



MAINE 3 RAILERS

M3R CLUB NEWSLETTER FOR DECEMBER 2025

No Meeting in December. Our Next Meeting is Thursday Evening, January 8, 2026, at 7:00PM on Zoom. Watch for an invitation and link to join from our Club Secretary, Dana Lindsey.

CLUB HEADLINE NEWS

- Mark Lasher's Open House Draws Crowd
- Club Member Supports Westbrook Festival of Trees
- Jeff Jacobs Chases the CPKC Holiday Train
- Finding the **Renys' Boxcars**
- Jan Williams' Layout Tour December 13th
- **Brian Inch's Open House December 20th**



President's Message by Bernie Pender

Dear Club Members,

As the year draws to a close and the holiday season officially arrives, I wanted to take a moment to send a sincere seasonal greeting to each of you and your families.

December is often a time when our love for model railroading shines brightest. There's something truly special about the sight of a train running on a track under a Christmas Tree, capturing the magic of the season for all ages. I hope you all find time this month to enjoy your layouts and perhaps share your passion with loved ones.

Reflecting on the Year

I want to extend my thanks for the **camaraderie and dedication** you've all shown this past year. Whether you contributed time to the club events, mentored a new member, or simply shared your latest project, your enthusiasm keeps our club **vibrant and successful**.

Looking Ahead to the New Year

While we take a short break to enjoy the holidays, I'm excited about what **2026** holds for our club. We have several great events in the works, including **The Club Show in February**, the annual summertime meeting, and all the outreach events.

Thank you once again for your commitment to the **Maine 3 Railers**. The skill, friendship, and collaborative spirit of this group make it a privilege to serve as your President. In the meantime, may your holiday season be filled with joy, warmth, and perhaps a few **new acquisitions for your fleet!**

I wish you and your families a **joyous, restful holiday season** and look forward to seeing everyone recharged and ready for a productive 2026!

Bernie, President

From the Editor - Sharing by Art Shean



Lately every time I walk to my mailbox or take a trip to Walmart, I am reminded that we are now officially in the **Holiday Season**. Seems like every charity and cause has their hand out looking for a contribution. You can't even buy a hamburger without the computer asking to round up to the next dollar as a contribution. So how about contributing that is **Totally Free**. That's right, **absolutely free! You won't even need to use a stamp!**



Please Art, tell me how! Your Monthly Maine 3 Railers Newsletter needs your input. Every M3R member has an interest in railroading and especially model railroading. When you are in your basement working on your collection or train layout, setting up a Christmas train display under your Christmas tree, visiting a train museum, watching a holiday model train display, or reading a train related article on the web you are expressing your interest in our hobby.

Why not share your interest with your fellow members? Take a few pictures with that cell phone you carry around with you everywhere. Jot down a few words describing your experience and email them to me at artshean@comcast.net. As I said, no cost to you. The film in your cell phone and the emails are **free**.

Did you invite a friend or neighborhood kids to view your layout? How about the Christmas display you are planning for under the tree? Did you ask Santa for something special under the tree this year? Are you planning or making a change to your model train layout? If so, share the experience! A few photos and a description are all that it will take. Even a short video can be a rich source of information for our newsletter.

Jeff Jacobs, Doug Pollock, Bernie Pender, Ken Thorson, and Jan Williams share their experiences nearly every month. How about sharing yours occasionally, especially during this model train rich season.

M3R YouTube Channel Update by Channel Master Carlton Spring



November was quiet for the Mobile Outreach Team with no events scheduled. Since there were no events, there were no videos produced and uploaded to our YouTube channel. The link below will take you directly to our YouTube channel in case you've missed viewing a couple of events. Also, you may be interested in reviewing some of the 2025 videos of the MOT's early 2026 scheduled events. For example, in January we will be visiting The Highlands in Topsham and in February we have our annual show on the 14th, and during February vacation week we visit the Patten Free Library and the Topsham Public Library.

Direct Link to M3R's YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWXugl3YB8L9yEXhEgFKD_g

Many thanks for taking the time to view the MOT 2025 videos.



Activities/Training Committee by Rick Hills, Chairperson

There are two layout tours remaining in 2025. Please make note in your calendars. We are expecting great turnouts!!!!

- Jan Williams Layout Tour and Scavenger Hunt, Saturday, December 13, 11 AM - 2 PM, 6 Hiram Hill Road, Hiram, ME 04041. Phone 207-625-4762. See page 14 for Scavenger Hunt details and flyer on page 38.
- Brian Inch Open House, December 20, 10am-2pm, 227 Water Street, Augusta, ME 04330. Phone 207-564-0705.

