



MAINE 3 RAILERS

M3R CLUB NEWSLETTER FOR MARCH 2023

NEXT MEETING IS THURSDAY, March 9, 2023, at 7:00PM on ZOOM. Watch for the email from Dana Lindsey with the link to join.



President's Message by Gene Thayer

March is here and it is really the last Winter month. This is the last month we will be spending a lot of time running our trains before we catch the Spring fever that draw us outdoors.

I would like to take a look back at February. The Maine 3 Railers had a great show at the Augusta State Armory February 18th. We will have the attendance and financial numbers at the March 9th Monthly Club meeting. I want to thank everyone who helped out setting up and taking down the tables and performing other duties at the Show.

Great news! Two new members joined the Club in February. Lou Bragaw reported that Thomas Bury of Southwest Harbor and Nick Morouse from Brunswick submitted their applications. Even more exciting is that Nick is a teenager which will lower our Club average age. Please welcome them to our Club when you see them at a future Club function.

UPDATES



M3R YouTube Channel Update by Channel Master Carlton Spring

The Portable Unit of the M3R has certainly been busy. If you haven't viewed the video of our visit to Wilbur's Chocolate Factory in Freeport on January 28th and 29th, the direct link is posted below. Our next event was the annual Train and Dollhouse Show at the Augusta Armory on Saturday February 18th. The direct link is also below. February school vacation week was also busy for the Portable Unit with visits to the Patten Free Library on February 21st and 22nd and the Topsham Public Library on February 24th.

Links:

- Wilbur's Chocolates: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=muv-BigHUVU>
- 2023 Train and Dollhouse Show: <https://youtu.be/zvt2HSa1V6k>
- Patten Free Library: <https://youtu.be/Y2sWjFHmN8Q>
- Topsham Public Library: <https://youtu.be/ovCvGjzYfeU>



M3R Website by Webmaster Tom Hartwell

Looking forward to reviewing the changes and updates made recently to the website at our Monthly Meeting on March 9th. These changes are based on input from, and conversations with, Sam Carr, Art Shean, and Carlton Spring. We've added functionality and features with the goal of making the website easier to navigate, while at the same time helping viewers gain better insights into our club.



Model Train Show Committee by Richard Ridolfo

2023 Model Railroad & Dollhouse Show, Augusta Armory

Thank you to everyone who helped out at the show - our efforts paid off! We had 108 Vendor Tables (20% increase over last year) and attendance was 50% over last year. In 2022 the Whitefield Lions Club was planning to end the show, but the Maine3Railers stepped in and saved it. Our 2023 show demonstrated our ability to sustain and improve the show. We now sponsor the largest and, in my opinion, the best Train and Dollhouse show in the state. A full report will be presented at the March Monthly Club meeting. We have reserved the Armory for February 17, 2024. Thanks again!



Before the Show



During the Show



Dollhouses included!

