

Member since June 1988

UPCOMING MEETINGS

November 8th

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

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 03 October 2025 Part 1

UPCOMING EVENTS:

**GFMRRC Train Show (Auburn): Saturday, October 11th @ 10am
(Volunteers Needed—contact Margo)**

Modeler's Forum: October 23rd, 7:00pm

Monthly Meeting: November 8th, 1:00

Modeler's Forum: November 20th, 7:00pm

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

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

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

Monthly Meeting & Member Holiday Potluck: December 20 12:30

More complete information on our website calendar:

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

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

I wish to thank everyone who voted for me in the election in May. I shall try to not misplace your trust.

So far this year we have had good member turnout for club events. I thank all of you who have been willing to attend. As you most likely have heard, we have more events upcoming and I hope you will continue to support us by showing up and helping out.

Our HO layout is improving and I invite you to drop by and run a train.

The N scale crew has also been hard at work. They have fixed many known and found issues and have it at the point it where it to can be operated with train orders.

O scale and G are both working on improvements to the existing layouts.

The S scale work is moving forward. They had requested help from the younger members, with wiring skills, to crawl under and hook up the feeders.

As for me, as I near 50, I hope to be here for many years to come, doing what I can to help members and the club.

Darin Long
President

Editor's Note: Darin wrote this back shortly after the elections, for an earlier edition of *The Signal* that wasn't published. My apologies to him, and to you.



OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES BY BRYN DOYLE, SECRETARY

The meeting began at 1300 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The September meeting minutes were accepted as written.

Margo gave the treasurer's report. We were in the red at the end of the month due to taxes about \$1800. However, the ending balance in the bank is roughly \$26,000.

There have not been any new members since August. She did note that a few vendors, though, have passed away.

Scott was not available to give the library report.

No one was available to give the G gauge report. A report will be published in the *Signal*.

Nate gave the O gauge report. They did some GFR lettering on the bridge. They also plan to get together to do some scenery on the S-scale layout in an effort to make it look better by November. They also plan to buy some totes for their modular layout supplies.

Travis gave the HO scale report. They have the wiring loose ends wrapped up in Portland. Frog juicers around the layout have started to go in starting in the Seaport and moving around. Jamie and Bryce have been rebuilding the R&K area. Today's operating session went by the wayside due to show prep for next weekend, but they hope to test some things out in the coming weeks.

Mose gave the N-scale layout. They have been working on sprucing up the scenery on the layout. Plexiglass will be installed on the layout so they have worked to install some guardrail to screw it into. The goal is to protect the layout from small visitors during open houses. Daryl has been primarily working on ballasting track and making it look more realistic.

Bob gave the report on the Modeler's forum. Their next meeting is on the 4th Thursday of the month at 7 pm. The next meeting will focus on trees.

—Continued on next page—

OCT. MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

Ed gave the Modular Committee report. The Geezer Gate has finally been fixed. Black and yellow tape has been affixed to make it visible to those using it. During the last surplus asset sale, Ed found material that was intended to be roofing that will work well as antislip material.

Bryn gave the report for media. Ads are running for the show.

Catherine was not available for the report for the *Signal*.

Nate gave the facilities report - there is nothing to report.

Margo gave a financial report for the Balloon Festival. We made \$1169.75 and had 147 visitors. Numbers were overall down with attendees and in turn profits.

The Oxford Fair attendance was down this year and in turn, there were less crowds and this is reflected in our donations and sales. We also did not have the volunteers we needed. Officials at the fair also did not alert us that we were not allotted vehicle passes or fair passes to get into the fair. They had initially offered us 2 parking passes and after discussion and statements regarding attendance next year, they decided to allow us to have passes. One point that was made by the membership was that they invited us to the fair, we should not have to pay for attendance and to work on the fair on their behalf. We did not ask to attend. We are questioning whether attendance is worthwhile in the future based on financials both for individuals and for the club, availability of volunteers, attendance at the fair, accommodations, etc. People also came into the building expecting rocks and minerals, because it is called the "Mineral Building" and were disappointed in what they found. We made a profit of \$592.07 with their \$400 donation to us.

The first year at the Cumberland Fair went very well. We had steady traffic through the railroad building all day everyday, except Thursday which was a washout. We made \$929.75 total mostly from sales. Organization went well with parking near the building just outside the gate and those who attended got passes to get in easily.

