

Member since June 1988

UPCOMING MEETINGS

December 20th
(Preceded at 12:30
by Holiday Potluck)

January 10th

Call to Order
@1:00

DO YOU WANT TO WIN?

Attendance & 50/50
prizes are drawn at
every monthly
meeting.

**YOU MUST BE
PRESENT TO WIN!**

Bottles for Basics

Remember—you can
return your bottles and
cans directly at

Spring Street Redemp-
tion, 120 Spring Street
in Auburn.

Tell them you are from
the "Train Club."

THE SIGNAL

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club



VOLUME 29 ISSUE 04

November 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Modeler's Forum: No Meeting in November

ExTRAINaganza! Open House: November 22, 23 and 28, 29 & 30

GFMRRRC at EMMRC Train Show, Brewer: November 22 (N Scale)

Surplus Assets Sale: December 13th 9:00—1:00

Modeler's Forum: December 18th 7:00pm

Member Holiday Potluck & Ugly Sweater Contest: Dec. 20th 12:30

Monthly Meeting December 20th 1:00 -ish

Op 'Til You Drop! : January 1st 9:00am

Monthly Meeting: January 10th 1:00

More complete information on our website calendar:

<https://www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org/calendar/>

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FROM THE EDITOR

With winter soon upon us (it's snowing outside as I type this!) that means the time of year is arriving for holiday gatherings, longer nights, and that time of year that modelers retreat into their work space creating and altering and inventing. What do you have planned for your layout? What are you building, painting, weathering, running? Take a few photos, write up a brief description, and send it my way to be included in future editions of the Signal! Send photos as attachments, not embedded in the emails, and explain what's happening in them in the email gfrsignal@greatfallsmodelrrclub.org

The Club will be buzzing with activity over November and December! ExTRAINaganza, the Surplus Assets Sale, the Holiday Potluck & Ugly Sweater Contest, and Op 'Til You Drop! Toss in the regular work and ops sessions, and a train show that the N Scalpers are attending —Phew! That's a lot! We're—**YOU'RE**—an incredibly dedicated bunch. Thank you all for the hard work—but it's all with love for the hobby, fun, and knowing this all makes a difference for everyone who experiences our club!

I look forward to seeing you all at some of the upcoming events and meetings. And, although my promises have been challenging to meet, I **WILL** be sending out the Signal on its regular schedule from here on.

I wish you all a wonderful holiday season, no matter what and how you celebrate!

Catherine

WELCOME, NEW MEMBER!

Dave Stone

(check out his invitation to members and photos of his layout on page 5!)



NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES BY BRYN DOYLE, SECRETARY

The meeting began at 1305 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Shawn, the Vice President, ran the meeting in Darin's absence.

The executive meeting minutes and last month's monthly meeting minutes were accepted as written.

Margo gave the **Treasurer's report**. We ended the month with \$2372.39. We paid the utility bill for just under \$500 and the heating bill for just over \$400. However, we did have the income from the show as income. The total in the bank is \$27,454.97. We had one new member this month - David Stone.

Scott was unavailable to give the Librarian's report.

The **G-gauge report** was sent via email: We look forward to seeing the entryway changes that Board members have discussed with us to reduce visitor congestion and improve access to our electronic layout controls, our rail siding on the back wall, and the kiddo activated ski slope, especially during open houses. Hopefully, these changes will be in place for ExTRAINaganza!

- Completed all work we committed to at the last Board meeting to free up more space on top of the G Gauge cabinet for Margo's acrylic print display cases. Someone will have to decide and implement how to protect the Great Falls counter top painted surface from wear in that area.

- Made significant progress on the Great Falls/Veterans Memorial Park diorama, and it should be ready for its inaugural public showing at ExTRAINaganza.

- Repositioned switches and track in front of Main St. to accommodate newly installed crossing signals.

- We continue to automate all crossing flashing lights to respond to passing trains.