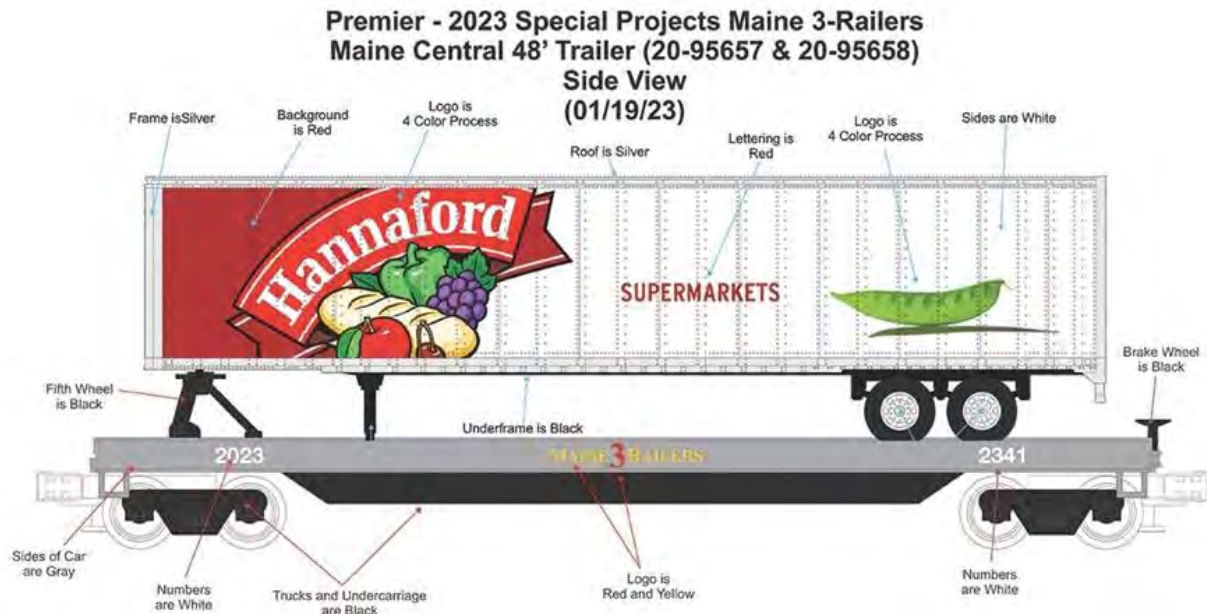
Club Car News by Richard Ridolfo



Hannaford Trailer on Flat Car.

The cars have been ordered from MTH. Initial sales have been very good, to date we have orders for 79 cars. The pre-buy deadline is March 15th. Up to then, members can order and pay \$70.00 per car. After the 15th of March, the member price will be \$75.00.

Based on comments from members and the public at Augusta, I would not be surprised that the car will be sold out by the time they arrive in August. To place your order, contact Peter Hanson at 21 Norway Drive, Chelsea, ME 04330, 207-622-4256, or pvhan@roadrunner.com.



2023 M3R Club Dues by Lou Bragaw

If you haven't sent in your dues yet, please do it now. Dues for 2023 are \$20 for an individual and \$25 for a family. Make your check payable to the Maine 3-Railers and send it to our club treasurer **Lou Bragaw** at **1 Wren Drive, Topsham, ME 04086**. Call Lou at 207-373-1801 if you have questions.



From the Editor by Art Shean

My apologies to everyone for the late delivery of this month's newsletter. We target the first of each month to have the Newsletter posted on our website. This month I failed to have it ready to meet your expectations and standards. For a short month, February had a lot packed in and around it (Wilbur's

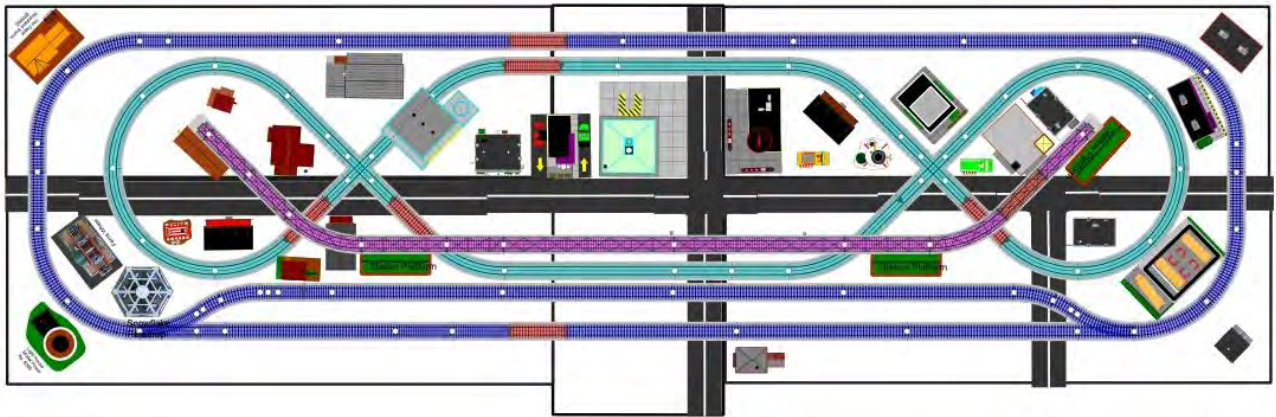
Chocolate Factory in Freeport - January 27-29, the Club Show Feb 17 & 18, Patten Free Library in Bath Feb 21 & 22, and the Topsham Library Feb 24 & 25). The March Newsletter includes Event Reports for Wilbur's and the Club Show. We will catchup on the Event Reports for the Patten Free and Topsham Libraries in the April edition.

