



# MAINE 3 RAILERS

## M3R CLUB NEWSLETTER FOR MARCH 2025

**OUR NEXT MEETING IS THURSDAY, March 13, 2025, at 7:00PM on Zoom.** Watch for the email from Dana Lindsey with the link to join.

## CLUB HEADLINE NEWS

- Annual M3R Model Train and Dollhouse Show Big Success
- Retiring M3R Executive Board Members Honored
- Club Annual Dues to Rick Hills by March 31<sup>st</sup>
- M3R Team Visited **Wilbur's Chocolates**, Patten Free Library, and Topsham Public Library in February



### **President's Message** by Bernie Pender

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this year's Maine 3 Railers Model Train/Dollhouse Show a success! Your hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm made the event unforgettable. Special thanks to all the volunteers, exhibitors, and attendees who brought their passion and creativity to the show. We couldn't have done it without you.

March brings with it a sense of renewal, and we are focused on creating new opportunities for all our members to engage and grow. Whether you are a lifelong modeler, a passionate railfan, or someone new to the world of trains, there is something for everyone to look forward to.

We have a new Activity/Training Chairperson Rick Hills. Rick plans on kicking off a series of educational workshops, open houses, and collaborative projects. These will give everyone a chance to learn new skills, exchange ideas, and bond over our shared hobby. If you have a specific topic or technique you'd like to see covered, please let Rick know, and he will do his best to include it. I know Rick is looking for folks to host layout tours/open houses. Let Rick know so he can get you scheduled.

### **Member Spotlight**

I also want to take a moment to recognize the efforts of **Paul Brown**, who went above and beyond in supporting the Club's activities and the outstanding effort he and his crew did at the 2025 Show. Their dedication and enthusiasm continue to inspire us all. If you have a fellow member in mind who deserves to be in the spotlight, please feel free to nominate - there are so many amazing contributions to celebrate!

### **Awards**

Recently at an M3R Mobile Outreach event I had the privilege of awarding past members of the Executive Board with Tribute Cars. Tribute Cars are awarded to past E-Board members for their work and dedication to the E-Board. Next time you see **Sam Carr, Art Shean, or Gene Thayer**

congratulate them and ask about their Tribute Car. Our very own **Dave Kenyon** created the Tribute Cars for the Club and once again a remarkable piece of craftsmanship. Thank you, **Dave**.

### Club Growth

Our club continues to grow, and we're thrilled to welcome new members this month. If you know someone who shares our passion for trains, please encourage them to join. We are always excited to expand our community and share our experiences with others.

Take a moment to enjoy the Club's website and be sure to visit the section with Member owned businesses. Thanks to **Mark David** for keeping the site running.

Remember the Club has many Committees that run on Club members. Get involved with a committee. There is plenty of work for everyone, including those that would like to work from home.

As always, thank you for being part of our wonderful club. Your enthusiasm and support are what make this organization so special. I look forward to another month of exciting train-related adventures with all of you!

I will see you around the bend! **Bernie**

2024 Tribute Car Presentations to Past Executive Board Members:



2024 M3R Tribute Car



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## UPDATES



2025 Model Train and Dollhouse Show by Richard Ridolfo

**We Had a Great Show!**

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## From the Treasurer by Rick Hills

2025 Club Dues are Due!      Single Membership \$20  
Family \$25  
Youth Member \$5

Send your check to our new Club address:

Maine 3 Railers  
Post Office Box 31  
Amherst, NH 03031



## From the Editor by Art Shean

Last month I characterized M3R membership based on level of engagement in Club activities. This month I offer several examples:

Doug Pollock, a stalwart of our Mobile Outreach Team and Newsletter contributor, dubbed this individual as the “Member Using the Most Different Modes of Transportation” to arrive at and support set up of Club model railroad displays. As an example, to arrive at the Patten Free Library in Bath by 8 am, he had to arise at “O dark thirty” in the morning; drive, walk, or bicycle to the pier on Chebeague Island to catch a ferry to the mainland; upon arrival, catch the shuttle to the Island’s onshore parking lot to retrieve his car, then drive from Yarmouth to Bath. All this is based on the ferry schedule and planned time of arrival in Bath. After set up, he reverses his travel on a schedule to catch the next available ferry boat. And he does this repeatedly for almost every display we offer south of Augusta. Besides supporting model train displays, he attends every Club Roundhouse Session and most Monthly Club meetings. John Ash is clearly an **ENGAGED** Maine 3 Railer.

I dubbed this individual the “Man Behind the Curtain” or perhaps the Wizard of Model Train Displays. He prefers to work behind the scenes with as little notoriety as possible. It took me years for him to tolerate me taking his picture at events. If I didn’t know better, you would think he was in a witness protection program. If something needs to be done, he will either do it or have it done without needing direction. You probably didn’t notice but at our recent Club Show this individual greeted vendors and guests at the front door. Offered handouts of ongoing and upcoming Model Railroading activities that he routinely prepares and updates, and assured vendors did not unload at the front door in violation of Fire Marshall orders. The day before he supported the vendor table rollout with worker directions and table placards which he created before the show. He provided and connected the power transformers for the Club model train display as well as much of the rolling stock and engines. In between he interacted with many quests, helping kids run trains and signing up new members. After the show he helped break down the vendor tables and packed up the mobile layout equipment from the Club train display. Bet you did not see him doing all that stuff!

By the way, he is our Club’s Event Coordinator, scheduling over twenty Mobile Outreach displays annually and assuring Club activities do not interfere with each other. He also is a recent past Club Director. He not only supports Club activities but serves our hobby as well. He is the 470 Club Secretary and maintains and publishes complete listings of New England model railroading events, organizations, and resources. I consider Sam Carr a **FULLY ENGAGED** Maine 3 Railer.

If you have examples of other members’ contributions that you would like to highlight for other Club members, please drop me an email with a description. I will be happy to share them in future Newsletters.



M3R Activities/Training Committee by Chair Rick Hills  
No activities/training currently scheduled for March.



### M3R YouTube Channel Update by Channel Master Carlton Spring

February certainly made up for the quiet January with 4 event videos produced and uploaded to our YouTube channel. The links below are provided so you can easily view the events.

The first event was our annual trip to Wilbur's Chocolates in Freeport on Saturday and Sunday, February 8th and 9th.

Link: <https://youtu.be/GCyLwds6S1s?si=WYBXDdpCSKYuTlrP>

Our second event was M3R's very successful Train and Dollhouse Show held at the Augusta Armory on Saturday February 15th.

Link: [https://youtu.be/CXeQVMGUVxY?si=0LCJQ\\_8BBL1XcYZy](https://youtu.be/CXeQVMGUVxY?si=0LCJQ_8BBL1XcYZy)

Event number three was to one of the club's oldest venues, the Patten Free Library in Bath on Tuesday and Wednesday, February 18th and 19th.

Link: <https://youtu.be/JXGeZDGBliA?si=p7-j60xq9bTX-qXH>

And finally, our fourth and last event for February, we visited the Topsham Public Library on Friday, February 21st.

Link: <https://youtu.be/F1FxVHwgmt8?si=qYUloxwkjue51A9D>

March looks to be quiet so we can catch our breath for a busy April.

**STAY TUNED!**



### The Maine 3 Railers have Club Cars, Clothing, and Collectables Available for Purchase by Jeff Jacobs

- **Club Cars:** Here is a summary of the cars which the Maine 3 Railers club currently have for sale:

First, is what I call the "Current" car, released in 2024, it is our latest offering. This car is part of the "seasons in Maine" series, being the summer car. The attractive light blue cylindrical hopper shows activity in Portland Harbor as well as the blue & gold BAR RR herald. The car is an MTH Railking model and is available in two road numbers.



Second, we have the 2023 offering which is an MTH Premier product. This car is a high quality flat with M3R printed on it and a Hannaford trailer riding atop it. There are 2 road numbers available. This car is a very versatile item which could also transport vehicles, bulky objects or boats (as in lobster). Perhaps even the trailer could be repainted with a theme like “Wreaths Across America” or your favorite theme. The quality and usefulness of this club car makes it worth purchasing.



Last, we come to the 2018 CIANBRO cars. These also are available in multiple road numbers and two colors. Again, they are quality Premier cars from MTH and have lots of practical alternative applications. I had one repainted in green and loaded it with Christmas packages for the 2024 LL Bean display. It brought many compliments. Further each car contains a bridge girder which is easily removed via 4 screws. You will find the metal girders to be substantial and a pair of them would make a quality bridge on your layout. On some cars the girder is labeled “Maine Central” while on the others we find “Bangor & Aroostook”.