- Added lighthouse residence & entrance buildings in front of the Portland Head Light, including interior lighting to the residence and a flashing light in the lighthouse.

- Future planned layout projects (as time and people's availability allow) are listed in no order of priority:

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NOV. MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

- Complete the Fall diorama connecting upper Loop 3 with our Main St. town hub, including but not limited to ponds with waterfall and several train portals for Loops 1 & 2.
- Design and install 3D rock/water formations to the left of the Veterans Memorial Park to further enhance the 'WOW' impact of the Great Falls diorama.
- Complete installation of sound effects in the Great Falls diorama as described in the April Monthly Meeting presentation.
- Extend Main St. asphalt to the front of the layout including 3D printed grade crossing panels to reduce the number of tire blowouts that some of our town residents have unfortunately experienced...
- Implement winter scene landscape plan encircling Portland Headlight complex.
- Complete design plan to incorporate small O scale farm diorama into the background of our Spring scene and implement.

Steve gave the **O-scale report**. They plan to add snow prior to the opening of ExTRAINaganza. Nate cleaned out the underneath of the layout. They want to stress that it is not a storage area for everyone and materials should not be put under there.

Wayne gave the **HO-scale report**. They have been repairing the mountain where it had begun to crumble. Otherwise, Austin has been working diligently on his projects. Ed has been working on putting down some cork. Bryce has done work on re-tracking in Middleton to get the turntable operational.

No one was available to give the HOn3 report.

Mose gave the **N-scale report**. The plexiglass is replaced around the layout. They are trying to get things organized before the show. Otherwise, they have some work to do scenery-wise, but with Daryl being out, things are progressing slowly.

Jamie gave the **Modeler's Forum report**. The Square Footer is due at 9 am prior to the ExTRAINaganza. There will not be a meeting in November and then will probably switch to following the meeting for the winter.

Ed gave the **Modular Committee report**. He noted that there has been discussion about downsizing the layout to make it more manageable. This is to make the layout more attractive and to work towards functionality. It was noted that there are only so many of you and that it needs to work well for the committee to manage. The "Geezer Gate" has been repainted to more closely match the Pine Tree Lines colors.

Bryn gave the **Media report**. There are ads running for ExTRAINaganza. If anyone is interested in putting flyers out for the open house around town, it would be appreciated.

Catherine was not available for the report for the **Signal**, but did send a message stating that the publication will be out tomorrow.

Nate gave the **Facilities report**. He has "nothing." He plans to swap over the tractor to the snowblower after he mows one more time. There is also a streetlamp head that needs to be replaced outside.

267 people came through the door for this year's **October show** compared to last year's show. While it is hard to compare, because we were sharing expenses last year, we made \$2830.95 vs. \$3327.98 in 2024. Vendors were happier at the Edward Little location by far compared to the Kora shrine. The cost for the show at the gym was \$700. Compared to Topsham, which was \$635, it was worthwhile based on location. Margo stressed to the school for next year that we need to lock in the date for next year and we cannot change dates again. We do think that the change of dates likely impacted attendance at this show as well as the holiday weekend. Going forward, we will plan to have extra signs as well to direct people into both gyms.

The whistle on the oil tank was not functioning properly and the tanks were not filling properly. This will be fixed on the 14th of November prior to the Open House. The cost for the repairs will cost just under \$1000.

All of the new security cameras have been installed. A few needed to be adjusted for view a little bit, but this has been addressed. The MAC address issue still needs to be addressed, but Jonathan needs to come down and hard code it to fix the prob-

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NOV. MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

ExTRAINaganza runs from November 22, 23, 28, 29 and 30. There are sign up sheets for help and to bring food at the club. Please, utilize those so we know the manpower and food we will have during those days.

The **Augusta show** this year is on February 14th, 2026. After discussion, it was decided that it does not make sense for the HO-scale modular layout to attend the show. There is only a two hour window for tear down at this show, which does not seem reasonable. However, we did decide that it makes sense to bring sales tables and the O-scale layout. We also decided that we will move materials only in personal vehicles this time as well to save on costs. However, we will hold off on signing up to hear whether or not N-scale would like to bring their layout as well.

