, Sept. 12. <https://youtu.be/p1XmjvTNGNE>

Margo's set-up plan for the inside of the building worked very well and we were set up by mid-afternoon.



The module crew did a great job putting the layout together. The completed set-up looked like this: <https://youtu.be/4QrPdbYeudo>

Wednesday, Sept. 13 was overcast and humid for much of the day. It was dollar day, bringing lots of kids. We were ready for it this year and had a good turnout of folks to help staff the building. Rain began around 6:00 p.m. and got quite heavy. The rides shut down and the fair was deserted by 7, so we closed up too.

Thursday and Friday were beautiful days and fair attendance was heavy as folks made up for lost time. The modular layout ran very well (aside from a couple of minor track occupancy issues!) and everyone had a good time.



THE SIGNAL

Friday provided a spectacular sunset for all to enjoy.



As the evening progressed, folks continued to stop into our display to check things out and we ended up staying open until almost 10!

The hurricane was supposed to blow through Friday night and into Saturday and this significantly impacted fair attendance. Saturday was breezy and mostly overcast, but no rain. Nonetheless, many folks stayed away until late in the day. Here's the display on Saturday afternoon:

<https://youtu.be/kHGHNDK2uY>



By Saturday afternoon, the clouds were breaking up and we were treated to another magnificent sunset!

We were a bit short-staffed on Saturday evening, but with the light crowd, we were able to make it work.



On Sunday, we cleaned up and transported all our stuff back to the clubhouse.

At the last minute on Tuesday, we accommodated a table from the [Oxford Historical Society](https://www.oxfordhistoricalsociety.org/). Thanks to those members who were willing to rearrange their space to make room for it!

A **BIG Thank You** to all those who gave their time to haul stuff, set up, staff the building, tear down, haul stuff again, then put it away. You all worked your butts off and without your help, we couldn't do this!

The club reaps many benefits from participating in the fair. It's a no-cost event for us, thanks to so many folks donating their time and effort. Financially, it's a success; whistles were the big seller this year, followed by the \$1 cars from the "Bin o' Cars". Perhaps even more importantly, the fair gives us massive public exposure. We gave away lots of Club brochures and ExTRAINaganza flyers.

For more photos of our shenanigans at the fair, visit our website post here:

<https://www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org/news/2023-oxford-county-fair/>





## MODELER'S FORUM August 24 by Bob Wright

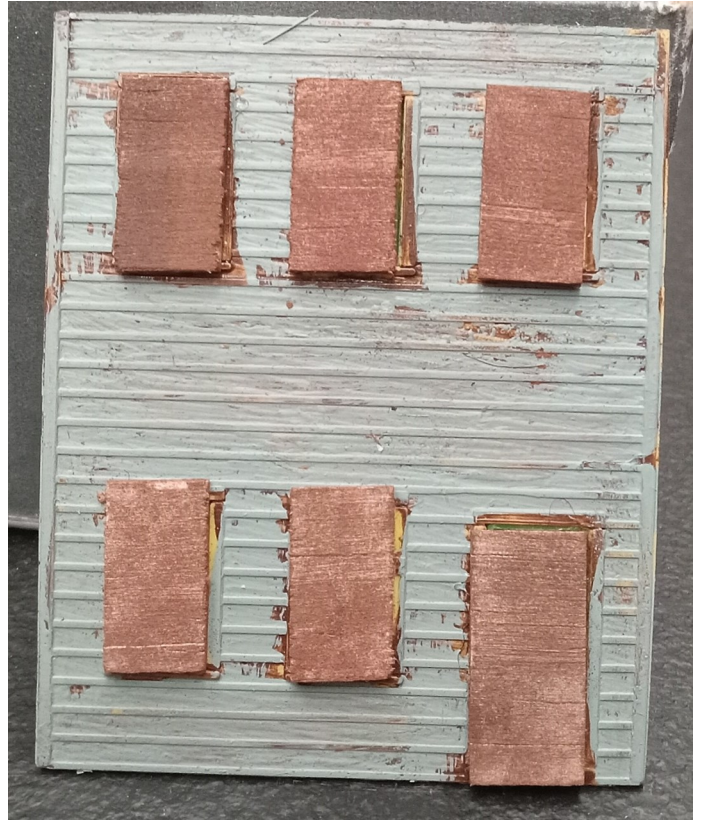
More and larger photos are available on our website: <https://www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org/modelers-forum/>