Pick up a couple of matching cars and get creative with a rugged bridge and two useful gondolas which can carry any load.

SO, I encourage you to be creative and pick up some of these high-quality cars with an eye toward making something unique for your collection. You will find their prices are a bargain compared to the present-day prices of similar products and I am told some limited sale prices will be in effect on the day of the M3R show in Augusta.



**In the Clothing Department:**

Here are the current M3R clothing items for sale along with the newest pricing for them:

- Polo shirts -short sleeve - \$25 to size XL, \$30 for larger (dark blue)
- Denim shirts- Long Sleeve



Blue- \$35 to size L, \$38 for XL, size XXL and XXXL \$43, Hats, with or without ‘25 years’ - \$15

**Collectables:**

We also have the wonderful Peter Hsu created sketches of the MEC 470 steam locomotive. These are unframed and are only \$20. Each print is numbered and M3R had the exclusive sales rights to them. If you are new to M3R, you may not have one of these collectables. (see a back issue of the club newsletter for an article about this iconic locomotive)

## EVENT REPORTS



Three Days in Candyland by Art Shean

Wilbur's of Maine Chocolates: Setup - Friday, February 7, 2025, 2-5pm,  
Ran Trains - Saturday, February 8, 2025, 10am-5pm and Sunday, February  
9, 2025, 10am-3pm, with Move Out - Sunday, February 9, 2025, from 3-  
4:40pm.



Friday afternoon, February 7<sup>th</sup>, the M3R Mobile Outreach Team assembled at Wilbur's of Maine Chocolate Factory to set up a compact model train layout for two days of operation. The folks at the Factory clearly expected us with a sign on Lower Main Street, Freeport advertising our upcoming appearance.



The crew included John Ash, Sam Carr, Frank Folker, Doug Pollock, Art Shean, and Carlton Spring. The first challenge the crew encountered was passing through all the candy opportunities between the front door and the back activity room where we were scheduled to set up. I succumbed to the temptation and bought my wife an assortment of chocolate turtles before the day ended – one each with pecans or cashews and dark or milk chocolate.



Fortunately, we unloaded our vehicles through a side door to avoid the temptation of repeatedly passing by the many goodies. With everything unloaded the crew promptly went to work assembling the 6'x18 ½' mini-gem of a layout using four 2.5'x8' tables and one 2.5'x6' table provided by Wilbur's.



The crew worked quickly and efficiently and had the layout up and running by the store closing hour at 5pm. The layout featured an outer main loop with a through-pass siding to stage alternate train consists, a raised inner loop passing through a carnival on a raised platform, and a reversing trolley running from the carnival area to downtown Freeport. Overall, the layout used 104 feet of Lionel Fastrak on 111 square feet of tabletop.





By 5pm, Sam Carr pronounced the layout ready for operation and public viewing. Job done, the crew departed for the evening with operation scheduled for store opening the next day at 10 am.

Saturday morning Sam Carr and Carlton Spring powered up the layout and ran trains from 10am until 5pm when the store closed. They entertained around seventy customers - mostly families or mothers with children. As always the kids loved operating the trains with the goal of graduating to run the consist on the longest outer loop.





Sunday morning at 10am, Doug Pollock and I joined Sam and Carlton to greet more chocolate lovers. Sam replenished the handout table and later worked with Carlton to connect the large screen video monitor to YouTube. By so doing, visitors were able to view past Club layouts while enjoying the current layout.



By 3pm the last visitors finished viewing the layout and the crew began breakdown and moveout ending another successful visit at Wilbur's of Maine Chocolate Factory – offering Chocolates by the Dump Truck Load.



*Wilbur's of Maine Chocolate Factory - Offering Chocolates by the Dump Truck Load*





Photography by Art Shean and Carlton Spring



## The Gathering – M3R Coming Together by Art Shean

As in the past, nothing brings our members out, like a robust Club show - plenty of members, customers, and bargains. The 2025 M3R Model Railroad and Dollhouse Show was no exception.

At 8am Friday morning, February 14, 2025, the setup crew led by Richard Ridolfo arrived at the Augusta Armory on Western Avenue in Augusta to unfold and arrange over one hundred 2.5'x8' tables and chairs in preparation for the vendors that would arrive the next morning. To expedite vendor arrival, Sam Carr prepared place sheets with vendor names and table assignments which in conjunction with a master roster would guide vendors to their assigned locations. The crew demonstrated their strength and endurance by transforming this



into this with everything in place by 10am.

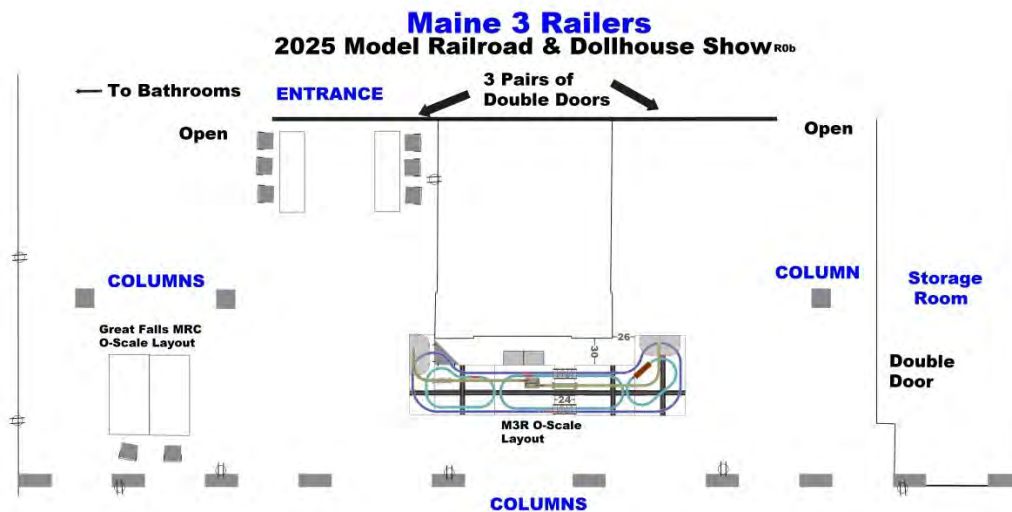


Of course, it took some planning and brain power to pull it all together.





The Club model train layout crew led by Sam Carr arrived shortly thereafter to unload their SUVs and trailer to set up a nine table 8' x 27.5' train display. In a departure from past years, the Club O-scale model train layout was moved from near the stage to the front next to the admissions tables. The move freed up space for additional vendor tables as well as offering a space for the newly created Great Falls O-scale track layout.



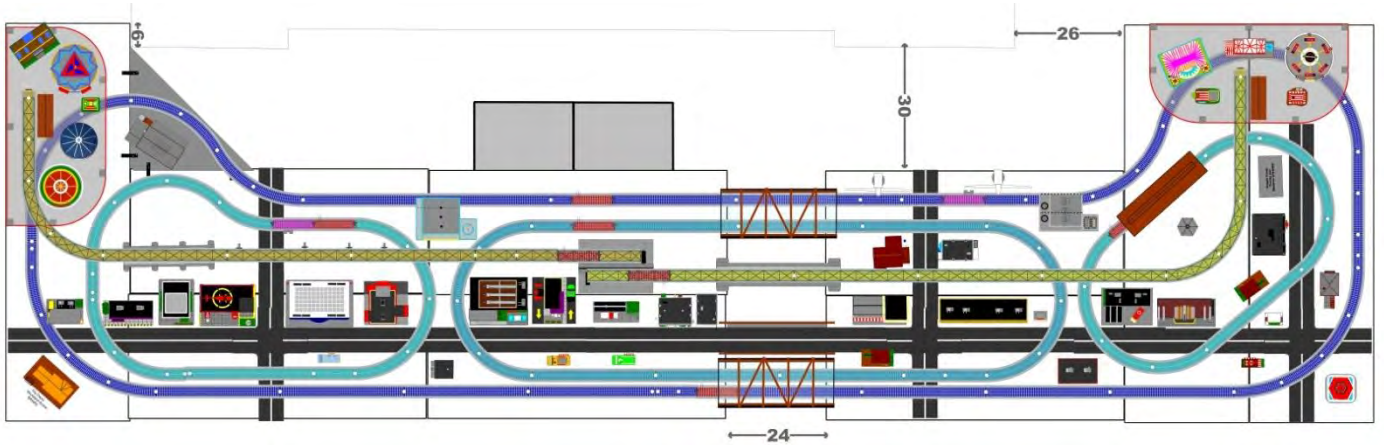
With the vendor tables in place, many of the table crew joined in assembling the model train layout. With so many hands, the nine-table layout came together quickly, and we were up and running by early afternoon.