It has been decided that the **Topsham show** will be on April 25th, 2026 from 10 am to 3 pm. Setup will be on the 24th. Tables have already been reserved and will be dropped off on the 24th and picked up on the 25th at 4 pm. There are already 25 tables sold for the show. There will need to be a new layout plan for the show, because there is a need for more sales tables. Margo has also asked that if it is their vacation week again, that we can get into the gym earlier.

Ron Delisle plans to **donate Lionel stock** to the club. However, he was unable to attend today. There is a list that needs to be gone through to compare with the cars. We plan to send a gracious thank you.

If you would like a **shirt, sweatshirt, polo**, etc. let Margo know ASAP. She will be placing an order soon.

There is a **Surplus Assets Sale** on the 13th from 9 am to 1 pm. The monthly meeting will be on the 20th of December.

Ideas were thrown around to **narrow down some of the HO stock**. Some of the ideas include making an offer table, filling a bag for x amount, etc.

Wayne won the **door prize**. Joe Moser won the **50/50** for \$11.

The meeting adjourned at 14:29.

THE SIGNAL

SQUARE FOOTER CONTEST REMINDER!

ExTRAINaganza is just a couple of weeks away! And with it, comes the Square Footer Contest! **Entries are due no later than 9:00AM on the morning of November 22nd!** Here are the rules for your reference:

Great Falls Model Railroad Club Modeler's Forum 2025 Square Footer Contest

The square footer contest is open to all Great Falls Model Railroad Club members. There will be three classes for entrants this year (outlined in the rules below).

Classes:

- Novice – Anyone who has never entered a prior square footer contest or who has never won first place in this class
- Intermediate – Anyone who has won a prior square footer contest in the Novice class
- Master – Anyone who has previously entered in this class or has won a prior square footer contest in the Intermediate class

Note: the organizers reserve the right to categorize entrants of known ability as "Intermediate" or "Master," even if they have never previously entered or won a Square Footer contest.

Rules:

1. A square footer entry may be constructed in any scale.
2. Entries may be any type of model/display/structure or diorama. The theme for 2025 is "**Working on the Railroad**."
3. There is no height limit for entries.
4. Entries must be constructed on 12" by 12" (one square foot) base. **NO** part of the entry may protrude beyond the base boundary on any side except tree foliage. Entrants wishing to use rotating bases must provide their own battery-operated base for that purpose.
5. All entries must be brought to the clubhouse **prior to** the opening of ExTRAINaganza 2025 on Saturday, November 22nd.

Winners in each class will be chosen by a People's Choice vote at ExTRAINaganza 2025 and announced at the close of the event on November 30th.



GREAT FALLS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB
144 MILL STREET,
AUBURN, MAINE 04210
<http://www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org/>



AN INVITATION FROM DAVE STONE

Editor: Dave introduced himself to some of us at the October show in Auburn, and shared a warm invitation for us to visit his fantastic layout! So, let's put our heads together and make a plan to visit! Here is his message to us and some photos:

This layout was originally built by Frank Briggs. He started building it approximately 20 years ago.

The layout is 30' x 9' on the dog leg and 23' x 22' in the big room. It is DCC controlled with 2 power cab controllers. It has approximately 82 switches or turnouts, all controlled by Tortoise switch machines; 1 turntable, 12 steam engines and 11 diesel engines.

It is an imagined layout to represent the 1950s & 60s eras with a lot of detail.

Over the course of the last six months or so, Frank handed me the keys to the tracks and has recently passed away.

I would like to get a group of people together (young and old), to operate the trains and to expand and build on it; there is a lot of room for expansion and new ideas.