Seven in attendance (Bob Wright taking notes)

Bob Willard – Brought in a false front O scale building that he worked on during the Great Falls Balloon Festival weekend at the club. He also brought in the photo he used as inspiration. Check out the roof end in the photo.



Carmen Anastase – Continuing work on his home railroad layout, showed off a small boarded up house false front that he painted brown then green. Carmen used bass board on the boarded-up windows/shutters and pan pastels to detail.



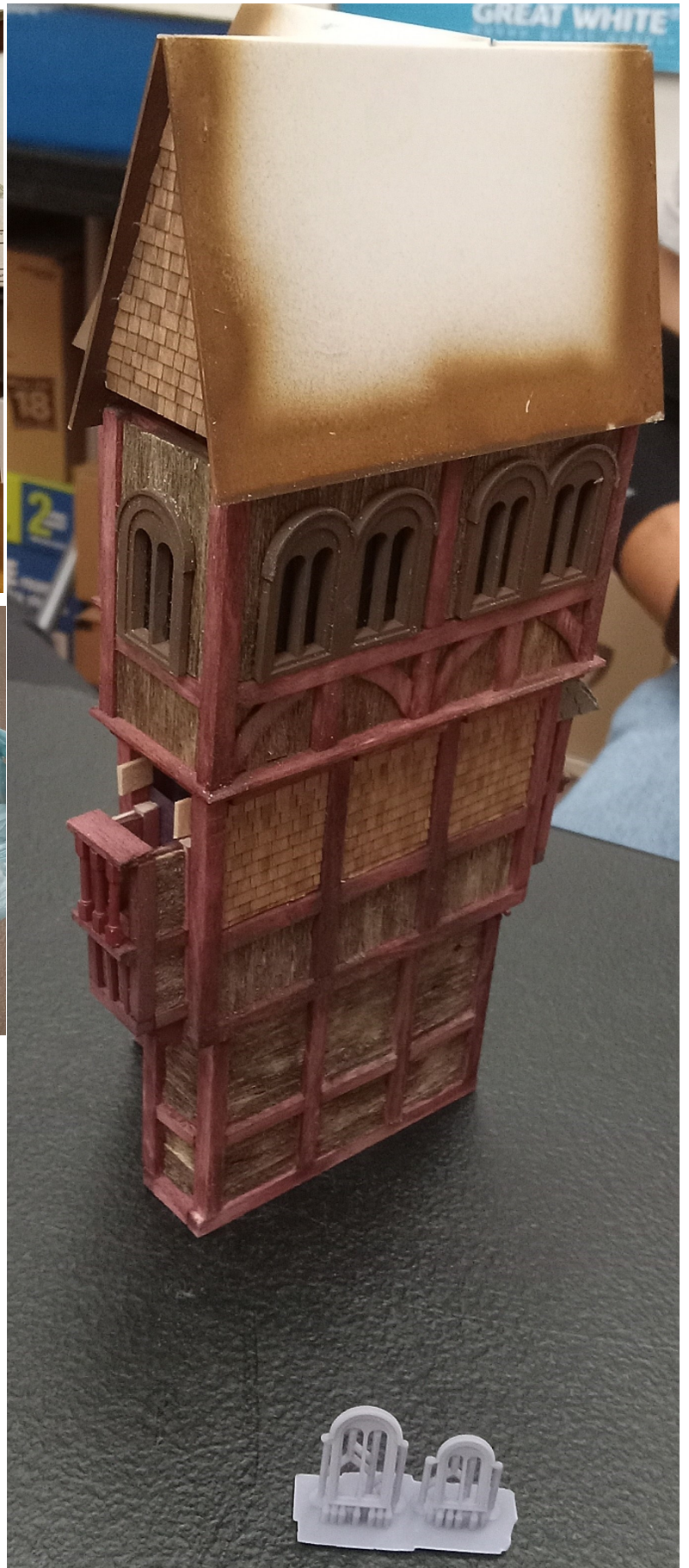
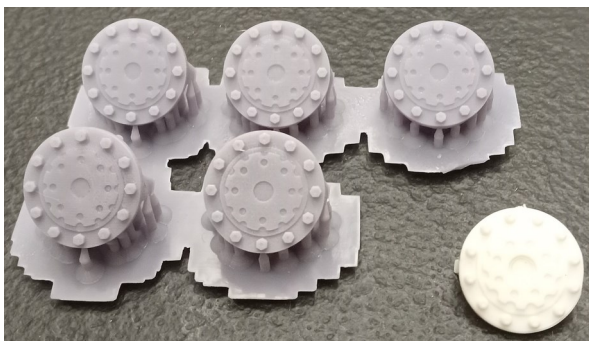
John McMullen – Asked several questions: regarding PSX Circuit breakers (from Tony's in VT) and can they be connected? The advice from the group was they are individual and can be ganged together. Requested assistance in rating HO Loco manufacturers. Group consensus was that Broadway Limited, Athearn Genesis, Atlas, Rapido, were good choices for PRR locos in the 50's to 60's era. John asked about wheel sizes on passenger and freight cars. The answer given was to replace with same size wheel as on the car if needed.