EVENT REPORTS

Cozy Corner with Enough Chocolate Kisses for Everyone by Art Shean



The Maine 3 Railers visited the Wilbur's Chocolate Factory for the third time in four years January 27th & 28th. Although small in size, their activity room is cozy and comfortable with a fireplace and picture window overlooking the expanding L.L. Bean Corporate Office Complex. With limited space, we only used five tables to create a small town feel with plenty of action for kids and adults. The 109 square foot layout was 5 ½ feet by 18 ½ feet with 109+ inches of FasTrack and 27 feet of 6-inch-wide asphalt roads. It included an outer mainline with a 14-foot siding to alternate trains, an inner double figure eight for Thomas consists, and an elevated trolley line. To add spice, we included an operating MTH Fire Station, two Lemax carnival rides, and two Menards buildings with automated moving features. In all there were 29 buildings on the tables.



To save space in front of the fireplace, we jettisoned the normal control table and used the six-inch overhang of the middle table for the transformers and controls. Despite being cramped, Sam Carr made the best of the space.



The crew of John Ash, Sam Carr, Tom Hartwell, Doug Pollock, Art Shean, Carlton Spring, Gene Thayer, and Ken Thorson setup, operated, disassembled, and packed up the layout starting Friday afternoon through Sunday afternoon. When we arrived Friday, the folks at Wilbur's made it clear, as the sign on their lawn, that we were expected.



And in the parking lot we saw a few reminders that we were at the correct address.



Inside the factory store we encountered our first dilemma. The good thing was the store has plenty of candy on display – especially chocolate treats. The bad thing is there was a lot of candy available the entire time we were there. Not sure but I guess we gained a few pounds during our stay.



Another interesting twist during our visit occurred on the inner double figure eight Thomas loop. Seems that one of the crew thought it would be interesting to run two Thomas engines on the loop at the same time. So, when Sam stepped away for lunch, two conspiring crew members placed a second engine on the loop while a young engineer was operating another. Things went well and the young engineer was intrigued until another youngster distracted the crew member operating the second engine. Just a moment of distraction and the consequences were quite dramatic.



At one of the 90-degree crossovers, Percy T-boned the Thomas freight consist. You can imagine the paperwork that followed reporting the incident. And the inquiries from our insurance broker were downright accusatory. To make things worse, they tried it again, and guess what, it happened again!



Distracted Driver at the Crossover!

You would think these guys would get a clue, but they tried another experiment. This time on the elevated trolley line. Instead of two Thomas engines they placed a second trolley on the line. Although not as spectacular, the two trolleys collided in the middle, bounced off each other, reversed directions, and proceeded on their way without further incident. Quite a show for the spectators.



And they Kissed Mid-Stream...

All fun aside, the Crew successfully carried out two other experiments. Sam and Art installed a RCDM Siding Power Switch on the mainline siding with success. They installed the switch just after the turnout on the entrance end of the layout and removed the middle rail continuity wire on the 1 3/8" track piece on the opposite end of the siding. By so doing, they removed power from the second consist waiting on the siding. Not a chirp was heard from the awaiting engine.



Carlton Spring experimented using the large screen smart television mounted above the fireplace. Working with the Wilbur's folks, he connected the TV to the internet and ran various YouTube videos of our past model train layouts. Quite the multimedia event with live action on the tables and video action on the screen. Strange things happen when you have multiple days to play.

It may sound like the crew was distracted but our guests saw plenty to like and spend time scrutinizing every detail of the layout. Both young and old found something of interest as they strolled around the layout.



As always, they especially liked watching the operating fire station.



As the sun set in the west, it was not just another few days for our agile mobile layout crew.

Photography by Tom Hartwell, Art Shean, & Carlton Spring

Getting Better Every Year! By Art Shean

Dateline: February 18, 2023, Augusta, ME. In 2021 many folks thought the annual Train and Dollhouse Show at the Augusta Armory was headed for a proverbial grave. But in the last days of the year the Maine 3



Railers stepped in, took the reins from the Whitefield Lions Club, and in February 2022 ran a very successful show with no more than a few months of preparation. In 2023, the challenge was whether or not the 3 Railers could sustain their



support for an annual show. And now the results are in! **Yes we can!** Without reservation, the 2023 Model Railroad and Dollhouse Show at the Augusta Armory was an even bigger success than the 2022 version. Attendance was up, more vendors participated, and the number of clubs providing model

train displays doubled.

