



MAINE 3 RAILERS

M3R CLUB NEWSLETTER FOR JUNE 2025

OUR NEXT MEETING IS THURSDAY, June 12, 2025, at 7:00PM on Zoom. Watch for the email from Dana Lindsey with the link to join.

CLUB HEADLINE NEWS

- **Late Breaking:** Significant Issue Regarding Club 501c Status to be Decided on at Monthly Meeting
- **A third long term Club member passed**
- **Orders for 2025 Moxie Club Car exceed minimum to order**
- **Preliminary Design for 2026 Club Car Announced**
- **Three Mobile Outreach Visits and One Activities/Training Committee Event Scheduled in May**



President's Message by Bernie Pender

With summer on its way and the days getting longer, I hope you're all finding extra time to enjoy our fantastic hobby.

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to and visited Mark David's open house! The turnout was fantastic, and we received overwhelmingly positive feedback. Your hard work and dedication truly show what makes our club special.

Every month, our Outreach Committee consistently goes above and beyond in promoting our hobby, and it's time we all took a moment to acknowledge their incredible dedication. Their tireless efforts are vital in expanding our community and sharing our passion with new people. Thank you, Sam Carr and your Outreach Committee Members, for your outstanding commitment and for all that you do!

Don't forget our upcoming **June 18th training session** - it's a great chance to learn and connect with fellow members.

I also encourage you to bring ideas for future club activities or guest speakers to our next meeting. Fresh perspectives keep our club growing and thriving! I am always eager to hear about your latest triumphs and tribulations.

Whatever your current project, take pride in the details and the journey. After all, watching our miniature worlds come to life is what makes this hobby so rewarding.

All aboard for more great times ahead! *Bernie*

LATE BREAKING NEWS From Our President:

At the Thursday night Monthly Club meeting, June 12th, we plan to discuss club donations and will be requesting your input as to recipients on the list below or others you would like to recommend.

Please come prepared by reading the following:

In keeping with our 501(c)(3) charitable organization status, and with the Executive Board's proposal to donate approximately 5% of cash assets in 2025 to organizations doing exemplary work in Maine, here is a list of potential recipients that align with our mission of furthering interest in the model train hobby.

This list is divided into two categories: "Community Services" and "Model Train relevant Organizations." Some organizations may naturally bridge both areas. Please note that further due diligence will be essential to ensure each organization meets our specific criteria for "exemplary work" and aligns precisely with our charitable goals.

Potential Donation Recipients in Maine:

1) Community Services:

These organizations provide vital support and programs to Maine communities. While their primary mission may not be trains, your donation could support general operations or specific programs that might, for instance, offer youth activities where an interest in trains could be fostered (e.g., through educational materials, outreach, field trips).

Travis Mills Foundation:

Focus: Supports post-9/11 recalibrated veterans and their families. They provide an all-inclusive, all-expenses-paid, barrier-free retreat in Maine, offering adaptive activities, family bonding, and much-needed rest and relaxation.

Impact: Directly serves veterans who have sustained significant injuries in service, helping them and their families navigate rehabilitation and find a "new normal." Their work is very hands-on and provides a unique sanctuary.

Relevance to our mission: While not directly related to trains, supporting veterans who have sacrificed for our country aligns with broader community service and well-being. This donation would certainly be seen as an impactful contribution to the community.

Good Shepherd Food Bank and other Food Banks:

Focus: Good Shepherd Food Bank is Maine's largest hunger relief organization, distributing food to over 400 non-profit partners across the state. They also have programs focused on cooking education, local food sourcing, and advocacy.

Impact: Addresses a fundamental need by providing access to nutritious food for thousands of Mainers facing hunger, including children and families. Their network extends statewide, offering broad reach.

Relevance to our mission: Directly impacts community well-being and addresses food insecurity, a critical issue for many communities.

Mid-Coast Hunger Prevention Program (MCHPP):

Focus: The largest hunger relief and prevention agency in the Midcoast region of Maine. They operate a soup kitchen, food bank, and food pantry, along with satellite pantries in schools and community centers. They also have a new "Community Kitchen" to support local food systems.

Impact: Provides direct food assistance and promotes dignity and empowerment through access to healthy food in their specific service area (Androscoggin, Cumberland, Knox, Lincoln, Sagadahoc, and Waldo counties). Their school and satellite pantries are particularly impactful in reducing barriers to access.

Relevance to our mission: A strong local community service provider that directly helps those in need in the Midcoast area.

Maine Veterans Homes:

Focus: Provides compassionate long-term care, rehabilitative and therapy services, and skilled nursing care for honorably discharged veterans and their families at six locations across Maine (Augusta, Bangor, Caribou, Machias, Scarborough, and South Paris).

Impact: Offers essential care and support to aging or injured veterans and their spouses, ensuring they receive the dignity and respect they deserve. They play a crucial role in the state's healthcare system for veterans.

Relevance to our mission: Similar to the Travis Mills Foundation, this supports those who have served and contributes significantly to the well-being of the veteran community in Maine.

2) Model Train Hobby/Train Organizations

Recommended Recipients:

Scout Troops involved in Train Badge achievements:

This is a perfect fit. Donating here directly supports youth development within our communities while specifically fostering an interest in trains through a structured program. It's an investment in the next generation of enthusiasts.

Seashore Trolley Museum:

This museum does exemplary work in preserving an important part of transportation history. By supporting them, we're not only helping maintain a significant cultural and educational attraction for Maine but also directly promoting interest in rail transport through their active collection and public programs.

Wiscasset and Farmington Railway Museum:

Like the Seashore Trolley Museum, this organization is dedicated to preserving a unique narrow-gauge railway heritage. Their efforts provide educational opportunities, attract visitors, and contribute to the local economy, all while celebrating a distinct aspect of train history.

Downeast Scenic Railroad:

Operating a scenic railroad provides a unique community asset. It offers educational experiences about rail travel, draws tourism to the region (benefiting local businesses), and keeps the spirit of train travel alive and accessible to the public.

