



MAINE 3 RAILERS

M3R CLUB NEWSLETTER FOR NOVEMBER 2025

Our Next Meeting is Thursday Evening, November 13, 2025, at 7:00PM on Zoom. Watch for an invitation and link to join from our Club Secretary, Dana Lindsey.

CLUB HEADLINE NEWS

- M3R Anchors GFMRC Train Show in New Venue
- Mobile Outreach Team at Baxter Library Booksale
- Paul Brown's Open House Postponed Due to Flooding
- MOT Event Schedule Slashed
- L.L. Bean Construction Cancels Annual Model Train Display



President's Message by Bernie Pender

Greetings to the Dedicated Members of the Maine 3 Railers!

As the November air turns crisp and we approach the holiday season, I want to send my best wishes to all of you who share a passion for model railroading.

What you do isn't just a hobby; it's a tribute to a crucial part of the American story. The railroads were the original engine of our nation's progress - connecting coasts, carrying commerce, and building communities. In a very real sense, the model train layouts you build, wire, and perfect are small, magnificent homages to that powerful legacy.

The commitment you show to detail - from laying the track and wiring the controls to crafting the landscapes and weathering the cars - is a perfect example of the dedication and American ingenuity we need in every endeavor. It takes vision, patience, and a steady hand to create those miniature worlds, and every town, track, and tiny semaphore you install represents an incredible investment of time and care. It also takes a Team to reach out and involve other members with your projects.

November is a time for reflection, and as we gather with family and friends, I know many of your layouts will become the centerpieces of holiday joy, inspiring wonder in children and sparking nostalgia in adults. You're not just running trains; you're creating memories and passing down a remarkable tradition.

Keep up the great work in preserving this wonderful piece of our heritage. I hope you all have a successful month of modeling!

Please mark your calendars for our annual general meeting. This is a crucial opportunity for all members to review our collective accomplishments and look ahead to the new year.

We encourage all members to attend as we focus on two significant areas:

- **Year-in-Review and 2026 Planning:** All **Chairpersons** will present a report on their respective committees' work and achievements over the past year. Following this, they will outline their key objectives and strategies for **2026**.
- **The Newsletter's Future:** The **Newsletter Editor** will share his reflections on the past year of member communication and provide insight into his exciting plans for the content and format of the newsletter in **2026**.

We look forward to a productive and informative meeting as we set the stage for a successful year ahead.

See you on the rails, *Bernie*



From the Editor **by Art Shean**

In preparation for our Annual Club Meeting, Bernie Pender asked me, as M3R Newsletter Editor, to share our Newsletter reflections for 2025 and thoughts/plans for 2026. My response is as follows:

Maine 3 Railers Newsletter Mission Statement: Inform and Document

Our Club Newsletter informs members and other interested parties who we are as a Club, what we do, and reflects our values and character. Without our newsletters, six months from now, most will not know what we did, when we did it, who did it, or whether it was worth doing again. The Newsletter is our long-term Club memory.

Schedule: The M3R Newsletter is published and sent via email to every Club member each month on Tuesday before each Club Monthly meeting. In addition, a copy of the Newsletter is posted to the Club's website. The website also includes the Newsletters for the previous 11 months so that a continuous rolling years' worth of Newsletters is always available on demand.

Format:

- Headlines
- Leadership Messages (President with room for others)
- Club News (including last-minute updates)
- Officer, Committee, and Appointee Reports
- Event Reports & Comments
- Information/Interest Articles (If it is train related, we include it!)
- Club Calendar
- Club Officer and Appointee Contact Roster

Recommended Event Report Format:

If a tree falls in your back yard while you are away, how loud was the crash? If the Maine 3 Railers hold an event and the organizers do not provide an event report, in the minds of most Club members that were unable to attend, the event never happened.

Completing the following template will document most events:

WHO: Who ran the event and who was the target audience?

WHAT: Describe the event in terms the reader will understand.

WHEN: Dates and times of the event.

WHERE: Address and venue in which the event was held.

WHY: For what purpose was the event held? What was the objective of the exercise?

AUDIENCE REACTION: How well was the event received by the target audience? Did the event achieve the intended objective?

LEARNABLE LESSONS: Did we learn anything from the event that will help improve our performance in the future.

ANEDOTES: Any interesting occurrences or observations regarding the interaction of the following: Club members, target audience, equipment, venue, travel to or from the event. These will help humanize the report and make the event more memorable.

PICTURES/DRAWINGS/ILLUSTRATIONS: Each one counts for 1,000 words and provides far more credibility than a written description.

Regular M3R Newsletter Contributors:

- Sam Carr
- Jeff Jacobs
- Bernie Pender
- Doug Pollock
- Richard Ridolfo
- Carlton Spring
- Ken Thorson
- Jan Williams

Continuing Goals in the Coming Year:

- Solicit broader member and source input
- Facilitate improved communications between Members and Club Leadership
- Improve timeliness and accuracy of input
- Support greater transparency regarding Club Planning and Activities
- Groom backup editorial and reporting resources



Trains at L.L. Bean by Jeff Jacobs, Project Manager

Many of you are aware of the major construction taking place at the L.L. Bean flagship store in Freeport. The question is often asked “What does that mean for a Christmas train display?”. Simple answer, there will not be a 2025 L.L. Bean Model Train Display.



M3R YouTube Channel Update by Channel Master Carlton Spring

October found the Mobile Outreach Team (MOT) participating in two popular events. The first event, the Great Falls Model Railroad Club's (GFMRC) Fall Train Show, was held on Saturday, October 11th, at Edward Little High School in Auburn, ME. Set up was Friday afternoon. The direct link to the video of this event is below:

Link to GFMRC Fall Train Show: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-xZr8RPX1es>

The second event was the Baxter Library's Fall Book Sale held at the Shaw Gym in Gorham, ME on Friday, October 17th and Saturday, October 18th. Set up was Thursday afternoon. This event is perhaps the most popular for children running trains and operating the firehouses. The direct link to the video of this event is below:

Link to Baxter Library Fall Book Sale: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=49QPOPoJxEI>

Our next event will be in January 2026 at the Highlands in Topsham.



