



# MAINE 3 RAILERS

## M3R CLUB NEWSLETTER FOR AUGUST 2026

Our Next Meeting is Thursday, September 10, 2026, at 7pm on Zoom. Watch for an invitation from our Club Secretary, Dana Lindsey.

### CLUB HEADLINE NEWS

- **2nd Annual Club Summer Outing Better than Last Year**
- **Hundreds Enjoy M3R Moxie Festival Model Train Display**
- **Club Members Visit Bar Mills Scale Model Works**
- **President Presents Sam Carr with Certificate of Appreciation & Caboose**
- **2026 M3R Nominating Committee Seeking Candidates**



#### **A Message from the President from Bernie Pender**

I hope you've all been enjoying some well-deserved downtime this summer, perhaps even getting in some collecting or making layout improvements!

#### **A Fantastic July & Summer Event Success**

July was an incredible month for us, highlighted by our **2nd Annual Summer Event**. We had an even bigger crowd than last year! A huge thank you to all the members who stepped up to make this event possible. I'm already looking forward to seeing what Rick has planned for next year's 3rd Annual event!

#### **Volunteers Needed: The Cumberland Fair (September)**

Looking ahead to September, I strongly encourage everyone to get involved with our Club event at the **Cumberland Fair**. This is a major, legacy event for us and requires a tremendous effort to make it a success. The Fair is a fantastic opportunity to connect with fellow members and showcase our hobby to the public.

- **Why we need you:** Running trains from 9am to 9pm, model train layout set up, and move out. The more hands we have, the more successful we'll be. Your input and help are invaluable!
- **How to sign up:** Please don't hesitate to reach out to **Gene Thayer**, our Event Chairperson, to let him know you want to help.

#### **A Welcoming Club for All**

For those who are new to the hobby or our Club, please remember that our doors are always open. We have a terrific **Mentoring Program** - if you're interested, please contact **Jeff Jacobs**. Don't be shy about asking questions, sharing your progress, or posting pictures. The collective knowledge within our Club is immense, and we all benefit from sharing our experiences.

#### **Fostering Camaraderie**

Let's continue to foster the camaraderie that makes our Club so special. Whether you're into intricate detailing, historical modeling, or simply running trains, there is a place for everyone here.

## Upcoming August Events:

Mark your calendars for these exciting dates later this month:

- **August 26:** The Landry's Big Event
- **August 28 & 29:** Event at the Seashore Trolley Museum

Enjoy the rest of your summer, and I look forward to seeing you all at both events!

**All aboard for more great times ahead!**

**Bernie**, President, Maine 3 Railers

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## Sam Carr Recognized for Lifetime Service to Model Railroading and the Maine 3 Railers Model Railroad Club

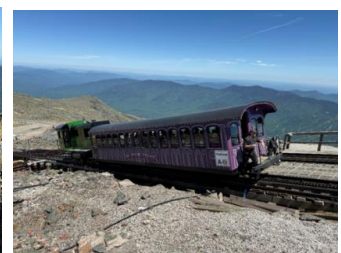
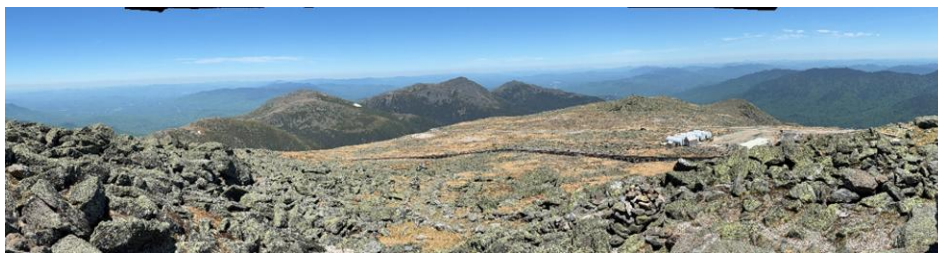
Tuesday, August 11, 2026, Topsham, Maine: After several attempts, our Club President, Bernie Pender, and Vice President, Dave Hodgkiss, tracked down Sam Carr at the Topsham Fair Mall in Topsham. It took awhile but they presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation for his many years of service to our Club and our hobby as Event Coordinator. Then Gene Thayer, our Recent Past President, resurrected an old Club tradition and awarded Sam with a USA 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary M3R Custom Caboose. Thank you, Sam, from all of us!



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### From the Editor by Art Shean

**Historic M3R Summer!** Spring is over and we are already into August. Historically the Maine 3 Railers Model Railroad Club goes dormant during July and August. We don't even hold monthly meetings during the summer. However, a lot has changed this past year. Your Club provided an unprecedented slate of opportunities to enjoy the various aspects of our beloved hobby this past spring and summer. Our Activities/Training Committee (A/TC) served up some dandy outings and some training as well. If you were not paying attention, then you missed a trip on the Cog Railroad up Mt. Washington to the highest point in New England.



Too scary! Then how about the most interesting visits to Norm's O Scale Hobby Shop or the Bar Mills Model Company? Then the A/TC engaged our brains to learn how to make our Legacy Control Systems jump into life. If that was not enough, they served up a full-fledged "*In-Person Meet and Greet*" Monthly meeting in the Maine woods. Members left with full stomachs and a prize.

Meanwhile, our Mobile Outreach Team (MOT) set up, ran, and dismantled model train displays at the Great Falls Model Railroad Club Spring Train Show in Topsham, Togus VA Medical Center in Augusta, Augusta Veterans Home, and the 2026 Moxie Festival in Lisbon.

Unfortunately, member participation in all these events was relatively sparse. In some cases, participation was as low as single digits. Not very rewarding for the organizers considering we have nearly 130 members. Maybe 130 people were on vacation for multiple months.