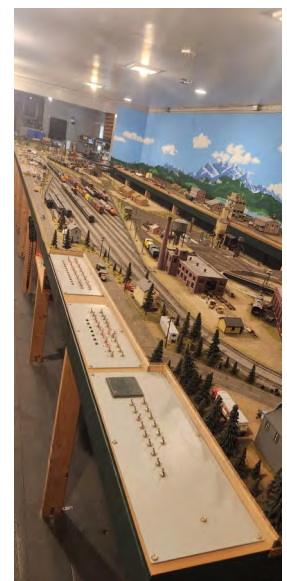
The layout is on the second floor of an old chicken barn, so there is a flight of stairs involved. It is located at 360 Union Road in Appleton, Maine.

If anyone would like to come and visit I would be very happy to meet and show the layout, I would also be interested in operating the trains with those that are interested.

I am available late day/early evening 4-6pm, or any Saturday or Sunday.

Thanks so much,

Dave Stone



THE PORTLAND UNION STATION PROJECT BY ELLERY GOODE

Editor's Note: Because I was unable to follow the regular publishing schedule of The Signal, this article is very delayed. My sincere apologies to Ellery, and to you, the readers. Note that this was written some months ago and his work was completed.



HISTORY

Portland Union Station was built in 1888. Located on St. John Street, it was designed by Boston architects Bradlee, Winslow & Wetherell. The station building was constructed primarily of pink granite and was inspired by the designs of medieval French châteaux. Officially opening on June 25, 1888, the station served trains of the Boston and Maine, Maine Central, and Portland and Ogdensburg railroads.

It served in this capacity for over 70 years hosting many passenger trains including Boston-to-Bangor *Flying Yankee*, *Pine Tree*, *Kennebec*, and *Penobscot* trains, the New York to Portland *State of Maine*, The Canadian Maritime through express name the *Gull*, and Washington D.C., Pennsylvania, and New York seasonal trains like the *East Wind* and the *Bar Harbor Express*.

The Maine Central Railroad ended passenger rail service to the station in September 1960, and it closed on October 30 when the Boston and Maine moved its remaining trains out of the facility. A year later, on August 31, 1961, the train station was demolished, and a strip mall built on the property. Even after its demolition, however, the Boston and Maine Railroad continued multiple daily trains from a different, Portland station to Boston until 1965. Ironically, a proposal to move Amtrak's *Downeaster* service from the Portland Transportation Center to a site near Union Station's original location has been endorsed by

the Maine Department of Transportation.

THE PROJECT

When I was approached over a year ago, there was a desire to remove a scene named Riverton from the layout. Through poor design and hurried scenery, it had become an avoided eyesore on the layout. It was asked that I lead the project to remove Riverton and install Portland Union Station in its place.

Removal of the old track and scenery happened in a weekend – I left on a Wednesday and came in on a Monday to find a virtually clean slate. Over the course of the following months, extensive research went into the track plan attempting to match it to the original as closely as possible.

Tracking was done in relatively short time; the hard part was the station. A friend of mine who I'd met along the way was able to scratch-build the station, and with the financial approval of the club, was given the go-ahead to do so. A few months later, the mostly-completed station was shipped from Florida. I had requested that he leave the station in a semi-complete state to facilitate accurate painting and lighting.

Upon arrival, the sight was one to behold. It was also very obvious that it would be a fool's waste not to attempt to construct an interior. I approached the HO scale committee on this matter, and it was determined it was best not to pass up the opportunity. Another several-month, research session began to locate an interior floorplan of the building. Through extensive research that led to some rather interesting conclusions at times, Shawn and Bryn Doyle were able to locate sufficient documentation to piece together the floorplan. It was also entertaining talking with various club and community members about this matter too. Some were very adamant the building was just gray until a color photo was provided showing the building in a very orange color; I was informed that the picture was wrong. (In their defense, even with the limited color photos in existence of the station, there was a wide variety of coloration depending on the weather, angle of the sun, and other factors.)

—Continued on next page—

PORTLAND UNION STATION CONTINUED

Others remembered various interior, platforms, or exterior details I tried to replicate to the best of my ability.