Mobile Outreach Team (MOT) Report Sam Carr, Event Coordinator

After a great deal of soul searching, our Mobile Outreach Team (MOT) decided to sharply reduce their model train display schedule effective immediately. There will not be any train displays for the rest of 2025. In January the MOT will start their two-year event schedule shown below. The new schedule reduces the number of events from 25 per year to 17 by downgrading biannual events to one per year, spreading assisted living and some library visits to every other year, eliminating under participating guest events, reducing the duration of multiple day events, and limiting the number of events to two per month with limited exceptions. This move was dictated by the dwindling level of member regular participation, MOT member aging, member health, and family commitments.

SAMPLE TWO YEAR MOT SCHEDULE

Even Years (2026)

Assisted Living

Lincoln Home
Sable Lodge
Highlands

Veterans Facilities

Togus
Maine Veterans Home - Augusta

Events

Wilbur's Chocolates **February**
Moxie Festival **July**
Cumberland County Fair **September**
L.L. Bean **November to January 1st**
Maine State Museum **December**

Libraries

Patten Free Library **February**
Topsham Public Library **February**
Baxter Library - Gorham **FALL**
Saco Library

Train Shows

M3R **February**
GFMRC - Topsham **SPRING**
SMMRC - Westbrook **FALL**

Odd Years (2027)

Assisted Living

Plant Home
Woods at Canco
Highlands

Veterans Facilities

Togus
Maine Veterans Home - Augusta

Events

Wilbur's Chocolates **February**
Moxie Festival **July**
Cumberland County Fair **September**
L.L. Bean **November to January 1st**
Maine State Museum **December**

Libraries

Patten Free Library **February**
Topsham Public Library **February**
Baxter Library - Gorham **FALL**
Thomas Memorial Library

Train Shows

M3R **February**
GFMRC - Topsham **SPRING**
SMMRC - Westbrook **FALL**



Activities/Training Committee by Rick Hills, Chairperson

There are two layout tours scheduled for this fall. Please make note in your calendars. We are expecting great turnouts!!!!

- Mark Lasher Layout Tour, Saturday, November 22, from 10 AM - 2 PM, 31 Perreault Way, Brunswick, ME 04011. Phone 207-449-9400.
- Jan Williams Layout Tour, Saturday, December 13, from 10 AM - 2 PM, 6 Hiram Hill Road, Hiram, ME 04041. Phone 207-625-4762.

Please RSVP to the above members if you plan to attend. Thank you!



The Maine 3 Railers have Club Clothing Available for Purchase

by Dave Hodgkiss

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



EVENT REPORTS:



New Venue – Smaller Crowd

By Art Shean

2025 Great Falls Model Railroad Club (GFMRC) Fall Train Show



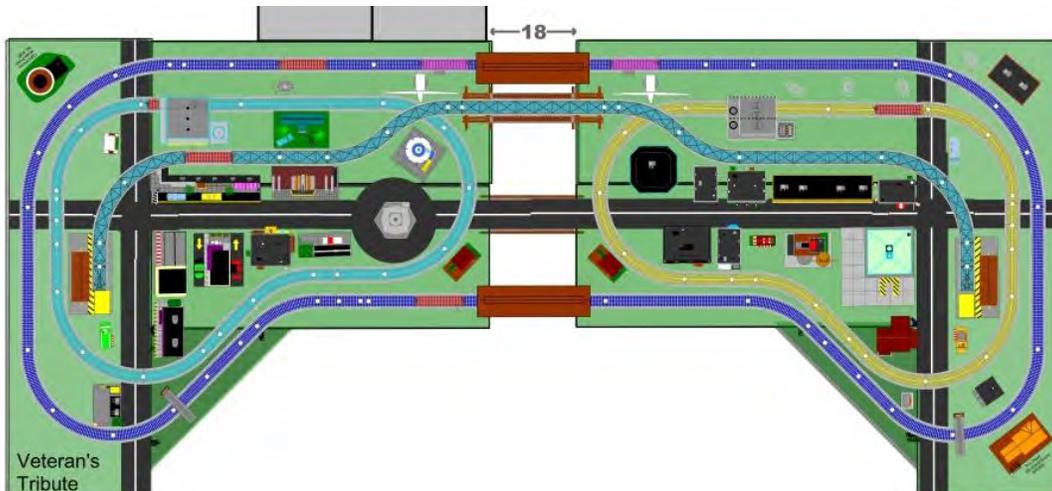
Location: **Edward Little High School**
144 Mills Street, Auburn, ME 04210

Setup: **Friday, October 10, 2025, 2:30-7:30pm**

Ran Trains: **Saturday, October 11, 2025, 10am-3pm**

Layout:

- Dimensions: 8'x18.5', 113.75 square feet
- Tables: 4-2.5'x6' Tables, 2-2.5'x8' Tables, 2-30"x30" ICF, and 1- 2'x4' Control Table
- Track: 106+ feet of Lionel FasTrack, 3 Independent Loops and 1 Elevated Trolley Line.
- Bridges: 1-18" Truss with Raised Abutments, 1-28" Street Girder Bridge, 2- Lionel #6-24117 Covered Bridges, 2- Single Track Elevated Trolley Platforms, & 3- Lionel 6-12038 Elevated Trestle Sets
- Roads: 34.5 feet of 6" Wide Asphalt
- Buildings: Atlas -2, Korber Models -1, Lemax -8, Lionel -3, Menards -20, MTH -1, Model Power -1, & Woodland Scenics -8





Setup

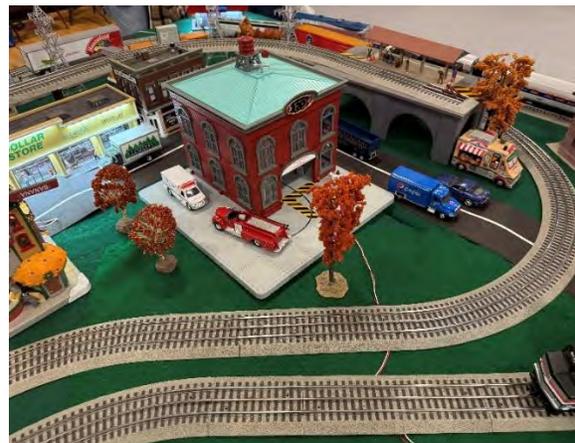
The crew of Paul Brown, Sam Carr, Frank Folker, Doug Pollock, Art Shean, and Carlton Spring gathered at the Edward Little High School in Auburn midafternoon on Friday, October 10th, the day before the Train Show to set up our six table, 113+ square foot model train layout. Margo Robinson, the GFMRC Event Coordinator, allocated more than ample space and the crew adapted easily to the environment.