The layout included a 64+ foot long outer loop, three inner loops for kid's operation, two raised trolley lines connecting two carnivals on raised platforms, six bridges, 156+ feet of Lionel FastTrak, 43.5 feet of asphalt 6" roadway, and 48 buildings and accessories all jammed onto 163 square feet of table top.



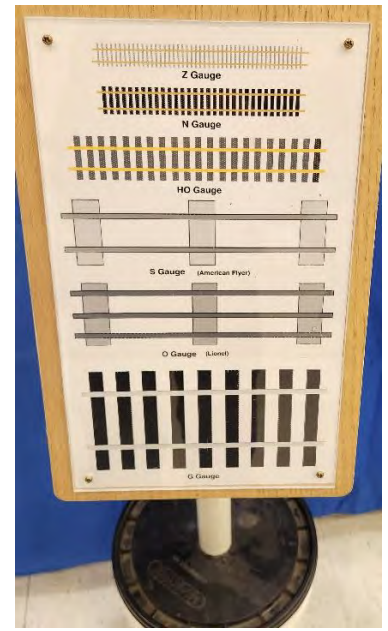
While we set up our layout, the Great Falls O-scale team arrived and set up their 8' x 8' layout across the entrance aisle from us. Having two O-scale layouts adjacent to each other, one simpler and another more complex, afforded visitors an opportunity to see how a hobbyist can grow a home layout as time and resources become available.



A key feature of their layout was their Menards War of the Worlds in the center. The accessory featured a lit UFO with multi-colored LED lights, an animated tractor beam claw picking up the General's Jeep, and an animated tank that moves forward and back, complete with flashing lights.



In the late afternoon the Great Falls HO team arrived to setup their modular layout. After a false start in the back left corner next to the stage and some negotiation, Richard Ridolfo agreed to move them to a larger space in the back right corner next to the kitchen and loading door. By close of business they were unloaded, assembled, and ready to roll Saturday morning.



Early Saturday morning, the M3R Crew made final arrangements as we anticipated the 10am opening. Our sign was prominently displayed on the center stage, the kitchen staff was preparing food, Doug Pollock had the White Elephant tables stocked, Sam Carr was at the front with hand outs ready, Jeff Jacobs' "anti-unloading" signs were stationed outside the front doors, vendors were in place on the floor, and our ticketing team was ready at the doors.





So, at 10am with everything in place, Paul Brown and his ticketing team opened the doors to another successful Annual Club Show! And in they came, nearly 500 paying customers.



And from their faces, the crowd appeared to like what they came to see. Lots of model trains running, prim and proper dollhouses, food, information at organization booths, and lots of goodies at the vendor tables. It seemed like more people than ever made multiple trips to their cars with packages under their arms.



# RUNNING TRAINS



DOLLHOUSES



FOOD



INFORMATION







LOTS OF MODEL RAILROAD GOODIES



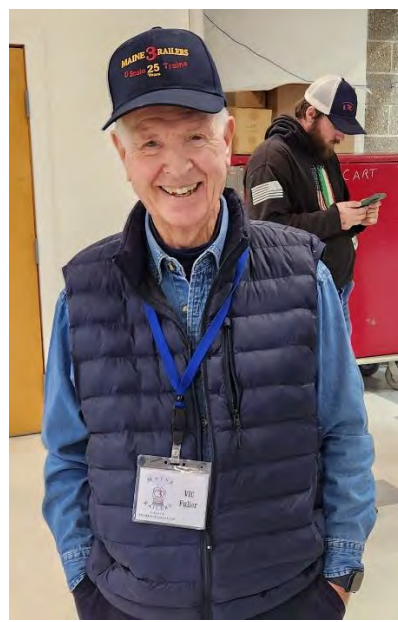
AND THE CROWD

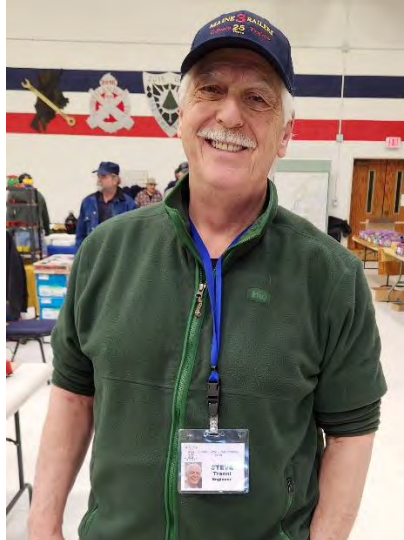
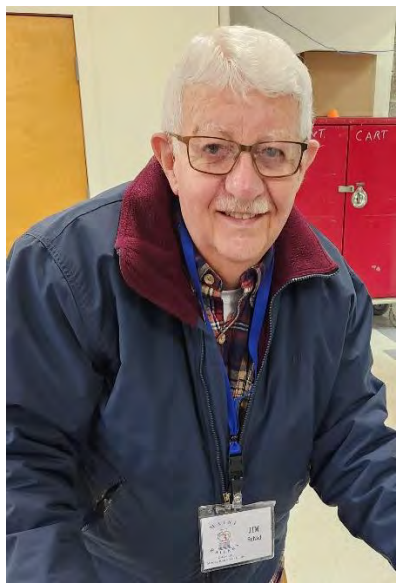
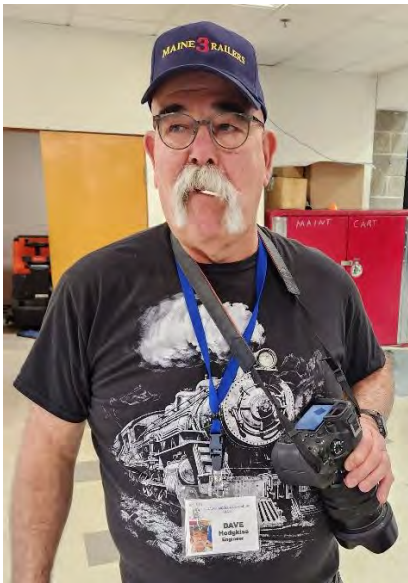
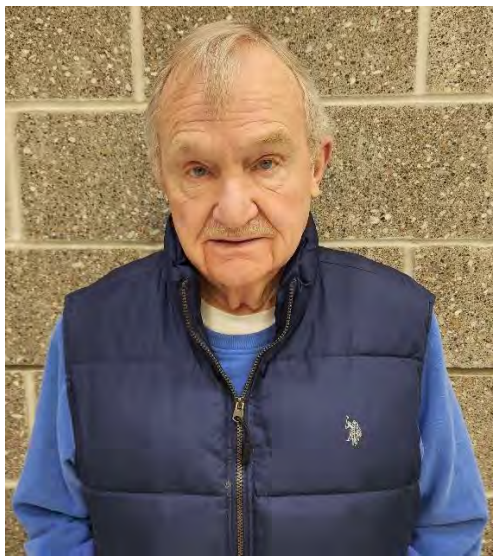


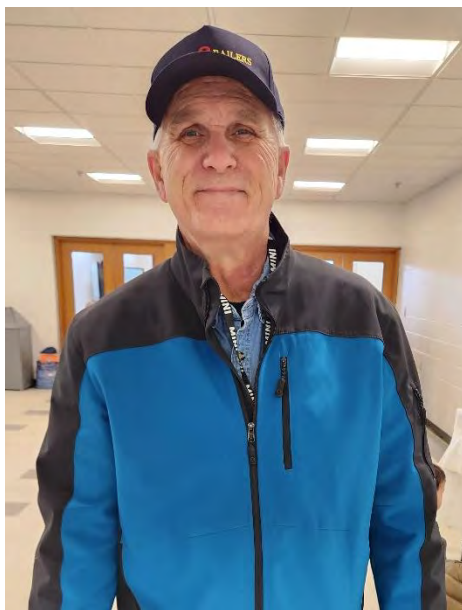


One of the best aspects of our annual train show is it draws many Club members together to visit in person. Many members come to help set up, run, or pack up the show. Others rent tables to sell off surplus equipment. Still others just come to enjoy the show. The following are some of the many faces Dave Hodgkiss, Carlton Spring, and I caught on our cameras:





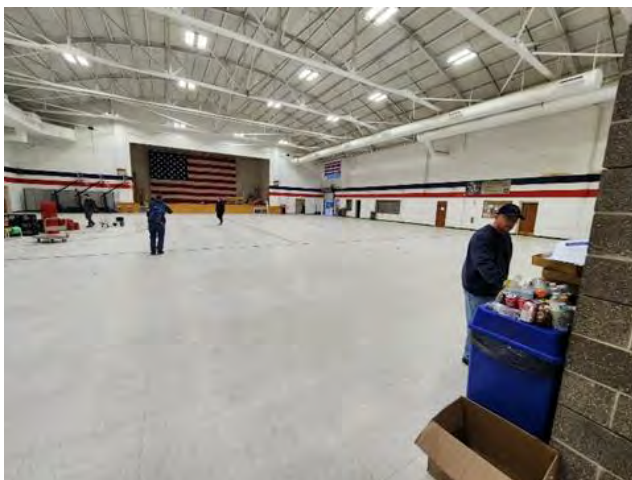






3:00PM

Before we knew what happened, the clock struck three and our carriage turned into a pumpkin. All hands turned to their stations and the show disassembly commenced. Vendors packed their goods, kitchen crew cleaned the grills, the layout teams disassembled and packed their layouts, and the ticket crew banked the entrance fees. Everyone was out and on the road before supper!