One of the local Train Clubs (e.g., Southern Maine Model Railroad Club, Great Falls Model Railroad Club, or Eastern Maine Model Railroad Club):

These clubs are the grassroots foundation of the model train hobby. They often host public open houses, teach skills, and provide a welcoming community for enthusiasts of all ages. Supporting a local club directly strengthens the hobby's presence and engagement within its respective community. I suggest the board consider rotating support among them or selecting one based on their current community outreach efforts.

New England Steam Co. or NESCO

Current owners of the Maine Central #470 Steam Locomotive. They are in the process of restoring the engine to operating status. The 470 is the last steam powered locomotive to pull a passenger consist in Maine.





From the Editor **by Art Shean**

An old superstition says that unwanted events come in threes. Unfortunately for the Maine 3 Railers that superstition was born out with the passing of long-time member, Tony Masulaitis, just days after we lost Fred Guth and Dave Kenyon.

Tony passed on April 27. Tony and his wife Treva lived for many years in their new home at 135 Stagecoach Road in Woolwich. When Treva became ill, they moved to the Sunnybrook Home on the old Bath Road in Brunswick.

After Tony moved into Sunnybrook, the Maine 3 Railers Outreach Team made a point of visiting Tony each year with a model train display in the Sunnybrook activity area. The latest in November 2024. The picture below on the left shows Tony reminiscing with Doug Pollock while overlooking our model train layout during our visit.



The photo above on the right shows Tony "in his domain". The train items filled the rooms and basement of his Woolwich home, to the point that even the linen closet shelves were loaded with trains! Tony collected model trains and Navy memorabilia for 45+ years. Several 3 Railers accumulated bits of his train empire when he moved from his Woolwich home to Sunnybrook. While many club members also have large train collections, no one enjoyed them any more than Tony.

While retiring in Maine, Treva was very active in the local garden club while Tony pursued his passion for model trains. The couple were both very helpful to the Maine 3 Railers. Treva served as newsletter coordinator and Tony manning many train displays. Some of the activities which they had a big hand in were the Christmas display at the Maine State Museum, the Candy Cane Train in Bath, and visits to the Bath Library and the Plant Seniors Home in Bath. Together, they helped Doug Pollock with the White Elephant table at the M3R train shows. For several Holidays Tony, Fred Guth, and Jeff Jacobs held open houses followed by a festive dinner at Maxwell's in Bath, organized by Tony & Treva.

Photo left of Tony at his finest, dressed for his part as Conductor, directing people to the Candy Cane Train.



May it be said that Tony lived his life well spent!

Photos and Comments from Jeff Jacobs



UPCOMING EVENT PREPARATION:

CUMBERLAND COUNTY FAIR 2025 SCHEDULE

Please send the shift #s you want to secarr1@comcast.net

Setup Shift 0 Fri Sep 20	Shift Hours	Sun 9/21	Mon 9/22	Tue 9/23	Wed 9/24	Thu 9/25	Fri 9/26	Sat 9/27	Pack Up Shift 99 Sun Sep 28
8am Start	9AM- 1PM	1- 2	7- 8	13- 14	19- 20	25- 26	30- 32	49- 50	8am Start
8 members	1PM- 5PM	3- 4	9- 10	15- 16	21- 22	26- 27	43- 44	50- 51	8 members
5 hours	5PM- 9PM	5- 6	11- 12	17- 18	23- 24	28- 29	45- 46	52- 53	5 hours



M3R Activities/Training Committee by Chair Rick Hills

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

Upcoming M3R Activity/Training Committee events:

- June 18 10-3pm: Model Railroading Seminar

Location:

Curtis Memorial Library
Morrell Conference Room
23 Pleasant Street, Brunswick, Me 04011

Seminars:

Decorating People for your layout with Jan Williams 10:00 - 11:30am
Lunch (please bring your own) 11:30-12:00 noon
Budd RDC Car History and Models with Rick Hills and Gene Thayer 12:00-12:45pm
3d printing with Mark Lasher 1:00pm-2:30pm
Wrap up - Bernie Pender

- July 16 Family Outing at Bradbury State Park

Location: Pownal Maine 10-3:00pm

Activities: Potluck, Cookout, and Events TBD

Open House at Mark David's Home May 10, 2025:

Mark's in-person event was fantastic with over 20+ people attending despite the miserable weather. Mark's postwar layout is quite a trip back to memory lane, bringing back so many childhood memories. As Always, Mark was a great host and our training was very comprehensive. Loads of questions, interactions, sharing, learnings, humor. Our training material used during the event is now located on Maine3Railers.com for reference.

I told the group that I felt Jeff's presentation was like getting a master's degree in model train maintenance, so much I didn't know and essential for folks operating layouts.

If you would like to open your home for a layout tour or suggest an activity or training program for the club, please contact any of the Activity/Training Committee members.

Hope to see you all in Brunswick!



M3R YouTube Channel Update by Channel Master Carlton Spring

May continued the busy pace for M3R's Mobile Outreach Team with 3 events. Our first event was the Baxter Library's Spring Book Sale held at the Shaw Gym in Gorham, ME on May 2nd and 3rd. The second event was a visit to the Togus VA Medical Center on May 22nd, and lastly we visited the Augusta Maine Veterans Home on May 27th. I hope that you have viewed all three videos, but if you haven't viewed the Togus and Veterans Home videos yet, please do so. It is such a privilege for us to set up a layout and visit with our veterans, who greatly appreciate our efforts.

Links to the 3 May events are listed below for your convenience:

Link to Baxter Library Book Sale:

https://youtu.be/_J2ivtK2eV8?si=PCiT1ZL1htqCd9GG

Link to 2025 Togus Visit:

https://youtu.be/qRgw8HlcOis?si=Ve5jyM3rQRj_m4zA

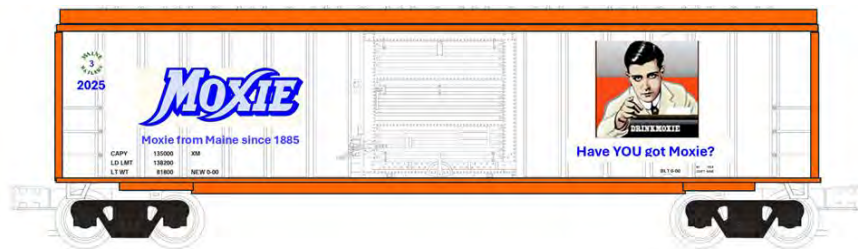
Link to ME Veterans Home visit on 5-27-25:

https://youtu.be/u_3sI9jIY5g?si=cuPO8nQwVwfNzIAd



Club Car News by Chair Richard Ridolfo

2025 Club Car:



We reached our goal of selling the minimum number of cars required. Therefore, we sent the artwork to MTH for them to finalize the design.