Set up went smoothly with an experienced crew and six sets of hands.



M3R Layout Detail Photos (Counterclockwise from Left Side to Right Side):





Key Features:

- **New School-New Show Location:** Edward Little High School or should I say **CAMPUS** is a spectacular location for GFMRC Train Shows. Located in Auburn near the GFMRC Clubhouse, ELHS offers excellent parking and easy access to a well laid out campus environment. Inside guests entered through an ample lobby with access to two gyms and a large auditorium. The show used both gyms and the lobby.



Lots of Parking



Easy Access and Ample Space for Everything

With two gyms, vendors, exhibitors, and model train displays were comfortably distributed with spacious aisles. Guests were greeted in the lobby as they arrived and when they were hungry there was a BBQ food truck just outside the front door. Add a bright sunny fall day and the stage was set for a perfect picture.



Friendly Faces at the Front Door



Wide Aisles and Great Food

- Lest anyone not know who we are, we have expanded to on-table advertising using Menards over-the-track billboards. These billboards come with 26 preprinted advertisements but are easily customized using a computer, printer, and some stick glue. So now we have a large sign beside us and O-Scale calling cards on the tables.





- We included Lemax's Miss Milly's Muffin Mill to add additional motion and lights to attract kids attention. Unexpectedly we drew more attention from adult hobbyists who wanted to know where they could buy one for their layout. I had to drag out the box more than once to demonstrate the mill's providence.



- The National Power and Light Company continued to produce wind power and distributed it to the other layouts at the show using their Menards electrical towers.



- We slowed traffic on the highway down the center of the layout using a round about. The circle allowed smoother access to the theatre and to cross the adjacent railroad crossing. In the center of the round about we positioned a lighted Carole Towne water fountain. Nearby was a new Menards Sunoco Propane Storage Tank.

- Normally, Sam uses separate transformers for each train loop. On this day he decided to use one of the Club's ZWL transformers. He added a small separate transformer to provide accessory power to operate the MTH Animated Firehouse.



- Not everything on the table was new or novel. Some things such as Doug's "Tribute to Veterans" and the MTH Animated Firehouse are regular features.



Event

GFMRC went all out for their Fall Train Show. New venue, full crew all dressed in blue, unique food choice, lots of tables full of train stuff to buy, and multiple model train layouts. They had an O-scale layout in the lobby and a full scale HO layout on the main gym floor.

