



Member since June 1988

**NEXT MEETING**  
**December 16, 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 meet-  
ing

**YOU MUST BE  
PRESENT TO WIN!**

**Bottles for Basics**

- ♦ August — \$30.00
- ♦ Sept. — \$27.25
- ♦ Oct. — \$0

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 11

November 2023

## MONTHLY MEETING DEC. 16 AT 1 P.M.

### Upcoming events:

- November 24, 25, 26 — ExTRAINaganza
- December 9 — Surplus Assets Sale
- December 15-16—Franco Center

### NOVEMBER 11 MEETING MINUTES

BOB WRIGHT — SUBSTITUTE SECRETARY

Jamie Robinson started the meeting at 1307 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Last month's meeting notes were published in the Signal and accepted as written.

Jamie Robinson presented the Treasurer's Report for October. The club had an income of \$2324.28 versus expenses of \$1424.69, \$899 net gain. The electricity bill was \$474. The CD gained \$41.85 in interest.

Rick reported that he is waiting on information from Josh to work on the slide sleeves. New magazines have been put out to be read and there are plenty of books and magazines.

G-gauge is up and running per Jamie.

O-gauge is making progress, Nate and his wife have put in bridges in the back of the layout, planning is on for a Standard Gauge display above the O-gauge layout. Steve and Jamie worked on engine(s) and a caboose with the Great Falls logo.

HO Scale layout has been set up for the Extrainaganza,

N Scale – Nothing new to report.

Modeler's Forum meets after the General Meeting today, Square Foot contest is coming up at the Extrainaganza.

Jamie noted that Bryn has been actively placing publicity for the Extrainaganza, posters have been placed, Travis is planning on placing signs out this coming Friday (Nov 17) before the show.

Facilities – Nate noted the snowblower is back, Ed and Travis to help hook it up with Nate.

Jamie noted upcoming events include the Extrainaganza (help is still needed for the different days), holiday decorations are going up,

## NOVEMBER 11 MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

The Hogwarts Train (painted by the Edward Little High School art class in 2013) has been gloss-coated, and the big Christmas tree has been refreshed too. There will be a potluck everyday (please sign up with [Margo](#)). Hours are 10—4 each day (Nov. 18, 19, 24, 25, 26).

December 9<sup>th</sup> is the next Surplus Sale, 8 to 9 AM for members, then 9 to 1 for the public.

December 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> will be the Franco Center Display - Mike and Amanda are handling this.

The next meeting is December 16<sup>th</sup> and it is also the annual Christmas Party: potluck at 1 PM, general meeting. at 2, followed by the Modeler's Forum at 3.

February 17, 2024 will be the Maine 3-Railers show in Augusta. GFMRRRC has three tables reserved with a 20' x 24' space available for the modular layout.

New business – Travis and Ed are planning on ad-hoc maintenance and cleanup on the HO Modules in Jan. They are looking for assistance.

Jamie said that he is planning on ordering more GFMRRRC shirts in the very near future, Long sleeve polos are \$35, names embroidered are plus \$2 and size 3X up are \$5 more. [Ed. Note: the shirts were ordered on Nov. 21]

Jamie brought up a generous donation from Trish Bonner from Topsham of O gauge items (some going to the club collection). Also donated were railroad artifacts including two MEC lanterns, two original Old Colony RR glass globes, one train end lamp, one MEC step box, and various brass nameplates and luggage case tags.

Jamie mentioned that Margo had sent out a membership e-mail reminder a couple of days ago.

Jamie also stated that the items on the table in the entryway were free and remnants would be tossed on 12 Nov.

The Door Prize was won by John McMullen and the 50/50 Raffle (\$23.50) was won by Bob Wright who donated it back to the club for a total of \$47.00.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 PM. and was followed by the Modeler's forum as soon as the room was reset.



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The first weekend of ExTRAINaganza 2023 is in the books. I'm very grateful to all the members who helped us set up and staff the facilities. During the first hour on Saturday, we had over 70 visitors; it was "all hands on deck" to keep things moving. Bryn at the front entry table, along with Shawn and the HO operators deserve special mention for their yeoman efforts to make sure everyone was taken care of. It seemed like the whole day went by in a flash.

We were fortunate enough to be mentioned on Channel 8 news Saturday evening and again on Sunday morning. Many visitors mentioned seeing us on TV and on social media. We'll all be back on Friday, and hope to see you there too!

The next club meeting is Saturday, December 16 at 1 p.m. This will be our annual Christmas meeting and we will start with a potluck lunch. Meeting will begin around 2 and be followed immediately by the Modeler's Forum. Wear your ugliest Christmas sweater!

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](mailto:jamie@greatfallsmodelrrclub.org).

