

Member since June 1988

NEXT MEETING

April 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

- ♦ Dec. — \$20.00
- ♦ January - \$4.00
- ♦ February — \$4.90

**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 28 ISSUE 3

March 2024

MONTHLY MEETING APRIL 13 - 1 PM

Upcoming events:

- April 13 — Slide & Snack
- April 27 — Topsham Train Show
- June 15-16 — Vista of Maine display
- July 13 — NMRA Seacoast Division meeting at GFMRR

MARCH 9 MEETING MINUTES

BRYN DOYLE – SECRETARY

Jamie started the meeting at 13:05 with the pledge of allegiance.

He announced at the start of the meeting that Scale Trains will be at the show in Topsham, their only stop in Maine! They will have a meet and greet at 12:30 and 13:30. Thank you to the [Amherst Railway Society](#) for assisting with this opportunity.

Parking at the Club has been problematic recently. Keep in mind we are able to park at Goodman Paper for the time being. Please consider this as an option so visitors can park in our lot.

Chuck Hobin spent a significant amount of time mapping the [lower level of the layout](#). His work is spectacular; we appreciate the time and effort expended and extend our thanks to him for this project!

Jamie noted that, while we have had a financially successful year, it is important for us to remain fiscally responsible. We have a couple of large projects coming up that will be larger expenditures including replacing the lower level double doors, building an overhang to divert water away from the threshold, and replacing the platform outside of the store's door. He suggested that it would behoove us to set aside \$10,000 a year, when possible, for inevitable property expenses in the future.

Last month's meeting minutes were published in the *Signal* and were accepted as written. The meeting minutes for the Executive Committee meeting were also accepted.

Margo gave the treasurer's report. She noted that we ended February at \$2098.27 in the green and our CD's are doing well. Her report was accepted as given. Jamie noted that Margo ran some reports and noted we need to spend roughly \$18,000 a year just to keep the building running.

MARCH 9 MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

Rick gave the library report. Donations are trickling in as always.

Jamie gave a report for G-Scale. They are currently working on an air source to keep their feris wheel moving.

Steve noted that the O-Scale guys have installed their upper level. They still need to run some wires for their new transformer. The guys decided to use the upper level for O gauge; S-gauge trains had a tendency to come off the track. They plan to add a mountain to the layout and other details in homage to George Pitchard.

Shawn gave the report for the HO-Scale guys. Things are progressing downstairs and the latest run session went well following the shut-down of the layout. Travis is diligently working on wiring around the layout. Ellery noted that the Union Station model is looking fantastic and hopes it will be finished within the next week. The road representing Park Ave has been completed, the girder bridge is in place, etc.

Eric noted that Daryl has been working hard on the N-Scale layout. Everything is running well again and Daryl cataloged the rolling stock in JMRL.

Bob invited everyone to stay for the Modeler's Forum following the meeting. He mentioned the "square-footer" contest to be judged at ExTRAINAganza in November. The rules for the contest are on the [website](#) if you are interested in participating. Next month, the forum will return to the 4th Thursday of the month.

Ed noted that none of the modules in his storage unit have adjustable leg bolts. This will need to be done prior to the show in Topsham.

Bryn noted that there will be a new poster following the Scale Trains announcement. If you could help distribute these, it would be appreciated.

Nate did not have anything notable to say regarding facilities.

At the 3-Railer's show we made \$1084.76 after the expenses. Travis thanked those who donated towards the rental truck as it takes the financial strain off the club for the rental. Joe Landry thanked us for attending the show and extended an invite again for this year. He noted attendance was over 600 this year and it continues to grow.

Margo has the floor plan completed for the Topsham Show. There are roughly a total of 120 tables on the floor and we only have 7 tables left to sell. She suggests filling out an [application](#) for a table ASAP if you are interested. Please, let her know if you are able to volunteer at the show. We will need as many bodies as possible to ensure the show goes smoothly.

Bryn noted that we are working towards purchasing safety equipment. She applied for a grant and is waiting to hear back prior to making any large purchases. Travis gave an example in regards to why we need safety equipment. He was working on the layout downstairs and unfortunately a piece of solder fell onto his eyelid. The situation could have been much worse and he stressed that we need to be vigilant with safety. Joe Landry noted that every OSHA rule is written in the blood of someone who experienced an injury. We need not be complacent when it comes to safety. Rick noted that following the purchase of the equipment, we will have a clinic to be certified in CPR, first aid, and AED.

Following next month's meeting, Bruce Davison will be here to do a presentation—"Slide & Snack." It will be a potluck "snack." Bring something to snack on and enjoy the presentation!