By the time the roof was put back on the building, 25 tables, 94 chairs, 258 articles of luggage, 75 figures, 12 luggage carts, a full stainless steel kitchen, over a meter of strip lighting, a backlit double-sided sign, and dozens of other custom created details were printed, soldered, designed, and added to make the piece truly unique.

THE MODEL

The station is primarily constructed of laser etched Masonite with resin 3D printed fine details. Painted and weathered with nothing more than Walmart, \$.50 craft paint, I was able to match the exterior color and patina to color images and actual rubble from the structure provided by Roger Plumber.

Following the blueprints provided by the Doyles, starting on the East (right) end of the station, one can view the East end baggage room. This part of the original building was the first add-on after the structure was built (added around the turn of the century). Within, one can see countless luggage stacks, crates, carts, and a mail sorting section.

Underneath the working clocktower, one can see the second, original baggage room. Nestled between the tower and the first turret is the men's bathroom, and *within* the first turret is the women's powder room and lounge. The women's bathroom stalls existed behind the wall seen opposite the windows.

Behind the two bathrooms on the platform side of the station is the men's smoking lounge.

Located between the two turrets is the main waiting room. With an open ceiling design, this room's layout varied drastically over the years. It was modeled to resemble its last renovation in the mid-1950s. Immediately to the left, one can see three phone booths next to the fireplace. The same color photos that adorned the original station are hung above the left and right mantles. Out of view in the back left corner is the news stand with actual, scaled newspapers for sale from the Bangor Daily News, Boston Globe,

Portland Press Herald, New York Times, and others. The ticket counter was a large, wrap-around counter that can be seen on the far back wall.

Much of the remaining parts of the station were designed to replicate its early years. By the 1940s, the original station's restaurant was converted into baggage storage, and a small café was built in the second turret. For greater visual appeal, it was opted to follow the original floor plan instead.

Inside the second turret one can see the private dining room that existed for railroad or business bigwigs of the era.

The full-sized dining room includes tables with white tablecloths, wooden chairs, hutches, and china cabinets. There are even two large potted trees in the middle of the room just like in pictures.

Next to the kitchen was what was referred to as the "prepping room". The kitchen was actually on the second floor, and food was dumb waiter-ed down to the room below where the final preparations were made before being served. This room is adored with a long row of tables in the middle of the room and "brand new" stainless steel appliances on either wall.

Lastly was the West (left) end baggage room. In the 1920s, the station was substantially expanded westward to accommodate the massive increase of passenger luggage. The model depicts the station before this expansion. This room is similar to the East end room with the omission of the mail sorting cabinets.

THE SCENE

Exteriorly, I had many black-and-white photos available to accurately base the scenery around the station. As you can see from the provided photos, much detail was observed and added including the bus shed to the right of the station, the multitude of crossing signals on Congress Street, the two billboards facing the station, streetlights, and much more.



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PORTLAND UNION STATION CONTINUED

EXPANSION

In the near future, the scenes to the East and West of the station will be completed.

On the West (left) end, beside the fictitious, REA building, there are plans to install an engine facility. While specifics are still being finalized, the placement of a facility in the general vicinity is accurate to Sanborn Maps available of the area.

On the East (right) end, the bridges that still stand over St. John Street and Park Ave are largely completed. There's some scenery details to complete, but that area is predominantly finished. Further to the left will be a condensed representation of the Union Branch which paralleled Marginal Way around to the Canadian National rails by the B&M Beans Factory. It will include the Puritan Canning factory, A. R. Wright Coal distributors and the Portland Railroad Company's Forest Avenue substation, Ballard Oil Company, and the A&P distribution facility – a structure that still stands today between Somerset and Kennebec Streets.

There is also a mounting interest in including passenger operations within our bi-monthly operation sessions. A dedicated team has begun to amass the necessary cars to conduct prototype operations in the station and across the layout. As soon as the club is willing to release the funding for these cars, such operations can start nearly immediately.



