



# MAINE 3 RAILERS

## M3R CLUB NEWSLETTER FOR MAY 2023

**NEXT MEETING IS THURSDAY, May 11, 2023, at 7:00PM** on ZOOM. Watch for the email from Dana Lindsey with the link to join.



### President's Message by Gene Thayer

First of all, the Maine 3 Railers thank fellow member George Small and the Cumberland Fair organization for allowing the Club to store the M3R trailer at the fairgrounds for the Summer. Thank You!

Warmer weather is now here, and we will be spending more time outside which means we won't be running our trains as much. However, on inclement weather days, it may be a good time to look at our layouts and think of making improvements and/or repairs. Maybe we should consider a change in configuration or adding a new loop. Maybe it's time to replace some sections of track.

You could also improve your layout by adding a new accessory or maybe a new addition to the Engine Roster with new rolling stock. The electric train manufacturers as we all know are shipping new items to their dealers all the time. Just a few thoughts running through my mind for making my layout more enjoyable when the colder weather returns this Fall.

## UPDATES



### M3R YouTube Channel Update by Channel Master Carlton Spring

The last half of April was very busy for the Portable Layout Unit. On Friday, April 21st, we again participated in the Topsham Public Library's **Big Truck Day** by setting up a G Scale Thomas and Friends layout. The link to this very successful event is listed below. On Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> we participated in the **Southern Maine Model Railroad Club's Spring Show** held at the Westbrook Community Center. You can check this event out by clicking on the link below. Details and pictures of these events follow in this newsletter.

BIG TRUCK DAY with Thomas and Friends link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m6SONP2bCdY>

Southern Maine Model Railroad Club Show link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nMNSIM3mFlg>

And finally, the last event for April found the Portable Unit participating in the **Great Falls Model Railroad Club's Show** at Mt. Ararat H. S. in Topsham on April 29th.

[https://youtu.be/FdTbQX3\\_XyA](https://youtu.be/FdTbQX3_XyA)





## **2023 M3R Club Dues by Lou Bragaw**

If you haven't sent in your dues, 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 me, your Club Treasurer, **Lou Bragaw at 1 Wren Drive, Topsham, ME 04086**. Call Lou at 207-373-1801 if you have questions.



## **M3R Website by Webmaster Tom Hartwell**

All event photos and videos are up to date and there have been a few backend updates to keep things (hopefully) operating as intended. Additionally, there have been changes to a few pages to present a more consistent look from page to page. As always, any questions, concerns, etc. let me know and we'll address them as necessary.



## **From the Editor by Art Shean**

Several Roundhouse Sessions back we were discussing the best way to manage the large LeVine Family train layout donation. During the discussion a member jolted us back to reality when he asked if making money was the only thing we cared about. He went on to say that we should be more focused on sharing the knowledge and skill various members possess so that we can enhance our layouts. For example, how can we make and add trees to our layouts.

At first, I was put off by his comment. But as I thought about it, I can understand where a new member listening in on our conversations could come to that conclusion. Without a full understanding of who we are and what we stand for, we do talk a lot about making money during our meetings. We often ask what our net was from the annual train show, the Cumberland Fair, and the L.L. Bean layout. Our treasurer's report is always a main stay on each monthly meeting agenda. No doubt, staying solvent is important to fulfilling our mission. Without working funds, we can't order Club cars, procure materials necessary for our train displays, or fund the electronic tools we use to communicate internally and with the public.

However, talk during our meetings is somewhat like the tv news. The reporter focuses on 2-3% of the most unusual and dramatic things happening in the world with little regard for the 95+% of routine stuff that needs and must be done every minute and day of the year. The daily stuff just isn't interesting nor dramatic enough to gather our attention. Yet it has to be done. Carlton Spring and Tom Hartwell produce videos on YouTube and maintain our website and social media sites. Lou Bragaw monitors new member applications, collects dues, and maintains an accurate email list so that Dana Lindsey and the executive board can stay in touch with every member. Richard Ridolfo and the Club Car Committee meet often to select, design, and procure Club cars each year in an ever-decreasing marketplace. It is not unusual for over ten members to contribute input for our monthly newsletter. What about Sam Carr who coordinates over 25 train displays a year throughout the state. Or the many members who drive to, set up, and run those displays. These are examples of the 95+% we don't talk much about yet directly support our message that model railroading is fun and a hobby that should never fade away. You have to live it to believe it.