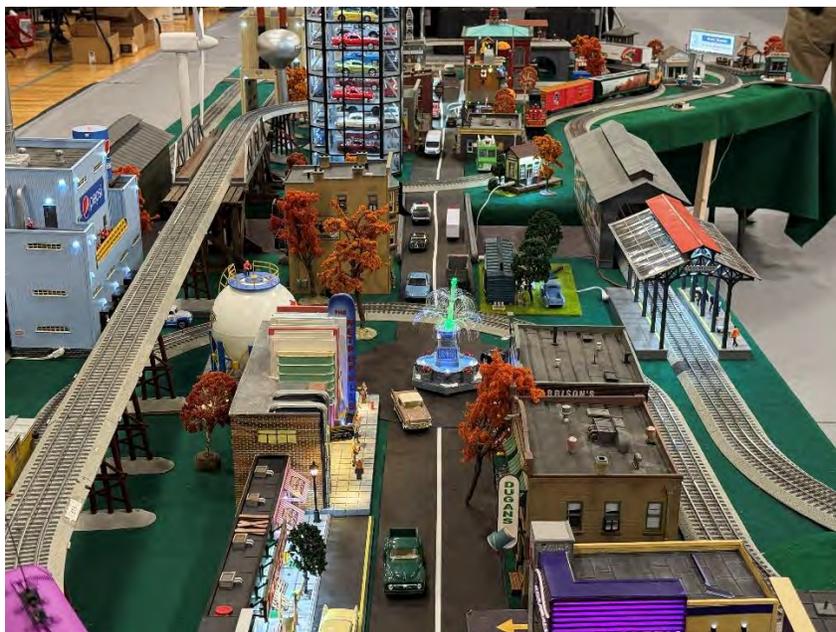


O-Scale in the Lobby



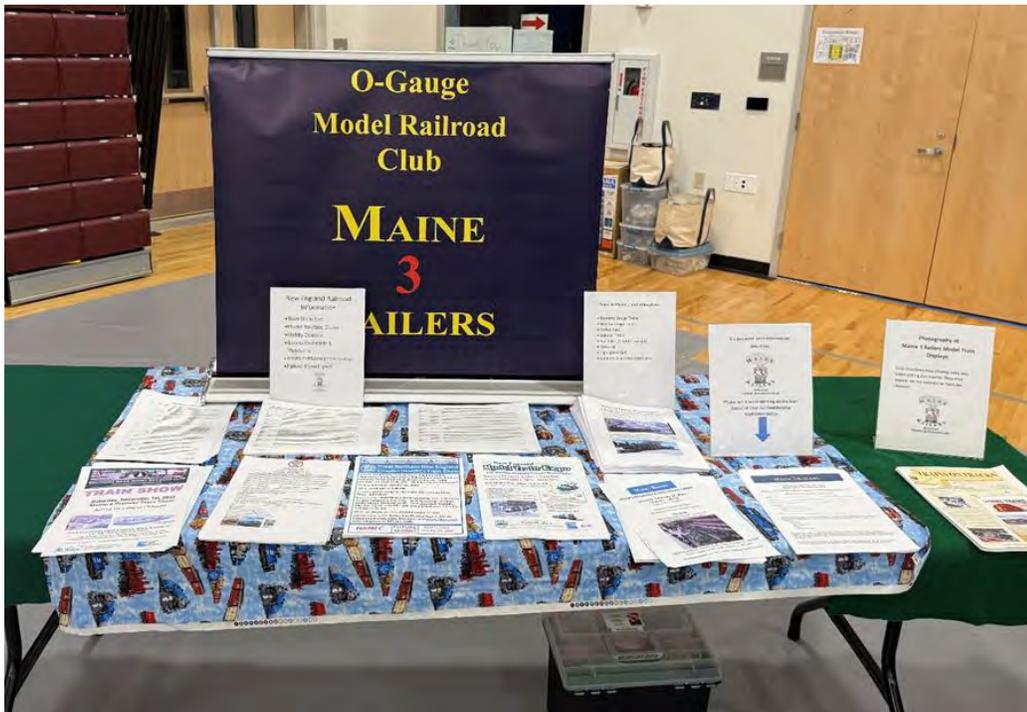
HO on the Floor

Other clubs with model train layouts included the Maine Trak N-scale Club and of course, the Maine 3 Railers.



And two gyms full of stuff to buy and information to share!





Note of Interest

In addition to the layout crew, the following Club members attended the train show:

- Vic Fuller had a table in the other basketball court and Lloyd Niel and Dana Jipson cruised the aisles for bargains.



- George Small and his grandson, Jordan attended to man the 470's exhibit.



Jack & Carol Dexter, Jeff Jacobs, David Smith, and Ken Thorson stopped by the layout to say hello before venturing out to survey the vendor's offerings. Ken stayed around to help dismantle the layout.





Disassembly and Pack Up:

Sam Carr, Doug Pollock, Art Shean, Carlton Spring, and Ken Thorson stayed after the show closed to disassemble and pack up the layout. With the combined experience of over a hundred past events, they had their SUVs loaded in short order, ready for the next stop at the Baxter Memorial Library in Gorham.





Photography by Carlton Spring



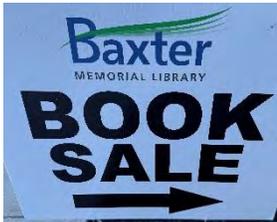
Paul Brown Layout Tour, Wednesday, October 22, from 10 AM - 3 PM, 13 Whitaker Road, Brooks, ME 04921.

My layout is designed as an operational layout for two or three operators at the same time. It has very little scenery; someday maybe more. The layout goes from 34 inches above the floor to 55 inches in two rooms. Any train can run on any track in either direction without touching it. Currently, I'm trying to run two triple-headed with a DP unit, 20+ car freights with a double-headed SD34 short local.

Unfortunately, Paul's layout suffered a flooding event, and Paul postponed the event. Hopefully Paul will invite us back at a future date when the damage is repaired.

Our best wishes go out to Paul, and we hope members living near him will be available to help as needed.





Books & Model Trains

By Art Shean

2025 Baxter Library Fall Book Sale



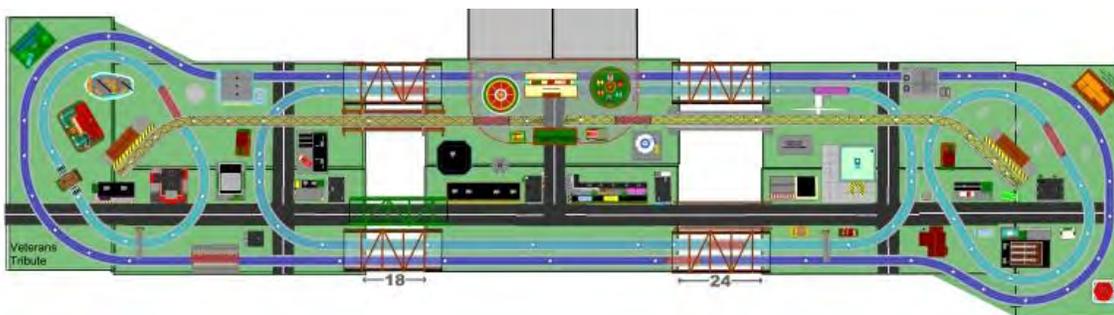
Location: Shaw Gym, 75 South Street, Gorham, ME 04038

Setup: Thursday, October 16, 2025, 2-5pm & Friday, October 17, 2025, 7-9am

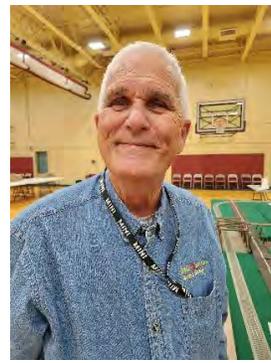
Ran Trains: Friday, October 17, 2025, 9am-6pm & Saturday, October 18, 2025, 9am-1pm

Layout:

- Dimensions: 7'x26.5', 139.5 square feet
- Tables: 8-2.5'x6' Tables, 2-12"x24" ICF, and 1- 2'x4' Control Table
- Track: 142+ feet of Lionel FasTrack, 4 Independent Loops and 2 Elevated Trolley Lines.
- Bridges: 1-18" Truss Bridge with Raised Timber Abutments, 1-24" Street Girder Bridge, 1-28" Green Metal Truss Bridge, 1-30" Concrete Single Arch Bridge, 4-28" Double Wide Wood Truss Bridges, 2- Single Track Elevated Trolley Platforms, & 4- Lionel 6-12038 Elevated Trestle Sets
- Roads: 39.5 feet of 6" Wide Asphalt
- Buildings: Atlas -2, Carole Towne -2, Disney Art -2, Korber Models -1, Lemax -11, Lionel -3, Menards 27, MTH -1, & Woodland Scenics -6



Setup



The crew of John Ash, Sam Carr, Dave Christie, Joe McCarthy, Doug Pollock, Art Shean, & Carlton Spring joined up in Gorham at the Shaw Gym Thursday afternoon October 16th to unpack and set up our eight table 140 square foot layout. Of note was the fact that we used only six foot tables and the table covers from the Club trailer.