*Jamie*

## DONATIONS

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

We received a very generous donation from Trish Bonner of Topsham. The donation included some nice O scale trains and some genuine railroad artifacts including a genuine Maine Central wooden passenger step box. Also included were some brass luggage tags for checked bags, some Maine Central lanterns and a couple of genuine glass lantern globes from the Old Colony Railroad. Thank you, Trish, for your generosity and for thinking of us!

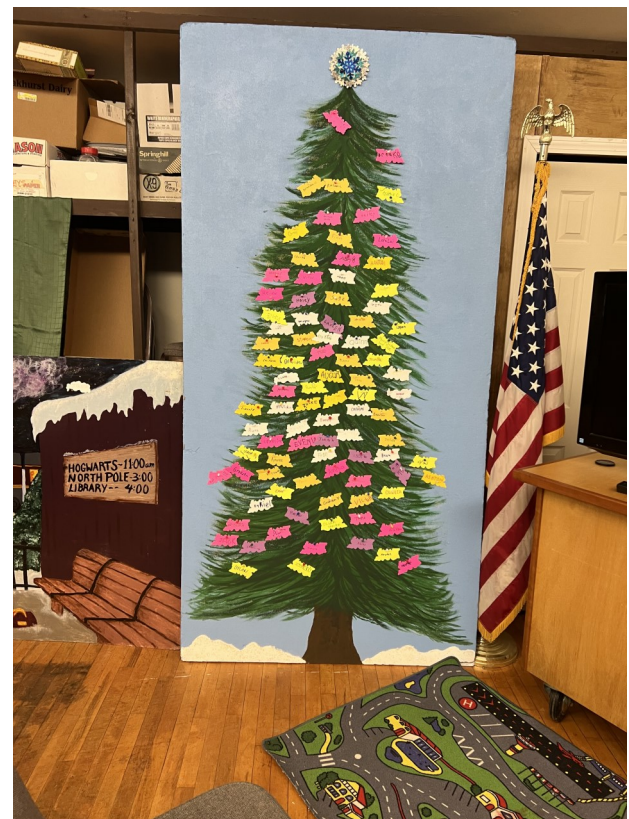
## THOMASTON DONATION

The big donation from Thomaston that was mentioned a couple of months ago has been offered to us again. Every effort by the owner to sell it has fallen through, and now the house has to be vacated before Dec. 12.

This collection has a number of outstanding buildings in it (think Fine Scale Miniatures, and similar), locos, cars, and a lifetime's worth of other stuff.

A group of us are going to head up on Monday, Nov. 27 to pack up as much as we can and bring it back to the club. More than one trip will be necessary, and we have to tear down the layout too. If you can help, whether Monday or another day, please let me know ([jamie@greatfallsmodelrrclub.org](mailto:jamie@greatfallsmodelrrclub.org)). Tentatively, the next day we would be headed up is Wednesday, Nov. 29, then maybe Sunday, Dec. 3. We could really use your help with this project!

Items gathered from the donation will be made available for sale on December 9 at the Surplus Assets sale.



ExTRAINaganza tree — day 2



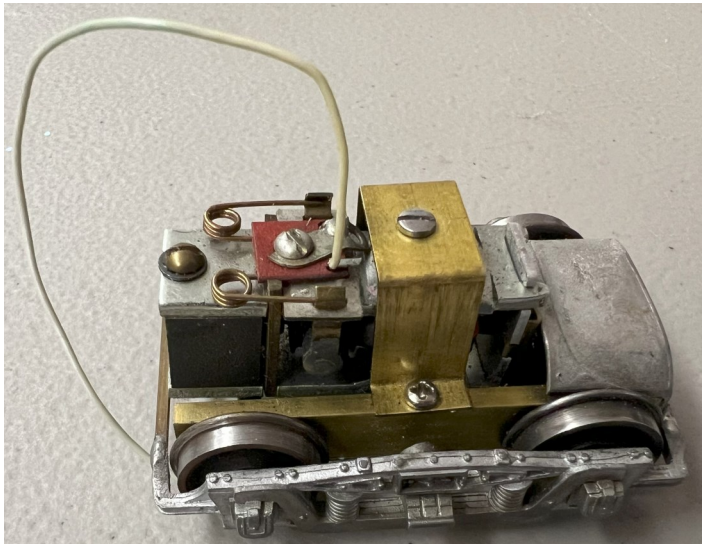
## MODELER'S FORUM Nov. 11

by Bob Wright

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



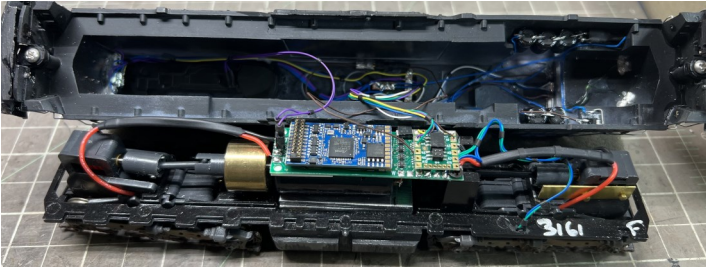
Ten in attendance (Bob Wright taking notes)  
Bob Willard – Passed around a partially built Auburn to Turner electric car he is working on along with the photo and plans he is using as a guide in its construction. Also had trucks and motors that he has modified with pickups, etc.