We went through a large amount of merchandise, mostly geared towards kids - including nearly the entire bin o' cars. The HO scale layout housed at Paul's house ran well and captured everyone's attention. We went through a large number of flyers for future events, renting out clubhouse, and for membership applications. Shawn noted that it would really behoove the club to bring a small modular layout next year and Ed and Travis agreed.

Next Saturday is our show at Edward Little High School! The doors open at 10 am and the show will end at 3 pm. Door #28 will be the main entrance for the show.

Friday setup at the school will begin at 11 am. The table vendors will show up at 12:30 pm to start setting up. Vendors will be allowed to set up at 2:30 pm. On Saturday morning, vendors can begin setting up at 8 am. At this moment, the Boosters at the school have not stepped up to cover food due to it being a long weekend. The City of Auburn has recommended some food trucks to us to use in lieu of the Boosters club. We will be contacting food trucks to cover food. We will not be renting a U-Haul for this show. Travis has volunteered his trailer and truck to move materials for this show. However, the trailer is already loaded with modules for the show that will need to be unloaded at the school (at 11 am) prior to coming back to the club for the rest of the stuff we will need.

No progress has been made about club decals.

We revisited the question that was brought up about improving ExTRAINaganza last meeting. One idea was to improve the S-scale layout and bring in more games.

We received an invitation to the Augusta show on February 14th, 2026. The last few years have not been a great experience for us. We have decided not to bring the HO modules for this upcoming show. Otherwise, other decisions regarding the show will be made during the next meeting.

Planning for Topsham on April 25th should begin soon. Margo will begin the necessary paperwork.

Rick proposed purchasing a snack rack for upstairs using club funds. One was found for roughly \$30. His proposal was accepted.

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OCT. MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

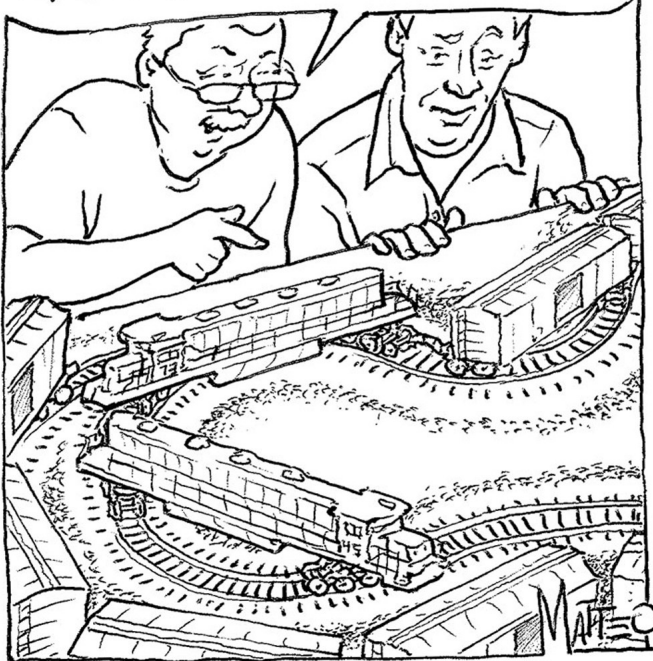
St. Lawrence and Atlantic is having their Touch A Train/Trunk or Treat on the 26th of October from 9 am to 2 pm at 560 Lewiston Junction Road in Auburn. There will be walk through tours of the engines and maintenance facility.

Wayne Jr. won the door prize and Darin won the 50/50 and donated \$8 back to the club for a total of \$16.

The meeting adjourned at 14:41.

Anyone We Know?

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT
EXPANDING YOUR TRACK RADIUS?



Chuckle at this cartoon from Matt Matteo, August 16, 2021, Trains.com

SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES BY BRYN DOYLE, SECRETARY

The meeting began at 1300 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Last month's meeting minutes were accepted as written.

Jamie gave the treasurer's report for the month. We have made approximately \$54 from the CD's. We had a total inflow of approximately \$2850 and an approximate outflow of \$2525. A motion was put on the floor to read the total available balance in the bank each month and was accepted.

No one was available to give the Librarian's report.

No one was available to give the G-gauge report. However, Darin noted that someone reprogrammed their throttles during the open house. The problem has since been fixed, but please do not touch these without knowing how to operate the layout. They are willing to let anyone know how to operate the layout if they just ask.

Steve gave the O-scale report. They have been diligently working on the layout for the Oxford fair and are excited to show everyone their progress next week.