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



When was the last time you took the Downeaster to Boston?



EVENT REPORTS:



Even More Detail than Last Time on the Mooseport RR by Art Shean

Brunswick, ME, Saturday, November 22, 2025: A visit to Mark Lasher's model train layout is a visit to miniature reality. Mark created and continues to refine an exquisite blend of high-end prebuilt buildings with highly detailed landscaping, custom made and kit bashed buildings, ships, vehicles, people, and accessories. To discover and appreciate the vast number of vignettes spread throughout the layout takes longer than just one open house. With all this spread across the layout, it was hard for this writer to pull his eyes away from the tables to also appreciate the large collection of engines and rolling stock that Mark has accumulated through time.



Mark Lasher Welcomed Us to His Miniature World!

Where do I start to describe this wonder to members who missed the opportunity to visit?

Is it with the crowd of vehicles parked outside Mark and Denise's home?



Mark's well-organized workshop where many of the detailed accessories were produced?



The walls filled with engines, rolling stock, and vehicles?



Or the faces of the guests that marveled at the railroad art before them?



Members, Wives, and Club Officers Showed Up in Force



Families And Good Friends Enjoyed the Miniature Array



The Westra Family Really Got into it!



Bernie Pender and Denise Lasher Greeted Guests at the Foot of the Cellar Stairs

And what about the many vignettes/details with a story behind each!



Buy Your Tickets and Make a Call Here!



Abandoned Engine at the Fork



Through the Tunnels



Out of the Cellar



Construction Everywhere



A Wedding in the Garden Behind the Church



Retired Couple Survey Their Garden in a Golf Cart. My Wife's Garden Should Look So Good!



A Day at the Beach with all the Fun Features



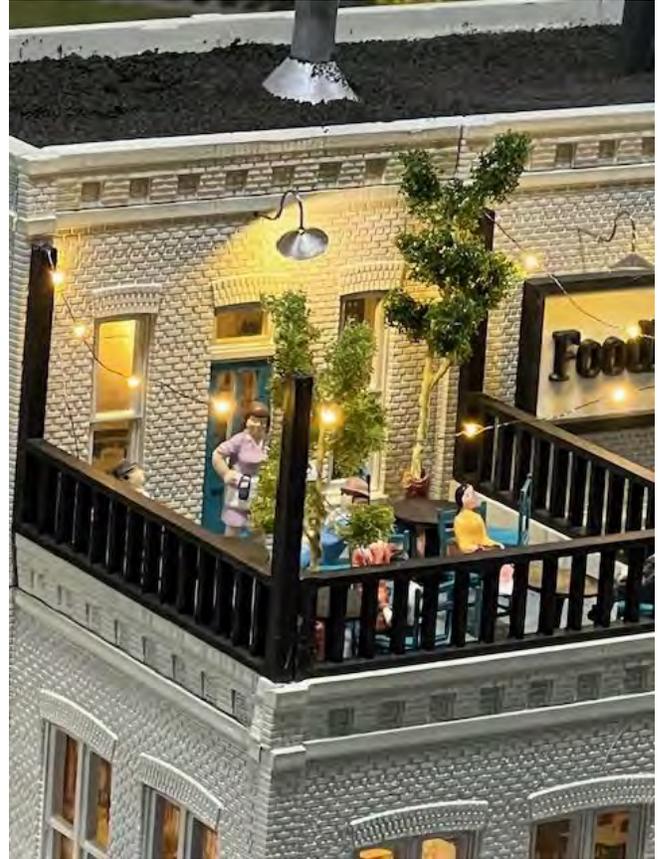
Old Style Track Signal.



The Eagle Has Almost Landed!



Pigs in the Slop



A Family Enjoys Their Deck

Operating Consists:

While I was there, Mark ran the following model train consists to add action to fine detail:

- Passenger Consist: MTH B&O Pacific Repainted by Dave Kenyon as Maine Central 470 with several MTH RailKing Heavy Passenger Cars again repainted by Dave Kenyon with Maine Central livery.
- Freight Consist: Lionel Legacy CN GP35 with CN and Gilford rolling stock.

Sweets for the Guests:

- Mini-chocolate chip and oatmeal raisin cookies, mini blueberry muffins, water, and coffee from Mark & Denise
- Holy Donut Assortment from Rick Hills
- Big chocolate chip cookies from Bernie Pender

3D Printed Things

This was a chance to see some 3D printed stuff in person including the subway station. Mark also provided a 3D print demo of a moose.