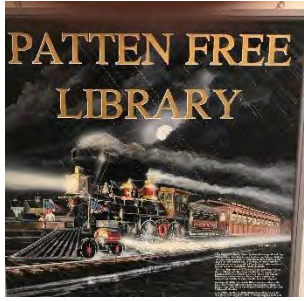
The armory was left as we found it except for some expected trash! They say the quantity and quality of the residual trash is a telltale sign that everyone must have had a **great time!**



Photography by Dave Hodgkiss, Art Shean, and Carlton Spring

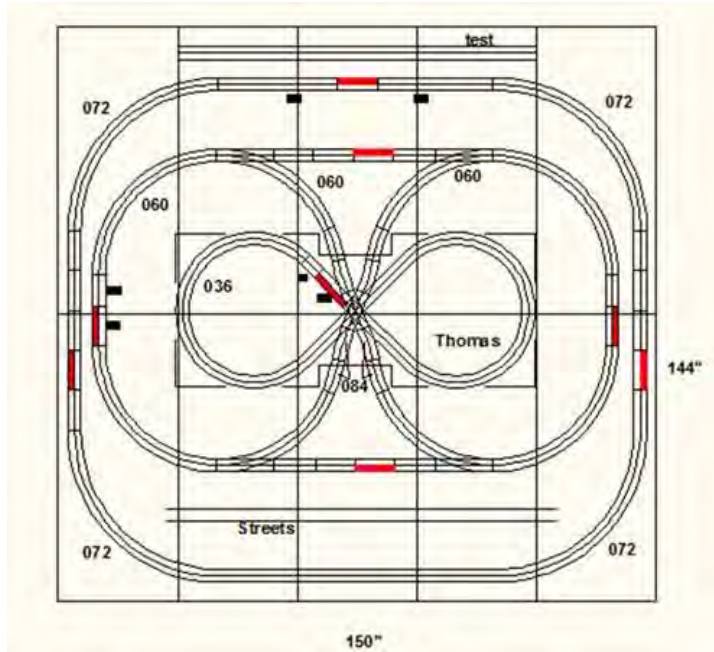


Maine 3 Railers  
March 2025 Newsletter  
Part II

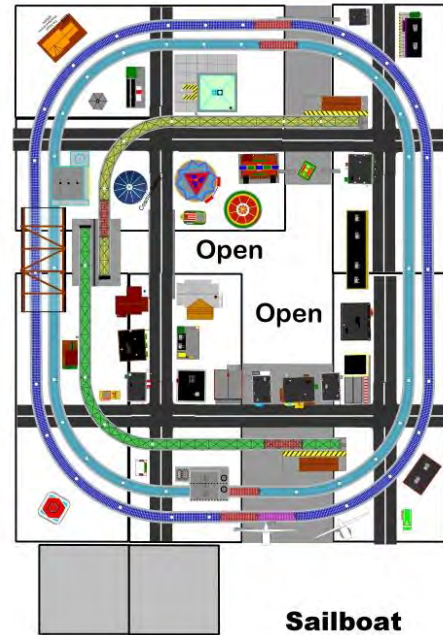


## Steaming Right Along! By Art Shean

Tuesday morning February 18, 2025, the M3R Mobile Outreach Team converged on the Patten Free Library in Bath, Maine for a two-day model railroad display. This was the third of four stops during our February school vacation week marathon. The Bath stop may be our oldest stop dating back to 2013 when we provided the following 12'x12.5' ten table Jeff Jacobs designed layout with an outer main loop, inner figure 8 loop, and raised Thomas figure eight loop on the Thomas raised platform.



150"  
2013 Layout



2025 Layout

In 2013, the crew arrived with the Club trailer and used the Club tables, track, engines, rolling stock, and accessories. In 2025, the Mobile Outreach Team used the library's tables and the individual team member's equipment. It provided 114 square feet of table surface using six 2.5'x6' tables, two gap fills, three bridges, and open space. The outer loop, inner loop, and two raised trolleys used 84 feet of Lionel FasTrak and 43 feet of 6" wide asphalt roadway.



The crew included John Ash, Sam Carr, Doug Pollock, Art Shean, and Carlton Spring.



During our visit Fred Guth and his wife stopped by and Dave Hodgkiss appeared to see his grandson run trains.



The Patten Free Library Childrens Activity Room is relatively small but intimate with room for 10-15 people at any one time. So beside having the kids run trains, we added several new items and an old favorite accessory to this years display to generate some extra interest. To start, Sam Carr brought his MTH animated fire station. This item has been a fan favorite but absent from recent displays due to space constraints. This was especially popular with younger kids who can't quite grasp the full concept of operating a train remote.



New to the crew and of interest to older kids and adults was vapor from the Caboose Coffee Shack. Turns out that if you fill the caboose with water, the building vaporizes the water and emits it simulating exhaust from the caboose's kitchen. We never tried it before but it worked very well and lasted all day on a single fill. If you look carefully at the above photo you can see a slim stream of vapor rising from the right top of the roof above the coffee lettering.



Lastly, Carlton Spring brought a metal 28" bridge that he purchased at this year's Club train show for 5 bucks. It fit nicely over one of our gaps to support a road. The color and design immediately reminded us of the bridge between Topsham and Brunswick that will be replaced by a new bridge currently under construction. We nicknamed it the miniture "Frank J. Wood" Memorial Bridge or green bridge as it is locally called. As no surprise, it appeared on the Topsham Library model train display two days later.



When you participate in a multiday display you have some time in between setup and move out to explore the venue in more depth. What I discovered was that the Patten Free Library is a very busy place catering to a number of community interests and needs.



Beside the normal function of lending books, they offer a plethora of other services and activities as can be seen by the following postings:



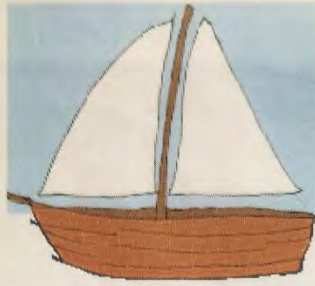
They give away free books and fresh vegetables as well as help people prepare their annual income taxes.



They also team up with other local organizations on special projects. One I had not noticed in the past was in the very room we ran trains. In the back of the Children's Activity Room sits a red sailboat which we loaded up with much of our equipment. Turns out this sailboat has a story and a name.



In hindsight, rather disrespectful of us.



The Patten Free Library and the Maine Maritime Museum collaborated on a *Boatbuilding Project*.

The Library and the Museum, in Bath, “the City of Ships”, reflects a 400 year old maritime heritage by having built a Marconi rigged sail boat for the Patten Free Library Children’s Room. Mostly constructed by children, the completed boat is a permanent fixture as a place for children to sit and read.

The workshop, conducted by Boatshop Manager, Kurt Spiridakis, took place at the Maine Maritime Museum’s Boatshop for five mornings during the week of July 13, 2009. Parents and 24 children, ages 8 and up, participated for one or all of the daily sessions.

The little red boat was christened *Time of Wonder*, in honor of the 1958 Caldecott Medal winner, of the same name, written and illustrated by Robert McCloskey. The book tells the story of a family’s summer on a Maine island.



Who Knew! The story and picture of the crew are posted on a placard in the Children’s Activity Room.