CONCLUSION

It was quite an honor to be asked to complete his project. Over the course of the past year, my team and I were able to unearth some fascinating history and research surrounding Portland Union Station and the Union Branch around the Portland peninsula. Though the wait was nearly intolerable for some, I hope it was worth it. As one club member stated earlier on the project, "it will be a one-of-a-kind piece that no other club has"; I hope I have captured and delivered on that statement.

Editor's Additional Note: If you haven't already, look closely at the amazing detail in this model including a functioning clock in the tower and all of the furnishings he names in this article—such an amazing accomplishment. As a club member, I am very thankful to Ellery for this contribution to our HO Layout.



(Prototype Photo)

OCTOBER 11TH TRAIN SHOW

The Great Falls Model Railroad Club's October Train Show at Edward Little High School in Auburn brought in over 260 people through the doors, which is more than we had at Kora for last October's show. Since an October show is new to the Lewiston/Auburn area, Margo says she's pleased that our numbers were up over last year's attendance numbers. Margo invites your feedback and comments on this show.

And, now she begins preparations for the Topsham show in the spring. Where does that woman get her energy? Thanks to Margo for the hard work and meticulous planning she puts into our events!

Here are some photos from the show.



OCTOBER MODELER'S FORUM

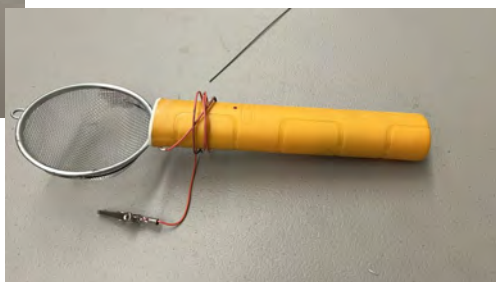
BY JAMIE ROBINSON

Modeler's Forum convened at 7 PM on Thursday, October 23 with the following members present: Bob Willard, Jamie Robinson (taking notes and photos), Steve Doughty, Kent Waterson, Carmen Anastase, Dick Holman and John MacMullen. We were joined after a bit by Roger Plummer.

Bob kicked off the meeting with a presentation of trees. There had been a question raised at a previous meeting about whether or not static grass could be used effectively on a tree. Bob reviewed the basics of making a tree using folded florist's wire for a base, combing out hemp and inserting it into the wire armature, then twisting the armature with a battery-operated drill. Once in a three-dimensional shape, the hemp is trimmed to the rough shape and the tree skeleton painted. While wet, foliage is applied with the paint acting as an adhesive. The foliage could be ground foam or any other medium of the user's choice. When dry, Bob would spray the tree with hair spray, then apply static grass to it. Since the tree armature is wire, a static applicator has a perfect attachment point for the grounding lead. Bob's static grass applicator is homemade from an electric flyswatter and it produces a powerful electric charge! Once dry, the tree can be given any additional desired shading with spray paint or an airbrush. Subtle differences matter a great deal when creating realistic scenery!



Bob's Hemp Comb



Homemade Static Grass Applicator



Jamie showed two HO gondolas he had upgraded. He stated that he would sometimes pay as much as \$0.50 for "crappy" gondolas from train set manufacturers. He then upgrades the cars by converting the couplers to body-mounted Kadees, shaving off the cast-on grab irons and sill steps, replacing them with wire, and upgrading the wheels (and sometimes the trucks as well) to metal ones. The two cars displayed are lettered for M&J Salvage with decals created on an Alps printer. M&J Salvage is an off-line industry on the HO layout reached through the Pine Tree staging yard. The cars are weathered with a mix of airbrushed colors and brushed dry pigments.



Steve didn't bring a display this month, but is always an interested party and participant in the (many) discussions during the meetings.

