

Member since June 1988

NEXT MEETING
June 8, 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

- ◆ February — \$4.90
- ◆ March — \$16.05
- ◆ April — \$2.25

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 5

May 2024

MONTHLY MEETING JUNE 8 - 1 PM

Upcoming events:

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

MAY 11 MEETING MINUTES

BRYN DOYLE – SECRETARY

Mike Meserve, past president, opened the meeting at 13:00 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mike gave the President's report on behalf of Jamie. He noted that the Topsham Show was a success and noted how ScaleTrains was the first manufacturer that has attended our show.

Last month's meeting minutes were published in the *Signal* and were approved as written.

Margo gave the Treasurer's Report. We had a successful month and came out roughly \$1500 in the green.

Margo gave the Membership Report. We have 113 current members. All name tags have been pulled that are not current. See Margo if you need to pay dues.

Rick gave the Librarian's report. He wishes the next Librarian well.

Mike gave the G-Scale report. There are no significant updates.

Steve gave the O-Scale report. They currently have the option to run five trains right now and are working on scenery on their layout. Nate is updating switches for them and note trains can now chuff and work remotely. The upper layout is in need of a safety end that they will be implementing shortly. They are also starting to put plans together for a new modular layout.

Shawn gave the HO-Scale report. He noted there's a lot going on. The final operating session was last week and they are now in summer shut-down. Benchwork for SLR and the Seaport have been put in place. There is a whole list of projects that will be posted downstairs that include updates, maintenance and new projects. They are looking to move onto the next phase of the SLR and Seaport including trackwork and the

MAY 11 MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

installation of the benchwork for CP. They have a few proposals for the aforementioned projects. The Seaport, which has a small addition to Wilder, would cost roughly \$790 at most, but would likely be reduced to \$500. This project would be representative of Maine's Midcoast and Downeast Regions. The Saint Lawrence and Atlantic Yard project would cost roughly \$450. The Canadian Pacific project would cost roughly \$600. All estimates are MSRP and prices should be knocked down drastically. Travis proposed that we have a fundraising effort towards paying for these projects. They are looking for donations towards the projects, but \$600 was allocated across the 3 projects. Phase one and phase two of the Portland Project are complete and budgeting went over by only \$50. They also plan to amend the current way operating sessions are run. The new systems negate a lot of complaints and organize the system in a way that reduces administrative work. Generally speaking, operating during the sessions would be essentially the same.

Mike gave the N-Scale report. He noted that Daryl is working to put data into JMRI, much like what the HO-Scale group has done thus far.

Bob gave the report to the Modeler's Forum. The next meeting will be Thursday evening, May 23 at 7:00 pm. He also noted that the 2-4-8 contest is still ongoing.

Travis gave the report for the Modular Committee. He noted that he fixed the issues he mentioned at the last meeting with Chuck's help prior to the opening of the show. He also thanked Chuck for his help in labeling the transition track to make it easier to connect modules.

Bryn noted we were under budget for marketing for the Topsham Show at only \$100 instead of the \$150 that was approved.

Mike gave the report for facilities. The only thing of note is that we need to move the tractor into the shed.

The Topsham Show was very successful. We had over 600 people total throughout the day and over 400 in the first hour. We made roughly \$6300 at the show, nearly \$2000 more than last year. We sold out 121 tables, nearly 30 more than last year. Going forward though, we will need to ensure there are no meetings or events at the club the week prior to the show. We will also need to have a place for everything that needs to go to the show so it is clear what needs to end up on the truck.

The club has the following events coming up: The Vista of Maine on June 14-16, Great Falls Balloon Festival Open House on August 17-18, Joe Landry's open house on August 24, and the October Show at the Kora Shrine. At the Vista there will be a craft fair and food trucks while we have a 24' by 22' modular layout and surplus asset sales. We can set up starting at noon the Friday before. At the Balloon Festival last year, the idea of closing earlier than 5 pm on Sunday due to lack of attendance. However, it was noted that we quadrupled donations from 2022 to 2023 at the event. Joe Landry's Open House will feature differences in his layout and all members are invited, because this may be his last one. The show at the Kora Shrine on October 12th. We will split the door proceeds with them and we have already sold over 30 tables, nearly half available, already. There will also be six layouts at the show!