In the two days we ran model trains we entertained a lot of kids. As always this is our reward for our efforts:







## Maine 3-Railers Model Trains



**Tues Feb 18: 10am - 6pm**

**Wed Feb 19 :10am - 3pm**

All Ages



[patten.lib.me.us](http://patten.lib.me.us) | 207-443-5141 x1016



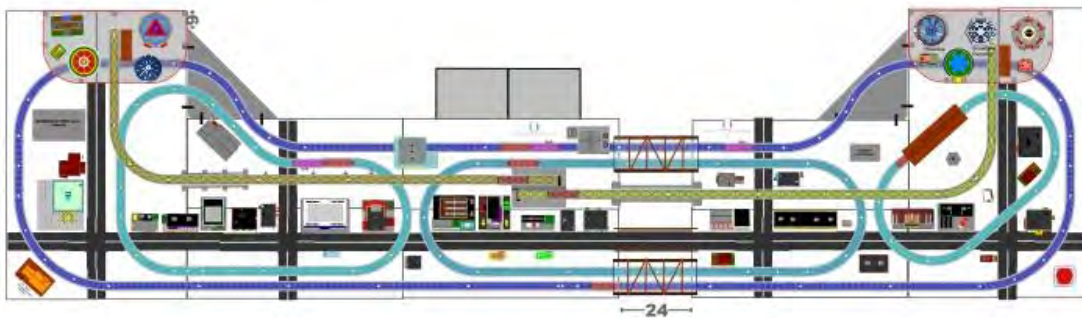
Photography by Art Shean & Carlton Spring



### Fourth of Four but the Biggest by Art Shean

If it's Friday, are we in Topsham? February was a busy month for the Mobile Outreach Team running trains for six days at four different locations. The most intense period was from Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup> with only two days off to unload and repack our vehicles. During this period, we were either running trains or setting up their displays. Fortunately, on Thursday afternoon

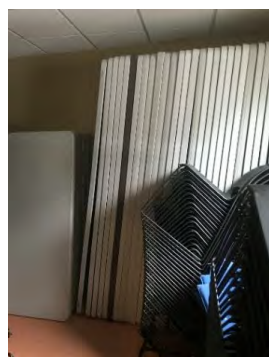
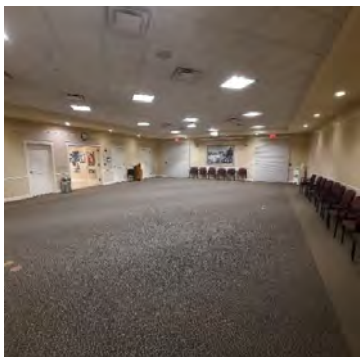
February 20<sup>th</sup> we had a robust crew show up in the Community Room of the Topsham Public Library (TPL) which made the set up smooth and efficient. Good thing because this was the largest model railroad display that we have set up this year. The ten table, 186+ square foot display was an enlarged version of the 2025 Club show display with an additional eight-foot table and a 30"x30" inner corner fill added. The additional 26 square footage provided room for us to add the MTH animated firehouse which the kids love operating. With three inner loops, two elevated trolleys, and a long outer loop, the kids had lots of opportunities to run a train. We ran Carlton Springs' Downeaster on the outer loop, a Club car consist on the center middle loop, and Percy and James on the smaller inner loops.



Over the two days we were at the TPL, the following members helped set up the display, visited, interacted with the public, and/or helped pack up the display: John Ash, Lou Bragaw, Sam Carr, Dave Christie, Frank Folker, Fred Guth & his Wife, Dave Hodgkiss, Jeff Jacobs, Bernie Pender, Doug Pollock, Art Shean, Art's Wife, Art's Grand Daughter, and Carlton Spring.

3:30pm, Thursday, February 20, 2025

The set-up crew arrived at the TPL around 3:30pm, unloaded, arranged the TPL tables into the planned configuration, and completed set up around 6pm.







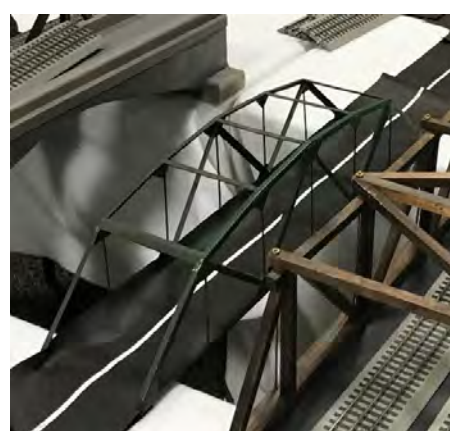
Some points of interest on the layout included:



Sam Carr's Fan Favorite MTH Animated Fire Station and the Model of the Old Brunswick Town Hall



Two Carnivals on Raised Platforms at the Ends of the Display



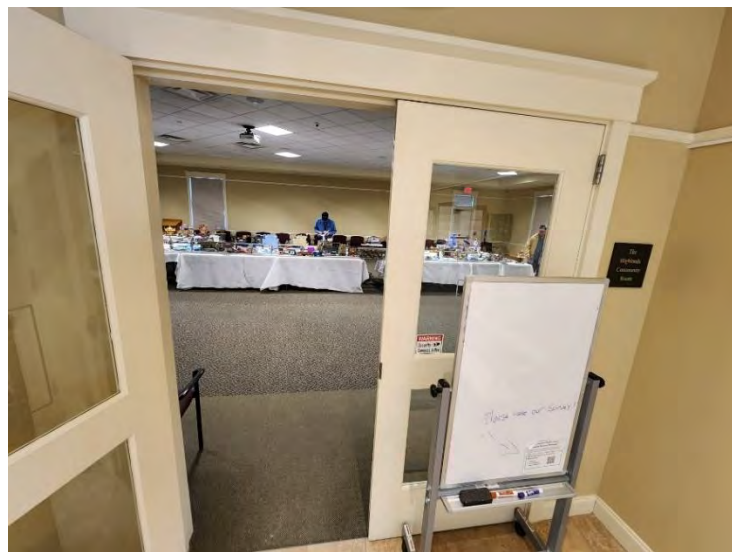
Doug Pollock's Tribute to Veterans and Carlton Springs' Frank J. Woods Bridge Model



The premier display of Art Shean's Menards Country Store Under Expansion and Lionel's Hobby and Repair Shop with Three Miniature Operating Model Train Loops Inside.

9am Friday, February 21, 2025

With trains scheduled to run from 10am until 2pm, the operating crew arrived shortly before library opening at 9am to make final arrangements for the expected crowd.



And through these doors they came - not an overwhelming group but steady throughout the four hours we were running trains.







Old and Young Enjoyed the Show – My Wife and Grand Daughter Even Showed Up



As always, Running Trains Was a Big Hit!!

Beside the trains, trolleys, and carnivals, we also ran the Disney Character Scavenger Hunt. Can you spot the characters in the following pictures?

**Help us find the following Disney characters and WIN a Treat!**

		<b>Mickey</b>			<b>Minnie</b>
		<b>Donald</b>			<b>Goofy</b>
		<b>Pluto</b>			<b>Buzz Lightyear</b>
		<b>Woody</b>			<b>Jessie</b>
		<b>Dumbo</b>			



**Show us where you found them and receive a Treat.**







OOPS! Looks Like We Had One Non-Disney Character!

2pm, Friday, February 21, 2025

No matter how much fun the kids, adults, and crew had, the show must eventually come to an end. At 2pm, Sam Carr called it a day and pulled the plug until next February School Vacation Week.





Photography By Art Shean & Carlton Spring



## **The View from Doug's Chair** by Doug Pollock

Hi, well folks we were very busy this February!

Wilbur's Chocolate Factory

We did not have great weather with the storm, but we had a great layout. The attendance was down but the people we had really enjoyed themselves. The youngsters were extremely polite and respectful. I remember one young man sort of adopted Sam. He wanted to run a certain engine, but Sam suggested another engine that made sound. But the young man said, "No". Sam asked why and the young man looked at Sam and said it is not Blue. Sam replied "OK, the blue one it is." The young man played for a while and his mother wanted him to go with her in

the candy store. So, he comes to Sam with the controller and asks Sam to make sure no one uses his blue controller. The young man comes back after a while and Sam gives him this blue controller.

One lady who was wearing a big, brimmed hat was holding a really young child that wanted to grab the brim of his mother's hat and kept trying. Mom kept pulling her head away. Well, the child again went for the hat and Mom pulled her head away, but the child nailed her right in the face. I do not think he hurt her, but it was funny.

When we loaded up and headed home, both Art and Carlton's cars were vibrating or shaking while driving home. Both figured out what was wrong. They both had packed snow in their tire rims from backing into the snowbanks at the Chocolate Factory parking lot. Both got it taken care of but it was nerve racking at the time. Good show!!