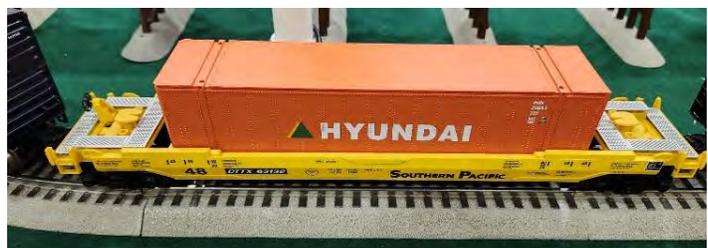
M3R Layout Detail Photos (Clockwise from Right Side to Left Side):





Key Features:

- In the spirit of Halloween, Carlton Spring assembled an orange consist from his collection of rolling stock. The consist was pulled by his newly acquired Lionel LionChief+ Western Pacific GP7 #707. His handsome engine with bright orange stripping was complimented by a Halloween boxcar at the tail with blinking lights on the sides.





- Continuing with the Halloween theme, I brought a Disney Halloween Party House and animated Pirate Ship with lights and music.



- To assure folks knew who we are, we placed several Over-The-Track Billboards with our logo clearly displayed.



- To the delight of our fans and Carlton Spring we again displayed the Menards Carvana Used Car Building. However, we have learned that this item requires personal attention to load and unload vehicles. Joe McCarthy got the honors this time.



- We added a new item to the carnival on this trip. The larger Carole Towne Gingerbread Ferris Wheel provided greater height and more blinking lights to the middle of the layout.



- Although Doug Pollock was not available Friday morning to set it up, his "Tribute to Veterans" made the table thanks to Carlton Spring.



- This last feature comes with an interesting story. Carlton Spring is the manager of a local foodbank in the Wells area and regularly purchases meats at his local Market Basket. While on a recent shopping trip one of his store contacts caught his attention and in a friendly manner raised his frustration that we routinely display our Hannaford Trailer on Flatcar without a single reference to his store's brand. After his comment he awarded Carlton with the above Market Basket semi-trailer with the request we prominently display it on our layouts. Consider it done!

Venue

The Biannual Friends of Baxter Library book sale is held in the Gorham Recreation Center Shaw Gym. The book sale uses the front half, and we receive the back half. Although we do our best to fill the space, we sometimes feel like we are afloat on an ocean of hardwood flooring. The location is ideal for loading and unloading our vehicles with wide side doors and a flat run over the gym floor to our site. Using both Sam Carr's and my dollies for unloading and transport, we had our stuff in place and ready for set up in no time.

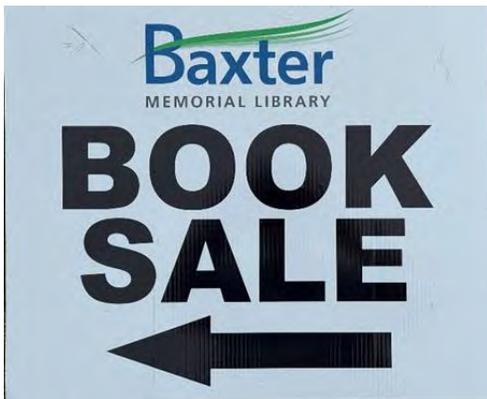


Event

The Biannual Baxter Book Sale is a big deal in Gorham, ME. Hundreds of people, as you can see below, attend the two day event to peruse the used books, DVDs, and CDs. There are no price tags, but folks pay what they think is a fair price.



The event is so well known that some regular diehard customers arrive up to an hour before the doors open to get first crack at the offerings.



Diehard Customers Waiting an Hour Before Opening



The buying frenzy continued from Friday morning until the one o'clock closing on Saturday afternoon. As the books left with satisfied customers, the staff consolidated boxes and tables until few remained.



The mesh between book sale and model train display was seamless with most adults checking out books and the kids drifting over to our tables.



Many adults also enjoyed the layout after touring the books.





Historically, we include additional loops on our layouts for this event to accommodate many returning kids who want to operate the trains. However, Friday mornings were usually quiet with most school age kids in school. Although a few home school families showed up in the past, we had many kids show up on Friday morning this year. At first, I thought a teacher brought their class to the sale, but I was wrong. Talking with a nearby mother I learned that Gorham has a home school parents' network, and they coordinated their visit to the sale on Friday morning to avoid the afternoon and Saturday morning crowds. Who knew?



Looks Like a Score for the Home Team - Grandfather, Father, Teenager, and Kids!

Notes of Interest

- We should take note of the increased number of home school kids visiting Friday morning and be prepared during future book sales to oversee the increased number of kids requesting an opportunity to operate our trains.

- Sam Carr decided to switch back to individual transformers from the single ZWL he used at the GFMRC Train Show. He thought it would be easier to set up and control individual loops during kid operation.



- When we include the Menards Carvana Used Vehicles Show Room, we need to allocate extra time and manpower to load and unload the vehicles.