Attendees lined up early in questionable weather to see the sights inside the armory. When the doors opened at 10 am, customers of all ages paid their \$5 entrance fee and rushed in for the sights, bargains, and conversation. And unlike many train shows, the crowd appeared to linger well into the afternoon. But best of all, there seemed to be more kids in the crowd than in the past and they appeared more active asking questions, testing train equipment, and buying bargain startup engines and rolling stock.



Once the doors opened it did not take long to go from empty drill hall to full throttle model train & dollhouse show.



Drill Hall During Setup



Shortly After the Doors Opened

Setup began at 8 am Friday morning with a robust crew prepared to transform the open hall into a meticulously organized hobby mecca. Every table was placed and labeled in anticipation of vendor arrivals.



Da Crew



Dana Lindsey Measuring to the Inch



Doug Pollock Directing the White Elephant Crew

The crew placed the Maine 3 Railers White Elephant Table in the center of the hall and it quickly became the hub for model train sales. Doug Pollock and our sales team promptly turned the space from stacked boxes into a sales center worthy of any brick and mortar store. The White Elephant team did well despite a limited inventory of donated goods. They also accomplished one spectacular feat – they found homes for the multitude of ceramic Department 56 buildings left over from last years show.



Setup and Ready for Vendor Arrival

That same morning, far from Augusta in Auburn, Friendship, and Topsham, several other teams were assembling, packing, and loading the paraphernalia needed for the model train displays. The 2023 show had three separate displays representing both the Maine 3 Railers as well as the Great Falls Model Railroad Club.



The Great Falls HO scale layout was placed at the back of the hall in front of and to the left of

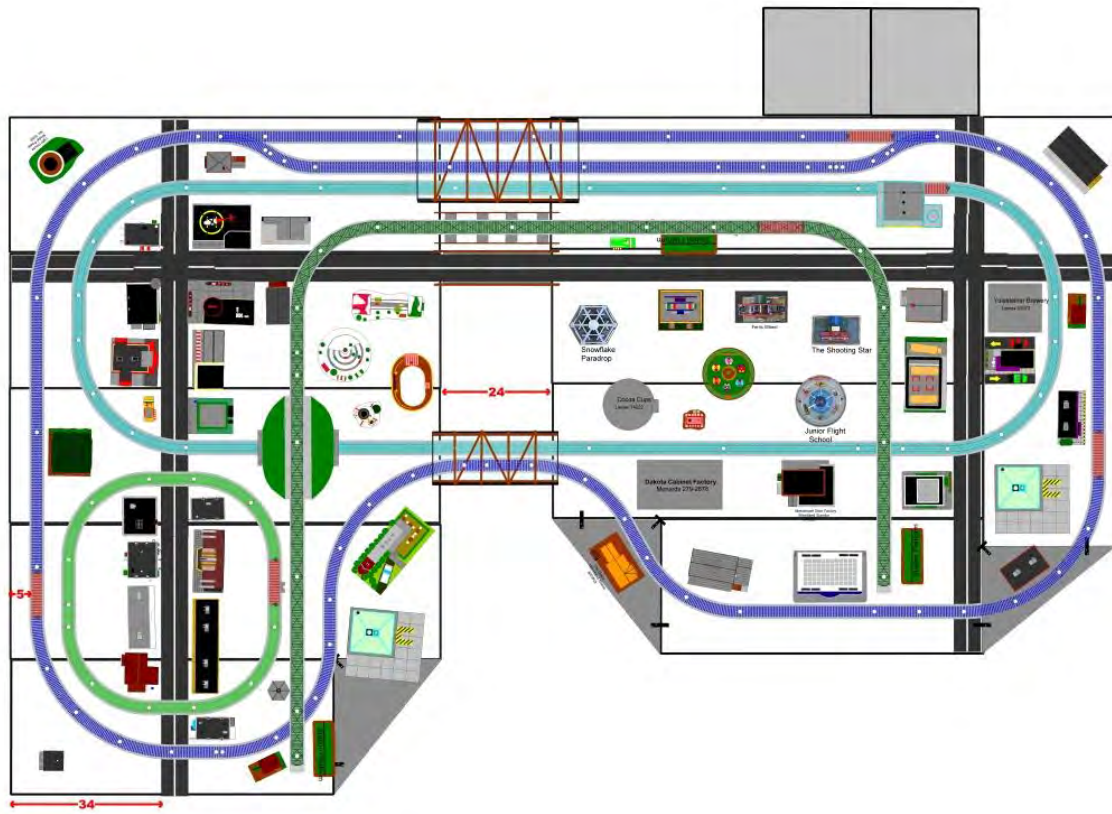
the stage. It consisted of multiple modules linked together to form an oval. This was their first outing since COVID, and their crew was challenged to complete assembly before the 4 pm deadline set by the Armory for Friday afternoon setup.



