



# MAINE 3 RAILERS

## M3R CLUB NEWSLETTER FOR MAY 2016

**M3R MEETING NEXT WEEK THURSDAY, May 12, 7PM 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, almost directly opposite the intersection of Maine Street and Alexander Reed Road.

**LATEST ON THE RENY'S CLUB CAR** – BY OUR NEXT MEETING, WE SHOULD HAVE IN HAND A PROTOTYPE CAR FOR FINAL APPROVAL OF THE PRODUCTION RUN. THE CAR will be produced by Robert Salerno of RGS Trains. There are a few minor changes not worth mentioning in the graphics from the illustration presented in the last newsletter and it will be a very handsome car for your collection.

**REMINDER ABOUT PLACING YOUR ORDER** – Orders for the new Reny's car at the \$50 per car special pricing for members will be cut off as of the close of our meeting next Thursday, May 12. Remember that the cars will come in six different road numbers. The pre-buy price of \$50 per car ordered must be paid to our treasurer, Rick Hills, by the end of the meeting. Make your check out to "Maine 3-Railers" and note in the memo section of the check in the lower left-hand corner that the check is for the Renys car. If you have not already paid for your order and will not be able to attend next week's meeting, send your check to Rick in time to reach him by next Thursday, or the car will cost you \$55 per car. Send your check to:

Rick Hills  
8 Winding Hollow Road  
Amherst, NH 03031

**NATIONAL TRAIN DAY COMING TO BRUNSWICK STATION** - M3R has accepted an invitation to create a display layout in the Brunswick AMTRAK train station on Saturday, June 11. We understand that the national AMTRAK Exhibit Train will visit Brunswick that day and that the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority (NNEPRA) will also participate in the celebration with the Downeaster train. It should be quite a celebration. It has always been fun in the past. Mark your calendar.

**SAD NEWS** - We are sorry to pass along the news of the passing of Mo (Mogens) Nielsen, a faithful friend of M3R members and Rainy Day Trains customers. If you never visited Rainy Day Trains in Saco prior to the passing of its proprietor, John Sholtis, and the eventual closing of the store, you probably do not know Mo. No news about funeral arrangements.

**VISIT TO TOGUS VETERANS' NURSING HOME** – We had a grand time at the veterans' home. As in years past, veterans paid visits to the day room where we had our display as a steady stream of curious onlookers, including many staff persons. Attendance was somewhat lighter than in years past, but it was worthwhile seeing the veterans' faces light up as our trains brought back memories for them.

**GREAT FALLS MODEL RR CLUB AT MT. ARARAT** - Even though this was the first time Great Falls entertained a show in the spring at the high school in Topsham, attendance was strong and the crowds regularly stopped at our attractive display layout showing keen interest in the trains and many took the time to chat about the hobby and operate the trains. As always, the children were always reluctant to leave. Vendors were in abundance, including

some of our own M3R members with tables of their own to sell trains and accessories. All in all, it was a good day. Here are photos of the event:

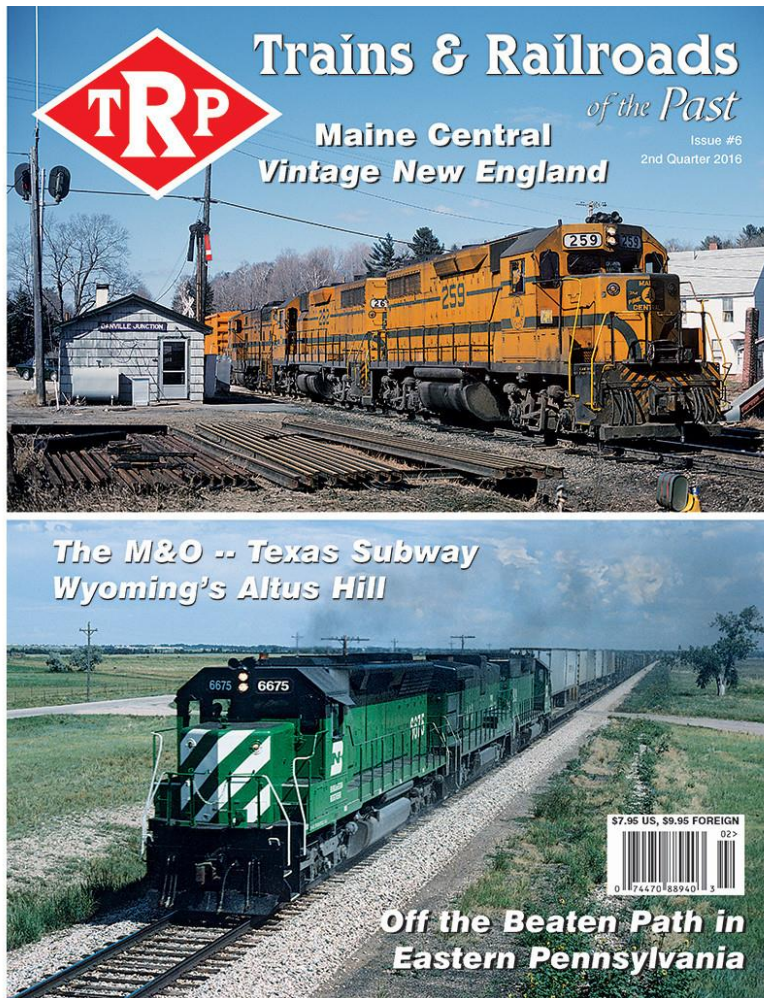


**MORE ON THE MAINE CENTRAL FEATURE STORY** – We mentioned previously that the 2016 Second Quarter edition of *Trains and Railroads of the Past Magazine* (referred to as *TRP Magazine*) features a special story on the Maine Central Railroad. The 20-page, 31-photo (most in color), one-route-map cover story is subheadlined “Vintage New England” and “Classy New England Carrier.” The issue costs \$7.95 plus \$4.00 shipping. You can place an order for this single issue on the Internet at: <https://shop.whiteriverproductions.com/products/wrp-trp006>. **(Correction Note: The minutes from the last meeting in one place misidentified the carrier as the Maine Eastern Railroad, but correctly identified the subject in the lead caption and the reference to MEC.)**

Here is a photo of the magazine cover to whet your appetite for the story. Here are some interesting facts from the story:

1. If it were not for Maine’s paper industry, the MEC would probably not have been formed.
2. Of the approximately 1,000 miles of MEC trackage, 90% was on ties in Maine.
3. Owing to its frugal management, most of the MEC diesel engines were castoffs from other railroads.
4. The castoff frugality mentality accounted for many consists headed by a set of mismatched engines.
5. A railroad with many branch lines, the MEC mainline ran from Portland to Vanceboro.
6. Actually, there were two northeast-bound mainlines out of Portland that reunited at Waterville.
7. The article shows the last U.S. operating “highball” on the MEC and explains the origins of the term.
8. A teaser: What was MEC’s “Independence Class” all about. (Answer below the magazine cover)





ANSWER TO #8 ABOVE: MEC commissioned as the “Independence Class” a purchase of ten brand new GE U18’s, road numbers 400 – 409, with the names of Civil War heroes or events, most associated with Maine. Notably absent from the list of ten is General Joshua Chamberlain, a significant oversight for sure.

**Events for the next two months –**

- May 13-14 Baxter Library, Gorham. Move-in 7:30am 5/13 and run to 4pm. Run 5/14 9-noon and out by 1pm
- May 24 Maine Veterans Home, Augusta. Move-in 7am and run 9am to 3pm
- June 11 National Train Day, Brunswick AMTRAK Station, times to be announced

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

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

Ken Thorson  
M3R Secretary  
[kenthorson@comcast.net](mailto:kenthorson@comcast.net)