Paul Lodge – Gave a demo for people new to the hobby on how in the past modelers made some of their own scenery. Using sawdust and RIT Dye to get most any color needed for modeling,

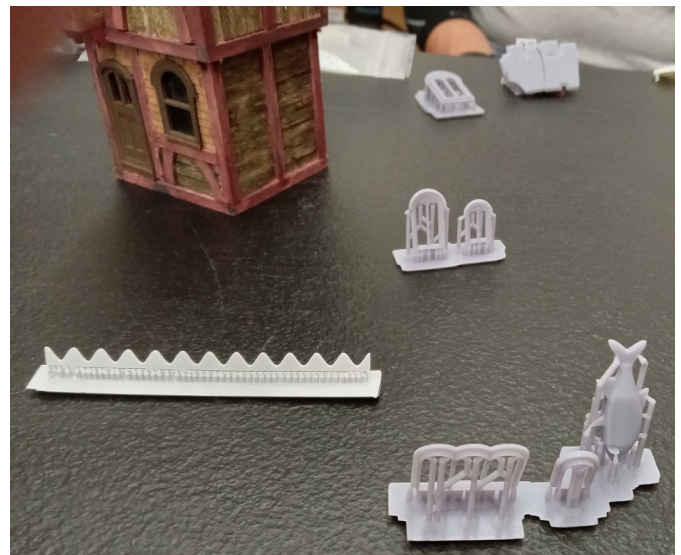
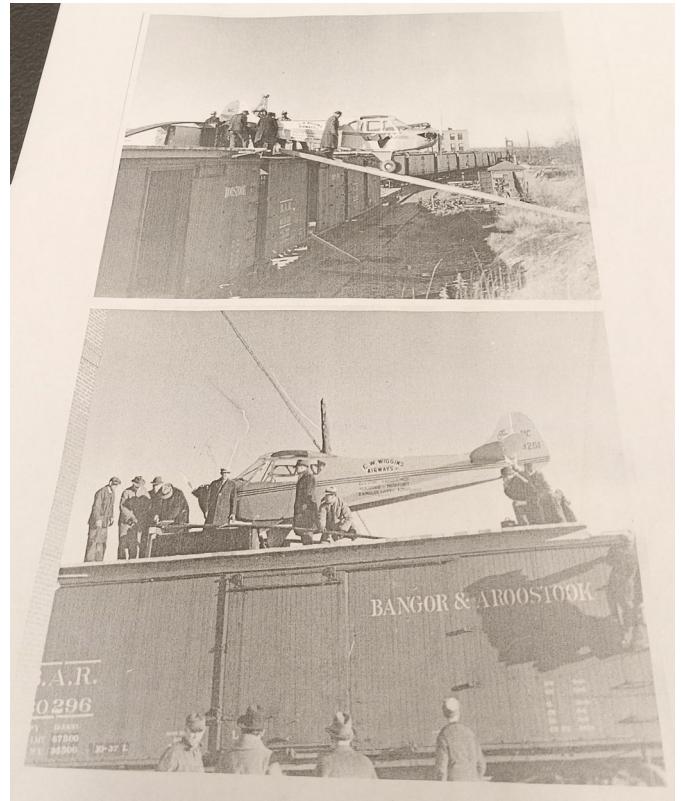




