



Member since June 1988

NEXT MEETING
January 13, 2024
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

- ♦ Sept. — \$27.25
- ♦ Oct. — \$0
- ♦ Nov. — \$20.00

**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



**Happy
 Holidays**



VOLUME 27 ISSUE 12

December 2023

MONTHLY MEETING JAN. 13 AT 1 P.M.

Upcoming events:

- Dec. 30 — Operations clinic at the club from 9 — noon
- Jan. 1 — Op ‘til you drop — 9 AM until ?? w/potluck lunch
- Feb. 17 — Maine 3Railers Show in Augusta
- April 27 — Spring Train Show in Topsham

DECEMBER 16 MEETING MINUTES

BOB WRIGHT — SUBSTITUTE SECRETARY

Jamie Robinson started the meeting at 1355 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Last month’s meeting notes were published in the Signal and approved as written.

Jamie Robinson presented the Treasurer’s Report for November. The club gained \$8,702 and paid out \$2,213 for a net gain of \$6,488. The CD added \$40 in interest in November.

Rick James reported that the Library has new magazines out and is waiting on sleeves for the slides.

Jamie stated that the G Gauge layout ran well during the Extrainaganza.

Nate reported that the O-Gauge layout bridge work is complete.

Roger said the HO Layout is progressing with ongoing projects. Extrainaganza ran well. With the donations coming in Bryce and Sean will be replacing/changing out some items on the layout.

Eric reported that the N Layout ran well during the Extrainaganza.

Bob Willard wants to thank Margo for the etched mugs for the winners of the Square Foot Challenge. 741 votes were cast during the Extrainaganza for the entrees. Bryn Doyle won the Novice Class and Bob Willard won the Master Class.

Ed stated that the next step for the HO Modules is to add Velcro to the corner modules.

Jamie reported that the \$200 budget (not all used) for the Extrainaganza had a great return on \$. There is a similar budget for the April train show.

Old Business — Mike and Amanda are at the Franco Center getting displays ready.

DECEMBER 16 MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

Extrainaganza – This year \$3,400 was taken in at the door vs. \$2,200 last year, while Surplus Assets sold \$2,800 this year vs. \$2,650 last year.

The Surplus Assets sale on December 9 was extraordinarily successful, netting \$3550 after expenses (credit card processing costs).

Thanks to all volunteers that assisted with ExTRAINaganza, the Thomaston donation and the Surplus Assets sale.

Upcoming Events – Feb 17th 3-Railers at Augusta Armory, our club has 3 tables and a 20' x 24' layout space available, then on April 27th, the Topsham show is confirmed.

Jamie has shirts for those who ordered them.

Proposed shelf to hold Railroad Lanterns is going to be worked on after the holidays.

Travis has booked the club house for Sunday Jan 14th from 11-1 for his daughters Estella's birthday party. Club members are invited.

Saturday Dec 30th there is an HO Layout clinic day from 9-12.

Op 'til you Drop with potluck lunch is on Jan. 1st from 9AM til ?

Jamie reminded all of Membership Renewals due at end of December.

Club shopping bags are down to half a dozen. A motion was made to order 100 more. Membership voted for this to happen. [Note: they have been ordered]

There is a 4 ½ foot x 5 ½ foot layout that was raffled off in 1994 that the owner would like to give back to the club, if anyone is interested in it see Jamie.

There is a proposal from Ellery Goode to revamp the Riverton Area on the HO Layout and change it out to Portland Union Station and assorted other buildings. Approx. \$2,000 will be needed for the project. Membership voted to approve this project.

Water and Power Signups are available for 2024 at \$30/month, several members signed up at the meeting for some of the months, more still available.

Electric Bill Signups are also available at \$150/month, Jamie mentioned that they can be shared.

The Attendance Door Prize was won by Roger Plummer and the 50/50 Raffle was won by Paul Lodge (\$15) who donated his winnings back to the Club for a total of \$30.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 PM.

SMALL LAYOUT OPPORTUNITY

The gentleman who won the layout that was raffled by the club in 1994 has offered it back to the club. It was hardly used in all the subsequent years and the trees have broken off in moving it around. It includes: 4'X5' track layout, Spectrum GE 70 Ton Diesel Locomotive in box. #81101, caboose and 3 freight cars in boxes, cab control, various buildings, some slightly damaged.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES!

It has been very busy since the last issue of *The Signal*! We concluded ExTRAINaganza 2024 very successfully and had a spectacular Surplus Asset sale on Dec. 9th, thanks in large part to the generous donation by Mrs. Ellen Dean.

The Dec. 16 potluck was delicious, the meeting was well attended and some "ugly" sweaters/shirts/sweatshirts were in evidence.

Thank you to ALL the members who put in so much time too make all of these events work. Without you, we could not get these things done. ExTRAINaganza produced lots of smiles!

We have had a pretty good year this year, in spite of dramatically increased costs all across the board. We'll know more detail at the end of this month, but it certainly appears that we are holding our own. Happy Holidays to all of you!

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

DONATIONS

2024 Water (\$30) and Power (\$150) sponsorships are available. There are three Water slots and 10 Power slots still open. *In 2023, our average monthly water bill was \$36.49/month and the power bill averaged \$286.19/month.* Your sponsorships go a long way toward reducing the Club's cost for these necessary utilities.

Thank you Brent Tanguay for the generous donation of your father-in-laws HO trains and equipment on Dec. 13 and to Gabriel Hoy for bringing in three boxes of surplus HO items on Dec. 16. These generous acts help keep our club going!

