

Member since June 1988

NEXT MEETING
March 9, 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 meeting
YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN!

Bottles for Basics
♦ Nov. — \$20.00
♦ Dec. — \$20.00
♦ January - \$4.00
Remember—you can return your bottles and cans directly at Spring Street Redemption, 120 Spring St. in Auburn. Tell them you are from the “Train Club.”

THE SIGNAL

THE GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB



VOLUME 28 ISSUE 2

February 2024

MONTHLY MEETING MAR. 9 AT 1 P.M.

Upcoming events:

- April 13 — Slide & Snack
- April 27 — Topsham Train Show
- June 15-16 — Vista of Maine

FEBRUARY 10 MEETING MINUTES

BRYN DOYLE – SECRETARY

The meeting opened at 13:09 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Meeting Minutes from January's meeting were published in the Signal. They were accepted as written.

Margo gave the Treasurer's report. Our cash flow from January was in the green at \$1418.11. Margo also recently opened another CD account at Androscoggin Bank at 5.15% interest rate which has already made us \$11.02. The other CD account at Maine Community Bank is currently sitting at a 5% interest rate.

Margo reminded everyone that you should pay your dues for 2024 by March 1st. There are a large number of active members who have not yet paid.

A library report was not given in Rick's absence.

Paul gave a report for the G-scale guys. They are doing some work on their layout including the installation of a fan to move the recently installed Ferris wheel.

Steve reported they have been actively working on the O-scale layout. They are adding a second level and have asked for the possibility of funding ranging from \$600 to \$1000 from the club to aid in their projects.

Shawn reported that the wide range of projects on the HO-scale layout have been moving along. There has been progress on the farm, the Autorack facility in Thurstonville has been completed, the Union Station project has been progressing at a blistering pace, with all of the mainline and station track in place. Our rolling stock collection has been gone through and some pieces have been selected to be sold by the surplus assets committee, some for display in the future, and some placed in storage as extras. Project Hades has progressed with the second mainline by the warehouse district being completed.

FEBRUARY 10 MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

Up next will be making new car cards for the new industries, finishing the track and switch machine wiring for the Union Station section, and continued general work around the layout.

Daryl gave the report for the N-scale layout. They have been working to inventory rolling stock and locomotives on the layout following a donation of 70+ cars. Once they are connected to JMRI, they will be doing some track work.

Bob gave the Modeler's Forum update. They are holding a meeting directly following today's meeting. Their next meeting will be directly after the meeting as well, but will transition to the 4th Thursday in April. Bob proposed another contest for ExTRAINaganza and will have the rules to come. [NOTE: the rules are here: <https://www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org/extrainaganza/square-footer-contest-2024/>)]

Ed gave the report for the Modular Committee. They are continuing to work on the Velcro for the modules for the skirting and are actively preparing for the show in Augusta.

Bryn gave the report for Media and Marketing. She noted that we have quite a bit of media already out for the show in Topsham. There will be flyers available to post at next month's meeting that can be posted around locally. Let her know if you are willing or able to help get flyers around town, particularly outside of Lewiston/Auburn.

Nate gave the maintenance report. The tractor will likely need a new battery by the end of the year. Otherwise, there is nothing major to report.

We discussed the Maine 3-Railers show. We will need help next Wednesday evening and on Friday to move the modular layout and surplus assets together and move it to Augusta. We will have HO, N and O scales for sale. Set up is from 11:00 to 16:00 and any help is appreciated. We can return at 7:00 the day of the show to continue preparing.

The show in Topsham has been set for April 27th at Mt. Ararat High School. The club can tentatively come in after 16:00 to help set up on the Friday before. Vendors can set up at 18:00, but we will need help prior to ensuring the tables are ready to go for the show. Margo noted that the tables will need to be out of the gym directly following the show. It will be all hands on deck to be sure everything is picked up. Please, see Margo if you are able to dedicate any time to help out.