There are a few cars left for any member who did not order one. If you want to get one while they are still available, send the order to Rick Hills at PO Box 31, Amherst, NY 03031. The cost is \$70.00 per car. If you wish to have the car shipped, the cost is \$12.00 for the first car and \$2.00 for each additional car. There will be a pickup location announced as we get close to receiving the cars.

2026 Club Car:

We received preliminary approval from Poland Springs to produce a tank car for 2026. They sent us a contract which Ken Thorson is reviewing. The following is an initial mockup for the proposed car.





The Maine 3 Railers have Club Cars and Clothing Available for Purchase

by Dave Hodgkiss, M3R Property Manager

Happy June everyone. Now that we finally have warmer and hopefully dryer days in front of us, we are perhaps enjoying outdoor activities and neglecting our layouts. I would like to remind each member that we still have Cianbro, 4 Bay Hopper, and Hannaford Cars for sale at reduced prices.

Club Cars (See our Club web page for special pricing):

First, is the summer car from our "Seasons in Maine" series. 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). 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.



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

We have not received any new donations or inquiries this month. If you are aware of anyone wanting to donate to the Maine 3 Railers please contact me.



M3R Treasurer's Report

by Rick Hills, Treasurer

All deposits for the 2025 Moxie car have been deposited.

EVENT REPORTS:

THANK YOU FROM THE TOPSHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY



Dear Maine 3 Railers Members,

Thank you SO MUCH for participating in our Big Truck Day event! My thanks are long overdue, but the kids are still coming into Storytime talking about how much fun it was! ~~was~~ we had nearly 500 people attend, and I know you brought joy to all of them 😊

Thank you for putting so much effort into designing and creating such an amazing display for this special event - I truly appreciate it!

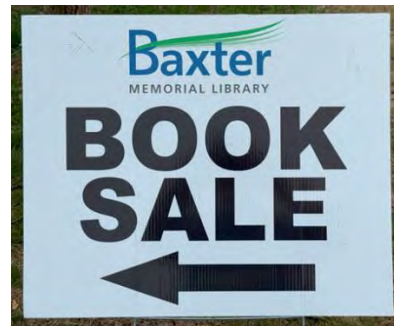
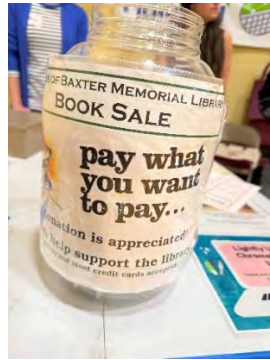
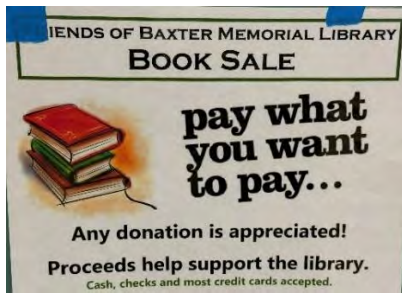
Thank you thank you!

Mariah ♡

Thank You So Much!

Mariah is the **Children's Librarian for the Topsham Public** Library

ZWEI TAGE IN DER BAXTER MEMORIAL -BIBLIOTHEK



2025 Baxter Memorial Library Spring Book Sale

Location: Baxter Library, Shaw Gym, Gorham Recreation Center, 75 South Street, Gorham, ME 04038