Thirty-Six Members and Friends Stopped by **the Lasher's Open House:**
Members,

Lou Bragaw
Mark David
Jack & Carol Dexter
Rocko Graziano
Rick Hills
Dave Hodgkiss
Mark & Denise Lasher
Dana Lindsey
Bernie Pender
Doug Pollock
Art Shean
Ken Thorson
Ernie Vannah
Jay, Caleb, Sofia Westra
Jan & Sally Williams

Friends & Neighbors

Rachael, Jason, & Elliott Hardwick
Jeff Munson
Larry Holmes
Riley, Lonnie, & Kev Soucie
Miles & Rachael Hardwick
Elliott & Jason Hardwick
Ro, K., Daniel, & Nolah Hathaway

For those that passed on this event, you missed a great time!

Photography by Rick Hills, Mark Lasher, & Art Shean



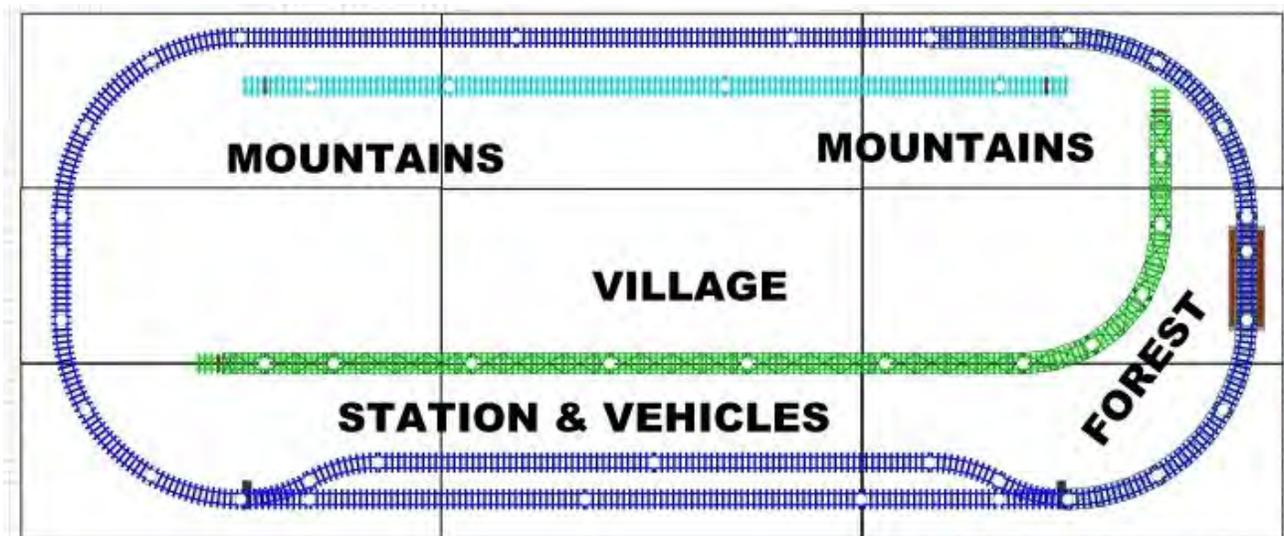
Club Member Continues Tradition at Festival of Trees in Westbrook by Art Shean

According to Cheryl Leighton, the Festival of Trees (FOT) Manager, the Westbrook-Warren Congregational Church in downtown Westbrook, Maine has hosted an Annual Festival of Trees 23 times with only a brief hiatus during the Covid Pandemic. During these many events a small band of current and former members of the Maine Garden Railway Society provided a G-scale model railroad display to embellish the event's holiday spirit. To the delight of kids and adults this railroad tradition continues this month from December 6 through 14, 2025. In the beginning, Paul Corbett organized and managed the model railroad. In recent years Paul passed the baton onto a Maine 3 Railer we all know, Sam Carr.

With his vast experience as our Event Coordinator, Sam easily assumed responsibility for the G-Scale display and recruited some old hands and a few new G-Scale enthusiasts to offer a 7.5' by 18' layout that barely fits into the allocated room. The theme is a small railroad/logging village in northern Maine in the late 1800's. This year's crew includes Sam Carr, Paul Corbett, Scott Gould, Dennis Farrell, Doug Johnson, Nancy Norris, Paul Richards, Peter Richards, Diane Richards, Paul Schnell, and Art Shean.