**But fear not, it ain't over yet!** You still have several chances to socialize with other Club members and/or set up and run a live operating model railroad before the summer ends. On August 26<sup>th</sup> Joe Landry will host an open house at his home on 19 Orestis Lane, Lewiston, ME 04240 from 10am-2pm. In the past Joe demonstrated he is a gracious and magnanimous host. Some in the New England Model Railroad Scene say he may be the "Host with the Most Train Goodies". Then just a few days later, the MOT will set up a six-table model train display at the Seashore Trolley Museum in Kennebunkport. At 1pm on Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, we set up and Saturday August 29<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-4pm we will operate two main lines and two trolley lines during their Annual Model Railroad Days. The Seashore Trolley Museum is located at 195 Log Cabin Road, Kennebunkport, ME 04046.

**Your Club has thrown a lot at you in just a few months. Take a breath! Check your calendar! I know you can make these final events. See you at both!**

## 2026 M3R Nominating Committee Appointed

The 2026 M3R Nominating Committee consisting of Jeff Jacobs, Gene Thayer, and Ernie Vannah is seeking candidates for the upcoming Fall M3R election of officers and directors. Interested parties should contact one of the three members to learn what the jobs entail. Election will be held during the Club's Annual Meeting in November. By Club charter, officers are limited to just two consecutive terms in office.



### Activities/Training Committee (A/TC) Report by Chair Rick Hills

**Members:** Jeff Jacobs, Dave Hodgkiss, Mark Lasher, Bernie Pender, Steve Tranni, and Dana Lindsey

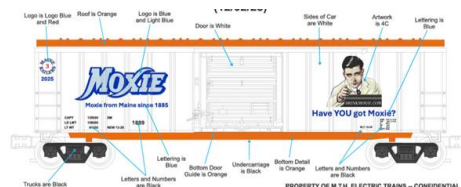
The committee continues to provide announcements using the Club Group Email System to ensure every member is aware of and given the opportunity to participate in the following upcoming Summer A/TC activities:

Aug 26 Joe Landry's Open House (RSVP - Members & Family) 19 Orestis Lane, Lewiston, ME 04240.  
10am-2pm (Activities/Training Committee)



### Club Car Committee Update by Richard Ridolfo

**Moxie Boxcar:** Finally! Due into Maryland by August 15<sup>th</sup>, Stay Tune for delivery notice.



**Poland Spring Tank Car:** The order is in to MTH. No delivery information yet.



## Maine 3 Railers 2027 Club Car:

The Club Car Committee chose a Bump-n-Go Trolley for 2027. The trolley will depict the Androscoggin Electric Company Portland Lewiston Interurban #14 "Narcissus". Several of their trolleys included floral names.

The Androscoggin Electric Company Electric Trolley Line operated between Lewiston and Portland from 1914 until 1933 when the Central Maine Power Company left the inter-urban trolley business.



The member price will be \$70.00. The order form is available on page 32. The current retail price of Bump-n-Go's is \$99.50, so members can own a Maine Bump-n-Go at a **great price!**

### Features

Intricately detailed ABS Body, Metal Wheels, Axles and Gears, Colorful Paint Scheme, Precision Motor, Lighted Interior, Moveable Power Pole, Automatic Reversing Bumpers, Unit Measures: 8 1/4" x 2 3/8" x 3 1/3", Operates On O-27 Curves

Please send your order with payment to Rick Hills, PO Box 31, Amherst, NH 03031. Note: Checks will not be deposited until we reach the required quantity.



## M3R Surplus Club Cars Still Available by Dave Hodgkiss

Some Cianbro and 4 Bay Hopper Summer Cars are still available for the absurdly low price \$30 each. Pick up will be at the Club Locker in Topsham on a future To Be Announced (TBA) date. Mailing can be arranged at the prevailing cost.



Please send your orders or any questions to me at [dwh39@aol.com](mailto:dwh39@aol.com).



## M3R YouTube Channel Update by Channel Master Carlton Spring

July found the Mobile Outreach Team in Lisbon for the annual Moxie Festival on July 11<sup>th</sup>. We set up the layout on Friday afternoon. Saturday was a very busy day for us. If you haven't viewed the 2026 Moxie Festival video yet, the link below will take you directly to the show.

Direct Link to the 2026 Moxie Festival: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e85Jlw-YvrE&t=30s>

Stay tuned for the email for the MOT's next event where we will set up a layout at the Seashore Trolley Museum in Kennebunkport, ME on Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup> and run trains in the "South Boston Train House" on Saturday the 29<sup>th</sup>. My video will be produced and published in early September.



## EVENT REPORTS:



### 2026 Moxie Festival – Something for Everyone by Art Shean

Lisbon, Maine, Saturday, July 11, 2026: **Moxie the Beverage** – some love it while everyone else abhors its flavor. **Moxie the Festival** on the other hand is hard not to like. The Festival falls on the weekend after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and offers something for everyone. As usual they had lots of moxie, food, music, the longest parade in Maine, high profile politicians, clowns, games, road races, and an indoor eleven table 217 square foot model train display. The train display courtesy of a high-profile New England based train club called the **Maine 3 Railers**.