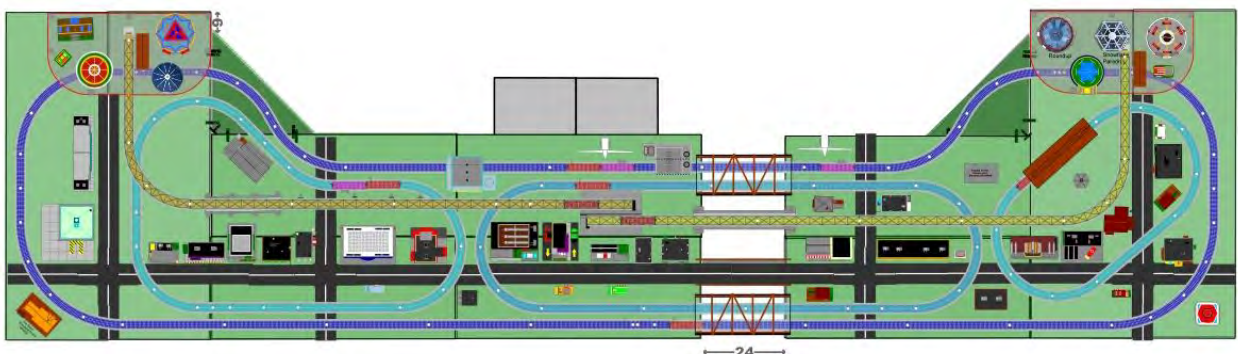
Set Up: Thursday, May 1, 2025, 2-5pm

Ran Trains: Friday, May 2, 2025, 9am-6pm and Saturday, May 3, 2025, 9am-1pm

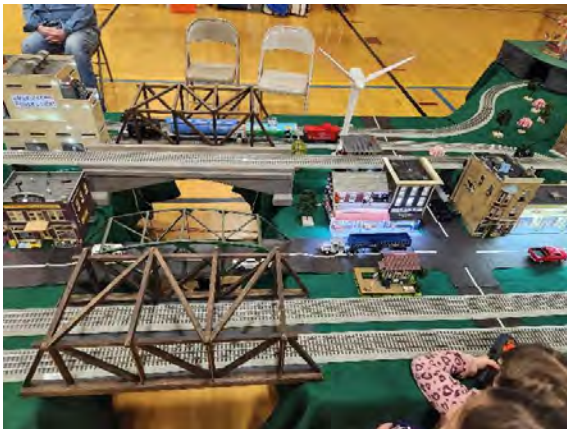
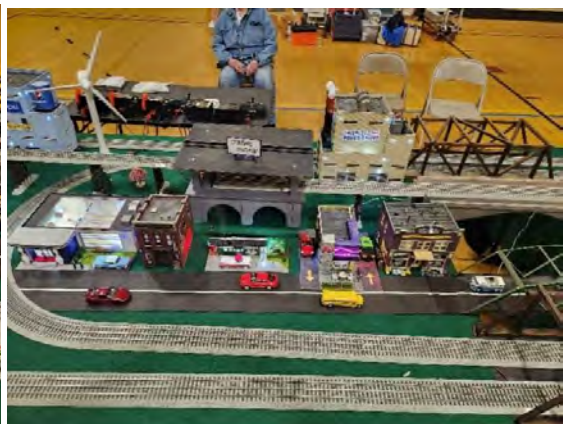
Crew: John Ash, Sam Carr, Richard Hamlin, Jim Newcomb, Doug Pollock, Art Shean, and Carlton Spring

Layout:

- **Dimensions:** 8' x 30', 186+ square feet
- **Tables:** 4- 2.5'x8', 6- 2.5'x6', 2- 30"x30" ICF, & 1- 2'x4' Control Table
- **Track:** Four Independent Track Loops & Two Elevated Trolley Lines on 165+ feet of Lionel FasTrack
- **Bridges:** 2- 28"x10" Wood Truss, 1- Lionel 6-24117 Covered, 1- 30"x4" Raised Single Arch, 1- 22"x4" Raised Triple Arch, 1- 24"x7" Metal Street Girder, 1- Elevated Trolley Platform, 2- 24"x48" Raised Platforms, and 4- Lionel 6-12038 Elevated Trestle Sets
- **Roads:** 52 feet of 6" Wide Asphalt
- **Buildings:** Atlas -2, Carole Towne -3, Custom -1, Korber -1, Lemax -15, Lionel -3, MTH -1, Menards -19, & Woodland Scenics -9

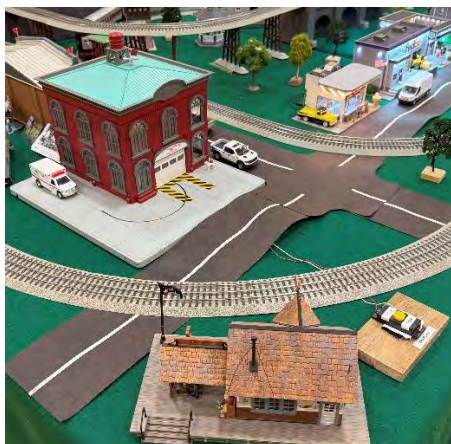


M3R Layout Detail Photos (Left Front to Right Front):

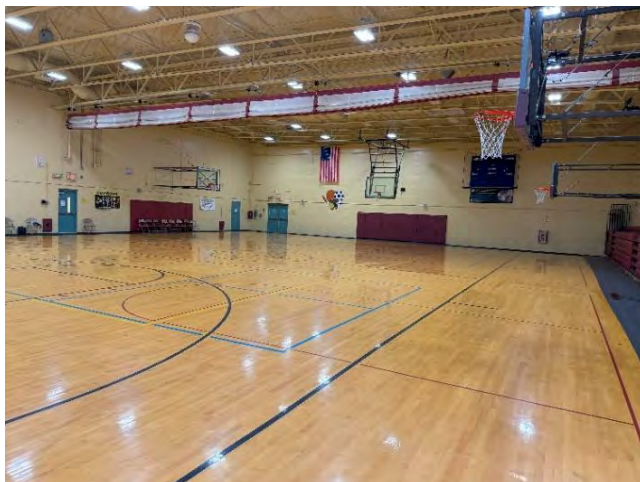




Key Features: Two Carnivals on elevated platforms, MTH Animated Fire Station, Menards Steaming Caboose Coffee Shop, and Lionel Animated Hobby Shop with three miniature train loops inside



Venue: 2025 Baxter Library Spring Book Sale, Shaw Gym, Gorham Recreation Center, Gorham, Maine



Book Sale:



Participating M3R Members:



Sam Carr, Jim Newcomb, & Art Shean



Carlton Spring, Doug Pollock, & Richard Hamlin

Public: The Semi-Annual Baxter Memorial Library Book Sales are very well attended functions spread over two days.





While many searched for books, many came for the trains:





Notes of Interest:

- We had a multi-car derailment. Several cars uncoupled and derailed when hit in the rear by the pulling locomotive. Operators can be easily distracted by the crowd but must watch for car separations and address multiple occurrences of the same car uncoupling.



- Historically when we visit the Baxter Library many kids love running the trains. Our designs anticipate this interest and include multiple loops so that we can accommodate more kids. On this trip we had four loops each progressing in length to challenge new and experienced junior operators. As can be seen in the photos below, this plus multiple animated buildings kept the kids occupied while their parents shopped for books:



LAYOUT TOUR / TRAINING WORKSHOP AT MARK DAVID'S HOME

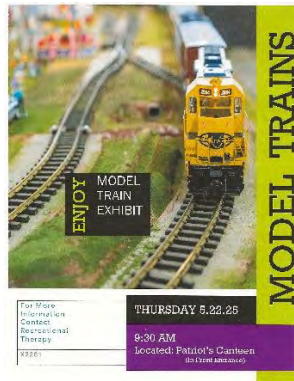
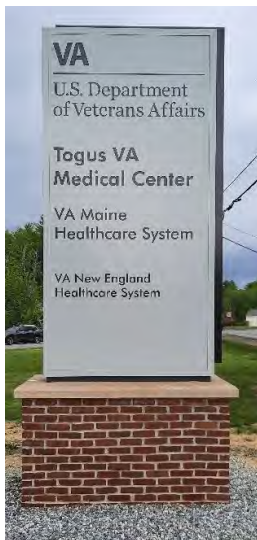
Location: 576 Western Road, Warren, Maine 04864