With limited space and larger engine and rolling stock dimensions, Paul and now Sam in the past limited the layout to a simple loop with a small dead-end turnout. However, ever wanting to improve the show, Sam added a through turnout and a trolley to the display this year. One participant also added a back story for the layout. After showing the kids a wooden toy biplane, he recounts how Santa used to make and deliver wooden toys before plastic became prevalent. To make the toys Santa had loads of wood delivered from northern Maine near Lake Chamberlain. The village and rail line were built to support Santa's needs.

The crew set up the layout in the afternoon of December 1st and opened it to public weekend viewing December 6th. During the weeks of the festival, the crew hosts multiple school groups and supports various festival activities such as a Santa Breakfast. The last public showing will be Sunday December 14th.



The layout rests on 9-2.5'x6' plastic folding tables providing 135 square feet of area and runs trains on 83 plus feet of LGB 45mm brass track.



Some detail of the layout from Left to Right:



Some layout Highlights:



Although model trains are a tradition, decorated Christmas trees and assorted Christmas themed decorations are the main focus of the Annual Festival of Trees! Below are some examples of this year's offerings:





I could not decide which tree I liked best. The Tonka Tree or the Carnival Tree?



Other villages on display:





Other attractions for kids of all ages:



Bottom Line - the Kids have a great time!





The View from Doug's Chair by Doug Pollock

Well, I am trying to get some of my many things organized or get rid of them. I came upon a "You Alone in the Maine Woods - a Hunter's Orange Book" I had MANY, MANY years ago. Inside I found this newspaper clipping, "Ask Marilyn". It was something like Dear Abby.

The Railway industry claims incredible gas milage, about 450 mpg. How is this possible???

Naysayers say that because railroad milage is cited in ton-miles per gallon instead of simply miles per gallon, it means something different. Rather, the term is specific; A freight train can move one ton about 450 miles on a gallon of fuel. To match it, a one ton car would have to get 450 mpg, and a two-ton vehicle would have to get 225 mpg. To car owners, this seems unbelievable. How can railroads do it?? First a train weighs far more than a ton, so it consumes much of that fuel just in moving itself. Still, trains are extremely efficient. They have the benefit of an infrastructure that includes steel wheels rolling on steel rails instead of soft rubber tires making frequent turns on pavement, highly sophisticated braking system, and far, far, fewer starts and stops.

Interesting, who knew??

Several weeks ago, Ken Thorson and I went to see Denise & Mark Lasher's fantastic layout. It was very well done with a terrific display of many, many items. The trains were running and everyone was having a fantastic time enjoying the layout and each other's company. There were little groups of club members chatting and having good conversations. Some were enjoying the treats also and the cookies were great. I can attest to that! At one point Mark was talking to a few people and his wife took over as host and server. She was doing everything and seemed like she was really having fun.



I was fascinated by the history on the layout. There was a model of the CSA H.L. Hunley. It was the first combat submarine to successfully sink an enemy warship, the USS Housatonic, during the American Civil War, marking a significant milestone in naval warfare. For some great information on this submarine check your computer. It is quite a story.

All in all, we had a TERRIFIC TIME! I am glad Ken and I were able to spend some time to enjoy a great layout and friends. Thank you, Mark & Denise, VERY MUCH!

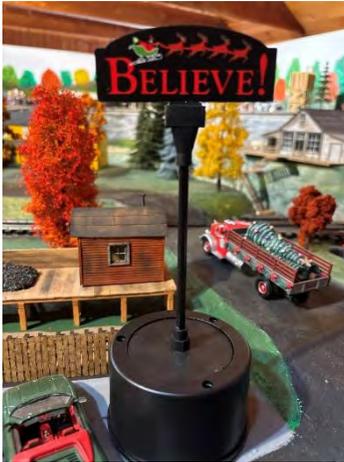
Until we meet again, B Safe and keep the tracks clean, Doug



Holidays on the Layout by Jan Williams

One thing I like about the Holidays is the opportunity to add some special decorations to the layout. Here are some examples from my layout... A special nod here goes to Miller Engineering for their terrific holiday signs...

A tree in the formal English garden adds some holiday excitement.



The BELIEVE sign lights up and rotates.

The Santa / Merry Christmas sign has always stood on a plain cardboard base - for this year I added brickwork and a concrete foundation.



The Santa and Reindeer add a fun rooftop spectacle.



Finally, there are a few trees with Christmas lights scattered over the layout.



Enjoy the Holidays!