Great Falls Crew Sorting Out their Layout Modules for the First Time this Year

Just before noon on Friday, Art Shean arrived with a SUV and trailer full of buildings, table covers, trees, vehicles, and accessories to join with Sam Carr's sedan full of track, transformers, engines, and rolling stock. The Show Committee agreed to use the Cub Mobile Layout Crew this year with Armory tables rather than move the Club Trailer from storage at the Cumberland Fair grounds. The 12 ½ foot by 20 ½ foot layout used ten tables with multiple bridges and corner fills to cover 212 square feet. Using 156 feet of Lionel FasTrack the layout offered an outer mainline with 10 foot siding, a twenty foot oval, a five foot Thomas oval, and an elevated trolley line. Key features included an animated Lemax carnival, animated Mr.

Christmas winter sports park, two operating MTH fire stations, an operating Lionel hobby shop, a downtown main street, and an industrial complex. The crew completed setup well before the four o'clock deadline.



Saturday morning at 8 am sharp, the Show Committee opened the armory doors for vendor setup and last-minute layout touchups. Joanne and Steve Burns arrived early with their logging and trolley equipment. This is the first time they displayed their layout since before COVID struck and we have missed them. It took some head scratching, but Steve was able to get things setup and running for the incoming crowd. And the kids loved every minute.



Speaking of kids both old and young, they all had fun running trains, testing engines, and checking details on the Club layout.





Although everyone enjoyed the model train displays, comradery, and food, the real center of attention was the vendors and the stuff they brought with them for sale. Model train stuff was located to the center and left around the Club white elephant tables. Multiple Club members purchased tables and placed their surplus items for sale.



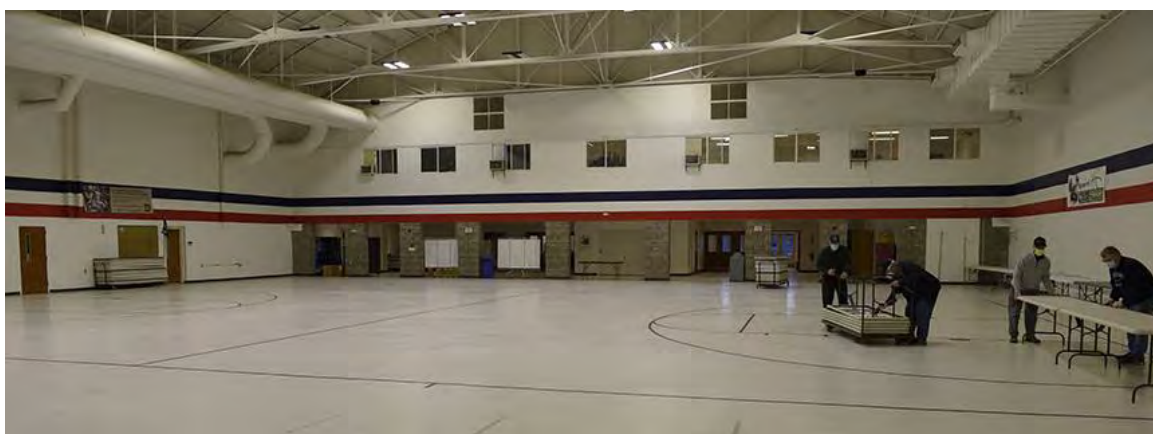
Richard Ridolfo, Dana Lindsey, and Ken Thorson's Tables

The Dollhouse folks were not outdone by the train folks. Their tables were prominently located in the front right of the hall.