Jamie Robinson – Showed off a O Scale 2 Rail Atlas F9A (DC) that he rehabbed and repainted in Great Falls livery and added an LED head-light. Secondly, he presented a O Gauge 3 Rail Caboose that was also painted in Great Falls colors. Thirdly he had an HO Atlas SD35 Yellow Box Loco that he rebuilt, painted and with sound, LED lights, a Decoder Buddy-21 pin board (from [Nicks Trains](http://NicksTrains.com)) as well as many additional details.







Jay Wiley – Presented an older Bachmann Spectrum Shay Loco he had picked up previously and then had to replace many broken parts. Used Northwest Shortline for some and told the steps he had to go through to make the loco run again as a log hauler.



He also brought in a radio-controlled (electric-powered) Curtiss Jenny Airplane kit he built (approximately 1/8<sup>th</sup> scale) and showed the plans he worked from to construct the kit. He described the 8-cylinder engine parts he added from a 3D printer. He said he had visited Owls Head Museum with his model while the museum was performing a 100-hour check on its real-life version so he could get pictures of the real aircraft from which he modeled his.



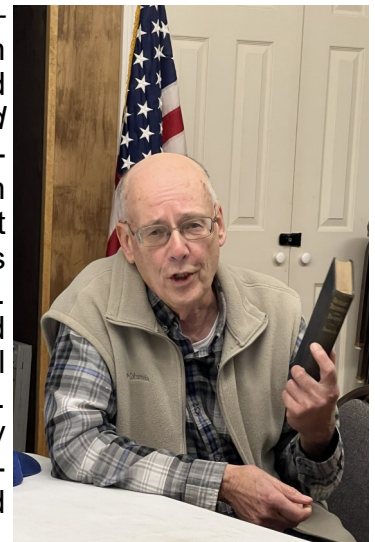
Bob Wright (and Wanda Wright) – taking notes.

Wanda Wright – Googled several items brought up by modelers.

John McMullen – Asked whether anyone had thoughts on using leftover 14-2 wire for bus wire. Showed off a prototype of the bus wire configuration he wants to use on his home layout and was asking for advice on it. He is using a [Wago](#) 3-hole connector as a terminal block off his bus wire connection.



Ray Houlihan – Brought book by John Droege entitled *Freight Terminals and Trains* from 1912, explained it had much good information in it about different aspects of Railroad operations. It has been reprinted by NMRA several times with foldouts. [Ed. Note: The library has a copy of this volume available to lend to members]





## MODELER'S FORUM (cont.)

Kent Waterson – No models to show off this time but he is still working on his 3D Laketown buildings. He is also working on a Railroad themed project that he will talk about at the next meeting.



Steve Doughty – Spoke about his high school days in Brewer, Maine and how UFOs were big at the time. The Mayor of Brewer had a Bill-board created welcoming UFOs and so recently Steve recreated the billboard in Lionel scale, also showed off a second Railroad billboard he made.



THE SIGNAL



Carmen Anastase – Brought in some Dollar Store tractor trailer trucks he purchased recently that he is going to try to use on his layout.





# EXTRAINAGANZA 2023

## Setup



## Day 1







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:

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## THE SIGNAL

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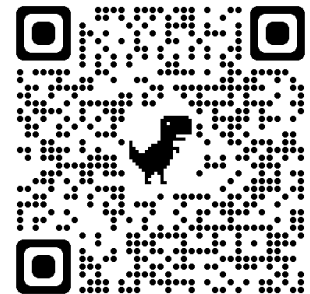
#### Editor—Jamie Robinson

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### Address Changes

If your mailing or e-mail address changes, please notify us at:

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

## Upcoming Events

November 24, 25 & 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

December 2 at 9:00 a.m.

December 16 at 9:00 a.m.

Jan. 1 at 9:00 a.m. — Op 'til you Drop

### Regular Monthly Meeting

**Saturday, Dec. 16 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

Saturday, Dec.. 16 at 3:00 p.m.

### Executive Committee

**Concurrent w/monthly meeting Dec. 16**