Date: Saturday, May 10, 2025, 9am-2pm

Seminar Topic: Train Maintenance Tips concurrent with Layout Tour in Mark's Train Room

Crew: Jeff Jacobs and Rick Hills in Mark's Shop with Mark David in his Train Room

REDESIGN ON THE FLY



2025 Togus Veterans Administration Medical Center

Location: VA Main Street, Bldg. 204, VA Circle, Augusta, ME 04330

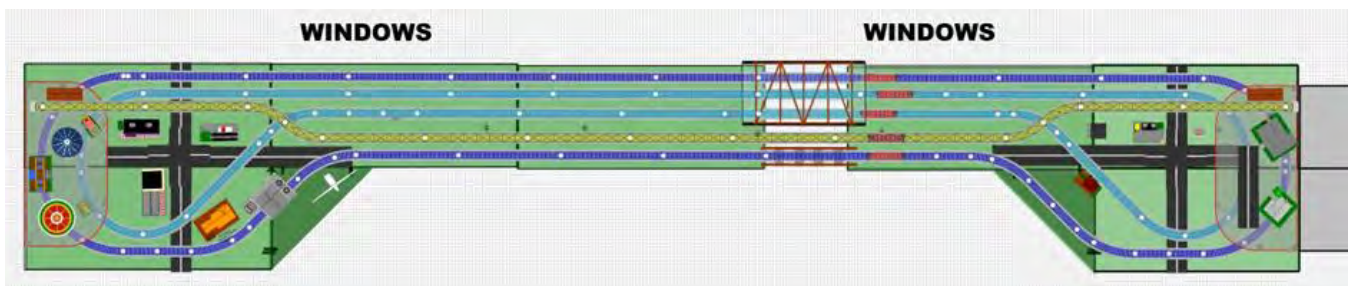
Set Up: Thursday, May 22, 2025, 8-10am

Ran Trains: Thursday, May 22, 2025, 10am-3pm

Crew: Paul Brown, Sam Carr, Doug Pollock, Art Shean, and Gene Thayer

Layout:

- **Dimensions:** 5' x 31', 111.75 square feet
- **Tables:** 5-2.5'x6' Tables, 2-2.5'x5' Tables, 2-30"x30" ICF, & 1- 2'x4' Control Table
- **Track:** Two Independent Track Loops & an Elevated Trolley Line on 161+ feet of Lionel FasTrack
- **Bridges:** 1- 36"x17" Triple Wood Truss Bridge, 1- 28"x5" Single Girder Bridge, 2- 24"x48" Raised Platforms, and 4- Lionel 6-12038 Elevated Trestle Sets
- **Roads:** 24 feet of 6" Wide Asphalt
- **Buildings:** Atlas -2, Korber -1, Lemax -7, Lionel -1, Menards -8, & Woodland Scenics -1



M3R Layout Detail Photos (Right to Left):



Key Features: Expanded Veterans and Deceased M3R Member Tribute, Carnival on an Elevated Platform, Housing Area on an Elevated Platform, and Twenty Unexpected Feet of Straight Lionel Fastrack.



Wreaths Across America (left), Color Guards (center) and Tribute to Deceased Members (upper right)



Carnival (left) and Housing Area (right)

We added twenty extra feet of Lionel FasTrack to the layout at the last minute because the VAMC provided five 6 foot long tables instead of the expected 5 foot tables. Four of these were substituted on the long straight section in the middle of the layout in place of planned 5 foot tables. This change seemed minor but the ripples in design and implementation expanded.

Sam gages the amount of track we bring for a layout based on the original design. He takes some extra but 20 feet of straight track stretched his load. At the end we ran out of 30" straight track and scrounged for shorter pieces to fill the gap on the trolley line.

Last year on the fly we awkwardly placed the control table in the middle of the layout because the power cables were too short to reach the planned end of the layout. Since then Sam lengthened the cables and we again placed the control table on the end with all the power track located in the middle of the layout next to the bridges. Unfortunately, the additional four feet of tables placed the power terminal tracks four feet away from the control table exceeding the cable lengths. Last minute, we moved the power terminals from the left of the bridges to the right which gave us the additional length necessary to connect with the transformers. The transition was completed just in time for Sam to power up the engines for our 10 o'clock start time.



Venue: VA Main Street outside of the Patriots Canteen, Bldg. 204

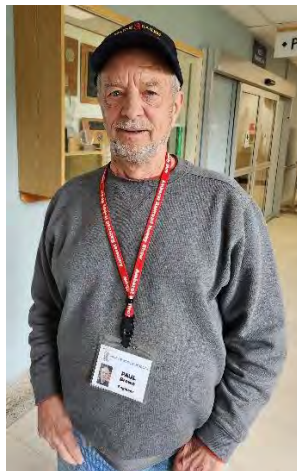


Unloaded Outside Bldg. 205 with Help from the Physical Rehabilitation Department



Patriots Canteen on the Right Behind the Wall

Participating M3R Members:



Paul Brown, Sam Carr, and Doug Pollock



Art Shean and Gene Thayer

Patients, Staff, and Visitors:

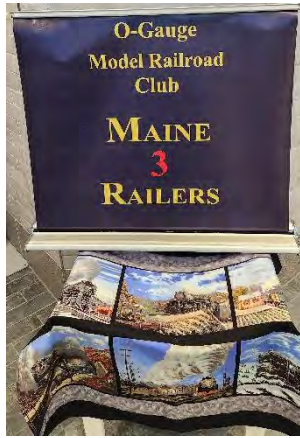


Notes of Interest:

- Our location outside of the Patriots Canteen had both pluses and minuses. The aisle limited the width of the layout but allowed for long straight runs in the center. Many patients, staff, and visitors pass this area daily. This increases the opportunity for folks to stop and visit.
- At the last minute we scratched placing over half of the planned buildings and provided power to only the carnival rides and a few select buildings. On many of our visits we have only two hours to set up and be ready to run trains by 10 am. Transporting our equipment from outside Bldg. 205 to Bldg. 204 as well as the redesign necessary to compensate for the change in tables detracted from fulfilling our full plan.