When the clock struck three o'clock the pumpkin coach that was the 2023 Maine 3 Railers Model Railroad and Dollhouse Show reverted back to the empty Augusta Armory Drill Hall and the Maine 3 Railers were out the door by 5 pm.



Photography by Tom Hartwell, Art Shean, & Carlton Spring



The View from Doug's Chair by Doug Pollock

Highlands Feedback - I was talking to Nicole our son's girlfriend and the Beautician at The Highlands in Topsham. Nicole reports that people are still talking about the train show that we put on, another great job was done by all.

Soft Spot for Wooden Trains - Getting interested in hands-on model wooden train making. A man in Topsham used to make wooden train sets and give them out at Christmas time. I met with him, and he stirred my interest. He also shared his plans and some material to do it. Just give a donation to your favorite charity is all I want for payment he said.

My Grandson and I built and colored a great train. This was a good start to a popular hobby. Just look around some places you go and see if you find a wooden train or engine. There was a great one at Wilbur's and a few other places we have visited. See if you can spot one.

Some people make small sets and use letters to spell their children's names as carloads or just build a unique engine. See what you come up with – it's lots of FUN! This may lead to a new world for getting children involved in an interesting hobby and friend building.



Some Engines Run on Milk and Others Have Removable Cow Catchers



Mixed Consist Ready to Roll

Annual Club Train Show - Are U Kidding Me! What an OUTSTANDING EVENT!! The Armory was just turned into a magic performance that was captivating. The Maine 3 Railers put it together and people came and had a wonderful time. People were talking about the layout and enjoying the many booths with such a variety to choose from. At the white elephant table, we heard many comments about everything - where to find this or that and how do you fix one of those. One thing we observed about the younger folks, they were very polite and courteous with plenty of "please" and "thank you". They also learned how to dicker and barter trying to save money by getting the best price. It was great to see.

Joanne and Steve Burns kept the logs rolling all day to the delight of the many kids. There were also many memorable moments seeing our friends having time to talk and remember the present and the past. Everyone was having FUN! The dollhouse section was busy all day and the lunch counter kept everyone satisfied. The only thing that bothered me about the show was not seeing so many of our good friends that have passed on. But they were there in spirit - Dana, Tony, Trever, and Jerry were with us in spirit at the table plus many others. I remember we always had a great time telling each other anything. If you missed this event, keep February 17, 2024 open for our next show because you don't want to lose out again. As Lawrence Welk used to say, "WONDERFUL, WONDERFUL, WONDERFUL!"

The Maine 3 Railers are an outstanding group of people that are dedicated to enjoying life, their hobby, and spreading Joy and Happiness to everyone they encounter. I get a Great Feeling being involved with such a Caring Group of People. B Safe Doug

Editor's Note: Doug Pollock picked up a new responsibility and title. Beside being the Club "Archivist" in honor of his vast collection of strange but unique train memorabilia, we awarded him the title of "Wire Wrangler" at our recent model train displays in Bath and Topsham. At both venues, Doug willingly volunteered to unravel the ball of Menards building light and transformer wires thrown into a tote after previous events.

MODEL RAILROADING



What Next? By Jan Williams

Here's a tease about my next project, probably something for the Summer...

My latest project started with thoughts about my Budd RDC railcar: I have one, have ordered a second; they are great fun to operate. I also have a modern era commuter train acquired recently. I have a central station, but my thoughts are turning to an annex - a station for commuters headed home to the suburbs.

There is a central site that has been static, and unfinished, for years. It boasts two stub tracks and a prime piece of real estate. REA might have to move a bit. An active commuter station would be a lot of fun.

My first thought was a modern utilitarian depot.

You guys know I've been researching 19th century buildings; that thought did not last long. I'm now thinking in terms of a nineteenth century building whose lavish pretensions exceeded its modest size. As the city grew the railroad built a new depot and hotel right next door. They lopped off the rear of the old depot to make room for more tracks - what is left is a delightful pile, now the Suburban Station.