**JULY 10-12**

**LHS MAP**

| <b>FRIDAY</b><br><b>LISBON HIGH SCHOOL</b><br><i>FOOD TRUCKS, VENDORS, &amp; MOXIE T-SHIRT SALES!</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>SATURDAY</b><br><b>LISBON HIGH SCHOOL</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>SUNDAY</b><br><b>BEAVER PARK</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>3-5pm Boot Drive</p> <p>4-6pm Free First Taste of Maine with Katie Zarrilli</p> <p>4-7pm Moxie Photo Booth</p> <p>4-9pm Book Sale</p> <p>4-9pm Jurassic Experience</p> <p>5-8pm Touch-a-Truck</p> <p>5:30pm Woodside One Wheelers Unicycle Performance</p> <p>3-5pm Ward Hayden &amp; the Outliers</p> <p>6-9pm Another Tequila Sunrise<br/>Eagles / Eric Clapton</p> <p><b>DUSK: MOXIE FIREWORKS!!</b></p> | <p>6:00am Moxie 5k &amp; Kids Fun Run</p> <p>Registration</p> <p>7:00am Moxie Kids Fun Run</p> <p>7:30am 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Moxie 5k</p> <p><b>10am MOXIE DAY PARADE</b><br/>196 Lisbon Falls<br/>"The Longest Parade in Maine"</p> <p>1-4pm Open House @ 273 Lisbon St.<br/>the Yellow Schoolhouse Apartments</p> <p><b>LISBON HIGH SCHOOL</b><br/><i>FOOD TRUCKS, VENDORS, &amp; T-SHIRT SALES</i></p> <p>12pm Lisbon Cheer Presentation</p> <p>12-4pm Rock Climbing Wall</p> <p>12-8pm Jurassic Experience</p> <p>12:30p Whoopie Pie Eating Contest</p> <p>1pm Moxie Chugging Contest</p> <p>1:30-3 Music Bingo</p> <p>2-6pm Moxie Cornhole Tournament</p> <p>3-5pm Bonnie &amp; the Practical Cats</p> <p>4:00pm Lobstah Bake<br/>@ American Legion Lisbon</p> <p>5-6pm Aerial Jade Performance</p> <p>6-8pm Smith Collaboration</p> | <p>8am-1pm Moxie Car Show</p> <p><i>FOOD TRUCKS &amp; MOXIE T-SHIRTS</i></p> <p><b>LISBON HIGH SCHOOL</b><br/>1:30pm-6:00pm<br/><i>FOOD TRUCKS, VENDORS, &amp; Jurassic Experience!</i></p> <p><b>NEW THIS YEAR!</b><br/><b>BATTLE OF THE BANDS: MOXIE EDITION</b><br/>1:30pm-6:00pm</p> <p><small>Event T-shirts with participating bands listed on them will be for sale during the event!</small></p> |



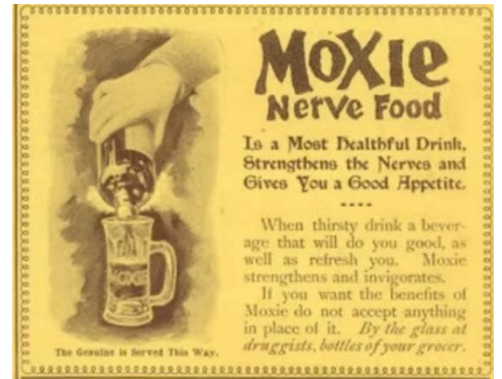
The Festival ran from Friday through Sunday with the bulk of the activities on Saturday. The M3R model train display was in the Lisbon High School Cafeteria with trains running Saturday from 8:30am until 4pm.

**This Year's Moxie Festival Slogan**  
**"Moments in History with Moxie!"**

Before we start, let's set the history straight:

## What's Moxie?

*Moxie is the uniquely New England soft drink, former nostrum and "nerve food". Doctor Augustin Thompson of Union, Maine first marketed Moxie as a patent medicine in 1876 in Lowell, Massachusetts. It was guaranteed to cure multiple ills, including "loss of manhood, paralysis, and softening of the brain". As a nostrum, it was dispensed a spoonful at a time. Doctor Thompson changed Moxie to take advantage of the new and growing soft drink market at the time. He put it on the soft drink market in 1884 as "Beverage Moxie Nerve Food". Later it became known simply as "Moxie". It has a core of dedicated fans in Maine.*



*Moxie is synonymous with good times and a "vigorous" life that drinking the product was supposed to sustain. Moxie was the nation's first mass marketed soft drink. **Got Moxie?***

**Did I write, "Something for everyone"? Yes, I did!**



Saturday morning the Festival started early with the 5K road race and kid's fun run.



Then came the Festival's main attraction – The Longest Parade in Maine!

## Moxie Day Parade



Like the Festival, the Moxie Day Parade offered a full array of interesting sights and sounds:



*One of Many Families of Kids Waiting for the Fun to Begin!*

## **Lots of Floats –**







*Live Music*

## **Lots of Politicians –**







**Lots of Characters -**



*Ghost Busters*





## Lots of Vehicles -







**The Shriners were Out in Force –**





## And the Westside One-Wheelers -



If you didn't catch the flavor of the Festival from the parade, then here are a few other tidbits that the Festival offered up:



**Free Parking**



## Whoopie Pie Eating Contest





## Moxie Books & Paraphernalia -



## Food -



## Entertainment -



*Big Top & Band Stand*

## And Model Railroads -



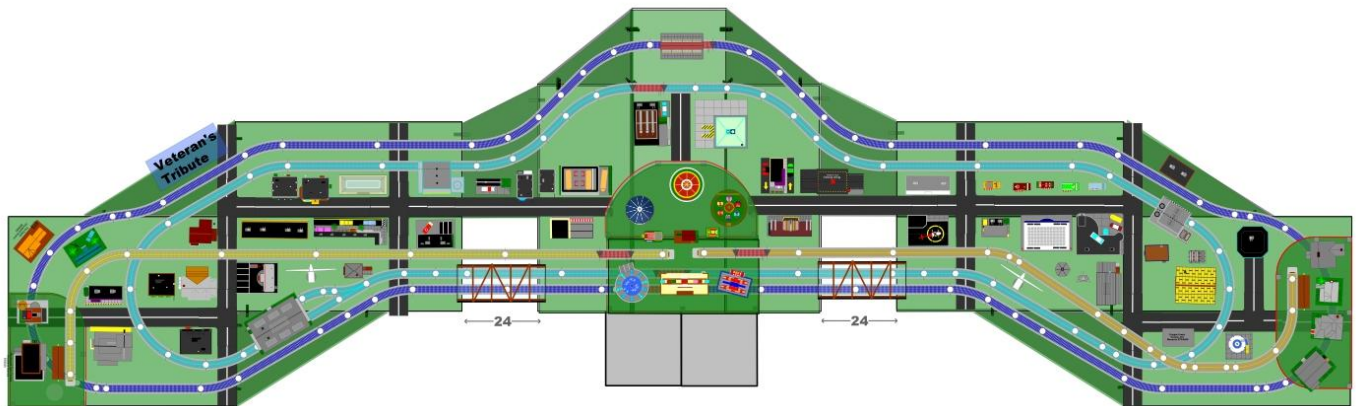




## 2026 Maine 3 Railers Model Train Display

**Set Up:** For the Maine 3 Railers, the Festival began at 1pm, Friday afternoon when Doug Pollock and I arrived at the back door to the Lisbon High School cafeteria. As expected we found the doors locked but shortly thereafter Nicole Hayward, our Festival contact arrived, unlocked the doors, and we began unloading. In turn, Carlton Spring and Sam Carr arrived and likewise unloaded their vehicles.

Dave Christie, Frank Folker, Jeff Jacobs, & Gene Thayer arrived during unloading and the layout assembly commenced. With such an experienced crew, assembly of the eleven table layout progressed smoothly. The plan offered two main lines and two raised trolley lines as shown below. Set up was complete and we were out by 5:30pm.





## Running Trains:



Saturday morning by 8:30am the crew had the trains up and running and ready for the influx of visitors. John Harper joined the crew of Sam Carr, Doug Pollock, Carlton Spring and me to operate trains and greet the expected crowd. The 5K run and the Moxie Day Parade absorbed most of the crowd until around 11 o'clock. Thereafter we received a steady flow of visitors with frequent periods of overflow.



*John Harper*







## 2026 Moxie Days Layout Highlights:



*Making Moxie for the Crowd*





*Doug's Tribute to Veterans*



*Train Stop for Lunch at the 2026 Moxie Festival*



*Grand Central and Union Stations*



*Residential Trolley Stop in Ronald Reagan's Neighborhood*





*Woodland Scenics' Miss Molly's Diner and Door Factory*

## Pack Up and Move Out:



**We left the Cafeteria as we found it until next year!**



**July 10-12, 2026**

**Photography by Shean & Spring**



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Club Meeting - Ain't Just Lunch in the Woods by Art Shean

Bradbury Mountain State Park, Pownal, Maine, Wednesday July 15, 2026, from 10am until 2pm: Yes, we did have lots of hamburgers and hot dogs! Yes, we had a full array of delicious cookies, brownies, and treats! But all the great food was just a pretext to gather members together for an in-person get together. **If you did not attend, then you missed a great opportunity!**

### Meetings:

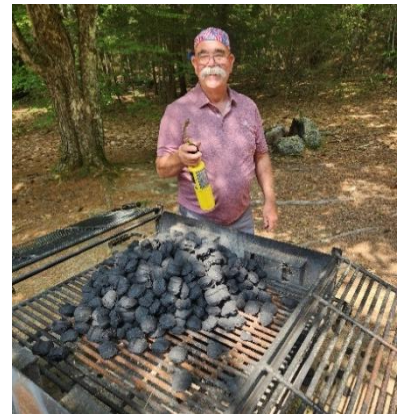
While Chef Dave Hodgkiss charged up the charcoal to a bright glow, our beloved President, Bernie Pender, ran two separate meetings. First up was an Executive Board session. Fairly routine but essential to keep our board members aligned. This was followed by the July Monthly meeting. Again, it was rather routine except for one major issue.

Following the Treasurer's report a question came from the floor as to what our plans for the large treasury balance were? In the past we discussed various donations or a scholarship without any conclusion. After some discussion, all agreed to create a committee to return recommendations to the Club membership. And so, the **M3R Scholarship & Charitable Donations Committee** was born. Steve Tranni agreed to serve as the Committee Chairperson.

With no further business, Bernie accepted a motion to adjourn to lunch.

### Lunch:

While Chef Dave manned the grill, Bernie and Rick served up plenty of burgers and dogs. Not sure where they procured the dogs, but they were huge! *One was so large it jumped off the grill.* Combined with an ample supply of drinks, chips, salads, and deserts no one went away hungry. The brownies and rubber cookies were especially well received.





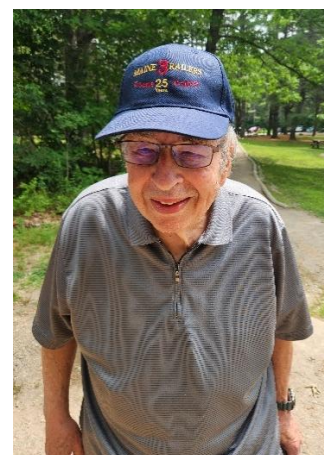
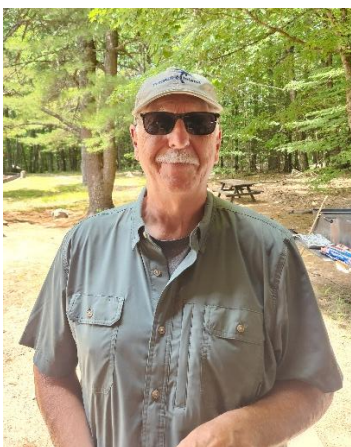
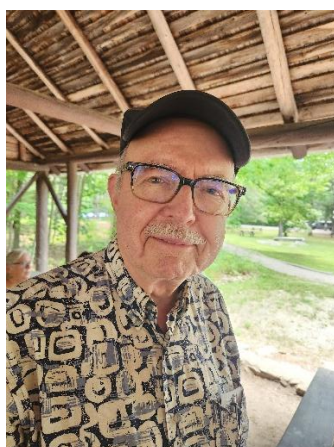