Sweatshirts are now available to purchase. Hoodies are \$30 and crewnecks are \$26. Sizes 2xl for greater will be an additional \$3. If you'd like to add your name it is an additional \$2. See Margo to order.

We have a new shelf to display lanterns. Thank you for organizing this, Nate and Steve.

The Club will not be attending the Southern Maine Railroad Club's Westbrook show as previously discussed. Reasoning behind this relates primarily to the manpower needed for our own show in Topsham.

Bryn brought up a proposal to purchase safety equipment. After long discussion following the price tag of \$2500 for the purchase of a Class A First Aid, Self-Contained Eyewash Station, safety glasses, a bleeding control kit, an AED and a flammable cabinet was approved by members at the meeting. Bryn will try to obtain grant money for aid in this funding as well to reduce the burden on the club.

Bruce Davison will be here following the April meeting for a Slide and Snack. Bring a potluck snack along with you and come enjoy his presentation.

As of June, Jamie will no longer be producing the Signal and we are looking to find someone willing to take this over. Mitch tentatively offered to take over, but has not fully committed. If you are interested, please reach out to Jamie to discuss!

There will be an Executive Meeting Thursday, March 7th at 19:00.

Margo has been in correspondence with the Vista of Maine and the Kora Shrine. The Vista would like us to come to their property with the modular layout on June 14th through the 16th. The Kora Shrine would like us to have a show with them on October 12th. We currently do not have a conflict, unless meetings stay on Saturday afternoons. It was noted that we do not have to pay for vendor tables, the facility, etc. The Shriners only ask for half of the door money and food sales. All other donations would come to the club.

Joe Landry brought up that he is concerned about his layout once he passes. All of the materials he has used are of the highest quality and he has hundreds of cars and other equipment. If you'd like to view his layout search Joe Landry on Youtube. He wants to ensure some of the materials he has are taken care of and wants to be sure the club is willing to take care of a portion of the layout prior to putting GFMRRRC in his will. Joe is looking for volunteers to scope out his layout and be sure we are willing to take this on. He will also be holding an open house on August 24th this year.

Mike brought up setting a budget. Margo indicated that you can make a purchase under \$60 and be reimbursed or can get in touch with someone who has a club debit card. Ultimately decided to keep things as is to ensure we have control over club funds and no one is taking advantage of the club's income.

Ellery gave another proposal for the Portland Terminal project on the HO layout. Phase I and Phase II are completed on the project. As of Wednesday, the main tracks, passenger staging, the Union Branch, and the head end staging are nearly done. Phase I and Phase II have cost \$2004 and the remaining \$500 will go into the station itself. He hopes to have the station in hand by the end of the month and will weather it following it coming in. He would like to bring additional industries from the area along Marginal Way onto

the layout. On top of the Phase I and Phase II, he would like an additional \$660 to \$880 in funding for lighting, signage, sound, etc. He is requesting approval for \$1000 to work with to install the aforementioned eye-catching details to the layout. The motion to accept this budget was accepted. Ellery also talked about the backdrop for the scene as the current hand painted scene does not match the theme. He has looked into a couple of companies who produce scenes. One of the companies can transition from a water scene to city to waste scene to match the area. He mentioned this could range from a \$300 to \$1000 price tag and we will return to this discussion in the future.

We finally got new whistles in! Come to any of the shows or the club store if you are interested.

Roger Plummer announced he is currently going through radiation treatment for prostate cancer, but he is doing well! He also thanks everyone for their prayers, kind words, and well wishes.

Steve Doughty won the door prize and Joe Moser won \$20 in the 50/50 raffle.

The meeting adjourned at 15:08.

DONATIONS

2024 Water (\$30) and Power (\$150) sponsorships are available. There are six Water slots and six 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 Jane Costlow for the generous donation of your father's HO trains and equipment. It was very generous of you to think of us and bring his collection all the way to Maine from North Carolina!

SLIDE & SNACK

Topic to be announced!

Hope to see you there after the meeting.