JUST A REMINDER

The Williams' Open House and Scavenger Hunt

What: My open house

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

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

In straightening out my workshop I came across two bins of O Scale cars and trucks for which I have no room on my layout. These are good stuff, I can't toss them out.

I decided to have a scavenger hunt at my open house - kids 12 or younger must find five historic New England buildings on the layout, and four gardens. The first 20 winners get a model vehicle. I'm "strict" on the age limit, adult help is allowed. I have more than 20 prizes. As you can see, this is a somewhat flexible concept.

Attached is a picture of the checklist the kids get, it's on card stock. Each gets a pen (Sally and I are pilfering Bangor Savings).

Welcome to our Layout Scavenger Hunt



This is a hunt for individuals 12 years old or younger. There will be prizes for the first 20 kids to find every location...

Formal Gardens - There are four gardens...

Can you find them?

Historic Buildings - There are five buildings that are models of historic Maine or New England landmarks...



- Portland Union Station. Built in 1888 on St. John Street; demolished in 1962.
- Bangor Fire Department. Built in 1897 on route 2 north of downtown, now a fire department museum. On the layout we've turned it into a station.
- Portland Fire Department. Built in 1837 on Spring Street; now a museum.
- Copley Plaza Hotel. Built in Boston in 1912. Still Going Strong!
- Citgo Sign. Another Boston icon... Built in 1940, updated in 1965. Visible on TV during Red Sox games.

I'm thinking this will be a lot of fun... what could go wrong? LOL



Chasing the Canadian Pacific Kansas City Southern Holiday Train by Jeff Jacobs

The CPKC Holiday Train passed through Maine for over 20 years now. It cuts from the Canadian Maritimes to central Canada along a route pictured below.



Its mission is to collect and distribute food to the inhabitants of the towns it serves as well as spread seasonal cheer along the route.

This year Cathy & I decided we would follow the Holiday Train along a part of its trajectory. The date was Nov 22nd, which was also the day of the Eastern Maine Model Railroad Club (EMMRC) train show in Brewer. We visited that show first catching up with Brian Inch and Riley and Vic Fuller who were selling some excess O trains.

A few minutes west from Brewer lies Northern Maine Junction (NMJ) where the Bangor and Aroostook (B&A) and Maine Central used to interchange in the village of Hermon. Here we found Coldbrook Road blocked for the train's first stop and throngs of spectators turned out on a cool but clear day. As we arrived the festivities of the Hermon show were wrapping up so we dashed ahead of the crowd to the overpass at Route 2 where all trains depart NMJ for the north. There we took the photo below.



We saw little of the train at the crossings between NMJ and Milo because the train was going along a nearly straight line while we were zig zagging along the available country roads. However, at the Route 6 crossing, just near the B&A's former Derby Shops, we got ahead of the CPKC special and

took these photos at dusk as the crew had turned on the decorative lighting. Note the American and Canadian flags atop the engine.





Look carefully at this special boxcar below and you will see a hinge along the large center panel marked "Holiday Train". Nearly all of the car side opens upward to reveal the performers staged inside.



The train has several passenger cars in tow and ends with this decorated Observation car.



With many miles to Greenville and Moosehead Lake left, we stuck to good roads and did not follow the train into Brownville and west across the Onawa trestle. We arrived in Greenville an hour ahead of the train to find the small town packed with vehicles and people all hoping to catch a view of the special railroad consist.



We parked what seemed like half a mile from the depot and walked to the station. Once there, we visited with Jane Hall who is leading the efforts to restore the old lakeside depot with its famous "witches hat" roof.



Historic Website Photo

Progress on the restoration has been good, and the building is worth a visit if you are ever in that part of the state.



Photo Taken from Inside the Depot Waiting Room

As the CPKC Holiday Train pulled in, the crowds were packed at trackside to get a look. Soon the door lifted on the side of a lighted boxcar and inside were musicians set to deliver a lively performance that lasted about half an hour. As soon as the show was over, the train was set to head westward to Jackman where the next event would happen just before 10 pm. It was quite exciting to witness how many people turned out, even in winter, to see trains.

As for models: MTH produced a Railking O Scale version of the CP Holiday train complete with lighted boxcars. They cautioned that the tiny bulbs made this a delicate model which needs special attention.



MTH 307087 4 car set and MTH 30-20435-1 Dash 8 loco with PS 3



I picked up one of these from member Lloyd Neal who had ordered an extra by mistake. It delights people each year as we do our holiday open house and put it on display.