Photography by Art Shean





LOTS OF DEBUTS ON THE MVH-A DISPLAY



2025 Maine Veterans Home-Augusta

Location: Maine Veterans Home – Augusta, 35 Heroes Way,
Augusta, ME 04330

Set Up: Tuesday, May 27, 2025, 8-10am

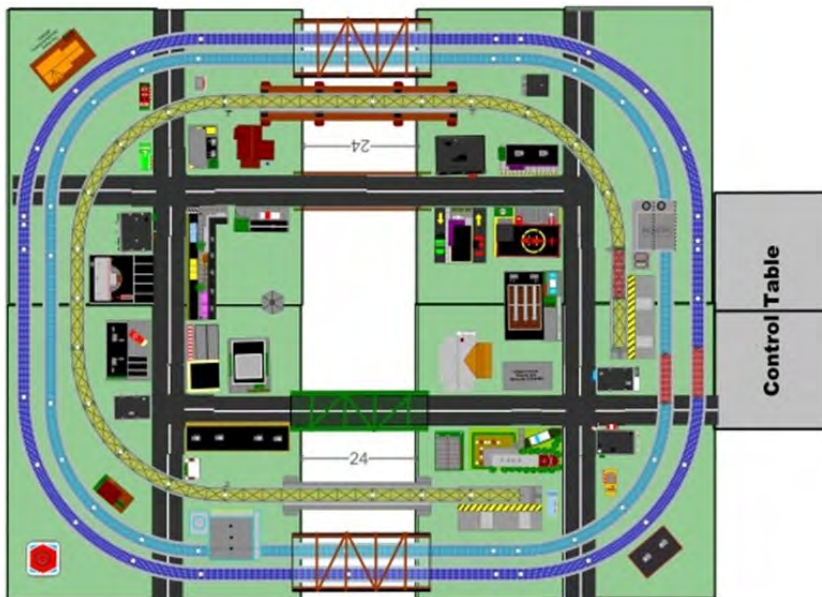
Ran Trains: Tuesday, May 27, 2025, 10am-3pm

Crew: Paul Brown, Sam Carr, Dave Christie, Doug Pollock, Art Shean, Carlton Spring, and Gene Thayer

Layout:

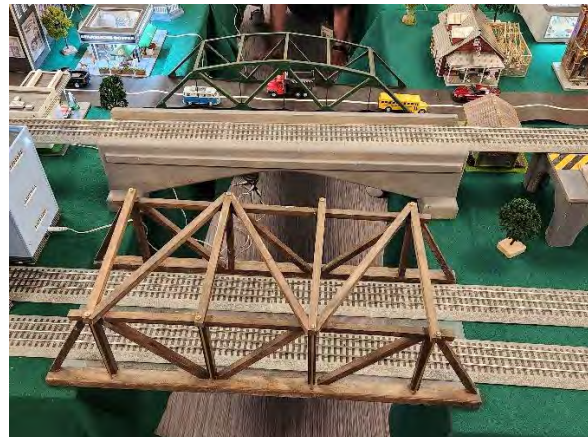


- **Dimensions:** 10' x 12', 120 square feet
- **Tables:** 8 - 2 ½' x 5' Tables & 1 - 2' x 4' Control Table
- **Track:** 2 Independent Track Loops, and an Elevated Trolley Line on 93+ feet of Lionel FasTrack
- **Bridges:** 1- 30" Single Track Arch Bridge, 1- 40" Single Track Wood Truss (LCCA) Bridge, 2- 28" Dual Track Wood Truss Bridge, 1- 28" Single Lane Metal Truss (Green) Bridge, 1- 28" Single Lane Girder Bridge, 2- Elevated Trolley Platforms, & 4 - Lionel 6-12038 Elevated Trestle Sets
- **Roads:** 45 feet of 6" Wide Asphalt
- **Buildings:** Atlas -2, Carole Towne -1, Korber Models -1, Lemax -7, Menards -18, & Woodland Scenics -9





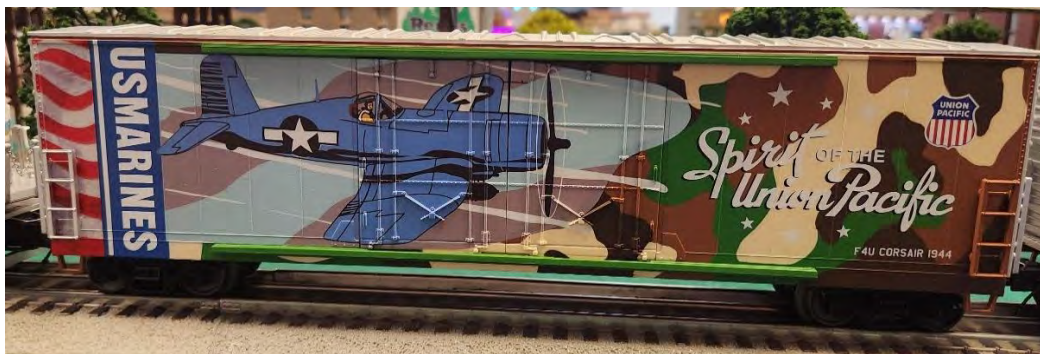
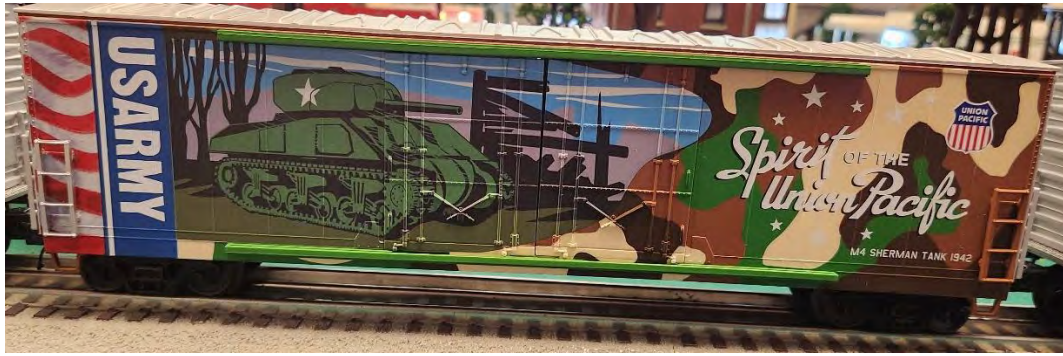
M3R Layout Detail Photos (Counterclockwise from Front Center):





