



MAINE 3 RAILERS

M3R CLUB NEWSLETTER FOR FEBRUARY 2016

M3R MEETING NEXT WEEK – Next regular M3R meeting will be Thursday, February 11, 7:00PM at our usual location, the Richmond Firehouse. The address is 7 School St., Richmond, Zip 04357. Take a left or right (depending on which direction you are traveling on Main St.) on to School St. and you'll find the Firehouse just a very short distance off Main Street. Rick Hills will give a presentation on what he learned at the Big E annual train show. The "Big E" is shorthand for the Amherst Railway Society Railroad Hobby Show at the Eastern States Exposition Fairgrounds in West Springfield, MA. A number of M3R members made the annual trek across three states to reach this year's New England Mecca of train shows. If you have never been to the show, it is a "must see" for your "bucket list." Come join us for a look into the "Big E" and what Rick learned from talking to MTH and Lionel executives as well as an enterprising entrepreneur about the possibilities for our next club car.

Another topic for discussion is a request for M3R to bring its display layout to an event hosted by the Noreasters Barbershop Chorus (this is the group of singers who sang on the Candy Cane Train). Kathy Robitaille, the chorus's director, sent the following message to Jeff Jacobs:

Noreasters Barbershop Chorus

Hi Jeff,

Kathy here from the barbershop chorus. . . . I am writing to you to see if what I am proposing, the club might consider doing.

The chorus celebrates 50 years of existence this year and we always do an annual show in the fall. I was wracking my brain trying to come up with some kind of theme that used the word "golden" in it as in 50 years. I finally came up with basically "celebrating the golden eras of radio, records and railroads....!" I arrived at this because one of my quartets is doing two railroad related songs and I can have another quartet also do Sentimental Journey which speaks of traveling on a train, amongst songs of course that were popular on radio and then onto records.

So...my brain got going of course and I thought....I wonder if the model railroad club would come and set up a layout before our show starts (afternoon show), and then we would include in our PR to come early and visit the model railroad layout....and wait for it....it gets better.....then I thought - WOW! What if YOU dressed in your conductor outfit and we have YOU read an intro for this quartet about trains in the golden/olden days.....and then when you finish, blow a train whistle and shout, "All Aboard!" and they would come in....it would be great entertainment all the way around! I would love that and the audience would eat it up.

We haven't set a date for it yet but I am leaning towards an October date....probably the 15th but nothing in stone yet. Do you think your group would come early and set up and then once intermission happens, you guys could start taking things down so when we are done, you are done and we can all get out of there? We will be there - oh there is the United Methodist Church on Church Road in Brunswick....we will be there by noontime to set up the risers if not before that. I would love to have your guys actually hear the chorus singing NON-CHRISTMAS songs and be part of our special 50th anniversary show. What say ye????

For M3R members, bring your thoughts about this to the meeting for a discussion.

NATIONAL MTH WI-FI DAY AT RICHARD RIDOLFO'S TRAIN SHOP AT BRENTWOOD ANTIQUES - This event on Saturday, January 23, brought over a half dozen M3R members to see the new system in operation on Richard's in-store layout. Until you see it in action, you can't grasp the span of control that will be at your fingertips on a smartphone device you may use every day. While we were there, Richard's son, Kyle, skillfully upgraded all the TIU and handheld remotes brought forward by the visitors. Kyle also taught Ken Thorson how to make the changes to the DCS equipment. The bonus for those who attended the event were the discounts Richard offered on buildings, rolling stock and selected engines. Many bags filled with purchases were seen leaving the premises. After making the trip down to Hampton Falls and back to Topsham, I was reminded that Richard makes that trip (actually longer than mine) almost every month to Richmond to participate in our monthly meetings. Many thanks to Richard for his participation and support of M3R.

While we are handing out thanks, we should also extend our thanks to two other long distance travelers and their retail shops who faithfully support our club, Rick Hills from Amherst, NH, representing *Trains on Tracks*, and Bill Halley who runs a retail operation out of his home garage in North Hampton, NH.

UPDATES FOR YOUR MTH TIU AND HANDHELD REMOTE – If you need to have your MTH DCS equipment upgraded to the latest version of the software, v. 5, you can make the switch by bringing your DCS TIU and handheld remote to our club's train display event at the Topsham Public Library, Thursday, February 18 (see details in this newsletter). Ken Thorson has the equipment and cables to download the update to your equipment. **Why would you want to do this?** There are two principal reasons (as I understand it): (1) engines featuring Protosound 3 enlarged the features that may be accessed with the handheld remote, i.e., you can do more with a PS3 engine than with a PS2 engine, but you can only access those additional features if your TIU and handheld remote are updated to version 5; (2) should you wish to introduce your DCS control system to the latest technology using the Wi-Fi device that enables you to control your trains with any Android or Apple iOS smartphone, you must first upgrade your DCS equipment to version 5.

Schedule of Upcoming Events

February 16-17	Patten Free Library, 33 Summer Street, Bath. Setup Tue 2/16 8-10 am. Run 10am-4pm and Wed 10am-3pm, then Breakdown.
February 18	Topsham Library, 25 Foreside Road. 25. Setup 8-10am and run until 3pm, then Breakdown.
February 20	Whitefield Lions Model Railroad and Dollhouse Show, Augusta Armory, Setup 8:00am, Run 10am-3:30pm, then Breakdown.
March 26	Maine 3Railers Model Railroad Show, August Elks, 10am-3pm (more details later)

Visit our website and our Facebook page for all the latest breaking news. www.maine3railers.org & <https://www.facebook.com/maine3railers>

Here's hoping we will see you in Richmond next week, Thursday.

Ken Thorson
M3R Secretary
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