



Member since June 1988

**NEXT MEETING**  
**May 11, 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**

- ◆ January - \$4.00
  - ◆ February — \$4.90
  - ◆ March — \$16.05
- 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 4

April 2024

## MONTHLY MEETING MAY 11 - 1 PM

### Upcoming events:

- June 15 & 16 — Vista of Maine display
- July 13 — NMRA Seacoast Division meeting at GFMRRCC
- August 17 & 18 — Balloon Festival Open House
- August 24 — Joe Landry Open House

## APRIL 13 MEETING MINUTES

BRYN DOYLE – SECRETARY

Jamie opened the meeting at 13:04 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

March's meeting minutes were accepted as published in *The Signal*.

Margo gave the Treasurer's and Membership report. Last month, we finished in the negative due to a property tax payment at -\$1479. There are about 50 names who have not paid their dues. Your name tags will be removed following the meeting. See Margo to pay dues and become current.

Rick gave the librarian's report. We have had more books come in and we are taking six boxes to Topsham for the show. We hope to sell as many as possible there.

Jamie gave the report for the G-Scale guys. They are working on getting a blower to run the Ferris wheel. Currently, the logging operation is not up and running. Three groups of special needs came in this week and the layout ran well.

Nate gave the O-Scale report. They have acquired a new transformer and have the upper level running. The transformer is "quite sophisticated" and can run conventional and legacy.

Shawn gave the HO-scale report. They held a committee meeting and passed quite a few items. It was a unanimous vote to build the Seaport and a Saint Lawrence and Atlantic yard. They also voted to approve a Canadian Pacific yard that will run through the bathroom to under the white board. They implemented a form that is used as a proposal to regulate new projects by requiring you to list costs associated with the project, if you need help, etc. The forms will be available digitally and printed copies will be available on the bulletin board downstairs. With Bryce starting his new job, he has appointed Ellery as his stand-in.

## APRIL 13 MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

Bob gave a report for the Modeler's Forum. They are going back to meeting on the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm.

Ed gave the report for the Modular Committee. They plan to pull the modules out to ensure they are in good condition for the show. Travis will likely be working through wiring issues before and during the show this year to get the yard operational.

Bryn gave the media report. We have had nearly 17,500 views on our event and over 100 event response. Information is out to all local newspapers and news stations as well as online forums, railroad magazines, etc.

Nate gave the facilities report. He will be tucking away the snowblower for the season!

The Topsham Show is in just two weeks. Margo has successfully sold out all of our vendor tables, all of which have paid prior to the show. She implemented paying online and has been very successful with it. Everything is all planned out including the floor plan, has a menu from the booster club, etc. The boosters will be delivering meals to those who are vendors or can't leave their tables. We have begun gathering materials to take to the show. Next weekend, Jamie plans to pull things from the surplus assets shed and around the clubhouse to bring to the show. We will be loading the trucks at the club Friday around 11 am and 12 pm. Any help would be appreciated gathering things to go and loading trucks! If you'd like to volunteer at the show, get in touch with [Margo](#). Shawn announced that we will be gifting ScaleTrains a Great Falls Model Railroad Club rivet counter hoppers.

We will be returning to the Vista of Maine from June 14th to 16th. We will be operating trains like last year. There will also be a craft fair, food trucks, etc.

Bryn noted that we are waiting on one more grant cycle that ends on the 15th. Once that ends, we will begin purchasing safety equipment.

Bruce Davison is doing the slide n' snack immediately following the meeting.

Volunteers are still needed to work on Jim Teed's layout in Standish. If you are interested, see Eric.

Catherine Knowles will be taking over *The Signal* from Jamie starting in June.

Jamie brought up the idea to revert meetings to the third Thursday of the month. Travis noted that regardless of the decision made, we should look into having meetings streamed via Skype or the like. Discussions in favor of both keeping meetings the same and for Thursdays were brought up. However, the majority of votes lay within keeping the meetings on Saturdays at 13:00 with the addition of a monthly potluck lunch.

Jamie brought up the changes to the by-laws and the adoption of the NMRA Code of Conduct. Copies are available in the meeting hall. These are the same changes that were discussed at last month's meeting regarding building access as a privilege, termination of membership and a member of the executive committee must be approved by at a minimum 7 members of the executive committee. The executive committee was also redesigned in the draft by eliminating the past president and adding a fourth director. This allows a past president to fill another role if they so choose to run for one. A copy of the final draft will be included with this issue of *The Signal*.

The nominating committee has the following candidates for Officer and Director positions:

- President - Jamie Robinson
- Vice President - Darin Long
- Secretary - Bryn Doyle
- Treasurer - Margo Robinson
- Librarian - Mike Meserve

Directors (four positions)

- Rick James
- Guy Lovell
- Eric Long
- Ellery Goode
- Shawn Doyle

We have had a number of visits from special needs groups over the past month. All have gone well. Jamie noted that this nicely adds to our mission and we are always happy to do it!