Key Features: Armed Services Tribute Consist Pulled by George Bush 41 Diesel Engine with Spirit of 76 Caboose, Woodland Scenics Miss Molly's Diner, Menards Steaming Caboose Coffee Shop, Expanded Veterans and Deceased M3R Member Tribute, Menards Multi-Building Main Street Series #1, and the Lionel Cell Phone Tower.









Venue: The Maine Veterans Home located in Augusta is a very well maintained facility just off Interstate Highway 95, Exit 113. The home has many amenities such as a bistro, chapel, barber shop, theater, children's play area, and lounge/game room. We set up our layout in the theater just off the main lobby and bistro.



Participating M3R Members:



Paul Brown, Sam Carr, Dave Christie, and Doug Pollock



Art Shean, Carlton Spring, and Gene Thayer

Patients, Staff, and Visitors: MVH-A Management requested that we not take pictures of the residents. Regardless we had more participation than in previous years.

Notes of Interest:

- While we were running trains a resident in his wheelchair rolled up to a member and asked if the M3R member with the new corvette was coming today? Apparently, he truly enjoyed seeing Vic Fuller's corvette in the parking lot last year and was hoping to see it again this year. When we told him that Vic had a conflicting commitment, he abruptly did a 180 degree turn and left the theater. He was obviously disappointed.
- The MVH-A staff received a train related tapestry in one of their incoming shipments without any obvious place to display it. They gave it to us thinking we could display it during future train layouts around the State.
- The crew brought multiple items to display for the first time. Items making their debuts included the armed services box cars, Miss Molly's Diner, The Lionel cell tower, the Menards multi-building Main Street #1, and the gifted train tapestry.
- With the highly experienced robust member participation, set up and tear down went very smoothly. We were ready to run trains half an hour before scheduled start time and out the door after tear down in an hour. Thanks to all for participating.



Photography by Art Shean and Carlton Spring





The View from Doug's Chair by Doug Pollock

Editor's Note: April and May 2025 were busy months for Doug and our Mobile Outreach Team with three funerals, four events in April, and three more in May. Doug finally caught his breath and recovered below.

April, what a month with four great model train shows! I covered the Southern Maine Model Railroad Club Spring Train Show last month. This month I will cover the rest:

Thomas Memorial Library:

First was the library at Cape Elizabeth – Art, Sam, & Carlton handled this well. It was a lot for only 3 people to handle with set up then break down. It was a lot, but they came through with flying but tired colors.

Big Truck Day at the Topsham Public Library:

Second was the Topsham Library BIG TRUCK DAY. So here we ran G SCALE TRAINS, which was a great layout with a few more members helping. I cannot remember all who came but I do remember John Ash. He is the only person in the club who must take 2 or 3 different modes of transportation to get to a show to help. And he is great help and fun to work beside. We set up on Thursday afternoon and finished the next morning. Art set up his scavenger hunt which is always a huge success. He knew it would be too much work for us, so he brought in his Granddaughter to help pass out the tootsie pop prizes. It was fantastic! EVERYONE was overjoyed with the BIG TRUCKS outside and the BIG G SCALE TRAINS inside. Families would come, go away, and then come back 1-3 times. And they really looked at every detail. It was fascinating to them. In all we had over 500 people. The room was packed at times and a great time was had by all.

Great Falls MRC Spring Train Show:

We broke the Big Trains layout down in near record time and immediately preceded to move some of the items to Mt Ararat High School for the GFMRC Spring Train Show the next day. Meanwhile, Art went home to drop off his G scale stuff, then loaded his O scale items and joined us at the high school gym.

What a set-up we had Friday evening! The track ran this way and that with multiple levels. It was a fun set up - different, interesting, fun, and tiring. We had some wiring issues and other issues, but everyone stuck to it, and it worked out.

Saturday was a rainy morning. We came in early to place trees and cars as well as set up the Honor Guards. At my request, Art brought in the Brunswick Town Hall model with the original picture. Many commented on the model and picture. With these last minute jobs done, we were ready to Rock & Roll.

The show started out a little slow, but it really picked up after a while. We had youngsters both boys and girls, running trains. It was great and we had extra help also for this day which was a blessing. There are many things I could talk about, but I chose only 3.

1st a veteran friend from the Augusta Armory White Elephant sales with his Grandsons was there and we had a good time chatting. He is a super gentleman.

2nd a family of 2 young girls and a mom or grandmother were standing by the layout. I do not know what religion they are, but they wear small white hats. The reason I mention this is because I went to a funeral this summer for a friend that worked at my family's farm and all the women wore these hats. So, I asked do U know Hanner from Bisson Farm and they said yes. We went to her funeral, and I said so did I and from there we had about a 15 minute conversation. They are all great people. The girls and their mom had a fantastic time running the trains.

3rd is a young man and his dad or guardian. Neither could speak or hear. The young man was carrying some kind of camera with a 1' by 8" screen and he took pictures of everything. His dad

went off and I thought we should let the young man run trains. But I could not make him understand me. So, I got the dad, but he motioned that he could not talk. Understanding this, I waved him off and made a circle from one of my hands to the other and pointed to the other person, so he came back to the trains with me. Gene Thayer tried to pass the train controller to the young man but no go. Then, I took the controller and gave it to the man. He in turn handed it to the young man and for a few seconds he ran the train. Then he passed it to his dad because he wanted him to run the train so that he could take a picture. The boy took the picture with the big screen with a SMILE, A MILE WIDE, on his face. Just love those smiles. That's what it is all about for me!