- With a few minutes to spare, we accomplished several interesting maintenance chores:
 - First: we had trouble running the Thomas Diesel engine. After close inspection we discovered that the middle track power rollers had fallen off the engine. We found them in the engine tot and reattached them. Engine ran fine after this repair.
 - Second: After setting up we had trouble running engines on the left side small inner loop. The engine would run for a short distance and stop at the same spot. We tried several different engines, replaced track, and cleaned track and engine wheels to no avail. Finally, we changed the power track for the loop and performance improved. When we examined the power track we found two discrepancies: the metal strap that electrically connects the outside rails was missing and one of the screws holding the wire to the plug was missing. With both repairs made, the track was returned to service for future use. The missing metal strap was critical because the Switching Tower on the right side of the loop isolates one of the outer tracks to control the green/red light on the tower. This feature when misaligned with the missing strap, electrically isolated a section of track.
 - Third: We successfully experimented connecting Sam Carr's Lionel Barrel Loader to track power. In the past at the Cumberland Fair, we would connect the loader to a separate transformer which limited where we could place it. Now we have greater flexibility locating it and you should see it more often on our layouts.





Disassembly and Pack Up

When the clock struck one o'clock on Saturday afternoon, Sam Carr called the end to our portion of the event. Sam, Doug Pollock, Art Shean, and Carlton Spring sprang into action disassembling and packing the layout.



All Packed and Ready for Loading



Everything has a place and everything in its place!



And the Gym Was Returned as Found.

Photography by Art Shean & Carlton Spring



The View from Doug's Chair by Doug Pollock

Hi Well, we had 2 great shows in October, and they were a lot of fun with interesting people and a lot going on.

1st was at Edward Little High School in Auburn. We set up on Oct 10th 2:30 - 7:30 and ran trains the next day. It was a great layout that all enjoyed. Margo Robinson, GFMRC Event Coordinator, oversaw things and as usual she did a great job. There was one

problem. The tarps that were laid down were not taped. We informed her and the next morning all tarps were well taped down.

There were 2 gyms, and both were set up for the show. I do not think they had the crowd they were expecting but we had people at our layout most of the time. A friend I made at another show stopped by (he is a First Cavalry Veteran). We met at the Augusta show and he got some good items at the White Elephant Table. All in all, it was a fun time in Auburn.

The people next to us were not very happy with the turnout. They told me they are used to being at shows where there are thousands of people. They brought and unpacked tots to do so. But we had fun and made people Happy. Also, we were told that there was no food planned at the venue, but there was going to be a BBQ truck outside. It looked like it got a ton of business. Everyone I spoke to was pleased.

The 2nd show was at the Baxter Library Book Sale at the Shaw Gym in Gorham. Set up was 2-5pm, Oct 16 with trains running 9am-6pm, Oct 17 and 9am-1pm Oct 18. If U wanted a book that was the time to see a train show and get some great books at whatever U wanted to pay. Plus, there was a great farmers market on Saturday outside. The people really enjoyed the trains as usual, especially one young man. He was walking towards the layout with his mom when he saw the train set up. He **STOPPED**, put both hands on his cheeks, and just opened his mouth wide and stared at the trains without moving for a moment. Then he came to the layout. I wish I had a picture of him. It was priceless!

People really enjoyed the show. One lady came up to me and thanked us for what we did – many, many happy folks. Art and Carlton worked on some electrical situations and came up with some solutions for some of our power problems. Overall a great couple of days.

Keepin' it Light

Not in the Rain - In the early 1830's when railroading was in its infancy, strange beliefs held sway. The magnificent locomotive, Old Ironsides, was considered inoperable in the rain and was kept in its barn in inclement weather. On rainy days a team of stout horses took its place.

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



Piels Billboard by Jan Williams

When I was a pre-teen, growing up on Long Island, NY, Piels was a popular brand of beer. This was in part due to an enormously successful series of TV ads featuring the cartoon characters Bert and Harry Piels.

At the time many of us kids built soap box racers: all it took was a couple of two by fours, a wooden fruit carton, and the wheels and axles from an old baby carriage. I got two small Piels advertising posters from a local merchant, pasted them on the sides of my racer, and called it the 'Bert and Harry Special'.

When MTH announced the Piels billboard, for me it was a no-brainer, I had to find room on my pike for one of these...



JUST A REMINDER

Come One, Come All!

What: My open house

When: December 13, 11:00am to 2:00pm.

Where: Corner of Hiram Hill Road and Route 5/113
Hiram, Maine

Mystery Package by Art Shean

Received an unexpected package in the mail the other day from Alexander, ME. Not a commercial package like Amazon or QVC but a personally wrapped, sturdy, $6\frac{3}{4}$ "x $11\frac{1}{2}$ "x $3\frac{1}{4}$ " box. What ever it contained it had to be important because it cost the sender \$11.05 to get it to me.

Without thinking, I assumed my wife had purchased something from a third party vendor on eBay or Amazon. It was addressed to me but my wife routinely uses my Paypal account when she buys things on-line. Hence, most items arrive addressed to me but are for her.

When my wife said she was not expecting anything, I opened it up. To my surprise, the package contained six (6) $8\frac{5}{8}$ "x $3\frac{1}{4}$ " plastic "Do Not Touch The Trains" signs.



It turns out that Dana Lindsey emailed me a week or so earlier to inform me that he had recently acquired a 3D printer and offered to print several signs to address the train touching problem we encountered during the Cumberland County Fair. I indicated that I was interested but had not finalized a response waiting to coordinate with other MOT members.

We often say that the difference between men and boys is the price of their toys. Same edict applies to computers and their peripherals. MOT members and I thank Dana for his prompt and fitting donation. The red with white lettering will work well as a warning to our future layout audiences.

However, I must warn Mark Lasher - the gauntlet has been thrown at your feet! **You are no longer the only 3D Printer guru in town!**

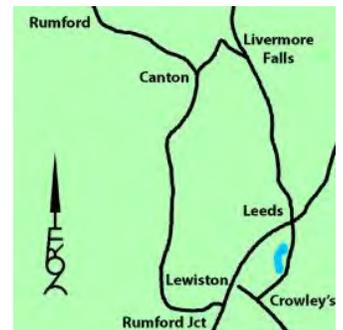


The RUMFORD BRANCH by Jeff Jacobs

I have a curiosity about the rail lines that ran across Maine and sometimes go looking for the remains of those tracks which are no longer in use.