Wayne gave the HO report. He noted some progress downstairs on the reverse loop in R&K. Travis noted that the wiring is down on the Union branch and there is only one thing left to do for the wiring more Northern Maine Junction.

Daryl gave the N-scale report. Darryl noted that they had a catastrophic failure of their power supply and replaced it with supplies from downstairs. They spent \$90 to do so. They also are requesting \$70 to acquire $\frac{3}{8}$ " plexiglass for their layout. The motion was accepted to spend the money for this. Otherwise, they are just continuing to work on ballasting and scenery.

Bob was unavailable to give the report for the Modeler's forum. Bob W. will be supplying the notes for the forum and invites everyone to come!

Ed gave the report for the modular committee. They have painted the "Geezer Gate" completely green.

—Continued on next page—

SEPT. MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

They have begun to set things aside for the Oxford Fair and will need volunteers all week to keep things running.

Bryn gave the media report. There is advertising out there for all of our upcoming events.

Nate gave the facilities report. He noted with Travis that there is an issue with one of the safety switches. Darin has the part on order to fix it. Nate also has the mower deck at home to repaint it.

The Oxford Fair is next week! See Travis and Ed if you have any questions about the modular layout. The packing list is available if you want to start gathering materials. The UHaul will be at the club on Tuesday around 8 am and everyone should be at the fairgrounds to set up by noon at the latest. Jamie and Margo are meeting at the fairgrounds to set off bug bombs. Help staging materials before Tuesday will also be helpful if you have the time. We will also need people to staff the fair from 9 am to 9 pm everyday from Wednesday to Saturday.

The O-scale guys have requested funds for materials to make a skirt for their modular layout. The request was approved to purchase fabric for the project.

The Cumberland Fair (9/21-9/27) is only a couple weeks away as well. If you would like to attend, let Bryn or Shawn know. Other clubs will be in the building with us, including the 470 Club, and is a little bit more relaxed for us compared to Oxford. We will have a tabletop layout, some things for purchase, flyers, etc.

There is still one camera that needs to be installed at the clubhouse. However, Jonathan has given us a proposal for maintenance on the camera system. Annual maintenance would cost us \$355 for support. We will table the discussion and bring it back up at a later date.

The HO scale club cars are now available in the store. They are \$30 for members and \$35 for non-members. This is the last chance to get the vintage logo!

Travis has not made any progress on the HO scale club decals. It was noted that O-scale would also like some logos.

Some members are going to Bremen tomorrow to get a donated layout. They are hoping to sell some of the items at Oxford or that it is good enough to raffle off between now and ExTRAINaganza.

Darin brought up ExTRAINaganza and what can improve ExTRAINaganza. Please, come to the next meeting with ideas that you may have.

Jamie brought up the need for new shopping bags to be ordered. We discussed using Amazon vs. a local vendor and settled on Amazon due to cost. A motion carried to not exceed \$200 on the order.

It was noted that we are waiting on Eric for progress on the HOn3 layout.

Jamie noted that the shirts are not ready yet per Margo.

Please, note that the October meeting will be on the 4th due to the October Show at Edward Little High School.

Daryl won the attendance prize and Shawn won the 50/50 and donated it back to the club for a total of \$30.

The meeting adjourned at 1403.

A MESSAGE FROM RICK JAMES ABOUT SNACKS @ THE CLUB

As you may know, I have taken over the snacks at the club.

I would like to remind everyone that this an honor system, and if people don't pay for it, the selection will disappear without your contributions.

Thanks for everyone keeping up with paying.

By the way, last month I collected \$136. It may seem like a lot to some, but it goes quickly as I shop for, and have to pay for, the snacks.

Thank you,
Rick



Join Us for
GREAT FALL MODEL R.R. CLUB'S

OCTOBER TRAIN SHOW

100'S OF TABLES OF DEALERS SELLING NEW & USED
MODEL R.R. EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES, BUILDINGS,
TRACK, BOOKS, & MORE!

	SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11TH FROM 10 AM TO 3 PM	
	EDWARD LITTLE HIGH SCHOOL OFF WESTERN AVE 77 HARRIS ST, AUBURN, ME	

\$5/PERSON | CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE WITH ADULT | HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

It's this coming weekend! Don't miss it!

Our train show has moved! We're now holding our October show at Edward Little High School in Auburn. A great venue for us! It is accessible to all, and has plenty of on-site parking. \$5 per person, children under 12 are free.



