



Member since June 1988

NEXT MEETING
November 11, 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 arti-
cle—send them as a sepa-
rate file.

**DO YOU WANT TO
WIN?**

**Attendance & 50/50
prizes are drawn at
every monthly meet-
ing**

**YOU MUST BE
PRESENT TO WIN!**

Bottles for Basics

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

**Remember—you can
return your bottles
and cans directly at
Spring Street Re-
demption, 120 Spring
St. in Auburn. Tell
them you are from
the “Train Club”.**

THE SIGNAL

THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB



VOLUME 27 ISSUE 10

October 2023

MONTHLY MEETING NOV. 11 AT 1 P.M.

Upcoming events:

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

OCTOBER 14 MEETING MINUTES

BRYN DOYLE — SECRETARY

Eric Long started the meeting at 1324 with the pledge of allegiance.

Last month's meeting minutes were published in *The Signal* and were accepted as written.

Margo gave the Membership and Treasurer's report. We had a total income of \$1707.25 and total expenses were \$2533.43. We were \$826.18 in the red for the month due to tax payments. She also brought up that all of the name badges have been removed for inactive members from the entryway. If you do not see your badge, talk to Margo to become an active member again. If you have ordered a shirt, see Margo as well to pay and/or receive it.

Rick gave a report for the library. He mentioned the computer downstairs is set up to view all of our magazine subscriptions. He also brought up storage for the slides in the library that have been digitized by Josh Stevens; we will have adequate storage for all of the slides that we have.

No one from the G-gauge was here to give a report.

Steve Doughty has returned following his surgery and noted the interest he received at the Oxford Fair. They plan to expand their modular layout for next year. Nate noted that he fixed some switches on the O-Scale layout and is thinking of other updates to come.

Bryce and Shawn gave the report for the HO-Scale layout. They noted that the operating session last week went well and that there weren't any major hiccups. Shawn noted that updates by Jamie and Roger have been flowing well and that maintenance has taken place. Otherwise, there are no major updates and everything is business as usual.

Eric noted that there have not been any updates to the N-Scale layout.

OCTOBER 15 MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

Bob Willard spoke about the square-footer contest that will take place at ExTRAINaganza. You can find the rules to the contents on our website. Winners in both categories will receive a prize. Otherwise, Modeler's Forum this month will be at its regular day and time (the 4th Thursday of the month).

Bryn noted that the media is out for ExTRAINaganza. If you have any ideas of where media can be placed, please reach out to Bryn so she can get them out before the event.

Nate noted that we should get the snowblower as soon as possible. Margo noted that she will check in on Monday with the repair shop to ensure we have it on time.

Margo recapped the Oxford Fair. We did well even though the weather was predicted to be rough as Hurricane Lee passed through. We made over \$1200 this year, an increase from all other years attended. The bin o' cars, train whistles, and t-shirts were our biggest sellers. Many of the free VHS tapes were taken and a good amount of the books and DVDs were also sold. The Oxford County Agricultural Society also donated \$400 to the club as a thank you for attending. If you need a table at the fair in our building, please, reach out to Margo to secure your space so she can get a plan in place. We will also need more volunteers to man the building!

Margo recapped that we made \$1272.60 at the surplus assets sale. Eric noted that it was a different from normal time of year to have a sale and we still did very well. People showed interest in returning for the December Surplus Assets sale as well. Eric also mentioned that surplus sales are a fantastic, low-impact way for us to make money without a ton of work. It was also noted that it may be better to have the sale start an hour sooner and end an hour earlier. Ideas like having more flyers distributed were also thrown around to promote these events.

Margo spoke about upcoming events. We were not invited to the Southern Maine Model R.R. Club's event on November 4th. It was noted it has not been financially worthwhile to go to this event compared to what we can make during a surplus assets sale in December. After some debate, we will, however, be attending the Maine 3-RAILERS show on February 17th 2024. We will work to determine what will be going to the show.

With ExTRAINaganza, we will be needing a lot of volunteers. We will be having a potluck for members each of the days. Let Margo know when you plan to be there and what foods, if any, you are planning to bring. We are transitioning to a more winter wonderland theme compared to the Christmas theme that we had in the past to accommodate the wide variety of nationalities we have seen in the past. The event this year will feature a scavenger hunt and the square footer contest.

Embroidered shirts are still available for purchase. Long sleeve polo shirts are \$35.00, short-sleeve polo shirts are \$25, and short sleeve t-shirts are \$15.00. There is a \$2.00 upcharge to add your name to the front of the shirt and a \$5.00 upcharge for sizes 3XL and above.

We have received a large donation from a layout in Topsham. The donation includes a large volume of buildings and locomotives set up for the CVP Airwire System. However, these can easily be converted back to DC or DCC.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Joe Landry will be having his open house on Saturday October 28th from 1300 to 1700.

The December meeting scheduled for December 9th was discussed and was moved to December 16th due to the Surplus Assets Sale. The meeting on the 16th will be our annual Christmas Party potluck.

