



Member since June 1988

### NEXT MEETING

**\*\* July 20, 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 as an attachment to your email!

### DO YOU WANT TO WIN?

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

**YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN!**

### Bottles for Basics

- ◆ March — \$16.05
- ◆ April — \$2.25
- ◆ May — \$27.60

**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 6

June 2024

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**NMRA Seacoast Div. meeting — July 13**

**\*\*\*MONTHLY MEETING JULY 20TH 1PM !!!DATE CHANGE!!!\*\*\***

**Surplus Assets Sale—July 27 9 to 1, members 8 to 9**

**Open House — Aug. 17-18; 9am to 5pm (Suggested donation \$5)**

**Joe Landry Open House — Aug. 24**

**(More on Page 6)**

## **JUNE 8 MEETING MINUTES**

**BRYN DOYLE – SECRETARY**

Jamie started the meeting at 13:06 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Jamie gave the president’s report. He noted that we had a tremendously successful Topsham show. We thank Scale Trains for attending and we got many compliments on the show. Margo put a large amount of time and paid much attention to detail to make the show successful. The S-scale layout donation has turned into a priority. The house is going on the market this week instead of September and a few members are going up to retrieve the layout from Jay tomorrow.

The meeting minutes from the May meeting that were published in the *Signal* were approved as written.

Margo gave the monthly financial report. We ended the month \$200.78 in the red. We currently have roughly 130 members that are paid. If you cannot find your name badge, you are not a current member. See Margo to pay your dues.

Due to increases in costs, ideas for increasing our income were discussed like grants, surplus assets, etc. If you have a good idea, please, share it with the Executive Committee.

Mike was not here to give the library report. However, he has been working diligently to get things organized. He requests that if you have books that have been out for more than a month, to please, return them.

## JUNE 8TH MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

There were no G-gauge updates.

Steve gave the report for the O-scale committee. They are missing some boxes, however, and if you know where they went, to please, let them know.

Shawn gave the HO-scale committee report. They are currently inventorying what is on the layout and ensuring all cars are up to specifications. In addition, there has been progress with the Canadian Pacific Yard, the reconfiguration of Wilder is in progress, and the double-track in front of International Paper are all in the works as well as many other projects. Overall, a lot of progress is being made in lieu of the layout shut down slated to end the August Open House weekend.

Daryl gave the N-scale committee report. There is now wifi and JMRI on the layout. He has identified some locomotives that need work, noted there are over 200 cars on the layout, and there are small projects he would like to get taken care of. He brought up a proposal for roughly \$2000 to the membership.

Bob Wright gave the report for the modeler's forum. New tools were presented at the meeting like a 45 degree tool and some other items that can be seen in the minutes from that meeting.

Ed gave the modular committee report. They tore into the L-shaped module, the sea scene, etc. for improvements leading up to the Vista of Maine event.

Bryn gave the media report. We will have ads out for events such as the Surplus Assets sale, the October Show, the August Open House, etc. shortly.

Nate gave the facilities report. He cut the grass twice, but nothing major has happened.

The Vista of Maine event is next weekend. Everything like the floor plan, moving materials, etc. have all been planned out. We will just need to ensure everything on her list next Friday gets gathered and loaded into the trucks.

The Surplus Asset's sale is from 9:00 am to 1:00 on July 27th. We will need help setting up for this event.

We are now calling the Balloon Open House, the August Open House Weekend 2024 in lieu of name changes.

Joe Landry's, likely last, open house will be on August 24th. Look out for details.

The Oxford Fair has again invited us back, but we will now have the entire Mineral Building. The layout is in the works for the new building. Please, confirm with Margo if you'd like space as soon as possible. Margo will send out more information as September approaches.

The October show at the Kora Shrine is October 12th. Margo sent out 95 emails to past vendors and those who have expressed interest. The floor plan has gone through a few transitions.

## JUNE 8TH MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

In general, our layouts will be on the first level and vendors will be on the second level. If you'd like an application, please, see Margo as soon as possible.

Bryn noted that we have not gotten any grants for safety equipment. She will talk with Margo to begin purchasing.

No date is available to start on the downstairs doors project.

The *Signal* officially is to be taken over by Catherine as of June. She will be in charge of procuring articles, photos, etc. for the publication. It would be appreciated if anyone who had an idea for articles, would write and get those to her! You can email ideas, articles, photos, etc. to her at [GFRSignal@GreatFallsModelRRClub.org](mailto:GFRSignal@GreatFallsModelRRClub.org).

We got a request for a layout demonstration at the Richville Library in Standish on June 29th. There is no cost to us to attend and we would like to bring the 4'x6' layout down. They will also have crafters, local authors, historians, vintage games, etc. at the event as well as the Mount Division Alliance and the Maine Rail Group. Attendees of the meeting had no objection to attending.

Eric is no longer able to lead the reconstruction of Jim Teed's layout. He is looking for someone to help reconfigure and reassemble the layout. If you or someone you know may be interested in helping him out, let Jamie know.

Nate says that he will try and get the new air conditioner in. There may be a few holes around it, but he says that will not be a problem.

If you'd like a shirt, please, reach out to Margo. She will be placing another order soon.

Daryl won the door prize and the 50/50. He donated the \$17 prize back to the club.