We discussed the idea of changing the meeting back to the evening of the third Thursday. There was discussion favoring remaining the same and going back to the old schedule. Think about this idea and be ready to vote on one or the other at the next meeting. Jamie reminded everyone that the May meeting, no matter when it falls, is the business meeting. It was discussed that we should entertain live-streaming the meeting to ensure everyone can attend.

We needed to establish the nominating committee. **Travis Johnson, Bob Willard and Catherine Knowles** volunteered to be on the committee this year. They will gather the information required to determine who will be on the ballot for officer this year. If you would like to run, please, let them know.

We will have groups at the Club from the Whittier House on March 18th and 19th from 10:00 am to noon. The organization helps intellectually disabled adults. We need volunteers to be here to help out at those times and run trains on each of the layouts. If you are available, let Jamie know.

Jamie noted that there is an O-Scale Central Zoom call tomorrow, Sunday the 9th, at 4:00 pm. Ask Jamie for details if you would like to tune in.

Jamie noted there are a few bylaws that the executive committee would like to amend.

One bylaw that we would like to eliminate is the position of past president. Reasoning behind this results from the lack of the ability for a past president to run for any other voting position on the executive committee. The executive committee would ultimately like to establish a fourth director position and eliminate the past president position leaving nine positions on the board.

Currently, there are no provisions in the bylaws to remove an officer, director, or member. We have created a procedure within the bylaws to allow this to be done in the event this is necessary.

We have also added a provision indicating the privilege of a building key. This includes a vote by the executive committee and maintaining your dues.

The NMRA has recently published a code of conduct. The executive committee proposed to adopt this code of conduct as our own and that all members are subject to these guidelines when on club property and at club events.

Each of these amendments will be distributed for the membership to review. We will review and discuss at the April meeting to be voted on in May at the annual business meeting.

Bob Willard won the door prize. We collected \$70 from the 50/50 drawing. Owen Buck won the \$35 and donated it back to the club.

The meeting adjourned at 14:28.



DONATIONS

2024 Water (\$30) and Power (\$150) sponsorships are available. There are six Water 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 Neva Parsons for your donation of materials from Whitethunder's collection.

Thank you Michael Ricci for your Power sponsorship donation .

Thank you Gary Farmer for the generous donation of your American Flyer S Gauge trains.

Thank you Owen Buck for the generous donation of your 50/50 winnings.

Thank you Richmond Bates for your book donations and thanks as well to Richard and Linda Morgan for your donations at the 3Railers show in Augusta.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Some really exciting train show developments this month! We've been working with Scale Trains for the past few weeks to coordinate with their Road Trip. The result of that is that their only stop in ME will be at our train show on April 27 with two presentations in the Forum room at Mt. Ararat High School — one at 12:30 p.m. and one at 1:30 p.m. For more information on the ScaleTrains Road Trip, click the graphic.



Not only do we have ScaleTrains coming, but table sales have been moving along briskly, with only a very few remaining. If you want a table, please reach out to [Margo](#) immediately!

You all know prices on everything are increasing virtually every day. We need to replace the double doors on the Mill Street side of our building and construct a roof over them to divert water off to the side and out of the walking area.

The Long brothers provided an estimate for the roof portion of the project for \$2000. By the next meeting, they will provide an estimate for the door portion. A quick look at pricing indicates that the doors alone will cost over \$2000. Likely, cost for the entire project will be in the \$5500 to \$6000 range. We will be looking to authorize this expenditure at the April meeting. Unfortunately, it's not one of those "nice to have" projects, but rather a "we have to do this" project.

Also at the April meeting will come discussion of the proposed bylaw revisions and Code of Conduct. Those documents will be provided to all members concurrent with this issue of *The Signal*.

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@greatfallsmodellrrclub.org.

Jamie

THE SIGNAL

MODELER'S FORUM March 9

BY JAMIE ROBINSON

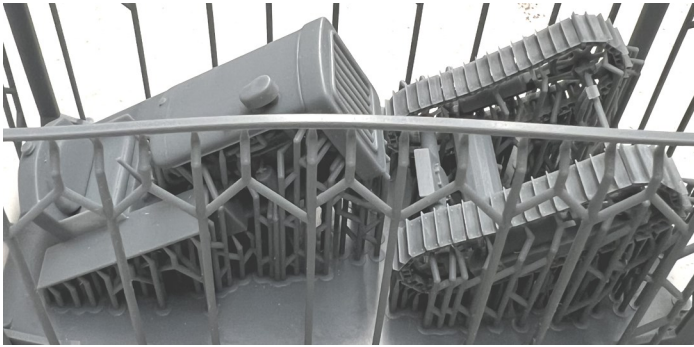
More and larger photos are available on our website: <https://www.greatfallsmodellrrclub.org/modelers-forum/>

Modeler's Forum convened at about 3:00 p.m. with six modelers in attendance: Bob Willard, Carmen Anastase, Dick Holman, Travis Johnson, Jamie Robinson and Steve Doughty. We were joined shortly by two more — Sean Crossen and Margo Robinson.