On October 22nd, we will be going through George's belongings at noon. We would like to get a start at sorting through these items and determining what we are planning to do with them.

The modeler's forum plans to change their meeting schedule. Starting in November, the meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m. following the Saturday member meeting. Future meeting times will be discussed following the December meeting. The November meeting will be held on the 11th at 3:00 p.m.

We were invited to the Franco Center for the Sights and Sounds of Christmas on December 15th and 16th. We are looking to ensure someone can attend this small show. More information is to come about this event.

Nate Cheever won the door prize. Shawn Doyle won the 50/50 drawing for \$20 and donated it back to the club for a total of \$40.

The meeting adjourned at 1444.

DONATIONS

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

Thank you to George Little of Topsham for his generous donation of the locomotives, buildings and turnouts from his layout. George is moving and his daughter reached out to us. George plans to continue to do some modeling on a very small scale in his new digs. It was a great pleasure to meet with George and his daughter Margo.

Thanks also to Kay Gregory of Farmingdale who donated David Gregory's collection of trains in several scales.

We had a good turnout for the Surplus Asset sale on Sept. 30, and it was quite successful financially.



The next Surplus Assets sale will be on Saturday, December 9 with new hours: 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. for members only, then open to the public from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Modeler's Forum is tomorrow evening at 7 p.m. Come on down and see what the self-proclaimed experts have been up to! Bring your recent project and talk about it, or just bring yourself to listen and socialize. We'd love to see you there!

Don't forget to head to Joe Landry's open house this Saturday, Oct. 28, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Joe has redone considerable portions of his layout and welcomes members to come visit.

Our next event will be EXTRAINaganza from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. on November 18, 19, 24, 25 and 26. We always need lots of help for this event. It requires a minimum of 5 people upstairs and 3 downstairs. This is one of those cases where more is better. We also throw a potluck lunch for each day too. If you can help with either or both, please let Margo know: margo@greatfallsmodelrrclub.org

The next meeting is Saturday, November 11 at 1 p.m. Preceding the meeting, we will show a 20" video about ballasting turnouts.

What would you like to see at member meetings? Would you like to put on a presentation of your own? We can handle slides or electronic media.

Thoughts, comments, suggestions? Please drop me an email - jamie@greatfallsmodelrrclub.org.

Jamie

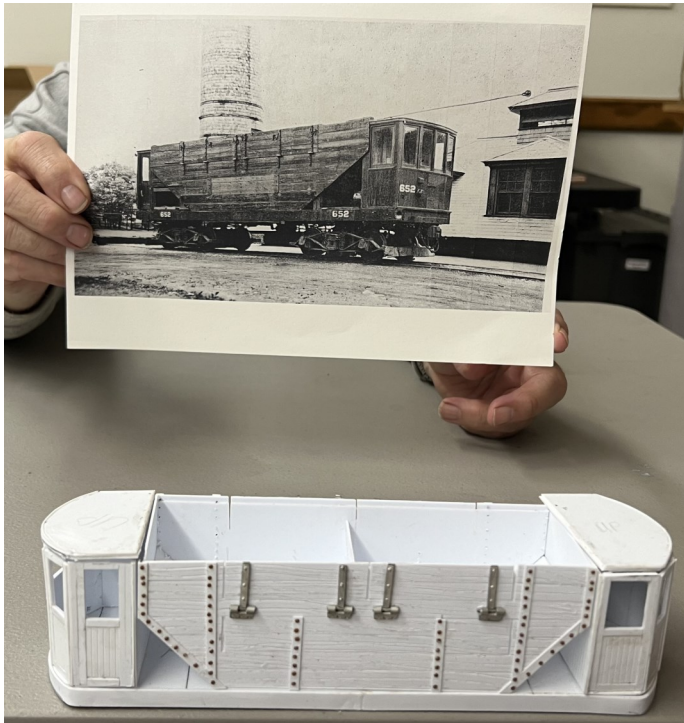
MODELER'S FORUM Sept 28 by Bob Wright

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

Nine in attendance (Bob Wright taking notes)

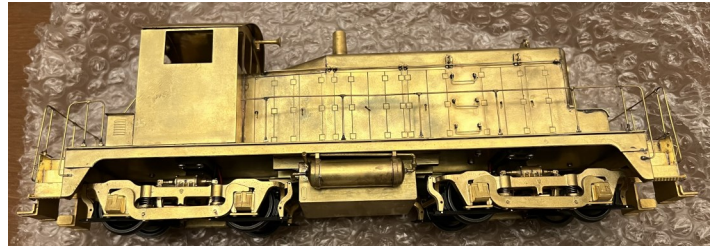


Bob Willard – Presented his Androscoggin and Kennebec electrified coal car (still under construction) that used to run between Bath and Bates College.