In addition to my Fire Station project, I've begun researching old commuter stations... this will be fun! Stay tuned for updates!



The Past and Future





Great Northern New England Chapter (NoNEC) Train Show

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

WHEN: Saturday, April 1, 2023

TIME: 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

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

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

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

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

NoNEC

**FUTURE
SHOWS**

**October 28, 2023
April 6, 2024**



SOUTHERN MAINE MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

SOUTHERNMAINEMRC.WORDPRESS.COM

FACEBOOK.COM/SOUTHERNMAINEMRC

SOUTHERNMAINEMRC@GMAIL.COM

TRAIN SHOW

Saturday, April 22nd, 2023

Maine's Premier Model Train Show

Join us for a day of TRAINS!

Right here in the greater Portland area



See live trains on our
HO Scale layout!

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

Time: Open to the Public from **9am to 2pm!**

Cost: Adults \$5.00, Children 12 and Under are FREE

Address: Westbrook Community Center,

426 Bridge St, Westbrook, ME (off exit 48 I-95)

FOR DEALERS/VENDORS or anyone looking for tables, email southernmainemrc@gmail.com



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

Member of SEACOASTNMRA.ORG



Event

MODEL TRAIN SHOW

Sat. April 29
10 AM to 3 PM

Mt. Ararat High School
68 Eagles Way
Topsham, ME 04086

Admission \$5
Under 12 Free



SCAN ME
to learn more

Featuring:

- Dealers selling new and used buildings, cars, track, locomotives & more!
- Large variety of railroad books
- Operating Layouts
- Refreshments
- Various Model Displays

GreatFallsModelRRClub.org

Maine 3 Railers Upcoming Schedule of Events

Future Events Where Maine 3 Railers Will Be Running Trains

- Apr 22 **Southern Maine Model Railroad Club Third Annual Train Show**, Westbrook Community Center, 426 Bridge St., Westbrook, ME 04096, Setup Friday pm Apr 21, Run Trains Saturday 9am-2pm. (Portable)
- Apr 29 **Great Falls Model Railroad Club Show**, Mt. Ararat High School Gym, 68 Eagles Way, Topsham, ME 04086, Trains run 10am-3pm. Setup Apr 28th 4-8pm. (Hybrid)
- Jul 08 **Moxie Festival**, MTM Center, 18 School St., Lisbon Falls, ME 04252. Trains run 8am-4pm. Setup Jul 7, 5pm. (Portable)
- Sep 24-30 **Cumberland Fair 2023**, 197 Blanchard Rd., Cumberland, ME 04021. Setup 9/23 at 8am. Trains Run 9am-9pm daily. Move out 10/1 at 8am. (Trailer)
- Feb 17 **Annual Maine 3 Railers Model Train and Dollhouse Show**, Augusta
2024 Armory, 179 Western Ave, Augusta, ME 04330. Run trains 10am-3pm. Move in on Friday Feb 16 8am-4pm. (Portable)

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

- Mar 06 Executive Board
- Mar 09 Regular Monthly: Tom Hartwell will provide a virtual tour of the Club Website.

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

- Mar 16 Roundhouse Session, Topic: Club Group Email - Who uses it and recent topics shared.
- Mar 23 Roundhouse Session, Topic: Do you plan on attending the SMMRC and Great Falls Model Railroad Shows and what will you be looking for?

Maine 3 Railers Group Email:

The Maine 3 Railers have a group email account which subscribers can use to send emails to other club members who have subscribed to the service. Like club forums, this service allows members to ask questions, provide advice, and help other subscribers solve model train problems.

Because this is a free service, the participant list owners (Dana Lindsey and Art Shean) cannot add you; you must add yourself. Below is the home page of our group. It has a link to join (*look under group email addresses*). Another way to join is to be asked. Send an email to Dana Lindsey and he will send you an invitation. Follow the link you will receive to confirm your account. We restrict 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.

<https://groups.io/g/M3R>

Once subscribed you can email other M3R subscribers by addressing your email to: m3r@groups.io , change how you receive emails, or unsubscribe. If you have any questions, contact Dana Lindsey, M3R Secretary