2025 M3R Model Railroad and Dollhouse Show, Augusta Armory, Augusta, ME  
Wow, what a fantastic show - lots of people and they stayed for a long time. I think the count was over 400. From what I heard most of the venders were happy and I think the Dollhouse people did OK? People were enjoying lunch and just moseying around. I stayed at the white elephant table for the most part and was it ever busy and I mean busy. There were at least three of us selling and we sold and made some FANTASTIC DEALS! I believe this helps keep our hobby or sport active. We were instructed to get rid of items and that is what we did. There were a lot of club members around and that was great to see.

At one point, I thought that I saw Peter Hanson at the layout by the door but did not get a chance to talk to him. So, I called him at home the next day and spoke to his wife. She said that I did not see him. I said, "Yes, I did". Then she asked, "Do you know why I know you did not see him." I said, "No". She said, "He is in the hospital." To which I said, "I knew my hearing was bad but now I need my eyes checked."

It was great to see so many of our club members working and visiting such a great show and to see people helping others with a cart or whatever they needed. GOOD DAY and VERY WELL ORGANIZED!

Patten Free Library, Bath, ME

This has always been a well-attended show for us and so it was this year. The kids were having a great time as usual.

At this show we talked up that we were going to be at the Topsham Library Friday and as it turned out we did see a lot of people from the Bath show in Topsham. I was not there the first day but was told it was very busy? I thought the second was busy also. There were quite a few ladies and young girls who seemed interested in everything. I enjoy seeing enthusiasm from our guests. The MTH animated Firehouse was busy all day. It's a wonder that Sam can keep that fire station going. The

guy on the pole is going to wear out his pants soon. A lot of people would leave and come back later - sometimes 2-3 times. They were really interested.

We have a lot of people in our club (BUT YOU KNOW HOW SOME THINGS GO - who caught the first fish or the biggest or the best for eating or who lost the most fish). So, I know this may be something different. Who in our club uses the most forms of transportation to get to our model train shows and does so on many occasions -----??? Fortunately for us he can make many of our shows even if it is just for set up and he does a fantastic job. I'll give you a small hint, he and I both got lost trying to find our show at the Highlands in Topsham a while back and I live in Topsham.

Topsham Public Library, Topsham, ME

Well here we are at our last event in February. At the set up we had some much needed help. Art went all out on this one - it was terrific. When we opened on Friday it seemed a little slow at first, BUT that did not last very long. After that we had people all day long. What a great time everyone had. When we were in Bath, we mentioned to most of the people we were going to Topsham and we saw a lot of people from Bath. Many stayed for a long time. I think one lady and her children must have stayed for an hour. That tells me that we may not be the greatest show on earth, but we were the greatest show going on in the Topsham area that day.

I was honored many years ago to have a model of the old Brunswick Town Hall given to me. I intern have donated it to Art and he gave me a nice train car in return. Now we put the Town Hall and a picture of it on our layouts when we are in the Topsham-Brunswick area. It gathers a lot of comments and picture taking at times. We were at the Highlands a few years back and a man told me when the war ended everyone met at the Town Hall and his father took him. He was a youngster, but he remembers a man pulling a rope and ringing the bell. The man did not let go of the rope when it went up and he went up with it - good story. Remember, when U put on a layout it can be history, and we tell some great stories in these many pictures we paint on our layouts.

Giving away tootsie pops was also fun when the people found every figure in the scavenger hunt. But one young girl asked me if there was any red dye in the candy. I told her to get her mom. And to end this on a really positive note, a young girl who was calling us (her train buddies) had her Mom line up our entire crew while the girl and her friend stood in front of us so that her Mom could take pictures of her and her "Train Buddies". GREAT SHOW OF FRIENDSHIP & LOVE!

### **Keepin' Things Light:**

#### *The Perfect Gentleman*

The passenger car was very crowded. Sitting next to the window, a man had his head buried in his hands, crying his eyes out. The man sitting next to him tried to console him, "Are you sick, can I get anything for you?" The man replied, "No, It's nothing like that. I just hate to see old ladies standing."

Until we meet again, B Safe and keep the tracks clean, Doug

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## Northeast Railroad Happenings By Lucas Leighton, 470 Club

Belfast & Moosehead Lake (BML): BML's recently acquired SW1 705 arrived the week of 1/15/25 after traveling from the Adirondack Scenic Railroad.

Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC):

- Imery's has stopped shipping clay slurry to Searsport and the business will now move by rail from Georgia via CSX, to Irvings mills in Saint John. This was the last major business on the Searsport Branch, with only two other customers (Dead River and GAC Chemical) shipping cars south of Northern Maine Junction (NMJ).

- Train G16, the once nightly Brownville Junction (BVJ)-NMJ turn has been cut back to 1-2 nights per week, as an “as-needed” train due to the loss of the CSX haulage traffic and dwindling traffic south of BVJ. While rumors of CPKC wanting to move the ethanol export facility from Albany to Searsport have been circulating, no evidence of that has been seen so far.



Chessie Seaboard X (CSX):

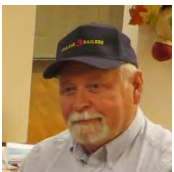
- CSX recently reactivated Pan Am GP40-2LW 503 after several months out of service.
- The Nutrien Ag fertilizer mill in Detroit has officially closed, leaving FCI as the only online customer from Waterville to NMJ.
- The CSX Augusta IT remains out of service after a derailment in August, Pheonix Feeds and Cives Steel appear to be transloading at Waterville Yard full time now. Several cars remain stranded in Augusta and it doesn't appear that CSX will be reopening the line.
- The former Decoster Egg farm in Turner, now owned by Hillandale Farms closed on January 10th. The farm once took unit trains of chicken feed to a mill on the Rumford Branch in North Leeds. The last cars were pulled at the end of December. The only remaining business on the Rumford Branch is ND Paper and occasional steel loads to ARC Enterprises in Dixfield and scrap from Clarks Riverside Scrap in Livermore Falls.
- Speeds from Cumberland to Waterville on the main line will soon increase to 40 MPH. As will track from Winn to Route 2 in Lincoln and Passadumkeag to Hampden. 10 and 25 MPH sections will remain from Winn-Mattawamkeag, Lincoln, Hampden and Northern Maine Junction to **Waterville**.

Granite State Scenic: Supposedly exMEC S-1 958 has been sold to Downeast Scenic, although this has yet to be confirmed. exPTM S-1 1008 is also for sale.

New Brunswick & Maine Railways (NBMR):

- At the end of 2024, Ian Simpson NBM Railway's general manager retired. He oversaw the growth of the company and the creation of Maine Northern. In his honor, Knights Siding was renamed "Simpson Siding".
- Crews are working to brush cut the Mattawamkeag Subdivision over the winter.
- GP40-2's 3068 and 6942 along with GP38-3 906 were shipped to Progress Rail for rebuild into GP31ECO's in January.
- SD70M-2 6402 remains out of service after a major mechanical failure last winter.
- LP in New Limerick has announced another major expansion. To accommodate the increase in business, the railroad will soon be providing 7 day a week service to the mill.
- LPG season is in full swing and MNR has been running to Presque Isle to switch Dead River 2-3 times a week. Each time the transload is switched as many as 20-40 cars can be swapped out.
- Irving also received its new log cars from LSRC in Michigan. Currently the cars are stored on the East Millinocket Branch but as time allows they are being cycled through the Millinocket car shop.
- All ex NS/SOU chip hoppers acquired in the spring are now in service.
- On 1/2/25 Irving announced that they had purchased the Groupe-Lebel sawmill in Masardis which ships lumber and chips by rail. All sawmills on MNR are now owned by JD Irving, this mill which is in a state of disrepair is expected to be rebuilt over the coming years to increase capacity.

New Hampshire Central Railroad (NHCR): Vermont Rail System announced plans to reopen the mountain division from Whitefield to Gilman, VT and eventually to Saint Johnsbury, VT after over two decades of inactivity. While the railroad has stated that there will be a transload at Whitefield, no further details have been provided regarding the nature of the future business or the reason for reopening the line.