The Tale of RENYS' Box Car Displays

“Bargains by the Boxcar”

By Art Shean

Each year since 2005 the Maine 3 Railers O-Scale Model Railroad Club have offered a limited-production car that showcases different areas of interest within Maine and/or highlights Maine-based businesses. These have been sought after by operators and collectors and have been a great success as we spread the model railroading message.

In 2015 the M3R Club Car Committee approached the Renys Family to gain their permission to produce a Renys “A Maine Adventure” Boxcar as our 2016 Club Car. To our delight, they fully embraced the opportunity. In fact, to our surprise they purchased seventeen copies. Many Club members scratched their heads wondering why they would do so and such an odd number. We did not know if they were going to use them as gifts to their management, suppliers, or as a promotional item.

2016 Boxcar in Renys Livery from RGS Trains



In 2015, Renys had sixteen stores. After the boxcars arrived several members noticed that the Renys Boxcars were displayed in various Renys Stores. One member checked multiple locations and found that they were displayed somewhere in every store that he visited. At the time we did not know this, but the Renys folks planned on opening a new location in Windham. After it opened in 2016, a member checked the store and was pleased to find it also displayed our boxcar.

Conclusion: when you visit a Renys Store, somewhere within the store you will find a M3R Renys Boxcar on display. If you can't find it, you just must ask a Store Associate.

On more than one occasion as a Club Car Model Train passed by, our Mobile Outreach Team members would tell visitors to our layouts the story of our Annual Club Cars. They would also proudly point out the Renys Boxcar and relay the story of how the Renys Family embraced the project and display the boxcars in their stores. At the end of the tale, we would challenge the visitors to find one the next time they visited a Renys Store.

For most of eight years every Renys Store displayed a Maine 3 Railers 2016 Club Car. Sadly, not so anymore. In 2024, Renys opened their Bangor Store. No boxcar because they ran out. No problem, Sam Carr stepped up and donated an extra copy he had stored away. This was presented to the Bangor Store Manager December 7, 2024. To date this gift has not been displayed in Bangor. To add insult to injury, Renys opened another store in Waterville in 2025. Again, Sam stepped up and another boxcar was presented to the Waterville Store Manager, June 3, 2025. This Manager understood the significance and spoke with enthusiasm about displaying it promptly. Unfortunately, upon a recent visit, the boxcar is not displayed, and a Store Associate said that it was in the

manager's office. And now in 2025 another store opened in Augusta. Again, no boxcar, but the Portland Store is scheduled to close December 31st. Maybe they will move the boxcar from Portland to Augusta?

I submit the following photographic evidence, in order of store opening, to confirm the accuracy of this story.

Damariscotta - Main Store 1949



Bridgton 1952



Gardiner 1956



Farmington 1957



Dexter 1958



Madison 1960



Damariscotta - **Underground late 60's - early 70's**



Pittsfield 1969



Bath 1973



Camden 1982



Belfast 1987



Ellsworth 1992



Wells 2004



Saco 2005 / Biddeford 1986



Topsham 2011



Portland 2011



Windham 2016



Bangor 2024



December 7, 2024

Waterville 2025



June 3, 2025

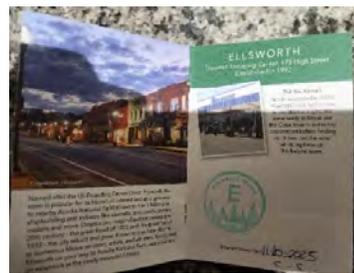
Augusta 2025



Maybe the Portland Box Car,
January 2026?

Author's Note: My wife and I have three grandchildren that live in Ellsworth, Maine. We live in Topsham, Maine. Hence, we travel between Topsham and Ellsworth quite often along Interstate Highways 295 and 95.

Most of Reny's Stores lie between Topsham and Ellsworth off the Interstate, along Route 1, or a rural contorted northern route from Farmington to Dexter. Recently, Reny's introduced a Passport Program to induce the public to visit all their stores. They challenge us to record visiting each of their stores with a stamp placed within a passport style booklet you can obtain in any of their stores.



As an incentive they offer a free \$10 gift certificate and chocolate bar after visiting 9 stores. When you visit all 19 locations, you win a Grand Prize consisting of:

- A unique tour of Reny's Office/Warehouse and meet a Reny family member
- A place on Reny's Hall of Fame Board
- A surprise Goody Bag

My wife and I took the challenge, visited every store, took pictures at each store (above), and look forward to meeting a family member.