The Maine Central RR was once a sprawling enterprise that covered a lot of the state. One favorite class of customers of the MEC was the paper mills. These giant plants sprung up, usually along a river, and offered a symbiotic opportunity for growing railroads. That is to say, the mills needed raw materials (pulpwood, oil, and chemicals) and produced paper in return that needed delivery. A paper mill was a volume operation which carried out its purpose successfully when lots of stuff was brought to it and carried from it. This fact made the plants attractive railroad customers. Add on the fact that paper mills were stationary, so once tracks were laid to them, they remained steady patrons because the mill was going nowhere.

One such entity was Rumford's Oxford Paper Co. formed by the Chisholm family. At first this was served by trackage through the MEC's Leeds Junction and on through Livermore Falls to Rumford on a branch line created by Hugh Chisholm. The realization occurred that a shorter route could be achieved by departing the MEC upper road at a point just west of Auburn. Interestingly, the new line could also pick up such revenue generators as the Poland Spring resort and the town of Mechanics Falls. It would intercept the old route at Canton. So it was that the shorter Rumford Branch was born in 1893.



Today, as the paper industry is vanishing, the rail traffic has diminished, and the branch was taken up in 1953.

My wife grew up in the rural part of Auburn, so I easily persuaded her to go in search of the Rumford Branch. Her younger days were lived on the Hackett Road which is very close to where the switch was located (between Auburn and Danville Junction) before heading west and north for Poland and the paper mill.

Today, outer Washington Street in Auburn has been commercially developed such that the part of the branch immediately after the switch is not easily spotted. The hill near today's Martindale Golf Club blocked a direct route so that the tracks curved along the edge of the hill until Hotel Rd was reached. At that point the rail explorer begins to see more evidence of bridge abutments and the stuff that validates the existence of a branch rail line. While seeking the old route, one must teach one's eyes to look for narrow, raised, nearly level, earthen berms which are now dotted with young trees. Occasionally, rails are seen but not often, however there sometimes exist traces of rotted ties which were not worth removing as the branch was abandoned. A helpful resource when tracing rail right of ways (ROWS) is a historic topographic map. These are now found on the web in a variety of

vintages. Try to select a map dated just before a line was abandoned and you will get a good sense of the surrounding terrain and features (even buildings) which accompanied the railbed. Many highway crossings are located on these maps and have not shifted much so that as you drive you can intercept the roadbed and mark your progress.

Below I spliced the Poland and Lewiston topo maps together to show the tracks from Rumford Junction to Poland Station, Circa 1940s.

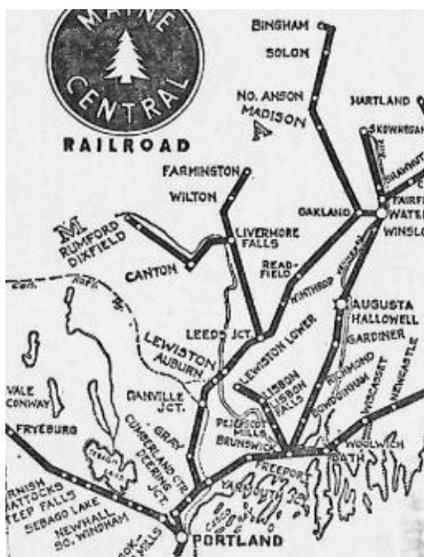


Hackett Rd

Another aid is Google Earth. By searching on it for the region in question, your eyes will notice differences in the tree line colors because the overgrown railbed has younger growth. Remember that the tracks were either straight or on long curves so the appearance of the tree lines will be sweeping arcs.

Sometimes you will spot the remains of a bridge or, as in Mechanics Falls, the stone remains of the MEC station. Further up the line, some folks made a residence of the old Minot station and very helpfully placed a MEC blue and white ceramic station sign on the side of their home. Once spotted, the surrounding terrain makes it obvious where the rails formerly passed that structure. Other helpful items are a copy of the book showing MEC stations. Of course, the web is a good resource for historic photos which will help your quest. Some towns have little museums that invariably contain railroad pictures and some artifacts.

Below are MEC routes to Rumford showing before and after the branch line through Poland was added:



Before



After

On the right is a photo of a small station that was located at Rumford Junction. It is gone today. (from the collection of Dave Larrabee)



If you like to go on “Sunday Drives”, take a few maps with you and follow the roadbeds of yesteryear railroads. **Happy Hunting!**

-THE END-



Maine 3 Railers Upcoming Schedule of Events

- Nov 22 Mark Lasher Layout Tour, ([RSVP](#)) 10am-2pm, 31 Perreault Way, Brunswick, ME 04011. RSVP 207-449-9400. (Activities/Training Committee)
- Dec 06 Jeff Jacobs Holiday Open House, ([RSVP](#)) 10:00am-2pm, 300 Houghton Pond Road, West Bath, ME 04530. RSVP sailboatij@gmail.com
Jeff's expansive, highly detailed layout will be on display for your enjoyment.
- Dec 13 Jan Williams Layout Tour, ([RSVP](#)) 10am-2pm, 31 Hiram Road, Hiram, ME 04041. RSVP 207-625-4762. (Activities/Training Committee)
- 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 9:30am-3pm. Move in 8am Friday Feb 13, 2026. (Train Show Committee)

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

- Nov 13 Annual Club Meeting
- Dec 11 Monthly Club Meeting
- Jan 08 Monthly Club Meeting
-

Those were the days!