Bring a snack for everyone to enjoy!



Saturday, April 13th, 2024



3:00 PM (after the meeting!)



144 Mill St. Auburn, ME



GreatFallsModelIRRClub.org

presented by Bruce Davison



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Folks—I'm going to urge some economic caution. We had a tremendously successful year last year. That is not a guarantee that this year will repeat that success. We were very fortunate to have received some very generous donations in 2023 and to be able to move them on quickly.

It is important to note that our monthly cost of operation is about \$1470. It varies up and down but that's what it averages out to. That's \$17,617.62 per year just to keep the lights on and the building open; it doesn't include non-essential spending.

I mentioned last month that we have some MUST DO repairs on the building, specifically the lower level double-doors, surrounding support structure, and creation of a roof over them to deflect runoff out of the parking area, as well as repairing/replacing the platform outside the library emergency exit.

Additionally, it would be wise to begin setting aside funding every year toward inevitable significant repairs (that retaining wall in the back is not going to get better by itself, for example) and

we have an obligation to properly position those that will follow us.

So what does this mean? It doesn't mean that we're going to shut off funding projects entirely. It does mean that you are going to have to make a hard case for funding your projects. So make a detailed case, including financials. Bring it to the Executive Committee. If the Executive Committee approves it, it will be brought forward to the membership for approval.

Bruce Davison will be back with Slide and Snack on April 13th following the meeting. We don't know the topic yet, but Bruce never disappoints. Come to the meeting, bring a contribution for the potluck Snack, and hang around to enjoy the show.

Modeler's Forum will return to the 4th Thursday of the month at 7 PM on April 25th and we expect the member meeting to return to the 3rd Thursday on May 16th.

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

Thoughts, comments, suggestions? Drop me an email: jamie@greatfallsmodelrrclub.org.

Jamie

MODELER'S FORUM Feb. 10

BY BOB WHITE

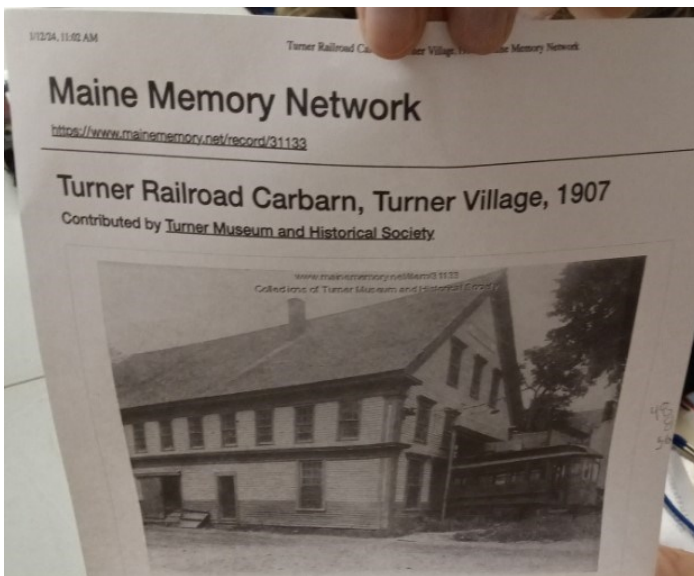
More and larger photos are available on our website: <https://www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org/modelers-forum/>

Twelve in attendance (Bob Wright taking notes and some photos, Travis Johnson taking most of the photos)

Bob Willard – Has gotten his 8” round base cut for the 2024 Modeling Contest, brought a new airbrush to show, also working on an Auburn/Turner Electric Car Barn Project building.

Kent Waterson – Continuing to work on his home layout.

Dick Holman – Repaired the club's hot air balloons, suggests hanging them over layouts instead of storing.



Wanda and Bob Wright – showed off a Walthers Trainline Forge Barn with tools that was painted/ assembled on a recent vacation, also a dog-house with dog, and rolling trash cans all in HO.



MODELER'S FORUM

(cont.)