Kent brought more 3d printed fencing for Carmen's suburban home project. He demonstrated the "[Sonic Saber](#)" from Phrozen – an ultrasonic hobby knife. It worked magnificently for cutting the myriad supports that festoon most 3d prints. Kent also noted that his Battleship diorama will be featured in the next issue (January/February 2026) of [Fine Scale Modeler](#) magazine. Kudos to Kent – that's quite an honor!

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MODELER'S FORUM CONT'D.

Kent's "Sonic Saber"

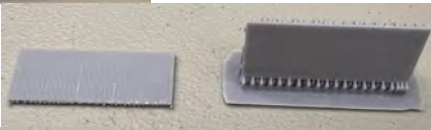


Kent in action with the "saber".

Fencing Kent made for Carmen



3D printed playground equipment



Carmen is now working on trees for his suburban homes and showed a couple of packages of foliage. He also brought a package of pins with large round heads. He has used these to represent outdoor lights on houses. The package he brought was too large for HO houses, so he gave it to Steve for O gauge use.



Dick Holman brought his Free-mo corner module that he used at the Cumberland Fair. [Free-mo](#) is a modular specification that is far less rigid (as far as shape) than other modular specs. Dick's corner is about a 45° turn in the track. It is foam on a plywood base. Dick has done an excellent job with the scenery. Dick says that even though there are 4 deer, 3 coyotes, a bear, a moose, a hiker and a hunter, 42 tree stumps, and over 100 trees, it is nowhere near complete! Dicks trees are a combination of pre-built, kits and homemade. There is a lot of variety in height, species and color. Dick said that at least 100 more trees are needed for realism, not to mention fallen and freshly-cut trees... One can only hope that a host of HO beavers don't descend into the scene!



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MODELER'S FORUM CONT'D.



More of Dick's module and trees.



John MacMullen brought several sprigs of Sedum which he uses as trees. These can be used as-is, painted, with foliage added, or even reduced to bare skeletons. This is a very low-cost method of populating your layout with foliage.



Roger listened to the discussions and contributed some advice.

Modeler's Forum formal stuff:

The deadline for entries for the Square Footer contest is 9 AM on Saturday, November 22. The square footers will be on display for all five days of ExTRAINaganza, with ballots being counted at the close of the final day. Remember that there are **three entry classes this year: Novice, Intermediate and Master.** The rules are [HERE](#) on our website.

There will **not** be a November meeting of the Modeler's Forum.

The next scheduled meeting will be a 7 PM on Thursday, December 18. Note that this is the third Thursday (to accommodate the Holidays).

Please come and join us on Thursday, December 18. Bring that new idea, new project or early Christmas present. We'll be glad to see you!

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

The executive committee meeting began at 18:06. Scott, the Librarian, was not in attendance.

Ellery Goode has been contacted to return his key. He has stated that he will mail the key to the club.

The key to the display case in the store is missing. It is on an Operation Lifesaver key ring. It was suggested to check the cash box, but it is not in there. It was also suggested that we look through all of the items around and double check it didn't fall into anything. The last time the key was used was the Wednesday before the show.

Margo noticed illegal activity on the club credit cards. They were being used out of Canada. All of the club cards have been replaced since they were changing from Visa to MasterCard. She has set them up for everyone.

We have an N-Scale donation to pick up in Scarborough. It is built on a 20"x36"x72" door. There is also a display cabinet. Everything has been packed up according to the gentleman who is donating it. We need to plan a time to pick it up.

EXECUTIVE COMM. MEETING MINUTES (CONT'D)

There is an HO-Scale layout in Portland that another gentleman would like to donate. However, we would need to disassemble it. There are over 800 pieces of rolling stock, that is of high interest, that would be included. It would be a big undertaking taking the layout down. We do need to learn more details, like the exact location in Portland, what to do with the lumber, etc.