So back to where I began, the train donation. Talking with Gene Thayer, our Club President, at the Great Falls Model Train Show, he summed it for me:

*Ya, maybe we can make some money selling the stuff, but I really don't want the family just throwing the stuff away. It would be a crying shame if the items we*

*retrieved were not passed on to interested railroad fans. Even if we end up giving the stuff away to young enthusiasts as we did with some ceramic building at the last Club show, so be it. That is what promoting and sustaining our hobby is all about! Let's help each other and the next generation enjoy our hobby now and in the future.*

## EVENT REPORTS



Ugh, Ugh, Who Let the Trucks Out? by Art Shean

Friday April 21<sup>st</sup> the Topsham Public Library presented their annual **Big Truck Day**. On this day, they close their parking lot, and the town Police, Fire, Emergency Medical Services, and Public Works Departments as well as the State DOT display their best trucks, heavy equipment, and vehicles to the public. Each year the kids look forward to climbing all over the town's best equipment and learning how they work. A group of Maine 3 Railers that are Topsham residents along with several other members from the Club Mobile Layout crew supported this year's event by providing a **Big Train** display inside the Library's Community Room. By Big Train, they mean G-Scale! Their layout featured a full cast of 1/24 scale Bachmann Thomas engines with a full table of Playmobil buildings and accessories.



In the parking lot, fireman raised and lowered their rescue ladder, sounded their sirens, and opened the pumper doors to display their hidden equipment. Meanwhile the Public Works and DOT folks showed off their grader, street sweeper, loaders, and plows. Not to be outdone, the EMS opened their ambulance, and the police displayed a cruiser. It is amazing how much electronics these guys now pack in their vehicles. Highlights of the outside events were a fireman climbing to the top of the fully extended rescue ladder and the parade of vehicles as they left the lot on the way back to their stations.







The Fire Department and EMS ambulance followed by the police with lights flashing and sirens blasting led the array of vehicles from the library lot.



As the crowd cheered, the public works crew trailed in line led by the street sweeper. As the bobcat passed, the operator performed a pirouette that delighted the crowd.



Not to be outdone, the front loader operator followed raising and lowering his bucket and snapping his claws.







It was apropos that the DOT and town snowplows were the last vehicles to clear the parking lot.



Inside the library Community room, Sam Carr, Tom Hartwell, Doug Pollock, Art Shean, Carlton Spring, and Ken Thorson had set up and were operating a 14' x 27.5' G-scale layout covering over 178 square feet.



*The Grande Plan*





*The Real Deal*

The crew started Thursday afternoon and had the layout set up by 5pm.

After laying 178+ feet of LGB brass track and 73 feet of 12" wide asphalt paving, Doug, Ken, and Art placed 30 buildings and created multiple vignettes with the Playmobil vehicles and accessories. On one end of the table, Ken set up a road crew repairing the potholes left over from the winter thaw.



Not far around the corner, Doug arranged a flourishing dairy farm not unlike the farm he sees from his home near Bisson Farms in Topsham.



Art created an accident scenario where a recycling truck T-boned a sports car passing through an intersection in the back of the layout. By the time quests arrived to see the layout, the police, fire department, EMS, and tow truck had arrived to clean up the scene.



While Doug, Ken, and Art placed the buildings and arranged the accessories, Sam masterfully organized the transformers and wired them to the various loops. Fortunately, all four Thomas engines run on conventional power so the translation from O to G-Scale was relatively straight forward. Regardless of scale, Sam always runs a well-organized control table.



The layout contained three independent track loops. On the outer loop, Emilie pulled a formally decorated passenger consist while James pulled a European passenger consist in the opposite direction on the inner loop.



Percy meanwhile traversed the contorted figure eight with a four-car heavy construction consist.



Thomas had it easy as he spent most of the day on the outer loop siding waiting to pull a mixed consist with concrete mixer and two passenger cars.

Between the trucks outside and the trains inside we drew quite a crowd. At final count, Doug estimated we drew nearly 350 visitors.





The kids were especially intrigued at the various sites and scenes but the Tootsie Roll Pops they earned from finding the Disney and Danial Tiger figures left everyone happy.

Help us find the following characters  
and WIN a Tootsie Pop!

Your First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

 Mickey	 Minnie
 Donald	 Daisy
 Pluto	 Daniel Tiger
 Miss Elaina	 Katerina Kittycat
 O the Owl	

Show us where you found them and receive a Pop.



*MaKenzie, Art's Granddaughter*

Photography by Tom Hartwell, Art Shean, & Carlton Spring



## A Rose Among Thorns by Art Shean



Saturday April 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Maine 3 Railers provided an eight-table model train display at the Southern Maine Model Railroad Club (SMMRC) Annual Train Show. The show offered a nice balance between sellers and

displayers. The displays developed interest and excitement for model railroading while the vendors were on hand to provide the toys. Unlike in past years, all vendors and displays were collocated in the gym this year.