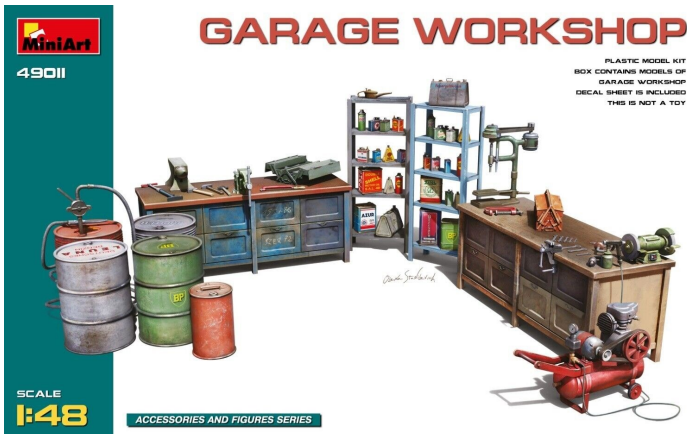
Bob Willard opened the forum with his scratch-built model of the Auburn & Turner Railroad's carbarn. The carbarn was located at the Turner end of the line. The carbarn is constructed from wood, and the roof is covered with styrene to simulate metal. Bob painted the model with the new airbrush he spoke about at the forum in January. He noted that the carbarn is only finished on three sides as one side of it will be directly against a wall. Bob used his own plaster castings for the foundation stone and [Tichy](#) windows for the building.



Bob next brought out an O Scale 3d printed model of a Caterpillar D2 crawler tractor. It was quite reasonably priced and he bought it via Etsy from a Polish company called [Playmoreit](#). It took about three weeks to arrive. The model is shipped with its supports intact to protect it. The photos really don't do the model justice; you can actually see through the screen protecting the radiator! 3d resin printing has really changed the playing field for modelers.

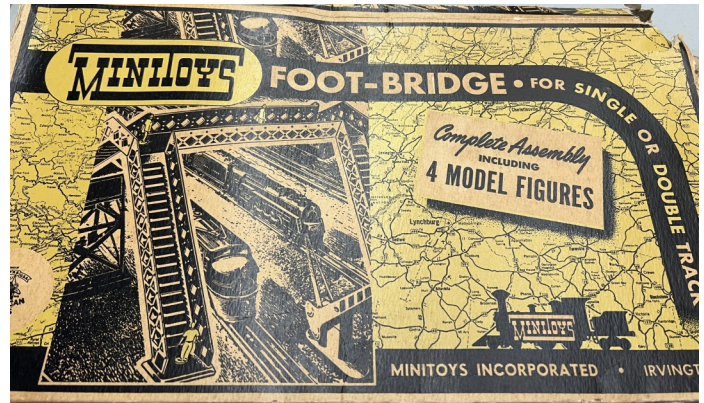


Bob wasn't finished either; he hauled a 1/48 scale garage workshop out of his seemingly bottomless bag of tricks. This one was made by a company called [Miniart](#) and Bob purchased it via eBay for about twenty bucks! Miniart offers a variety of items in several different scales, and eBay seems to be the most convenient place to find them.

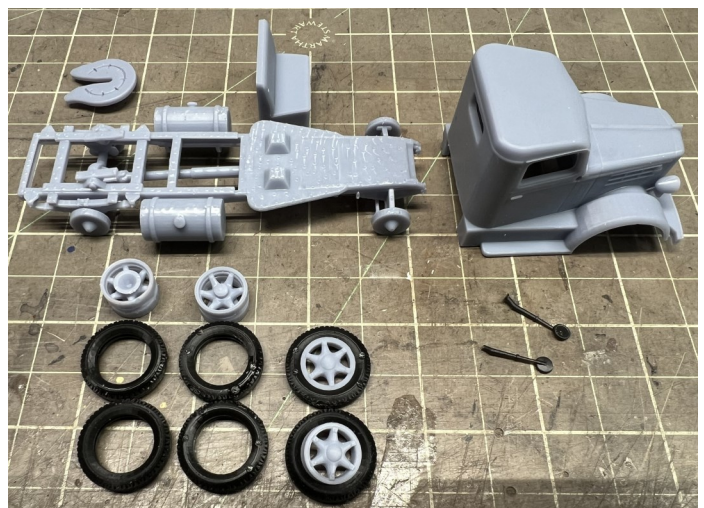


Steve Doughty has been working to put an elevated trolley line on his home layout. After making some arches to support the elevated roadway over his existing tracks, and using a conversion track for the platform area, he realized he needed some type of stair for folks to reach the passenger platform.