Visions of Past Holidays Dancing in my Head by Art Shean

With no Club meeting this month, it was a suitable time to sit back and reflect on past years. For me, reviewing old photographs of past Thanksgiving and Christmas family gatherings fit the bill. While doing so, I stumbled across a folder with photos of a small holiday train display that I took back in 2002. Don't remember who designed it but it was at a Garden Center near Boothbay Harbor. As I studied the photos, I was surprised as to how many aspects of the layout I have incorporated in subsequent layout designs.



The human brain is an amazing organ. Our ability to learn and apply what we learn to different situations is what sets us apart from other beings. Often unbeknownst to us a snapshot captured by our eyes becomes a long-term memory which can become a meme for future endeavors. What we may perceive as moments of genius are actually us subconsciously remembering something we saw or heard in the past.

TYPES OF MEMORY



The most obvious example of this memory transference is the snow. The Mobile Outreach Team (MOT) layouts routinely change from green grass in the summer to white snow table covers in the winter. They also routinely place a lighthouse on a layout corner.



The Highlands in Topsham 2025



Topsham Public Library 2024

We also incorporate hills, bridges, small towns, and vintage vehicles.



Hill at 2025 Cumberland Fair



Vehicle and Bridge at the 2025 Moxie Festival



I incorporated a harbor vignette under my Christmas tree in 2003.



At the annual Big Truck / Big Train Day in Topsham, we used playmobil buildings, vehicles, and figures to complete the scenery.



Big Truck / Big Train Day, Topsham 2025

And yes, I have a fishing boat just like the one in Boothbay that I treasure. However, I have not found an appropriate layout on which to use it.



I thought these concepts were strokes of genius – maybe not!

A Remarkable Coincidence

Story by Orville P. Convis



Grand Trunk Western train No. 56 prepares to leave Muskegon, Mich, on a September 1952 night. The scene is reminiscent of No. 14's Marcellus stop to inspect a hot "right big end." Richard Pedler

On June 27, 1955, I witnessed a veteran locomotive engineer and passenger-train conductor conspiring to violate bulletin provisions as issued by the Chicago Division Superintendent of the Grand Trunk Western. Time has blurred recalling the specific language, but in effect it read: "Conductors and Engineers of passenger trains will include in their delay reports, duration, and reason for all stops not authorized by Timetable or Train Dispatcher. Failure to comply with this Bulletin may result in an investigation."

The conductor told him, "We have a young lady on the train with a ticket for Marcellus. She has been to a church summer camp in Wisconsin. The ticket agent up there must have figured that No. 20's conditional stop at Marcellus also applied to No. 14. She has notified her folks that she will be on No. 14 tonight. When she got on the train at Chicago, we thought that she was with a couple going to Lansing, so we didn't question her about her destination until we were collecting tickets."

Jack answered like the veteran engineer he was. "The right big end is running warm. Marcellus is a good halfway point to pump a few sticks of grease into it and decide if an engine change will have to be made at Battle Creek. If you see me go to the telephone box, you will know that I asked for an engine change."

"I'll have her ready to get off," replied the conductor, "but if there isn't anyone there to meet her, we'll have to stop again at Vicksburg. I can't leave her at an unmanned station in the middle of the night."

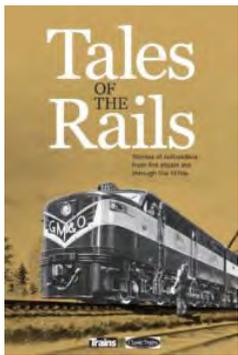
Before we reached Marcellus, the engineer had "made ready." The right cab door was open. The grease gun, the pail of grease sticks, and the torch were sitting in the open doorway. After we stopped, Jack opened the firebox door, extending the torch wick toward the fire until it ignited, and then climbed down the cab ladder with the torch and grease gun. I handed him three or four grease sticks. In less than a minute, he returned with an extinguished torch, the grease gun, and no grease sticks. He gave two light toots of the whistle and looked back for a hand signal to proceed.

As we were leaving town, he yelled across the cab over the engine exhaust noise, the stoker engine, and the stoker steam jets, "The engine is OK to run through!"

At Battle Creek, the engine crews' home terminal, we were relieved by the engineer and fireman who would take No. 14 to Port Huron (the train crew operated from Chicago to Port Huron). The enginemen's shanty was located near the east end of the platform, and after putting my overalls in my locker and washing up, I stalled until I had a chance to read the engineer's delay report. The part I was interested in read: "Marcellus 10:52 p.m. to 10:54 p.m. Grease and inspect right big end."