## Members & Guests:

Seventeen male members attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual July Monthly meeting:



*L to R: Bernie Pender, Dave Hodgkiss, Rick Hills, and Jeff Jacobs*



*L to R: Ken Thorson, Jack Dexter, Steve Tranni, and Lou Bragaw*

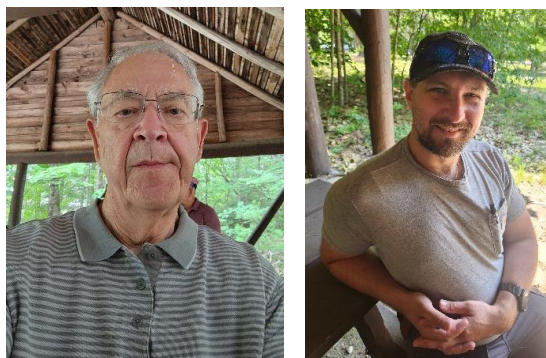




*L to R: Jim Kinnie, David Smith, John Harper, and Paul Brown*



*L to R: Vic Fuller, Mark Lasher, and Richard Ridolfo*



*L to R: Art Shean and Tim Averell*

In addition to the male members, four women joined the festivities this year. A quadruple jump from just one last year.



*L to R: Denise Lasher, Gail Shean, Faith Hodgkiss, and Carol Dexter*



## Awards & Recognition:

With the crowd assembled after lunch, Bernie couldn't wait to recognize some members that made key contributions since our last Annual meeting.



Bernie first recognized two long time members and contributors with "Lifetime Service" Gold Metals, Jeff Jacobs and Vic Fuller. Both are avid, model train buyers/sellers so to the surprise of all present, Bernie also handed each a \$50 bill. One might think that with their business acumen they should have questioned the authenticity of the bills earlier than they did.



Carefully check out the details on the bills he handed each of them:



Next up Bernie called Ken "Legal Eagle" Thorson to the front, thanked him for his many contributions to include providing his professional advice. Despite numerous lawyer jokes, Ken graciously accepted his "gold metal".





Following Ken, Bernie recognized Richard “Supply Chain” Ridolfo for his meticulous attention to delivering Club Cars as scheduled. Well, maybe just most of the time.

To my surprise Bernie called my name next. For some reason, he thought I had some advanced knowledge of the computer software we use to produce layout designs. I’ve been trying to find the right time to tell him that it’s all just AI. I was also a little bit skeptical of the “gold” in the metals; too hard to be real.



Not sure if Bernie recognized Dave Hodgkiss for being our “Chef” or Property Manager. Considering how improved our inventory control and storage system have become, it must be the latter. Hey Dave! Did you sign the receipt for charcoal and propane?



Shh! Next Bernie shared a deep dark secret. Lou volunteered to act as the anonymous Club “July Secret Santa”. He procured the many prizes that were awarded later in the afternoon during M3R Trivia. Considering the quantity, quality, and appropriateness of each prize, Lou deserved a real gold metal.

Last man up was Rick Hills. Bernie recognized Rick for revolutionizing our Club activities through the Activities/Training Committee. Good thing Bernie did not try to pass off one of his suspect \$50 bills on our trusted and reliable Club Treasurer.



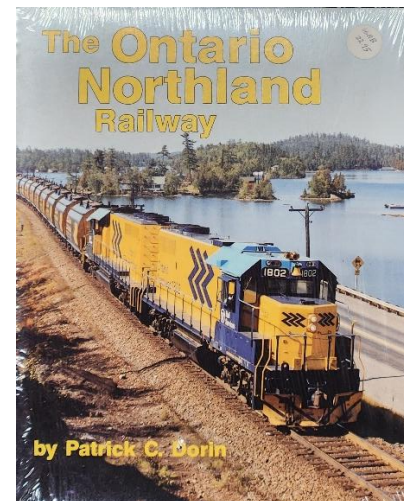


## Entertainment:

With Rick at his side, Bernie switched hats from M3R President to MC of “Afternoon M3R Trivia”. Bernie asked the questions and Rick passed out the prizes.



The Trivia Team was careful to assure no one won more than one prize and eventually everyone received one. I won the laser engraved pencil holder shown below while Gail, my wife, won the Ontario Northland Railway book shown beside it. Handsome gifts for participating.



## End of the Day:

At the end of the afternoon, everyone left with full stomachs, a trivia contest prize, and for many, shared enlightenment having met and talked with many members in person for the first time.





## Bar Mills Scale Model Works – A Hidden Treasure by Mark Lasher

On July 22, 2026, the Maine 3 Railers were treated to a tour of the Bar Mills Scale Model Works facility located in Buxton, Maine. Participating were Rick Hills, Mark Lasher, Denise Lasher, Joe McCarthy, Dave Smith, Carlton Spring, and Jan

Williams.

Everything about Bar Mills is intended to promote model building as a hobby, provide high-quality, highly detailed building kits for modelers, and support the people of our communities through outreach events and clinics. Bar Mills was founded in 2000 in Buxton. They have since added a second manufacturing operation in Lisbon Falls and have plans to expand that Lisbon Falls operation to 3,000 square feet. Bar Mills products are in such demand that they are currently running a 2-shifts per day, 7 days per week manufacturing operation.

After finding the Bar Mills Scale Model Works building behind some thick trees, we noticed there was a 30'x60' building constructed to resemble a train station. This was not just any station as it was an identical replica of the Strong train station once serving the narrow-gauge Sandy River and Rangeley Lakes Railroad. The structure was an identical match to the original in every detail including doors and custom windows built in Pennsylvania. What we saw inside was even a bigger surprise.