Jamie Robinson – Showed off a Proto 48 SW1 Brass Locomotive he received recently. This model is part of a small run commissioned by an interested group of O Scale and Proto:48 modelers. This particular model represents

an early version SW1 with the two-step hood and arched cab windows, as modified by the Boston & Maine Railroad with full-length hand-rails along the outside of the long hood walkway.



Jamie also showed a Lionel 10E Standard Gauge Electric Train Set in its original box that was donated to the club by a very nice lady who saw our club at the Oxford Fair. This set is probably 80+ years old. Plans for its use in the club are underway.





Dick Holman – Displayed and demonstrated a set of brass Testing Sieves for Soil Samples that he had acquired years ago at a former employer.



John McMullen – Brought in the dirt used in Dick Holman's demonstration.



Carmen Anastase – Attended meeting for inspiration and spoke about Amsterdam, Netherlands train station and accommodations for bicycles made there.



Roger Plummer – Gave the history on the prototype for an HO scratch-built Portland Terminal Caboose he built. This original three prototypes (from PS-1 boxcars) were used as covered shoving platforms/caboose.



MODELER'S FORUM (cont.)

Kent Waterson – Brought in his first 3D building (much progress has been made) from his "Laketown" project. Also presented his second 3D building (still under construction). Kent also showed off a 3D test print of Smaug the dragon's head and neck. Details are amazing.



Paul Lodge – Brought in old Matchbox, Hot Wheels, and other vehicles for the club's \$1 sales bin used at shows/fairs.

[Ed. Note: this has been a very successful effort and we are working to refill the "bin-o-cars". We would welcome your donations too!]

There was a discussion of possibly changing the Modeler's Forum from the 4th Thursday to after the General Club Meeting on the 2nd Saturday during the winter months. Pros and cons were raised by the club members present. The next Modeler's Forum will be held on Thursday 26 October, and then Saturday, 11 November and Saturday, 16 December at 3:00 p.m. following the member meeting.

Bob Willard thanked Bob Wright for a tip on how to use Vaseline (petroleum jelly) to seal super glue bottles for future ease of use. Carmen Anastase was able to locate a Woodworker's Forum video online that had these instructions. A general discussion followed regarding super glue.

Modeler's Forum meets next on Thursday, Oct. 26 at 7:00 p.m., then Saturday, Nov. 11 and Sat. Dec. 16, both at 3 p.m. Hope to see you there!

ALONG THE LINE



SURPLUS ASSETS FOR SALE



Custom Brass imported model of SR&RL baggage car #8. Painted model in On2. These models are extremely scarce! If you are interested, please reach out to Eric Long: sales@greatfallsmodelrrclub.org

PROJECT HADES



The last turnout in the "old" main line is being laid in. This is the entrance switch to the Warehouse District. Once complete, we will be able to return the Warehouse District to service, opening up more freight car destinations. This turnout has been downgraded to a hand-throw instead of powered like it used to be. Time marches on...



Great Falls Model Railroad Club
144 Mill Street
Auburn, ME 04210

<https://www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org/>
Facebook: [Great Falls Model Railroad Club](#)

An Educational Foundation

OFFICERS:

President:

Jamie Robinson
prez@greatfallsmodelrrclub.org

Vice President:

Eric Long
vp@greatfallsmodelrrclub.org

Past President
Mike Meserve

Secretary:
Bryn Doyle
secretary@greatfallsmodelrrclub.org

Treasurer & Membership
Margo Robinson
treasurer@greatfallsmodelrrclub.org

Librarian/Archivist:
Rick James
librarian@greatfallsmodelrrclub.org

Directors:
Darin Long
Guy Lovell
Shawn Doyle

Webmaster:
Joe Marshall
braintriggers@gmail.com

Assistant Webmaster:
Jamie Robinson
jamie@greatfallsmodelrrclub.org

Social Media Editor:
Bryn Doyle
socialmedia@greatfallsmodelrrclub.org

Storekeeper:
Eric Long
sales@greatfallsmodelrrclub.org

Event Coordinator:
Margo Robinson
margo@greatfallsmodelrrclub.org

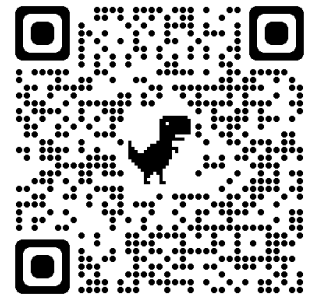
THE SIGNAL

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Editor—Jamie Robinson
gfrsignal@greatfallsmodelrrclub.org

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



www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org

Upcoming Events

Oct. 28 — Joe Landry open house
November 18, 19 and 24-26
ExTRAINaganza
December 9 — Surplus Assets Sale
December 15 & 16 — Franco Center



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 21 at 9:00 a.m.
November 4 at 9:00 a.m.

[Regular Monthly Meeting](#)

Saturday, Nov. 11 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, Oct. 26 at 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 11 at 3:00 p.m.

[Executive Committee](#)

Concurrent w/monthly meeting Nov. 11