## DONATIONS

Abbott Memorial Library Board of Trustees:  
Monetary  
Stephen Merrill: Bachman HO Train Set with Track

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Once again, we have had a tremendously successful train show. We are grateful to ScaleTrains for making us part of their road trip, and for their contribution to the success of the show.

The club has received many compliments from vendors about how the Topsham show was organized and how well things were communicated. This reflects well on us as a club and is directly attributable to the many, many hours of work Margo put into the show. Her attention to detail is second to none and we are fortunate to have her expertise available to us.

Looking forward, Margo is well along in the planning process, not only for the Vista of Maine show next weekend, but for the Kora Shrine show in October. Thank you, Margo, for making this all work so well.

We face a short-term challenge dealing with the S scale layout donation. We were told that the house would go on sale in September, so the layout needed to be removed by the end of the summer. No problem. This week, I got an email from the owner that the house is going on sale June 16.

Steve and I made a trip to Jay on Monday, packed up the equipment, buildings, and anything else we could salvage. We need four strong people to move the layout and it needs to be done tomorrow if we are going to do it. I am hopeful that we will be able to pull this off.

*Jamie*

## FROM THE HO COMMITTEE

Hey folks, just a reminder on the HO side of the world, during our April 6<sup>th</sup> committee meeting, a proposal was made to implement paperwork for projects that would like to be undertaken on the layout. These changes could be as simple as sprucing up some scenery, to completely redoing or adding areas to the layout. It was also said that should this change be implemented, ALL projects still ongoing would require paperwork to proceed – though they would automatically be given a green light since they were already ongoing. (This was simply to get everyone on the same page with estimated costs, a timeframe to completion, and a rough idea of what the finished projects would bring to the layout.) Any projects that did NOT have paperwork submitted by the next committee meeting would be considered abandoned and their areas would be up for grabs.

If someone missed the deadline but wanted to continue their project, they would have to resubmit the necessary paperwork and go through the approval process – they would not receive the automatic green light. This passed unanimously and with enthusiasm from some. On April 8<sup>th</sup>, a posting was made on what was discussed at the April 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, and a reminder of what was agreed upon was again laid out.

On May 1<sup>st</sup>, notification was sent out that the deadline meeting moved to “end of month” due to delay in providing the paperwork online for members’ access. Two forms of documentation were made available at that time. Both sheets were excel based, but the auto-filling document operated the same as an interactive PDF, and the other was designed to be printed out and filled out by hand. A programming bug was found with the auto doc, but has since been fixed.

Due to the Memorial Day weekend and the Vista of Maine event, the “end of the month” meeting was announced on June 16<sup>th</sup>; June 22<sup>nd</sup> at noon is to be the last day for ongoing project proposals. The only “grandfathered” project was determined to be Project Hades due to the fact, though rudimentary, paperwork was compiled and made available at its onset. It was again specified that after the 22<sup>nd</sup>, any area of the layout that did not have paperwork submitted on it would be considered abandoned and available for anyone to pick up and complete or redo. Following this date, any changes to the layout visually, electronically, above, or below are required to have paperwork submitted and have the HO committee’s approval BEFORE work is to begin. The hope and intent for this change is twofold. It will not only allow us to get a clear idea for what the builder’s vision and cost is for a project, but it will also act to hold the builder accountable for the project he or she takes on in sense of its specified completion.

There are blank forms available to fill out by hand downstairs at the club near the bulletin board. If there are any questions regarding how to fill them out, or regarding the new procedure, please don’t hesitate to contact Shawn Doyle or Ellery Goode on the matter.



Grab your Great Falls shopping bag at the Company Store and show us off at the supermarket!



# Vista of Maine Event

Thanks to Jamie and Mitch who contributed these photos from the event at the Vista of Maine Vineyard & Winery!



# FROM THE EDITOR

Well, here is my first attempt at producing the Signal, with my apologies that it comes so late in the month.

I look forward to putting this publication together each month! Thanks to Jamie, Margo and Bryn for getting me up to speed on things this month, and to Ellery for submitting something for the HO folks. Jamie and Mitch sent me some photos from the Vista event, too—thank you!

This newsletter needs your participation, folks. I can't be at the club often enough, nor, at the present, can I be at the monthly meetings because of work. So, I hope you can send me an email with articles you've put together, photos of the projects on the club layouts or your own. I know everyone would love to see one or two photos and a brief write-up.

I know I have a tough act to follow with Jamie having been editor, as well as those before him. I look forward to receiving your contributions so I can share them in the upcoming editions of the Signal!

Thank you,  
 Catherine  
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### THE SIGNAL

The *Signal* is published twelve times per year by The Great Falls Model Railroad Club.

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## Upcoming Events

## Recurrent Activities

NMRA Seacoast Div. meeting — July 13

**\*\*MONTHLY MEETING JULY 20TH - 1 PM\*\***

**Notice Date Change!**



Surplus Assets Sale—July 27 9 to 1, members 8 to 9

Open House — Aug. 17-18; 9am to 5pm

Joe Landry Open House — Aug. 24

Oxford Fair — Sept.11 to 14 @Mineral Building

Kora Shrine Train Show—Oct. 10; 10am to 3pm

### HO Operating Sessions

On hold until August 3 while we work on some new projects

### Regular Monthly Meeting

**\*\* 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, June 27 at 7 p.m.

### Executive Committee

Concurrent with the June meeting

[Check us out on Facebook.](#)