Kent Waterson – Brought in square foot display he created in the past and the photos he based it on. Has continued to work on his O scale Laketown (The Hobbit) building and brought it in to show his progress. He also brought in lots of 3D printed objects and passed on much knowledge about 3D printing and Cricut machines.







Dick Holman – Provided much good advice to all at the forum, as did all the participants.







1 — N Scale layout

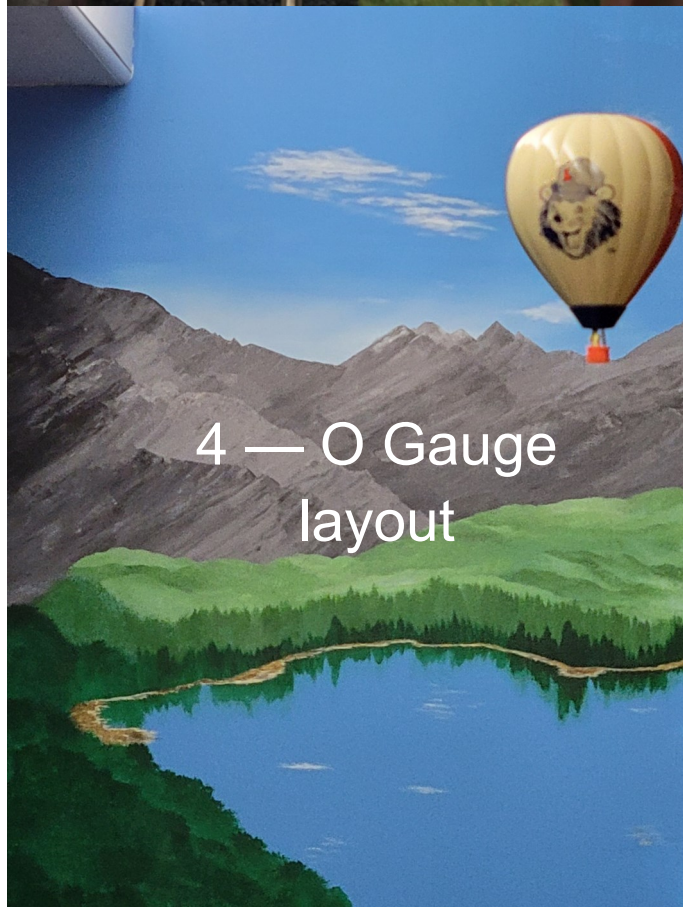


2 — John Middleton's  
G Gauge modules



3 — HOn30 module

*Congratulations to Darin Long for correctly identifying all four photos!*



4 — O Gauge  
layout





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## An Educational Foundation

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## THE SIGNAL

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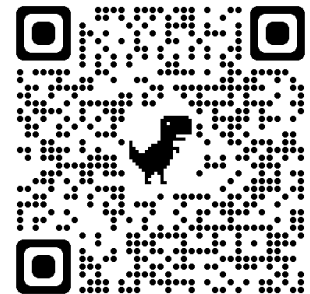
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[www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org](http://www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org)

## Upcoming Events

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

October 7 at 9:00 a.m.

October 21 at 9:00 a.m.

November 4 at 9:00 a.m.

### Regular Monthly Meeting

**Saturday, Oct. 14 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 Oct. 14**