*Bar Mills Scale Model Works, Buxton, ME*

Upon entering the “station” we were greeted by Len Lednum, now running Bar Mills since 2024. Only after taking a few moments to make sure all operations were running as expected, Len started our tour. We were presented with a 17-foot



*Impressive 17' "S" Gauge Coastal Maine Layout*

narrow gauge “S” gauge waterfront point-to-point layout created for the Narrow-Gauge convention in Maine. This included a beautiful and very detailed waterfront scene as you might find on a casual drive along coastal Maine. Each building on the layout was stick-build so as not to “show off” Bar Mills products at the convention. They were all purposefully placed and complemented with many hand-made trees and detail that could keep your attention for hours. As all the structures and trees were made by different people, it added some

of the natural random elements you would see on your drive. I know as I looked at the causeway it reminded me of Wiscasset. An interesting technique used on this layout was “forced perspective”. The primary structures and details towards the front were “S” gauge but structures in the back of the layout were HO scale. This tricks your eye to thinking it is a deeper layout than it may otherwise appear.



*Forced Perspective with HO Structures in Back*





*Hand-Laid Narrow-Gauge Track*



*Typical Coastal Maine Scene*

As we walked to see the LASER cutting area we were greeted by shelf after shelf of kits in various scales in their inventory. They don't like to make their customers wait once they get the order. They have found a way to tuck a lot into their small station. All models in an "assembled" version were available for display. Impressive!



*Utilizing All Available Space*



*Assembled Kits for Display*

You may guess there is not a lot of open space at the Buxton facility. The cutting room had four large LASER cutting machines with just enough room to get by. Multiple parts to be cut are nested (arranged) into single sheets. All finished and manufacturing designs are done in-house with focus on quality and efficiency. The plywood used is very thin and can cut quickly. No matter what kind of wood you use it is never flat so having the LASER cutting machines vacuum the thin wood panels flat to the cutting bed was genius.



*Shipping Room*

We next went to see the shipping operation. I would not have expected to learn they ship 200-300 packages per week. To do that you have to think efficiency. Len said that they use standard boxes all with the same artwork (something that has not changed since the beginning due to tooling costs) and they simply place product specific labels on the boxes. So simple. Great idea since they must order 100,000 boxes at a time. I am not sure where they would store them all if they were customized by product.



Shipping really starts in the kit assembly area upstairs. For each kit a unique 2-D drawing (they call it a “map”) of all the parts in a kit is developed (again in-house). Individual components are identified on the drawing and completing the kit is as simple as gathering all the parts until each image on the drawing is covered. To make things even more efficient and less likely to



*Kit Complete and Ready to Ship*

ship an incomplete kit, similar parts are on panels vs each part an individual item. Now instead of grabbing 10 parts they may only need to grab one or two sheets. Once all parts are staged on the “map” they are bagged by like components (walls, roofing materials, figures, details, etc.). Instructions for the kits, developed in-house after several trial assemblies to make certain the instructions are as clear as possible, are also added to the kit box. The box is now ready for shipping to an anxious customer. We all know shipping has not been the same since COVID, with longer delivery times and higher shipping costs. Another fun and surprising fact: Bar Mills Scale Model Works refuses to pass on higher shipping costs to their customers? We were astonished to learn shipping is the same as it was 15 years ago, just \$7.50.



*Using Standard Boxes*

How do they know what to do and how to do it you may ask? Ideas for new products are developed across a team using comments from customers, market research, and “I think this would be a great product to offer”. You can expect to see 6-8 new kits a year, or a limited run of a retired product based on interest (that is in addition to their 500-600 products already). Unfortunately, the best ideas may not be affordable when they are all done. All design work is done in-house and is evolving as manufacturing technology changes. Not only do they have to design the product but also design it for manufacturing and to fit into their standard boxes. What happens when you want to provide something that Bar Mills has never provided, such as brick walls? Sounds easy to do but Bar Mills strives to continue to provide authentic products with accurate scales. Their solution for making brick walls is using MDF board and LASER cutting. No problem except the model wall design calls for 1/16” thick boards rather than plywood used by the other models they produce. And their only source requires buying 1,000 4’x8’ sheets per order. Yikes!

Bar Mills is now in the 3-D printing business to make some incredibly detailed accessories and people. They use 3-D Resin printing which is a different way to make 3-D items than using a traditional filament printer (Mark Lasher introduced filament 3-D printing to M3R last year). The result is some incredibly detailed and rugged items. We thought we were going to have a heart attack when he twisted an O-scale window washer with a fragile window squeegee in his hand, but it just sprang back. They can even print wrinkles on faces at that scale. Wow! Where do they get their designs for this 3-D printing? In-house of course. For example, Len starts with a solid digital block and shapes it to resemble a person. This sounds hard enough but their attention to detail is not often found with other printers. Len makes sure that the legs are properly sized so that the figure stands on its own. To you and me probably not a noticeable change. Fine details may be made slightly thicker to make them more durable. Ever try to paint a figure where the arms are along the body. You end up painting the arms and the body many times at best. Len makes sure there is sufficient space in those areas to make painting easier and faster.



Not only does Bar Mills offer figures, but they also paint them in their Lisbon Falls facility. They have figured out the perfect paint mixture that offers fast drying but not so thick it masks the details and not so thin it requires multiple coats. You may ask why do this in-house when you can just



order these from overseas? Bar Mills found they had no control over the supply-chain process, could not easily develop custom products, and control the quality. They did not like having to ship kits without the figures because of issues surrounding overseas procurement.

Earlier I mentioned Bar Mills Scale Model Works is an ambassador promoting interest in modeling. To that end a line of kits was developed called the “Over Nighters”. These kits are designed for individuals interested in building a model without risking a very expensive or complex model. They are designed to teach all the basics that can lead to building more complex structures, being completed in a night (or two), not requiring any painting, and looking as impressive side-by-side with more complex and detailed structures.

So, what is coming beyond growing the manufacturing business? Len shared they are looking to put a train themed hobby shop in the Auburn Mall. He felt it would be a great way to continue to promote both model trains and model building. We are sure he will be successful. Keep checking their web site for updates ([www.barmillsmodels.com](http://www.barmillsmodels.com)).