THOMASTON DONATION

Several of us made two trips to Thomaston immediately following ExTRAINaganza to bring back a big collection. This collection was offered by Mrs. Ellen Dean of Frederick, MD and had been the property of her father, George Geesey.

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

Some of it was kept for use on our HO layout, but the bulk was offered for sale at the Surplus Asset sale on Dec. 9.

FYI—we still have two tables set up in the conference room with items from the collection.

One spectacular model remaining is a ten (10) stall roundhouse with turntable and motorizing kit. The building is actually two South River ModelWorks 5-stall kits put together. If you need a giant roundhouse (*and you know you do!!*), let's talk — we can work out a price for you.

Thank you George — we appreciate your lifetime of work.



for Christmas chicanery

CHRISTMAS MEETING 2023



SQUARE FOOTER CONTEST

There were four excellent entries in the Square Footer Contest. Two were Master Class and two were Novice Class. Over seven hundred ballots were cast by the public during the five days of ExTRAINaganza. When the votes were counted, Bob Willard was declared the winner of the Master Class and Bryn Doyle won the Novice Class. Each winner took home an etched mug for their particular class courtesy of [Margo](#). More photos [HERE](#)!



Master Class Winner—Bob Willard



Novice Class Winner—Bryn Doyle



Master Class Runner-up—Dick Holman



Novice Class Runner-up—John McMullen

MODELER'S FORUM Dec. 16 by Paul Lodge

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

The December 16, 2023, afternoon meeting of the Great Falls Model Railroad Club Modeler's Forum started immediately after the club's annual Christmas party, which was well attended.

Bob Willard began the meeting by demonstrating how he makes realistic-looking tar paper roofs. He covers the roof with paper tape and then paints the tape with black paint. The paper tape can be bought at any drug store because it is used by people who are allergic to regular tape.



During EXTRAINaganza, four club members had submitted entries for the Foot Square Model Contest. All of these entries were on display during the club party and the Modelers Forum meeting. Dick Holman's contest entry was a water scene with two airplanes on floats in the water. He explained how he had sanded and shaped many individual parts of the models in order to make them look good.



Jamie Robinson displayed several new [Menards O Scale vehicles](#) which he had recently purchased. The details on the cars and the finished look were outstanding, and the vehicles are very reasonably priced..

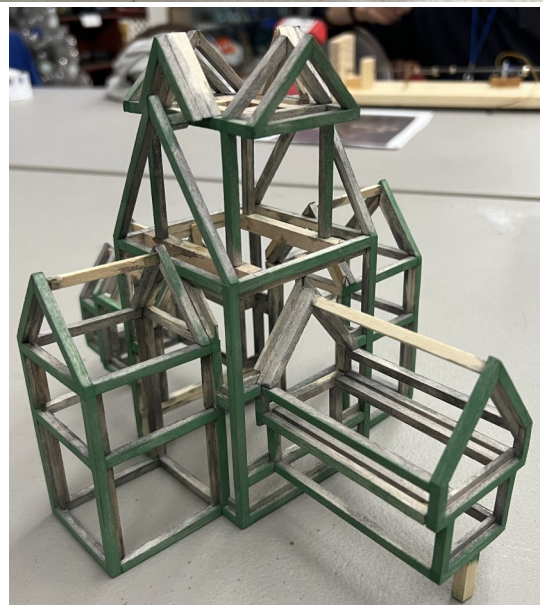


Travis Johnson brought a scale speedometer he plans to use to estimate the scale speed of his locomotives. He has been experimenting with the speeds of his locomotives to see if he can provide some consistency. He displayed a chart showing the speed variation between locomotives during these tests.



Ellery Goode explained that he is experimenting with making concrete castings using Elmer's Glue and Plaster of Paris.

Kent Waterson brought in a structure he is building as part of a large display. In addition, Kent had a double crossover track switch and showed how he uses a servo to make the turnouts work properly.

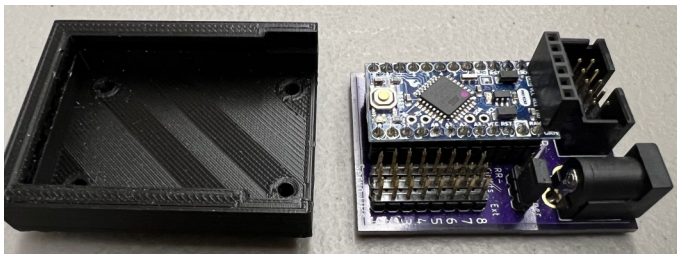


MODELER'S FORUM (cont.)

Kent built this jig to aid with construction of an octagonal tower on the top of one of his buildings.



Kent 3d printed a holder for this Arduino servo controller.



There was a brief discussion about having another modeling contest for next year's Ex-TRAINaganza. No theme has yet been decided on. Someone suggested limiting contest entries to the size of a peanut butter jar cover or something similar.

The next meeting will be on Saturday, January 13 following the member meeting (about 2:15ish).

ExTRAINAGANZA 2023







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THE SIGNAL

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

Copyright December 2023

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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

Upcoming Events

Recurrent Activities



Grab your Great Falls shopping bag at the Company Store and show us off at the supermarket!



[Check us out on Facebook.](#)

HO Operating Sessions

Jan. 1 at 9:00 a.m. — Op 'til you Drop
January 6 at 9:00 a.m.
January 20 at 9:00 a.m.

Regular Monthly Meeting

Saturday, Jan. 13 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, Jan. 13 at 3:00 p.m.

Executive Committee

Concurrent w/monthly meeting Jan. 13