Acquisition of safety equipment still lies in the results of the grant applications. We will begin purchasing materials following that decision.

Darin noted that they will begin working on the downstairs door as soon as the schedule permits.

Jim Teed still needs help with his layout. If willing to lend a hand let him or Eric know.

Catherine Knowles will be taking over the production of the *Signal* starting in June.

We accepted the proposed Constitution and By-law changes as of May 11, and adopted the NMRA's Code of Conduct. [attached to this email and here: [Bylaws](#) and [NMRA Code of Conduct](#)]

The July meeting scheduled for the 13th conflicts with the NMRA meeting. The regularly scheduled meeting will move to the 20th at 1 pm and the annual July Surplus Assets will be set to the 27th.

The Oxford Fair would like us to move from our current location to the Mineral Building. The only issue with this lies in the darkness of the building. Margo and Jamie are going to look at the new space to determine what we would like to do going forward. It was determined that we have lighting, but we need to see if there are enough outlets available to illuminate the space to our standards. Once more information is gathered, we will make a decision.

An idea was proposed to remove the second Sunday of ExTRAINaganza from the schedule. However, it was determined that the money made, though, was worth remaining open.

Results of the elections are as follows:

President - Jamie Robinson

Vice President - Shawn Doyle

Secretary - Bryn Doyle

Treasurer - Margo Robinson

Librarian - Mike Meserve

Directors

- Guy Lovell
- Ellery Goode
- Steve Doughty
- Eric Long

Sean Crossen won \$23 from the 50/50 and donated it back to the club. Rick James won the door prize.

The meeting adjourned at 14:53.

MODELER'S FORUM

on April 25 was very lightly attended. Unfortunately, no notes or photos were taken.

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.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Well, elections are over for another year. Congratulations to those newly-elected officers and directors.

I think it's important to take note of how we ended up financially at the end of April: **in spite of the great financial success of the Topsham show, we ended the month only \$1628 in the black.** This is an indicator of just how high our costs are, and they are continuing to go up. Soon we will need to be running the air conditioners and that will push our electric bill up significantly.

There seem to be those who feel that we are making lots of money and that cost is far less of a consideration than in the past. That is simply NOT so. The funds we currently have invested in CDs would barely keep the lights on for a year! We must continue to move forward in a fiscally responsible fashion.

Catherine Knowles will be taking over *The Signal* in June. She will not have the insights that I have into everything that is going on. Therefore, YOU need to let her know. Write an article about a club project, or your most recent project.. Send her an email with information. Send her your photos to use (make sure you include details about the photo). The newsletter is only as good as we make it.

You can always send me an email at jamie@greatfallsmodellrrclub.org, but going forward, please send all *Signal* info to: gfrsignal@greatfallsmodellrrclub.org

Jamie

TOPSHAM SHOW

April 27, 2024

The Topsham show was a great success this year with over 100 vendor tables. A highlight was the attendance of ScaleTrains, making the show a part of their Road Trip. We are grateful to them for including us!

There were several layouts in attendance, including our own modular layout. By all accounts, the layout performed reasonably well during the show.



Travis presented ScaleTrains with one of their cars painted and lettered for Great Falls. This car will be operated on the ScaleTrains layout now under construction.





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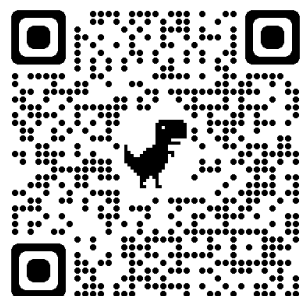
THE SIGNAL

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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](#)
On hold until August 3 while we work on some new projects
[Regular Monthly Meeting](#)
Saturday, June 8 at 1 p.m.
** Saturday, July 20 at 1 p.m.
Note date change!!!!
[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, May 23 at 7 p.m.
Thursday, June 27 at 7 p.m.
[Executive Committee](#)
Concurrent with the June meeting