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

**Moxie Festival 2026:** Well, I hope U got to the Moxie Festival because it was fantastic! The MOT crew got to park exactly where they parked last year - right by the loading door. But when we arrived, U had to find someone to unlock the doors. We set up on Friday afternoon at 1pm. Much better than last year's 4pm. We found the lady in charge, and she had the magic key to let us into the Lisbon High cafeteria. As usual we had a great layout planned. Setup was a bit challenging, but we got it done. Only took about 4 hours. We had some extra help which was great.

Saturday again we had to find someone to open the doors. We were ready to go on time around 8:30am, but it was very, very slow until after the parade. The parade passed by the front of the high school from 10 to 11am. Then we were hit by the crowd. There was room for 40++ people in front of the layout and what a show they all had. A lady came in who was running for some position in Lewiston. She was soaking wet and asked Carlton for a couple of paper towels to wipe her face and neck. As she started to leave, I asked if she was going to keep the towels and she came right back good spiritedly with, “Do U want them back?”

After a while we had a break during disassembly and Art Shean gathered us all around and announced it was Sam Carr's last day after MANY YEARS as the M3R Event Coordinator. The MOT crew huddled and presented Sam with a Certificate of Appreciation signed by MOT members. After that we went back to packing up. How appropriate!



*L to R: Doug Pollock, Sam Carr, Art Shean, Frank Folker, Carlton Spring, & John Harper*

A woman was really excited about the trolley going back and forth so Sam explained to her how the “Bump and Go” Trolley system works. I gave her a copy of the Polar Express book and she was thrilled. She had us all sign the book. She had a frog tattooed on the back of her legs and I told her a story about frogs, and she really got a kick out of the story. She and her husband had a great time. Later there was a woman who wanted to show me something which was a picture of her son enjoying the trains. She thanked us and I thanked her. I explained that it was her not hurrying her son and letting him enjoy what we had that was worth our appreciation. Overall, people were really impressed with everything we had set up. One woman came up to me and asked where the game was, and I said what game? She said where U look for figures on the layout. She remembered our layouts from the libraries where we offered a scavenger hunt. What a day everyone had!



On the news they did not mention the running of trains at Moxie, so I called the station and let them know. They said they would tell the reporter. When the Times Record came out Friday there was nothing about the Moxie show, just the Blue Angels. So, I called the paper and asked why they did not mention the Moxie event? They were not sure but would let someone know???

**On the lighter Side** - How do U want to sleep?

Porter: Which way do you want to sleep - headfirst or feet first???

Passenger: I would like to sleep all over at the same time.

### **Thank You, Sam Carr!**

Thank you, Sam, for everything you have done for our Club and hobby. From teaching the young to older people how our trains work, when we are going to B where, how we plan and organize for our events, and how to turn our plans into reality. If you have a ???, then Sam will help U solve the problem or direct you to a solution. Sam Is a Jack or should I say, Sam of all Club and model railroad things.

Sam is an expert at recruiting new members, getting track and power to everything, crawling under the layout for power cords, setting up schedules for Cumberland Fair and all the other 20 or so venues we serve. I know Sam holds a special place in this Heart for the Maine Veterans Home and the Togus VA Medical Center. It is our Honor to assist him when we visit those locations. We cannot thank Sam enough for all he did for all of us. He is OUTSTANDING and he has all our THANKS! He may be stepping back from his role as Event Coordinator, but we look forward to him continuing to participate in whatever way he chooses in the future

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

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### **My Work Continues On! by Jan Williams**

I made good progress on my Sugar Factory scene since last. The work has fallen into two sub-projects: the background buildings and the foreground stonework.

The below picture shows the entire scene and progress so far. The background structures are a mix - the Sugar factory and Staples factory are custom built fantasy structures - the walls are foam board covered in Plastruck plastic siding sheets. The windows are from Tichey. The billboard signs are from Miller Engineering. The other buildings are Downtown Deco cast plaster kits.



The empty building site (*Right Center in the above photo*) is for a kit from Bar Mills, the Klinger's Pharmacy building.



The sidewalks are cut from 1/4" plywood - these are temporary. I expect to replace them with Baltic Birch plywood, obtainable as far as I know only from Boulter Plywood in Boston. Quarter inch plywood scales out to awkward 1-foot sidewalks; the European birch is closer to 8 inch sidewalks. The birch material is in general much better for modelling; it is fine grained with no voids. But it requires a trip to Boston.

The project includes landscaping the area between the mainline tracks in the foreground. It seemed logical to continue the rocky scenery below into this area - logical perhaps, but a good bit of work. This landscaping broke down into three steps: casting stones, installing stones on the strip, and painting the scenery.

I use Hydrocal plaster to cast stones; it's available from various modelling supply houses and art supply stores. About 30 years ago I bought a set of rubber molds for casting model boulders, I've used them ever since (See Photo at right). Casting is simple - mix the plaster, pour it in the molds, leave the plaster for about three days to harden, and pop the boulders out of the molds.



I paint the cast boulders before I install them; painting is easier at the work bench. I did not have coloring to add to the plaster, but I highly recommend pre-coloring the plaster. Painting white plaster rock castings is difficult - it requires a coat of spray primer to cover the crevasses. Installing the boulders begins by gluing them onto the layout; I used simple white glue. At this point the boulders look very artificial (See picture below).

