



MAINE 3 RAILERS

M3R CLUB NEWSLETTER FOR SEPTEMBER 2016

ALERT!! M3R MEETING THIS WEEK THURSDAY, September 8, 7PM at our usual location, the Richmond Firehouse.

Our second-Thursday meeting this month comes up early in the month and is set for this coming Thursday, September 8. The address is 7 School St., Richmond, Zip 04357. The Firehouse just a very short distance south off Main Street on School St., and you'll find School St. almost directly opposite the intersection of Main Street and Alexander Reed Road.

LATEST ON THE RENYS CLUB CAR – The M3R Club Car committee has been working diligently trying to ensure a prompt delivery of our Renys Car. Robert Salerno of RGS Trains reports that he has shipped the cars late this past week, probably arriving in time for the upcoming meeting. As a final check-off prior to shipment, we received five photos of the final product and it looks very good. As you will recall, the cars are produced in six different road numbers. It will be a very handsome car for your collection. Assuming we receive delivery of the full order in time for the upcoming meeting, those who preordered cars should be able to take delivery of their order at the meeting. If you did not preorder your cars, the price now is \$55.00, plus shipping. Here is a sneak preview:



REMINDER ABOUT PLACING YOUR ORDER – As noted above, orders for the new Renys car in six different road numbers is now \$55 per car. If you want one or more, 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. Send your check to:

Rick Hills
8 Winding Hollow Road
Amherst, NH 03031

These cars will be going fast. He or she who hesitates will lose out on this special car. Don't wait.

OUR BIGGEST EVENT OF THE YEAR!!!! – September brings the killer event of the year for M3R, the Cumberland County Fair. It is a killer event because of the spectacular venue packed with so many things going on at the same time. It is a killer event because our club earns a fantastic financial reward for our participation. It is a killer event because of the tremendous crowds that flock to our display layout, often repeating their visits the same day. It is a killer event because of the great variety of good food sources abundant at the fair. It is a killer event because of the cozy horticultural building we share with other exhibitors, including a very cordial vendor of cider and donuts. BUT MOST OF ALL, it is a killer event in a more literal sense because it is so demanding of our time to keep it going 12 hours a day for seven days and we need support from so many M3R members to pull it off.

Before you come to the meeting this Thursday, check your calendar and come prepared to declare when you will work the fair for M3R. Our Event Coordinator, Sam Carr, will be bringing a schedule with time slots to be filled. Generally, each of the seven days is divided into two, two-man shifts, 9AM to 3PM, and 3PM to 9PM, with an extra person to cover the lunch hour and middle of the day. We need for you to cover at least one shift a day and to work for two or three days during the week. If we have enough volunteers, the burden is not too much for any one of us. We need you to be there. Don't let your club down.

AMTRAK Downeaster Brunswick Layover Facility Making Progress; Nearing Completion – The layover facility project of the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority project is moving right along. The layover building, which is approximately 655 feet long, 70 feet wide and about 37 feet high, will accommodate the overnight storage of up to three diesel locomotive-powered passenger train sets used for the Downeaster service. It is equipped with a ventilation system to handle locomotive exhaust and will be heated. Offices, locker rooms, wash rooms and storage facilities are incorporated in an attachment on the north side of the building.

A series of three tracks will connect the building to the railroad main line. The building and yard tracks will have a “double-ended” configuration to allow for trains to arrive or depart in either direction.

Here is a photo I took about a month ago showing the three-track shed taking shape.



There are many more photos for your enjoyment at: <http://www.nnepra.com/projects/brunswick-layover-facility/brunswick-layover-facility> NNEPRA has indicated that the facility will be completed about mid-September, after which, the Downeaster will commence a third, daily, round-trip service to Boston.

CTT Magazine Spotlight on MTH DCS WiFi Unit that Works with Smartphones – Most of you are aware of the MTH DCS WiFi interface introduced late last year that allows you to control your trains with a smart phone. *Classic Toy Trains*, October 2016, the edition that just hit mailboxes this past week, features a four-page Product Review on the MTH's WiFi unit by Associate Editor Bob Keller, beginning on page 56 of the CTT magazine. The

review covers Keller's introduction to the product, what you have to do to make it work for you, the variety of features offered in the WiFi unit, and whether the investment is worth the benefits of WiFi operation.