As I was leaving the shanty, the conductor entered. I lingered and heard him say to Jack, "When we pulled into Marcellus, I kept shining my lantern around in the dark but couldn't see anybody. I was about to give you a signal to leave town when a young boy yelled out of the dark, 'Gee whiz, Mary, you must be a real big shot. This train ain't even supposed to stop here.'"

I never asked Jack what he did with the sticks of grease.



*This adventure is excerpted from a story originally appearing in [Trains](#), September 1984. It, along with 45 other railroad stories, can be found in a forthcoming [Trains/Classic Train](#) book: *Tales of the Rails*, due out in March 2026.*

-THE END-



Come See
Jan's Electric Trains!
OPEN HOUSE

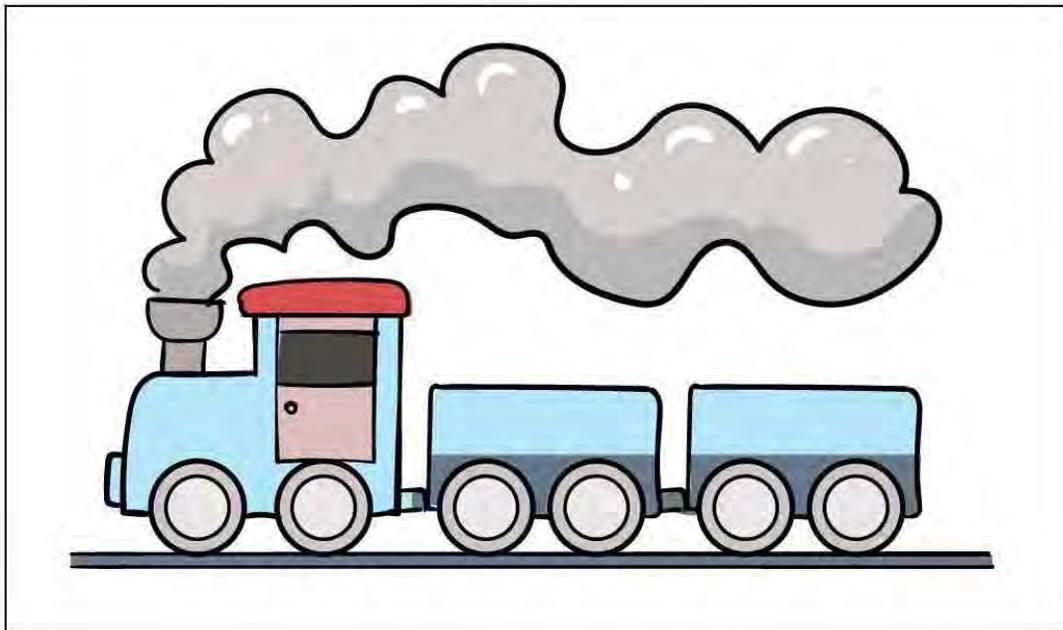
Saturday, December 13, 11 to 2pm

6 Hiram Hill Road & Route 113

(Driveway on 113)

FREE ADMISSION

Merry Christmas



Maine 3 Railers Upcoming Schedule of Events

- Dec 13 Jan Williams Layout Tour and Scavenger Hunt, ([RSVP](#)) 11am-2pm, 31 Hiram Road, Hiram, ME 04041. RSVP 207-625-4762. (Activities/Training Committee)
- Dec 20 Brian Inch Open House, ([RSVP](#)) 10am-2pm, 227 Water Street, Augusta, ME 04330. RSVP 207-564-0705. (Activities/Training Committee)
- Jan ?? The Highlands ([Public](#)), 30 Governors Way, Topsham, ME 04086. Set up 8-10am, Run Trains from 10am-3pm. (MOT)
- Feb 14 Annual Maine 3 Railers Model Train and Dollhouse Show ([Public](#)) 9:30am-3pm. Move in 8am Friday Feb 13, 2026. (Train Show Committee)
- Feb 18 Patten Free Library ([Public](#)), 33 Summer Street, Bath, ME 04520. Set up Wednesday 8-10am, Run Trains from 10am-3pm. (MOT)
- Feb 20 Vacation Week Model Train Display ([Public](#)), Topsham Public Library, 25 Foreside Road, Topsham, ME 04086. Set up Thursday, Feb 19th, 3:30-6pm & Friday, Feb.20th, 8-10am. Run Trains from 10am-2pm. (MOT)

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

Jan 08 Monthly Club Meeting

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