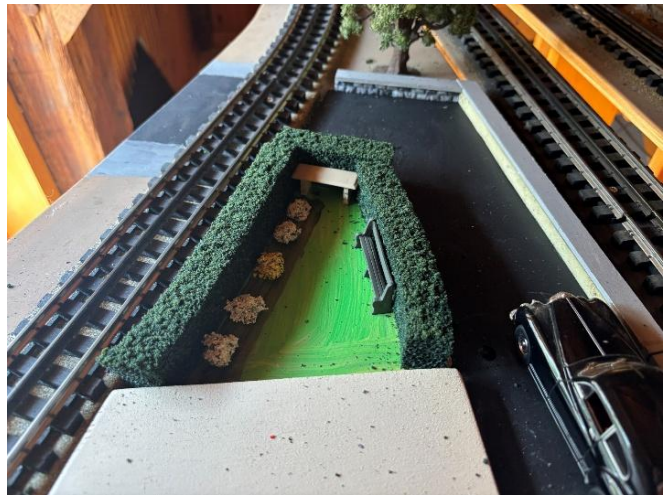


What's next is to blend the boulders into the scenery. I used a product called Sculptamold. This is a cellulose based product mixed like plaster but much lighter in weight, and which dries to a rougher texture which simulates raw earth. The Sculptamold dries in a day or two, can be carved, and takes paint beautifully. The below two pictures illustrate.





Two small areas of interest are the pocket gardens shown below in early stages of development. Viewed from six feet away they are barely visible; still, they require attention! The whole scene demands more work: streetlights, people, road signs, and detailing, etc. Wiring the Miller billboards... The work goes on...



**The End**



# M3R 2027 Club Car Order Form

July 1, 2026

The Club Car Committee chose a Bump-n-Go Trolley for the 2027 car. The Trolley will be the # 14 "Narcissus" for the Androscoggin Electric Company, Portland Lewiston Interurban.

| Item Number | Description                                                                              | Quantity | Price   | Total |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|---------|-------|
| #14         | Androscoggin Electric Company<br>Portland Lewiston Interurban                            |          | \$70.00 |       |
|             |                                                                                          |          |         |       |
|             | Shipping if desired \$12.00 Additional Cars in<br>New England \$2.00 each \$3.00 outside |          |         |       |
|             | TOTAL ENCLOSED                                                                           |          |         |       |

|         |  |  |  |       |  |  |  |
|---------|--|--|--|-------|--|--|--|
| NAME    |  |  |  | PHONE |  |  |  |
| ADDRESS |  |  |  | CITY  |  |  |  |
|         |  |  |  | STATE |  |  |  |
|         |  |  |  | ZIP   |  |  |  |

Payment should be sent along with order form to Rick Hills, Treasurer, PO Box 31, Amherst, NH 03031 (Note checks will not be deposited until we reach the required quantity).





## Maine 3 Railers Upcoming Schedule of Events

### 2026

- Aug 26 **Joe Landry's Open House** ([RSVP - Members & Family](#)) 19 Orestis Lane, Lewiston, ME 04240. 10am-2pm (Activities/Training Committee)
- Aug 29 **Annual Model Railroad Days at Seashore Trolley Museum** ([Public](#)), 195 Log Cabin Road, Kennebunkport, ME 04046, 9:30-4pm with Set up Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. (MOT)
- Sep 27 to Oct 03 **154<sup>th</sup> Cumberland County Fair** ([Public](#)), Entertainment Building, 197 Blanchard Rd., Cumberland, ME 04021, 9am-9pm daily with set up 8am on Sep 26 and move-out at 8am on Oct 4. (MOT)
- Oct 16 & 17 **Baxter Library Book Sale** ([Public](#)), Shaw Gym, 75 South St., Gorham ME 04038. Set up from 2-5pm on Thu Oct 15 and trains running from 9am-6pm on Fri Oct 16 and 9am-1pm on Saturday Oct 17. (MOT)

### 2027

- Feb 13 **Annual Maine 3 Railers Model Train and Dollhouse Show** ([Public](#)) 10am-2pm. Move in 8am Friday Feb 12, 2027. (Train Show Committee)
- Feb 17 **Patten Free Library** ([Public](#)), 33 Summer Street, Bath, ME 04530. Layout will be in the Community Room on the second floor. Set up 8-10am, trains run 10am-3pm, move out 3-5pm. (MOT)
- Feb 19 **Vacation Week Model Train Display** ([Public](#)), Topsham Public Library, 25 Foreside Road, Topsham, ME 04086. Set up Thursday, Feb 18<sup>th</sup>, 2-6pm & Friday, Feb 19<sup>th</sup>, 8:30-10am. Run Trains from 10am-1pm. (MOT)

### M3R General Meetings (Meetings start at 7 pm on Zoom except July 15th):

- Sep 10 **Monthly Club Meeting**
- Oct 08 **Monthly Club Meeting**
- Nov 12 **Monthly Club Meeting**

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

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# Maine 3 Railers Elected Officers and Appointed Positions

## Elected Officers and Executive Board Appointed Positions and Committees 2025-2026

### President



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

### Vice President



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

### Secretary



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

### Treasurer



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

### At Large



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

### At Large



Ernie Vannah,  
[ernie@maine3railers.org](mailto:ernie@maine3railers.org)

### Recent Past President



Gene Thayer,  
[pastpresident@maine3railers.org](mailto: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](mailto:clubcar@maine3railers.org)  
Maine3Railers, PO Box 31, Amherst, NH 03031

### Mobile Outreach Team (MOT):

Gene Thayer, *Event Coordinator*  
Members: John Ash, Sam Carr, Dave Christie, Frank Folker, Jeff Jacobs, Ed McCreery, Doug Pollock, Art Shean, Carlton Spring, Ken Thorson, & Ernie Vannah

### Activities/Training Committee:

Rick Hills, *Chair*  
Members: Jeff Jacobs, Dave Hodgkiss, Mark Lasher, Bernie Pender, and Steve Tranni

### 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:

Rocko Graciano,  
[webmaster@maine3railers.org](mailto:webmaster@maine3railers.org)

### YouTube Channel Master:

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

### Club Greeter:

Doug Pollock  
**Newsletter Editor:** Art Shean  
[artshean@comcast.net](mailto:artshean@comcast.net)

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

## Maine3Railers

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