## On the Road with Jeff by Jeff Jacobs

Here is the conclusion to my train discoveries while traveling this winter:

On Feb 4 we made a detour to the city of Lima, Ohio. Lima was home to Lima Locomotive

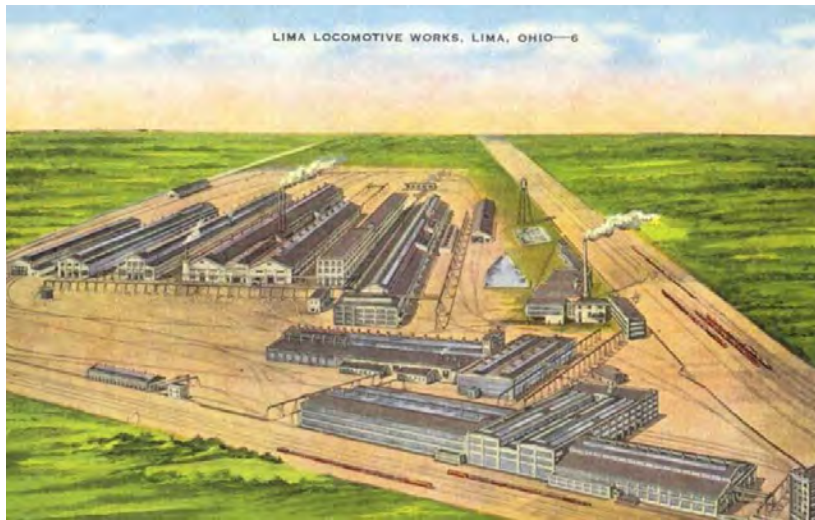
Works which produced over 7000 steam locos.

A great museum there told us more about the city and its history of locomotive production.

Many major railroads operated through Lima so it was no surprise that it became a convenient location for a major builder of new steam engines. What began about 1880 lasted through the late 1940's. The rail lines in Lima

included – the Pennsy, the DT&I, the Erie, the B&O and the Nickel Plate Road, even the C&O & the NYC passed through. An old post card found on the web shows the factory at its peak.





Not much can be seen today at the old Lima Loco Works location, it is just a large railyard.



The Lincoln Park outdoor museum in Lima pays homage to loco # 779





2-8-4 "Berkshire" #779 with eight driver wheels

In 1964, the Detroit, Toledo, and Irontown RR donated this small station to the exhibit. It was moved from Uniopolis, about 10 miles south of Lima. The freight room is at the right while the small passenger waiting room is to the left. The order board still stands in the middle of the below left photo.



Also displayed (upper right photo) is a hand pumped car, predecessor of the motor car which the Jacobs ride in today



LLW started life building sawmills and as the age of steam trains emerged, the factory soon started building the Ephram Shay designed logging locomotive. Its popularity arose because of its flexibility and portability for logging operations which had to move often as they found new forests to cut off. The museum has preserved this example of a "SHAY" with its 3 vertical cylinders.





One of its main features is the high traction achieved because almost every wheel had power applied through the drive shafts shown here. Thus, it could climb steeper grades and turn sharper curves, often scaling mountains to bring down the harvested wood. The definitive exhibit of these unique locos is the CASS Scenic RR in West VA, where you can still ride one of these engines up very steep (11% grade) mountain track.



Overview of one Shay which spent its final days in a local quarry

After the Shay engines put LIMA on the map, it produced the Berkshire, some Pacifics, Mikados, and even Alleghenys until 1949. It would eventually become the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest steam loco producer in the US. During WWII, the LLW shifted efforts and produced more than 1600 Sherman tanks for the US Army.



Railroad model at the museum



Display of railroad lamps



A single person, pedaled track car or velocipede

Feb 5<sup>th</sup> we took a drive to nearby Sidney, OH, an interesting city on the Miami River. Here we caught a glimpse of the noted "Big Four" Railway bridge spanning the river valley.



If you are out traveling the country, you will find that it doesn't take much research to find plenty of railroad museums and artifacts to explore along the way.

We close with this streamline diesel on display at the National transportation Museum in St. Louis.



Photography by Jeff Jacobs



## WHERE ARE MY SHORTS? By Ken Thorson



Most of the situations below were discovered while operating the portable layout in the many locations we attend. In every case, a short occurred that was not obvious. When an engine or a car derailed and you see sparks you know you've got a short and it's no mystery what you need to do about it. Generally, what follows is rarely obvious.

1. Situation – Engine (steam, diesel or electric) blows fuse or circuit breaker on the power supply and will not run. Nothing is derailed. The power pick-up roller on every engine is attached to the bottom of one or both trucks, and the trucks are grounded through the wheels. If the pick-up roller were attached so that it was in direct contact to the truck, you would have a direct path to ground and a serious short. To prevent a short, the mounting of the pickup roller is isolated from the truck by a rectangular plastic insulator (see [photo below](#)) underneath the pickup roller such that the pickup roller never touches the truck itself and the circuit to ground is never completed. I note that improper insertion of the plastic insulator may cause misalignment that allows metal-to-metal contact that creates this problem. It can also result if the screw affixing the pickup roller to the truck loosens and allows play in the

movement of the pickup roller. The insulator is designed to prevent that misalignment, but it still may happen if the screw is too loose.



Pickup roller and plastic insulator

2. Situation – A situation like 1. above may occur on illuminated passenger cars, illuminated cabooses and any piece of rolling stock that is lighted or operates with power and uses a pickup roller to power the light(s) or machinery. The design of pickup rollers on rolling stock is usually different from engines (see [photo below](#)), but they too are insulated from the truck on which they are mounted. If the insulator fails and allows a direct path to ground, you may have the same symptoms as described in 1. Both engine and rolling stock pickup rollers use springs to maintain contact with the center rail and the springs and rollers can sometimes become unseated, hang down, and cause electrical problems by loss of continuity, but that may not cause a short.



Pickup roller on passenger car

3. Situation – We had repeated shorts on a loop that would momentarily cause the engine to stop moving and then start up again. It seemed from the antics of the consist that there was something wrong with the engine. We cut the power to the track in anticipation of inspecting the engine. Before lifting the engine from the track, we separated the Amtrak, Amfleet three-passenger car consist by grabbing the first car, lifting the forward end, and disengaging its coupler from the engine. Whoa Nelly!!! The metal body of that car was really, really hot. I replaced the car on the track and inspected its trucks and wheels. The culprit turned out to be the magnetic coupler armature (referred to colloquially as the button release, see [photo below](#)) on the lead truck of the car and the spring mechanism was weak so the armature was dragging on the center rail. We put a rubber band around the shaft of the coupler to hold the armature up off the center rail and everything worked perfectly thereafter. So, what was happening was the coupler armature was sagging and contacting the center rail such that there was a direct 18V short from the center rail to the coupler armature on the lead truck to the metal wheels to the outer rails. The short heated the entire body of the passenger car.



Magnetic coupler "button" armature

4. Situation - Steam Engine runs intermittently, occasionally blows circuit breaker or fuse on power supply, you may notice occasional sparks emanating from the front undercarriage, often but not always limited to 0-4-0 or 0-6-0 engines without a lead truck. These engines can easily rock (think longitudinally dip and rise) on the track, especially with sections of track that are not level at the joints. The pilot (think "cowcatcher," see [photo below](#)) on such engines can dip enough that it contacts the middle (power) rail of the track when going over uneven track. Because the entire engine body is grounded through the wheels to the third outer power return rails, the electrical path goes from the center rail to the "cowcatcher" through the grounded body and you have a direct short shutting down the layout. Leveling out the offending track so that the pilot/cowcatcher does not contact the middle rail will almost always resolve this short problem. Here is an MEC 0-6-0 engine, MTH 20-3353-1,



where you can see that there is limited clearance between the pilot and the track that could be compromised if the engine tilts forward. This condition would be most pronounced on an 0-4-0 engine.

Don't lose you shorts on your layout. If you have a short and its cause is not apparent, be sure to check out these four conditions before throwing your hands up in the air in abject resignation. ⚡⚡



## Fine Modeling Progress by Jan Williams

*Editor's Note: Progress has been meager on Jan's many projects since his fall and partial hip replacement back in late 2024. His last update was in our November 2024 Newsletter where he reported nearly completing the assembly of his Portland Union Station building walls. But now Jan is back in his shop and making headway again!*

Progress has been slow this Winter, but there has indeed been a bit of progress! I've completed carving on my Union Station walls and have applied primer paint. Next step is to paint the stonework; that is my Spring project.



I finally got around to applying primer, paint, and matte finish to 55 little people for the layout - there will be no more running empty trains on this railroad!



I've also begun drawings for a model of the 1837 Portland fire station. If I finish it in time, and Jeff finds room, it might turn up on the LL Bean layout next December...