Margo began working on paperwork for the Topsham Show next year. She was initially told that each gym was going to be \$45/hr., totaling \$90/hr. for our typical usage. Custodial costs would be \$55/hr. and chair rentals would remain the same as the past. After totaling this together and noticing this was six times the usual amount we pay, Margo checked in with those above the Administrative Assistant. The Accountant with the school, however, noted in a reply email that we can lock in the gyms for \$100/day/gym, custodial for \$55/hr., and continue with no change with the price of chairs.

A conversation was also had about going forward with the Edward Little show next year. One thing that was noted was that once we choose a date, we cannot change the date months later. We noted that the change in date likely impacted attendance due to the holiday weekend, leaf-peeping season, etc.

Overall, we made more money at Edward Little High School compared to Kora. The only complaints from club members seemed to be the ability to direct people into both gyms. We ended up selling 91 tables when the initial plan was about 78. Overall, the feedback from vendors was positive - lighting was good, there was plenty of space, etc. Next year, we need to consider better placement of train show signs and signage inside the building to encourage traffic flow.

The G-Gauge project on the countertop was brought up with the committee. There is a clear misunderstanding based on the amount of the counter space that was going to be taken up. It was stated that the Executive Committee was under the impression that only 4"- 6" of the counterspace would be taken up outside of the wall. However, the G-Gauge committee disputes this claim and states that they never claimed that they would be using this much of the counter space.

The proposed compromise is to move what they had built 3 feet back from the corner.

A discussion regarding the location of the entrance table during events was brought up. We plan to clean up the entry and remove the AV cart and use a smaller 4" to 2" table. This will allow the entrance table to take up less space and open up space for access to the G-Gauge layout.

Shawn brought up the complaints regarding renting trucks for shows. He looked into the possibility of getting a trailer after talking with others about the idea. 16' to 20' trailers seem to be a reasonable size, but it was discussed that a 20' would be better overall. Decent used trailers roughly run about \$7,000. He looked into trailers specifically that have ramps, would be tall enough, etc. There is one in Portland that is \$4,800, but it does have some small dents and has a full wrap of decals on it from a landscaping company. The cost of a comparable new trailer runs about \$9,000 at SR1 in Turner. Things that were also brought up were the cost of registration (\$40/two years), cost of insurance, and storage. Margo will run a report that tells us how much we have spent in the last five years.

Darin is moving and needs someone to replace him on the emergency contacts lists. A few names were thrown out there including Nate Cheever, Rick James, and Bob Willard as options who live nearby.

It was also brought up that the modules at shows are too big. There have been issues including taking too long to set up and take down, lack of detail on the modules, lack of care taken to the modules, materials being stolen from the modules, lack of people to run on a layout so large, etc. It was noted that something needs to be done to reel things in and to focus on quality over quantity.

The meeting adjourned at 20:27.



The Signal will be published every-other month!



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An Educational Foundation

More information on our website
<https://greatfallsmodelrrclub.org/>

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If your mailing or email
address changes, please
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Upcoming Events

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Recurring Activities

Modeler's Forum: No Meeting in November

ExTRAINaganza! Open House: Nov. 22, 23 and 28, 29 & 30

GFMRRRC at EMMRC Train Show, Brewer: Nov. 22 (N Scale)

Surplus Assets Sale: December 13th 9:00—1:00

Modeler's Forum: December 18th 7pm

Member Holiday Potluck & Ugly Sweater Contest: Dec. 20th
12:30 Monthly Meeting December 20th 1:00 -ish

Op 'Til You Drop! : January 1st 9:00am

Monthly Meeting: January 10th 1:00

For up to date event listings, use this link to
the calendar on our website

<https://www.greatfallsmodelrrclub.org/calendar/>



Check us out on

And on



HO Operating Sessions

1st and 3rd Saturdays at 9am
(unless there's an event)

Next Monthly Meeting

December 20th 1:00

Work Sessions

Every Wednesday 6:00pm to 8:00pm

Every Saturday 9:00am to Noon
(unless there's an
Operating Session or Event)

Modelers Forum

December 18th 7:00pm

Directors Meetings

Concurrent with the Monthly
Membership meeting