While prowling around at Norm's O Scale in Casco, Steve found a vintage Minitoys pedestrian footbridge that could be adapted to fill the bill.

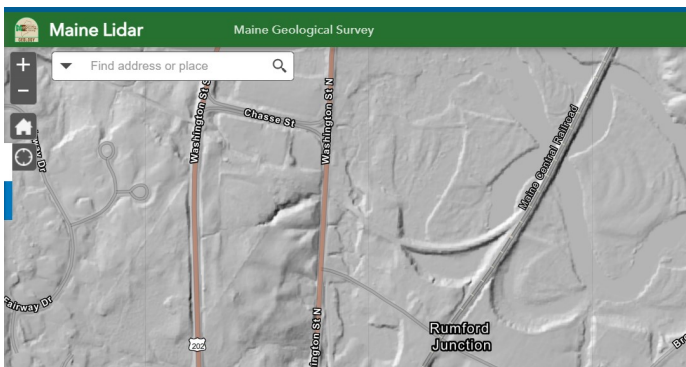


Jamie brought a couple of 3d printed vehicle kits from a new company called [Custom Model Depot](#). The supports have been removed from these, but they will still require a bit of clean-up and sanding. Some of the models do not come with window inserts. Custom Model Depot includes a tip sheet on the back of their instruction sheet and offers more detailed suggestions on their website. Their models are offered in several different scales. For those of us in O scale, where properly scaled non-military vehicles have long been difficult to find, 3d printing has opened up a whole new world of possibilities. Jamie claims that one of these days, he'll actually build one of these kits...



MODELER'S FORUM (cont.)

Travis Johnson related how he has been using the Maine Geological Survey website and the Lidar data presented on it to locate and follow old railway roadbeds. In many places, so much landscaping has changed over the years that there is literally no trace of many old railway lines. Lidar data on the website is located [HERE](#). Travis related that there is a fair bit of railroad-related information on the [Forgotten Maine](#) Facebook page too. This is a cropped Lidar screenshot of Rumford Jct. that clearly shows the old north leg of the wye where the Rumford Branch left the main line headed for Poland.

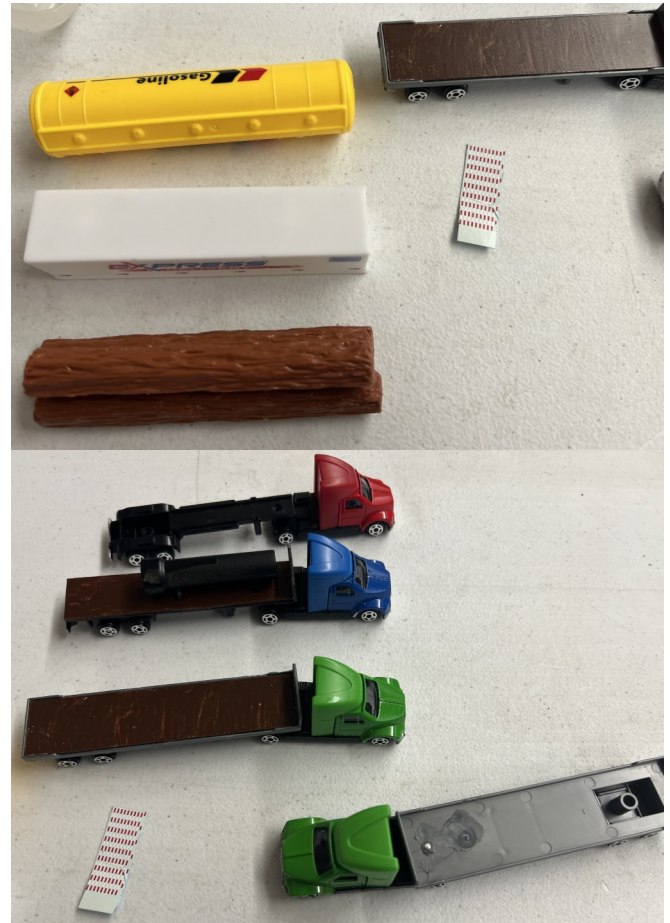


Dick Holman related that he is scheming just how to fit elements onto the 4" circle required for an HO entry into this year's "Square Footer" contest. Rules for the contest are on our website [HERE](#). Modelers of all abilities and scales/gauges are encouraged to enter. There will be prizes for the winners. The theme of the 2024 contest is "In the Woods", and it does not have to include a railroad element.