If you are already operating with the WiFi unit, you will still find a few pointers in the article that may be helpful. If you are considering the product, Keller, who apparently had not seen the WiFi unit in operation before the assignment to review the product, gives a good nuts and bolts introduction and lays out his experience. His three-paragraph conclusion reads:

"This was far easier a transition than I'd anticipated, and the train running experience was as much fun with new school as it was with hands-on-the-throttle old school."

"Heck, it was more fun. It was a gas to tap the speed and see the engine reacting to reach that goal – so much better than using the old thumb-wheel to change the speed. Having easier access to the functions is a major plus."

"I'm going to take the batteries out of my old MTH remote control. I think my iPhone has this job covered. - Bob Keller."

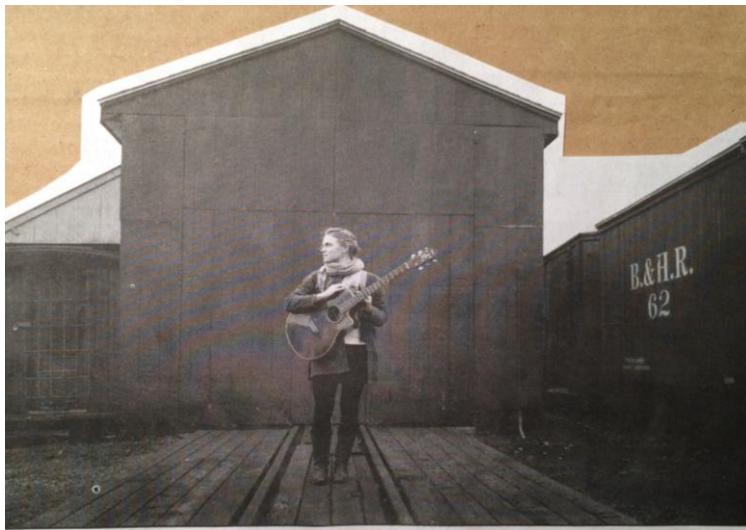
Here is what the 4-page spread looks like in the CTT October issue, a good guide for the uninitiated:



A Quiz for You – Here is a quiz to wake you out of the summer doldrums and get your brain going again. A story about a music performing artist in *The Times Record* newspaper this past week featured a photo that begged knowledgeable Maine rail fans to show what they know about Maine's railroad history. Here are two questions about the photo below:

1. What is the distance between the inside edge of the rails on either side of the woman?
2. What is the full road name of the B.&H.R. Maine railroad box car at the right side of the photo?

Answers can be found at the end of the newsletter in very teeny font.



Events for the next four months (there may be as many as three more events on the schedule depending upon what Sam Carr comes up with) –

- Sep 25 to Cumberland Fair 9a-9p daily, Sun - Sat.
Oct 1 Setup Sat Sep 24 and move out Sun Oct 2
- Oct 15 Nor'easters Barbershop Chorus 50th Anniversary Concert, Brunswick Methodist Church, 320 Church Rd.,
 Brunswick, ME 04011. Local members supply equipment – trailer not needed
- Nov 5 Mt. Ararat Fall Show, Mt. Ararat High School Gym, Topsham (set-up Fri PM, Sat run trains and breakdown PM)
- Nov 12 [Cancelled] Northern New England Chapter (NoNETCA) TCA Annual Show, American Legion Post #7, Rochester,
 NH-[Cancelled]
- Dec 1-3 Maine State Museum Holiday Display (set-up Thursday, run trains Fri-Sat, breakdown Sat pm)
- Dec 6 Victorian Home Christmas, Richmond, ME. Local members supply equipment – trailer not needed
- Dec 9-11 Candy Cane Train with host Tri-County Literacy, Brunswick Station, AMTRAK Downeaster to Portland and back
 (set-up Friday, Sat-Sun operations)
- Jan 1 Annual M3R home layout tour and dinner (11AM-1PM-3PM-5PM, then dinner out at 7PM)

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 this week, Thursday, for our meeting. It will be a great one.

Ken Thorson
M3R Secretary
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QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. The distance between the rails is 24", the standard for the many narrow gauge railroads in Maine.
2. The B.&H.R. on the box car stands for the Bridgton & Harrison Railroad.