Directions to Edward Little High School:

The location is easily accessible from Interstate I-95 North and South:

- ⇒ Follow I-95 Maine Turnpike to Auburn.
- ⇒ Take Exit 75 turn left onto ME-100 N/ME-4 N/US-
- ⇒ 202E/Washington Street North.
- ⇒ The road goes to 1 lane and you will need to be in the left lane at Roy's All Steak Hamburgers to take a sharp left onto Minot Ave.
- ⇒ Then take your first right onto Western Ave.
- ⇒ Turn right at Auburn Heights, there is a sign, and this is the entrance to the school.

DONATED LAYOUT REMOVAL BY TRAVIS JOHNSON



On Friday, June 13th, 2025... a brave group of club members went forth... and they all made it back! With loot and not a single sighting of Jason...

Anyway, we got informed of a donation to the club from Darin Long, Club President, and we formed a working group to find the best time to get it. It was decided to go on the date above. The members who went were Wayne Sr. and his son Wayne Jr., Ed Webb, Penn Estabrook, Antonio Berletti, Guy Lovell, Allorah Johnson, and myself. Jamie Robinson was on his way when we informed him the work

We got there for 9am and worked diligently until 11, packing up the rolling stock and carefully dismantling the layout and buildings. We took a lunch break on our way back to the clubhouse at the Troy Hill Cafe and made it back to Auburn around 1pm. We have taken the time to go over the donation and decided what will be kept for the HO committee. The rest will be available to club members.

Oh... Hi Jason...

FROM THE EDITOR

You may have noticed that this edition of The Signal is much shorter than usual. This time around, I just wanted to get the most recent and important information out to you asap about the show this coming weekend, and the upcoming schedule of events. This next few months look quite busy for the club!

So, in a couple of weeks, I will send out a big, juicy "Catch Up" edition of the Signal. There's a lot to look forward to in its pages, including LOTS of notes and photos from the Modeler's Forum—like 4 or 5 months' worth! (I may have to split it up into 2 editions, so maybe some will be in the December/January edition.)

Also, the long-anticipated article on the building of the amazing replica of Portland Station by Ellery Goode, will be included. It was the editor's fault, not Ellery's. That darn editor! Oh – wait—that's me....

Life has a way of setting its own schedule and agenda, and that's pretty much what happened to mine. Life got a bit topsy-turvy, and unfortunately, publishing The Signal was put on hold. Believe me, I love putting this together, but it takes a lot of time and energy, two things I found myself in short supply of these last few months. I hope to get things back on track soon, with the upcoming "Catch Up" edition. (See what I did there? "Back on track"??)

Also—where the heck did time go? Is it just me, or does it seem that the clock and calendar have sped up exponentially this summer?

As always, please send along any ideas for articles, photos of your layouts, projects, kit builds or full-scale rail fan adventures. I will be looking for articles starting after the December/January edition. Contact me at gfrsignal@greatfallsmodelrrclub.org

For now, please again accept my apologies, and I hope you'll enjoy future editions of The Signal!

Catherine

When you send any pictures for The Signal, please send them as a separate file as an attachment to your email to

gfrsignal@greatfallsmodelrrclub.org

SQUARE FOOTER CONTEST REMINDER!

Before you know it, ExTRAINaganza and the Square Footer Contest will be here. Don't miss your chance to enter!

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/>





144 Mill Street
Auburn, ME 04210

An Educational Foundation

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

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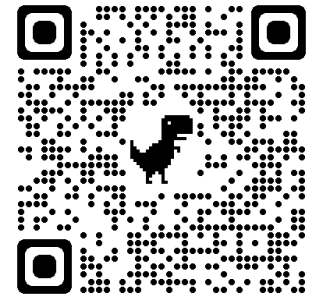
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THE SIGNAL

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If your mailing or email
address changes, please
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Upcoming Events

~ ~ ~

Recurring Activities

GFMRRC Train Show (Auburn): Saturday, October 11th @ 10am
(Volunteers Needed—contact Margo)

Modeler's Forum: October 23rd, 7:00pm

Monthly Meeting: November 8th, 1:00

Modeler's Forum: November 20th, 7:00pm

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

GFMRRC at EMMRC Train Show, Brewer: November 22

Surplus Assets Sale: December 13th, 9:00

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

Monthly Meeting & Member Holiday Potluck: December 20th 12:30

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

Operating Sessions are back!

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

Next Monthly Meeting

November 8th

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

3rd Thursday (may fluctuate; verify
on club calendar) 7pm

Directors Meetings

Concurrent with the Monthly
Membership meeting