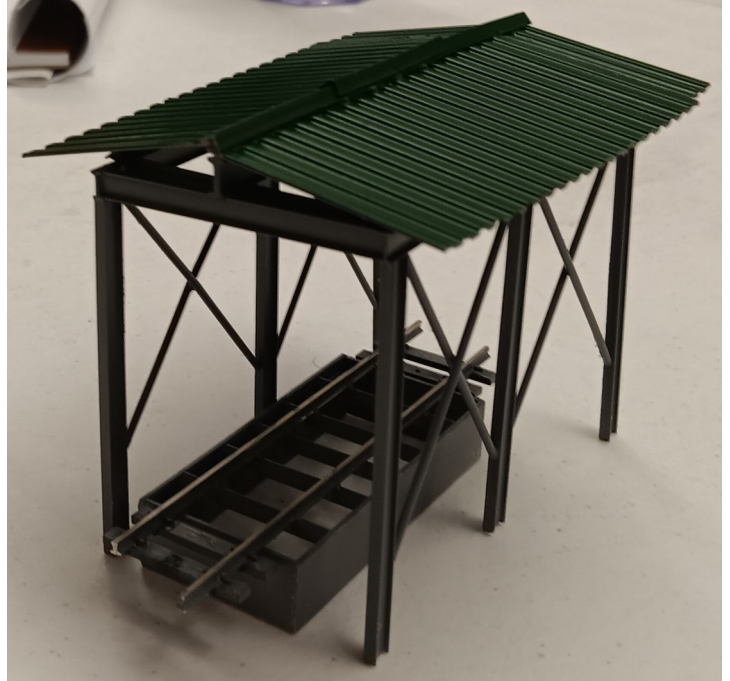
John McMullen – Working on benchwork on his home layout, found green 60 Grit sandpaper at Ace Hardware, thinking of using it for lawns, roofs, ballfields. Also brought in a 1944 Locomotive Cyclopedia he is using for reference. Brought two posters he saved from his stint as Postmaster (one is for 33 cent stamp collection sheet and the other from 1987 for 22 cent stamps – both train related).



THE SIGNAL

Joe Moser – New member, used to see the Wash go by his house at 4 AM has been a loco fan since. Likes to run "O" Gauge not as interested in scenic work. Was a Belfast and Moosehead Lake Railroad attorney.

Austin Campbell – Working on rehabbing the diesel works on the HO layout. Using Plastruct to build a sand dump for the works.



Jay Wiley – Picked up wood kits at the last Club asset sale and built a Riding Car (probably used prototypically as a Maintenance of Way type of vehicle). Also built a caboose and modeled it after a Strasburg unit. Brought in a Climax engine he has been rehabbing (time sink).



ALONG THE LINE

Photos by Penn Estabrook and Carter McNally



Ed Webb – Nothing to show but contributed greatly to the conversation.

Wayne Derocher – Also contributed to the discussion.

Travis Johnson – Has five locos with bad motors he has been working on. Has replaced three motors so far to make them smoother/slower/faster running so he can speed match them from 1 to 60 mph. Requested ideas for temporarily holding down a transformer load on a depressed flat car. Much discussion ensued giving Travis several suggestions to ponder.

The next Modeler's Forum will be March 9 after the membership meeting. Stay and join us!



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

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Address Changes
If your mailing or e-mail address changes, please notify us at:
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Upcoming Events Recurrent Activities

- Slide and Snack — April 13
- Topsham Train Show — April 27
- Vista of Maine — June 15-16



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](#)
- March 2 Run Session at 9:00 a.m.
 - March 16 at 9:00 a.m.
 - April 6 at 9:00 a.m.
 - April 20 at 9:00 a.m.
- [Regular Monthly Meeting](#)
- Saturday, March 9 at 1:00 p.m.**
- [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, March 9 at 2:15(ish) p.m.
- [Executive Committee](#)
- Thursday, March 7 at 7:00 p.m.**