There is an HO layout located in Columbia Falls. If you are interested or would like to learn more get in contact with [Jamie](#).

There is an S-Scale layout donation that we would potentially like to display in our hall. However, we would need a new bookcase built to house all of the books that currently live in the meeting hall. The general consensus was to take on the layout.

The downstairs doors are in need of replacement. Eric priced out two different sets of doors and have decided on a set of doors that are similar to what we currently have along with an overhang roof, the total cost is roughly \$5000. The membership voted to allow an allocation of this money towards the project.

We have been invited to return to the Wiscasset, Waterville, and Farmington Railway's annual picnic on August 10th. They would like us to return with a sales table, but last year was not very successful monetarily. While it was an overall fun experience, it does interfere with our meetings and the membership voted against attending this year.

It is time we start planning for the Kora Shrine Train Show. We will have an operating layout and a show at the Shrine on October 12th from 10 am to 3 pm. We would be able to have 87 vendor tables, 11 club tables, and a full size modular layout at the show. Flyers have been made up as well as table request forms that will be in the vendor

packets at Topsham. The entrance fee will be split with the Kora Shrine, but we will keep table fees and they will keep concession proceeds.

If anyone would like any shirts, sweatshirts, etc. see Margo!

Guy Lovell won the door prize.

Joe Moses on the 50/50 drawing.

The meeting adjourned at 14:42.

## 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.

We have been offered an S Gauge collection and layout by Mrs. Gloria Jenkins. Steve Doughty and Jamie visited her to see the collection and layout. Gloria and her late husband had been to our club many times and noted the absence of an S gauge display. This is the layout that was mentioned in the meeting minutes; we will be pleased to honor their wishes and display the layout.



Thank you Michael Ricci for your contribution toward the power bill.



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The April meeting was very well attended. Thanks to all who came and participated. Remember that the May meeting is our annual business meeting.

This edition of *The Signal* is being produced in the time between the Club meeting and Modeler's Forum. The April Modeler's Forum will appear in the May issue of *The Signal*.

Several significant items were covered at the April meeting:

- Club meetings will remain on the second Saturday schedule going forward. There was some interest in a potluck lunch, so let's plan for that in May. Bring a potluck contribution for lunch around noon. Please let [Bryn](#) know what you are bringing.
- Draft 4 of the bylaw revisions will accompany this issue of *The Signal* and will be voted on at the May meeting. This includes adoption of the NMRA Code of Conduct.
- The Nominating Committee presented a slate of Officer and Director candidates for election at the May meeting. It is not too late to submit your name for candidacy! You can submit your name right up until the voting commences.
- The membership authorized replacement of the downstairs double-doors and construction on a roof over them. This will be handled by the Long Brothers on an ASAP basis.
- The membership agreed to accept the donation of the S gauge layout from Mrs. Gloria Jenkins. I'm personally very grateful that we did that. It will fulfil her husband's wish that the layout be preserved, and the layout is interesting. It will fill a great void in our collection.

We hope that many of you will join us for the Topsham show on Saturday, April 27. Check out the ScaleTrains Road Trip display!

Thoughts, comments, suggestions? Consider writing an article about your most recent project! It doesn't have to be something at the club-house. What's on your workbench? Drop me an email: [jamie@greatfallsmodelrrclub.org](mailto:jamie@greatfallsmodelrrclub.org).

## SLIDE-N-SNACK

Thanks to Bruce Davison for presenting another great program on Saturday. Bruce's affection for esoteric "critters" and small railroads is well known and once again he did not disappoint!

Snacks were tasty and enjoyed by those present. If you weren't here, you missed out on a good one. Bruce says he'll be back—we just need to tell him when!

## ALONG THE LINE



Darin Long delivers a train to the staging yards



Reconfiguration of the staging yard entrance to accommodate the Seaport. The upper level will be the new SLR staging yard.



Wayne and Wayne Desrocher plot their next moves at Cave Jct.



The Union Station model is taking shape!



Railfans at Wilder watching the shenanigans...



Platforms for Union Station.



Ean Johnson working Hillcrest



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<https://www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org/>  
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### An Educational Foundation

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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

- Vista of Maine — June 15-16
- NMRA Seacoast Div. meeting — July 13
- Balloon Festival — Aug. 17-18
- Joe Landry Open House — Aug. 24
- Oxford Fair — Sept. 11 to 14



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](#)

April 20 at 9:00 a.m.  
May 4 at 9:00 a.m.  
May 18 at 9:00 a.m.

[Regular Monthly Meeting](#)  
**Saturday, May 11 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.  
Thursday, May 23 at 7:00 p.m.

[Executive Committee](#)  
**Concurrent with the May meeting**