Carmen Anastase described some items he has purchased from a website called [Temu](#). The company offers free shipping for purchases over a certain amount, and Carmen has sometimes augmented his purchases with small tools to get over that threshold. He showed some hobby utility knives and small squares he has acquired thusly.

Carmen continues to move forward with his \$1 truck project. Purchasing these vehicles at dol-

lar-type stores, he converts them to flatbeds for hauling pipe from his HO factory. He related that some trailers are much harder to modify than others due to difficulty removing the different body types. Carmen described some of the issues he has had applying modern hi-visibility striping to these models due to the extremely slippery nature of the plastic. Suggestions made were to scuff it lightly with very fine grit sandpaper and then apply a gloss coat to it.



He's still working on his backdrop buildings too. Having deconstructed several kits that were already built in order to narrow them for backdrop use, Carmen said that moving forward, he's much more likely to use unbuilt kits. It's quite a struggle to take buildings apart if they are built well...

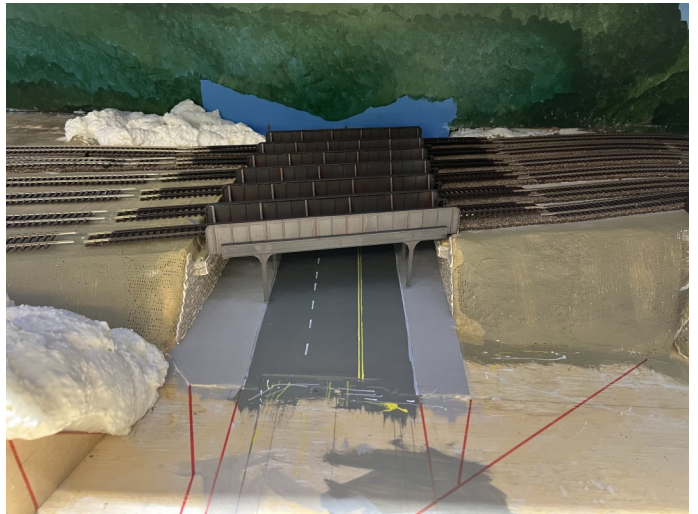
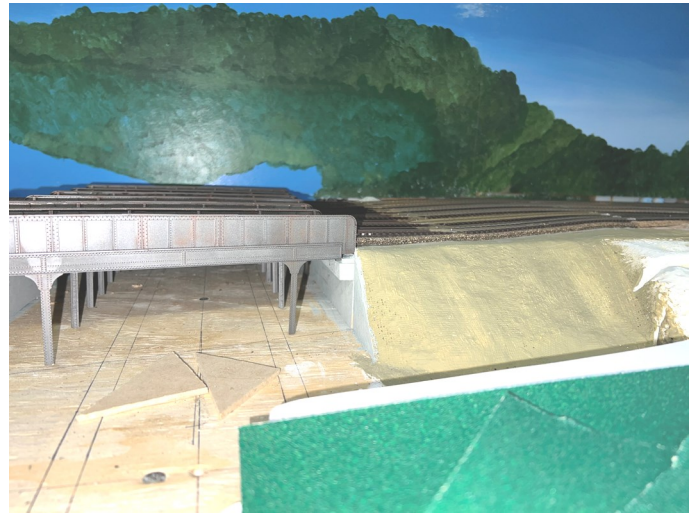
Shawn Crossen and Margo Robinson offered some comments through the session, and we look forward to having them attend in the future.

The next Modeler's Forum reverts to the traditional 4th Thursday slot, and will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 25. We hope to see **YOU** there!

MAINE 3RAILERS SHOW FEBRUARY 17



UNION STATION (FORMERLY RIVERTON)





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THE SIGNAL

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www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org

Upcoming Events

Slide and Snack — April 13
Topsham Train Show — April 27
Vista of Maine — June 15-16
NMRA Seacoast Div. meeting — July 13
Balloon Festival — Aug. 17-18



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

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, April 13 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

Thursday, April 25 at 7:00 p.m.

Executive Committee

Concurrent with the April meeting