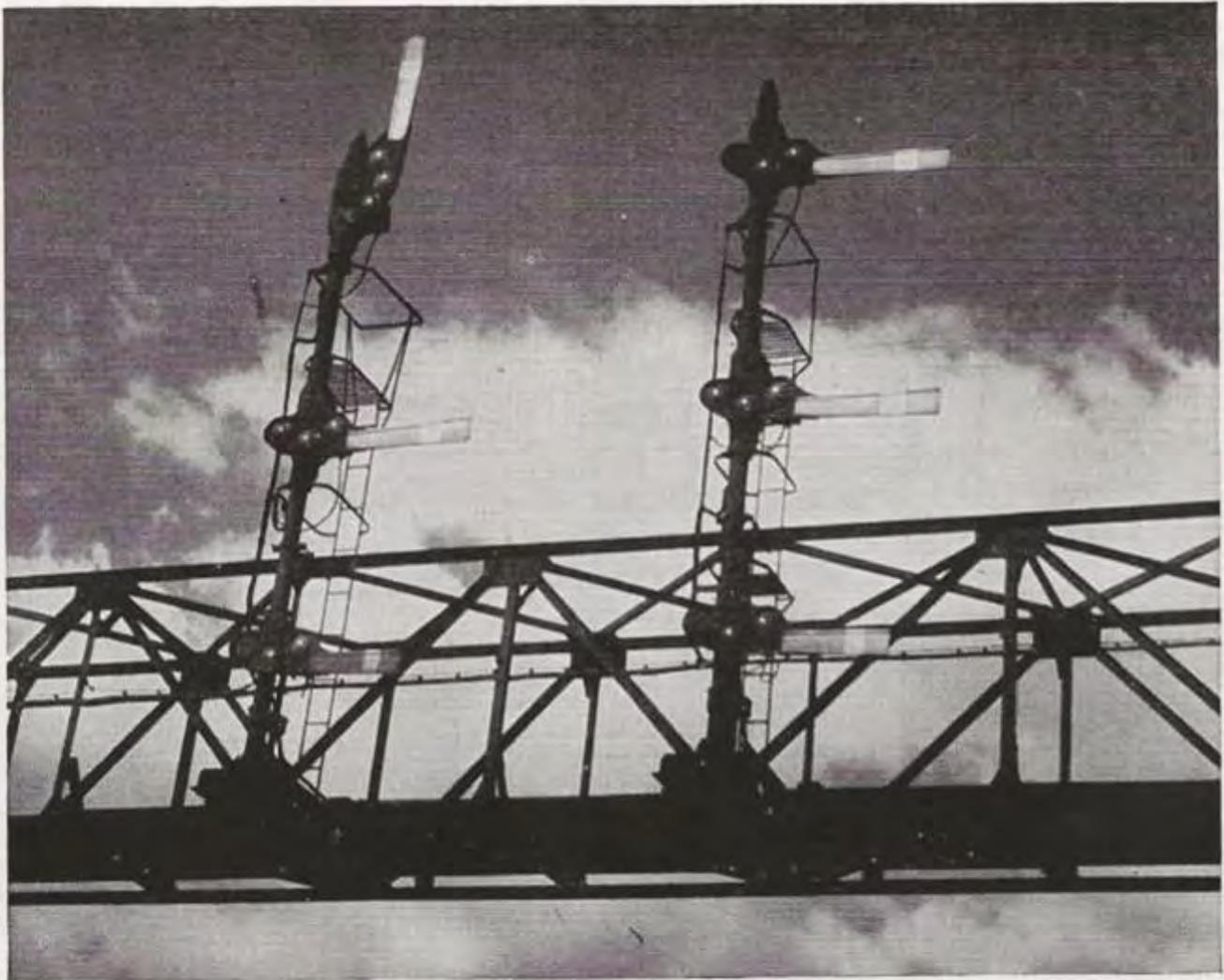


Maine 3 Railers Group Email:

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" (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, 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
president@maine3railers.org

Vice President



Dave Hodgkiss,
vp@maine3railers.org

Secretary



Dana Lindsey,
secretary@maine3railers.org

Treasurer



Rick Hills,
Maine 3 Railers
PO Box 31
Amherst, NH 03031
treasurer@maine3railers.org

At Large



Jeff Jacobs,
jeff@maine3railers.org

At Large



Ernie Vannah,
ernie@maine3railers.org

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 Team:

Sam Carr, Coordinator
Members: John Ash, Frank Folker, Jeff Jacobs,
Doug Pollock, Art Shean, Carlton Spring, and Ken
Thorson

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)

Webmaster:

Mark David, webmaster@maine3railers.org

YouTube Channel Master:

Carlton Spring,
youtubechannelmaster@maine3railers.org

M3R Club Greeter:

Doug Pollock
Newsletter Editor: Art Shean
artshean@comcast.net

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

Maine3Railers
Post Office Box 31
Amherst, NH 03031



MAINE 3 RAILERS

M3R CLUB NEWSLETTER FOR NOVEMBER 2025

ADDENDUM

- **Mia Copa to Dave Hodgkiss**
- **M3R Property Manager Update and Request for Input**

From the Editor:

*My apology to Dave Hodgkiss. Dave submitted the below input for the November Newsletter, and I missed including it. Unfortunately, Dave was **too prompt** by submitting his material weeks before other contributors. **Mia Copa!***

M3R Property Manager Update by Dave Hodgkiss



Hello from the Property Manager (PM),

I seek your opinions on what we do in the future with the locker and the trailer. At this point in time, I hope that no club property is sitting in someone's cellar, garage, or car etc. That all club items are in fact in the storage locker. We have tried to empty the trailer, moving most of the items to the locker. We are left with 21 tables, several large buildings, and miscellaneous items. At the next membership meeting we will discuss what will be done with items we do not utilize.

Any members borrowing an item for an event should contact me no less than 2 weeks ahead of the event to arrange for it to be picked up at the locker. These items will be signed for and returned within the next week to the locker at the Property Managers convenience, unless otherwise arranged. Anyone having items that have been used for an event, please contact the PM so they may be returned.

My proposal is to dispose of items that are collecting dust. We will either need a larger locker, which the PM feels is a waste of club funds, or downsize which the PM is encouraging the club to do.

Lastly, the trailer. I believe we should keep the trailer not for storage, but for the future of the club. It costs us little to maintain it. The issue is where it should be stored and how do we use it in the future.

I look forward to your ideas, remarks, opinions, and solutions at the next membership meeting.

Be well and safe, David Hodgkiss VP-Property Manager