I think these 3 wonderful events were a BONANZA. When I got home from Mt Ararat and hit my recliner, I fell asleep. Sam overcame the electrical problems and got everything running. Carlton looked exhausted but kept going. Art tidied things up and brought in the Town Hall. We had extra help for 2 days, which was a blessing. I could not be more pleased and enjoyed working with all the members that came. Thank you for the comradery.

May 2025:

Togus VA Medical Center:

Well we had a great layout at Togus, it was like last year but different. It was a long layout in front of the windows but there was no construction outside in front of us this year. When I go to Togus, I must be with someone because I get lost. We had a lot of foot traffic as we were in a corridor, and it was interesting to see the expression on everyone's faces – smiles. They were so excited. Some had been waiting for our arrival, many had comments, and showed a lot of interest. It makes me feel warm, thankful, but very sad to see some in wheelchairs. THEY GAVE SO MUCH. Some gave their all, but it seems like they gave more and are still giving. If we can put a little joy in their day, then that is what we are all about. I did see one man that did not even look at the trains and I wondered how much he is carrying inside. May he find peace.

I cannot remember everyone that helped us. That being said, we made some VERY DESERVING PEOPLE extremely happy today. We cannot thank them enough for what they have sacrificed but we can and did BRIGHTEN there day and that is what it is all about. We did a great job and it was a pleasure.

Keepin' Things Lite

Why do they call the last car on the train a caboose??? It historically served as a living space for the train crew, like a galley on a ship, and the word " caboose " is believed to derive from the Dutch word "kombuis " which means ships galley. In their earliest days they were created by repurposing old train cars as crew quarters to house trainmen while they were on the go. The caboose was largely replaced by technology. Today railroads use End of Train Devices (EOTs) sometimes referred to as flashing rear end devices (FRED)

If the number of nicknames is a measure of affection, then the caboose has a warm place in the hearts of many railroaders - animal car, ape wagon, bazoo wagon, cage, chariot, chuck wagon, clown wagon, cook shack, coop, cracker box, crib, crow's nest, crumb box, doghouse, flophouse, glory wagon, go cart, hearse, palace, shanty, sun parlor, and a few more. Who knew????

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

-THE END-

Maine 3 Railers Upcoming Schedule of Events

- Jun 17 Sable Lodge, **(Private)** 74 Running Hill Road, South Portland, ME 04106. Set up 8-10am with trains running from 10am-3pm. (Mobile Outreach Team)
- Jun 18 Model Railroading Seminar, **(RSVP)**, 10am-3pm, Morrell Conference Room, Curtis Memorial Library, 23 Pleasant Street, Brunswick, ME 04011 (Activities/Training Committee)
- Jul 12 Moxie Festival, **(Public)** Lisbon High School, 2 Sugg Drive, Lisbon, ME 04252. Set up Friday, Jul 11 after day camp with trains running Saturday from 8am-4pm. (Mobile Outreach Team)
- Jul 16 Family Outing at Bradbury Mountain State Park **(Members & Family)**, 10am- 3:00pm (Details TBD). Members are encouraged to bring tasty items to be shared. (Activities/Training Committee)
- Sep 21-27 157th Cumberland Fair, **(Public)** Entertainment Building, 197 Blanchard Rd., Cumberland, ME 04021, 9am-9pm daily with set up 8am on Sep 20 and move-out at 8am on Sep-28. (Mobile Outreach Team)
- Oct 18 Great Falls Model Railroad Club Fall Train Show, **(Public)** Auburn, Maine. Set up Friday, Oct 17th, 4-8pm with trains running Saturday from 10am-3pm (Mobile Outreach Team)
- Nov 01 Southern Maine Model Railroad Club Fall Show, **(Public)** Westbrook Community Center, 426 Bridge St., Westbrook, ME 04092. Set up Friday, Oct 31st at 4:30pm, with trains running Saturday from 9am to 2pm. (Mobile Outreach Team)
- Feb 14 Annual Maine 3 Railers Model Train and Dollhouse Show **(Public)**
2026 National Guard Armory, 179 Western Ave, Augusta, ME 04330. Run trains from 10am-3pm. Move in on Friday Feb 13, 2026. (Train Show Committee)

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

- Jun 12 Monthly Club Meeting **(By Invitation)**

M3R Roundhouse Sessions (All sessions start at 7 pm on Zoom):

- Jun 26 Roundhouse Session **(By Invitation)**, 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, 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.



Maine3Railers Elected Officers and Appointed Positions

Elected Officers and Executive Board Appointed Positions and Committees

2025-2026

President



Bernie Pender

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Vice President



Dave Hodgkiss,

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Secretary



Dana Lindsey,

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Treasurer



Rick Hills,

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At Large



Jeff Jacobs,

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At Large



Ernie Vannah,

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Recent Past President



Gene Thayer,

pastpresident@maine3railers.org

Club Car Committee: Richard Ridolfo, Chair
Members: Bill Halley, Rick Hills, Dave Hodgkiss, and Jeff Jacobs.

Club Car and Merchandise Sales:

Dave Hodgkiss,

clubcar@maine3railers.org

Maine3Railers, PO Box 31, Amherst, NH 03031

Event/Outreach Committee:

Sam Carr, Coordinator

Members: Frank Folker, Jeff Jacobs, Doug Pollock, Art Shean, and Carlton Spring

M3R Activities/Training Committee:

Rick Hills, Chair

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

Property Manager: Dave Hodgkiss

Train Show Committee:

Co-Chairs: Jeff Jacobs and Gene Thayer

Members: Paul Brown, Sam Carr, Dave Hodgkiss, Dana Lindsey, Doug Pollock, and Richard Ridolfo

Special Projects Manager: Jeff Jacobs

Event Layout Design:

Jeff Jacobs (Special Events)

Art Shean (Mobile Outreach Events)

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

Maine3Railers

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