Photography by Jan Williams

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-THE END-

## Maine 3 Railers Upcoming Schedule of Events

### Maine 3 Railers Model Train Events

- Apr 12 Southern Maine Model Railroad Club Spring Show, Westbrook Community Center, 426 Bridge St., Westbrook, ME 04092. Set up Friday, Apr. 11<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm, with trains running Saturday from 9am to 2pm. (Mobile Outreach Team)
- Apr 22 Thomas Memorial Library, 6 Scott Dyer Road, Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107. Set up 8-10am. Trains run 10am-3pm. (Mobile Outreach Team)
- Apr 25 Big Trucks/Big Trains Day, 25 Foreside Rd., Topsham, ME 04086. Setup: 3:30-6pm on Thursday, April 24<sup>th</sup> with trains running inside 10am - 2pm, Friday and Big Trucks on display outdoors 10am-Noon, Friday. (M3R Volunteers)
- Apr 26 Great Falls Model Railroad Club Spring Train Show, Mt. Ararat High School Gym, 68 Eagles Way, Topsham, ME 04086. Set up Friday, Apr 25<sup>th</sup>, 4-8pm with trains running Saturday from 10am-3pm (Mobile Outreach Team)
- May 02-03 Baxter Library Spring Book Sale, Gorham Recreation Center, 75 South Street, Gorham, ME 04038. Set up on Thursday May 1<sup>st</sup> from 2-5pm with trains running from 9am-6pm on Friday and 9am-1pm on Saturday (Mobile Outreach Team)
- Jun 17 Sable Lodge, 74 Running Hill Road, South Portland, ME 04106. Set up 8-10am with trains running from 10am-3pm. (Mobile Outreach Team)
- Oct 18 Great Falls Model Railroad Club Spring Train Show, Mt. Ararat High School Gym, 68 Eagles Way, Topsham, ME 04086. Set up Friday, Oct 17<sup>th</sup>, 4-8pm with trains running Saturday from 10am-3pm (Mobile Outreach Team)
- Nov 01 Southern Maine Model Railroad Club Spring Show, Westbrook Community Center, 426 Bridge St., Westbrook, ME 04092. Set up Friday, Oct 31<sup>st</sup> at 4:30pm, with trains running Saturday from 9am to 2pm. (Mobile Outreach Team)
- Feb 14 2026 Annual Maine 3 Railers Model Train and Dollhouse Show Train National Guard Armory, 179 Western Ave, Augusta, ME 04330. Run trains from 10am-3pm. Move in on Friday Feb 13,2026. (Mobile Outreach Team)

### **M3R General Meetings (All meetings start at 7 pm on Zoom):**

- Mar 13 Monthly Club Meeting

### **Roundhouse Sessions (All sessions start at 7 pm on Zoom):**

- Mar 20 Roundhouse Session, Topic: TBA, Hosts: Paul Brown & Art Shean
- Mar 27 Roundhouse Session, Topic: TBA, Hosts: Paul Brown & Art Shean

## Maine 3 Railers Group Email:

The Maine 3 Railers have a group email account in which all members are enrolled. This is the primary channel of communication for club meetings, events, and activities. This also enables members to send emails to other club members. Like club forums, this service allows members to ask questions, provide advice, help other members solve model train problems, buy, and sell items, and pass along model and prototype railroading news of interest.

This is a free service for each member. The group "owners" (Lou Bragaw, Dana Lindsey, and Art Shean) will add your name and email address when you join the club. You will then receive an email with a link to accept the invitation. Follow the link to confirm your account. You may not receive emails if this step is not completed. We restrict the use of this service to M3R members. Because the site is not moderated, Lou, Dana, or Art will review your first two posts to assure you are a member. The URL for our group is: <https://groups.io/g/M3R>.

Once subscribed you can email all other M3R members by addressing your email to [m3r@groups.io](mailto:m3r@groups.io), email individual members by using the Directory, update your personal profile, change how you receive emails, or unsubscribe. If you have any questions, contact Dana Lindsey, M3R Secretary.



## TRAIN SHOW

**Saturday, April 12th, 2025**  
**Maine's Premier Train Show**

Join us for a day of TRAINS!



This show will feature operational layouts, dealers, inventory for sale, train displays and much more!


Time: Open from 9am to 2pm! Adults \$5, Children 12 and under are FREE  
 Address: Westbrook Community Center Cost. 426 Bridge Street, Westbrook, ME 04092

DEALERS Please email [southernmainemrc@gmail.com](mailto:southernmainemrc@gmail.com) or visit our website



SOUTHERNMAINEMRC@GMAIL.COM  
 SOUTHERNMAINEMRC.WORDPRESS.COM  
 FACEBOOK.COM/SOUTHERNMAINEMRC





### Great Northern New England Chapter (NoNEC) Train Show

**WHAT:** Train Show, **with all scales**, Exhibitor tables, Operating Layout, Test Tracks, Railroadiana items. Food on premises. Meet some folks, discuss trains, etc. Enjoy yourself and **HAVE FUN!** And—No Sales Tax on Purchases!!

**WHEN:** Saturday, April 5, 2025

**TIME:** 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

**WHERE:** Dover Lodge of Elks #184, 282 Durham Road, Dover, NH 03820

**DIRECTIONS:** DIRECTIONS FROM BOSTON, MA: I-95 North to New Hampshire Exit 4 (RT - 16 N Spaulding Turnpike - White Mtns). Proceed on RT - 16 N Spaulding Turnpike, take Exit 7 (Left onto RT - 108, toward Durham). 1.8 miles and Hall is on left.

**COST:** \$5.00 per person, children under 12 free.

**ADDITIONAL INFO:** Tables \$30.00, after Feb 1, \$35.00.  
 Contact Ed Martin, Show Manager, at [efmenter@aol.com](mailto:efmenter@aol.com) or by telephone at 603-362-4300.

NoNEC	FUTURE SHOWS	October 25, 2025 April 11, 2026
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## GFMRRC 2025 MODEL TRAIN SHOW



**SATURDAY  
APRIL 26TH**

at Mt. Ararat High School  
68 Eagles Way, Topsham, ME  
10:00am - 3:00pm



SCAN ME



Admission:  
\$5/person  
children under 12 free with adult

- Dozens of tables
- Dealers selling model r.r. supplies
- Model Displays
- Operating layouts
- Large variety of railroad books
- Equipment in N, HO, S, O & G scales
- Scenery supplies
- Refreshments

Learn more at [GreatFallsModelRRClub.org](http://GreatFallsModelRRClub.org)

# Maine 3 Railers Elected Officers and Appointed Positions

## Elected Officers and Executive Board

**President, 2025-2026**



Bernie Pender  
[president@maine3railers.org](mailto:president@maine3railers.org)

**Vice President, 2025-2026**



Dave Hodgkiss,  
[vp@maine3railers.org](mailto:vp@maine3railers.org)

**Secretary, 2025-2026**



Dana Lindsey,  
[secretary@maine3railers.org](mailto:secretary@maine3railers.org)

**Treasurer, 2025-2026**



Rick Hills,  
Maine 3 Railers  
PO Box 31  
Amherst, NH 03031  
[treasurer@maine3railers.org](mailto:treasurer@maine3railers.org)

**At Large: 2025-2026**



Jeff Jacobs,  
[specialprojects@maine3railers.org](mailto:specialprojects@maine3railers.org)

**At Large, 2023-2024**



Ernie Vannah,

**Recent Past President: 2025-2026**



Gene Thayer,  
[pastpresident@maine3railers.org](mailto:pastpresident@maine3railers.org)

## Appointed Positions and Committees

**Club Car Committee:** Richard Ridolfo, Chair  
Members: Jerry Gotreau, & Peter Hanson

**Club Car and Merchandise Sales:**

Peter Hanson,  
21 Norway Drive, Chelsea, ME 04330  
[clubcar@maine3railers.org](mailto:clubcar@maine3railers.org)

**Event Coordinator:** Sam Carr

**M3R Activities/Training Committee:** Rick Hills,  
Chair

Members: Mark David, Dave Hodgkiss, Brian Inch,  
& Jeff Jacobs

**Property Manager:** Dave Hodgkiss

**Train Show Committee:** Richard Ridolfo, Chair  
Members: Sam Carr, Vic Fuller, Bill Halley, Peter  
Hanson, & Gene Thayer

**Special Projects Manager:** Jeff Jacobs  
[specialprojects@maine3railers.org](mailto:specialprojects@maine3railers.org)

**Clubhouse Committee:** Dave Hodgkiss, Chair  
Members: TBD

**Event Layout Design:**

Jeff Jacobs (Trailer & Special Events)  
Art Shean (Outreach Events)

**Media Committee:** Vacant, Chair

Members: Conrad Berthiaume, Dana Lindsey, &  
Douglas Pollock

**Webmaster:**

Mark David,  
[webmaster@maine3railers.org](mailto:webmaster@maine3railers.org)

**YouTube Channel Master:**

Carlton Spring,  
[youtubechannelmaster@maine3railers.org](mailto:youtubechannelmaster@maine3railers.org)

**Newsletter Editor:**

Art Shean

*The IRS recognizes the Maine 3-Railers as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.*

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