



MAINE 3 RAILERS

M3R CLUB NEWSLETTER FOR FEBRUARY 2017



M3R MEETING NEXT WEEK THURSDAY – Next regular M3R meeting will be Thursday, FEBRUARY 9, 6:30PM at our usual location, the Richmond Firehouse. 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. **NOTE THE EARLIER TIME FOR STARTING AT 6:30PM.** Rick Hills will be presenting a special training session on installing LED lighting in various layout applications at that earlier time. Don't be late!

REMINDER THAT DUES FOR 2017 ARE DUE AND PAYABLE NOW - You may bring a check to the next meeting or submit your check to our Treasurer at the following address:

Rick Hills
8 Winding Hollow Road
Amherst, NH 03031

The schedule of 2017 dues is as follows, so make your check out to **Maine 3-Railers** in the correct amount:

Individual - \$20 (increase of \$5)
Couple - \$25 (increase of \$5)
Youth (under 18 years of age) - \$5 (Note this membership is unchanged from prior years)

THE BIG E, AMHERST RAILWAY SOCIETY RAILROAD HOBBY SHOW, ATTENDED BY A DOZEN M3R MEMBERS – It was a 2-day event this past weekend at the Eastern States Exposition Center in West Springfield, Massachusetts populated by about 400 registered vendors and exhibitors, as well as thousands more visitors. M3R had at least twelve members in attendance: Dana Sullivan, Peter Hanson, Moe Guevin, Jerry Boulanger, Sam Carr, Tom Hartwell, Vic Fuller, Fred Guth, Tony Masulaitis, Bill Halley, Rick Hills and Mark Filtranti. I hope I have not missed anyone. The show is huge covering four different buildings. It is virtually impossible to see everything at the show in one day. Here are four links to photos from prior years to give you some idea of its vastness:

[http://www.railroadhobbyshow.com/gallery-listing.php?cid=3#prettyPhoto\[\]/11/](http://www.railroadhobbyshow.com/gallery-listing.php?cid=3#prettyPhoto[]/11/)
[http://www.railroadhobbyshow.com/gallery-listing.php?cid=3#prettyPhoto\[\]/21/](http://www.railroadhobbyshow.com/gallery-listing.php?cid=3#prettyPhoto[]/21/)
[http://www.railroadhobbyshow.com/gallery-listing.php?page=2#prettyPhoto\[\]/11/](http://www.railroadhobbyshow.com/gallery-listing.php?page=2#prettyPhoto[]/11/)
[http://www.railroadhobbyshow.com/gallery-listing.php?page=2#prettyPhoto\[\]/17/](http://www.railroadhobbyshow.com/gallery-listing.php?page=2#prettyPhoto[]/17/)

DANA'S REPORT FROM THE BIG E – The show is an opportunity to meet with Lionel and MTH manufacturer's reps and Dana took advantage of that chance meeting with both. Several positive developments came out of Dana's meetings.

Coming to the M3R Augusta Show - Dana secured a commitment from MTH's Rich Foster to attend our March 25 show in Augusta, and Lionel agreed to give it serious consideration.

M3R Club Car Production – Discussions with MTH's Rich Foster yielded an understanding that MTH would be willing to produce a RailKing club car for M3R for about \$32-\$34 per car with a minimum 150-car order. Discussions with Lionel reps Lauren Morris and Ryan Kunkle reached a tentative understanding that Lionel might be able to produce our next M3R Club car, as well. Dana is to contact Lionel's Dave Olson for more details.

MTH's WiFi App Upgrade Coming Soon - Dana had a long discussion with MTH's Andy Edelman and learned that the upgrade to the Wi-Fi app is expected to be released in about two weeks.

More about Mike Reagan's Departure from Lionel - Dana learned from the Lionel reps that Mike left his employment with Lionel simply because he was burned out with all his responsibilities at headquarters and his extensive travel schedule attending train shows (including ours last year), often more than one show per week.

NNEPRA REVIEWING COMMITMENT TO CANDY CANE TRAIN AND OTHER NONPROFITS – A January 25 news article in the *Times Record* reported that the board of NNEPRA is considering how it should handle the growing number of requests from nonprofits to use the Downeaster for fund-raising activities. The chairperson stated, “a new policy will determine how much the rail authority can or cannot do to assist nonprofits that use the train as a fundraising tool.” The chief reasons given for the review related to the fact that equipment failure during such a ride could be a real problem, and that the NNEPRA staff must spend time making arrangements thereby diverting the staff energy away from the primary focus, serving the public ridership of the Downeaster. The new policy is not expected for several months. We will follow that important development.

PAY ATTENTION TO THE SCHEDULE OF FUTURE EVENTS! YOUR PARTICIPATION AND SUPPORT IS ENCOURAGED.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event.</u>
February	
18	Whitefield Lions Doll & Train Show , Augusta Armory, 179 Western Ave., Augusta, ME 04330. Hours 10am-3pm. Setup 7am
21-22	Patten Free Library , 33 Summer St., Bath, ME 04530, operations Tues.- 11AM-4PM and Wed.- 11AM-3PM
March	
tbd	Togus VA Nursing Home , 1 VA Center Augusta, ME 04330
25	Maine 3Railers Annual Show, Augusta Elks Club, 397 Civic Center Drive, Augusta, ME 04330. Setup 1 pm Mar 24. Show 10am-3pm Mar 25.
April	
8-9 tentative	Midcoast Model Festival , Owls Head Transportation Museum, may be members/no trailer
8	NoNETCA Spring Show - Saturday, 10AM to 3PM, Dover, New Hampshire
29 tentative	Great Falls Model Railroad Club Spring Show , Mt. Ararat High School Gym, 75 Eagles Way Topsham, ME 04086
May	
tbd	Baxter Library , 71 South St., Gorham, ME 04038
tbd	Maine Train Day , 16 Station Ave., Brunswick, ME 04011
tbd	Maine Veterans Home , 310 Cony Rd., Augusta, ME 04330

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 for our Thursday, February 9, 6:30PM meeting.

Ken Thorson
M3R Secretary



February 20

kenthorson@comcast.net