*The Show Filled the Whole Gym*

The participating vendors were predominately slanted to HO and N scale merchandise with some O and G scale items sprinkled on a few tables. I took one sweep around the show and returned to our display, done with shopping for the day. Even Jeff Jacobs left mid-morning without buying anything.

Although I am biased, our layout outshined all the others at the show. We appeared to have more visitors and those that came seemed to linger longer. Our display was positioned between a modular open loop HO scale display on the right and a similar modular N scale layout on the left.



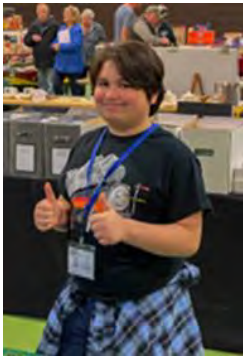
*Yes, That Is Us in the Middle!*

Both the HO and N scale layouts were excellent examples of traditional landscaping with detailed architecture and fine detailed rivers and streams, very much like a pastoral landscape portrait. The only movement was the multicar trains passing through them.



Nice scenery but no lights or action.

On the other hand, we offered motion, flashing lights, sound, and hands-on experiences, just like TV on Saturday morning or a video game for the kids. The adults seemed to like it as well. The modular layouts reminded me of visiting an art museum whereas our layout evoked a carnival aura full of fun rides and games.



*Kid Approved with Fire Engine Sirens Blaring, Wind Turbines Turning,*



*Kid Operated Engines, Flashing Lights at the County Jail, &*



*TV Cartoon Star Engines Running on Elevated Track.*

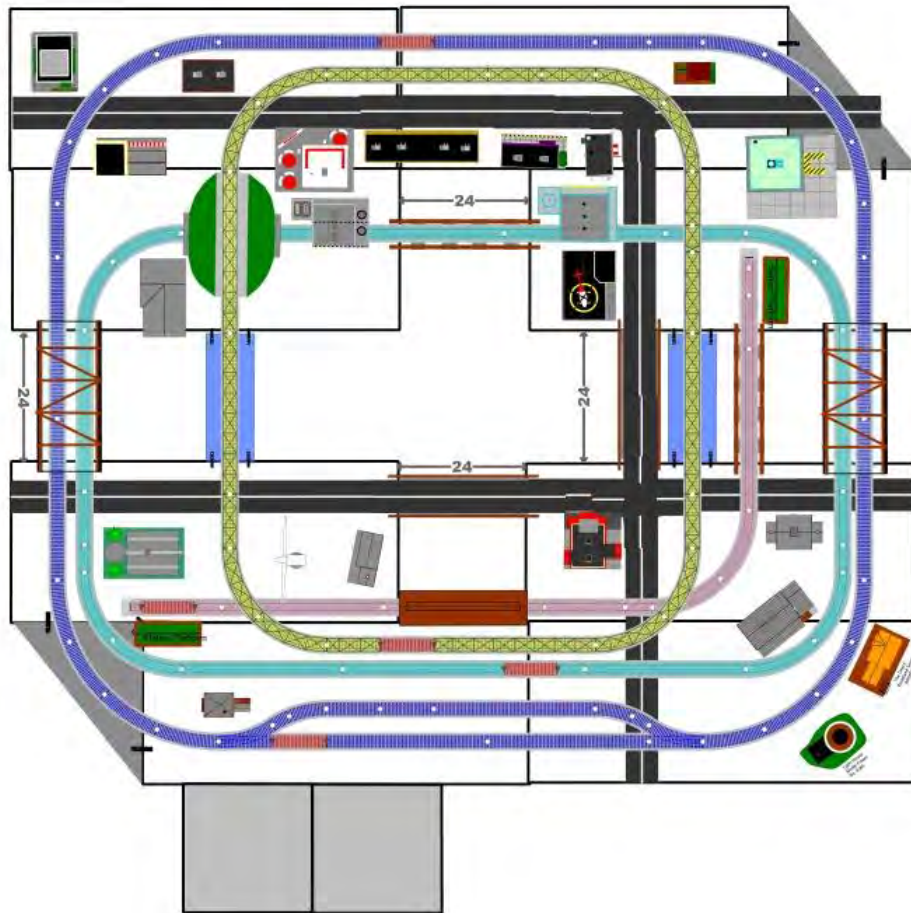


Our layout was kid approved and included Sam Carr's operating fire house with sirens, turning windmill, kids running LionChief engines, flashing lights at the new county jail, and Thomas and Friends engine, James running on the elevated track loop. In a kid's mind, portraits, or a live video game you can see, hear, and touch?



The crew completed the eight-table setup in two waves. John Ash, Sam Carr, and Carlton Spring began placing tables, table covers, roads, bridges, track, power, and some buildings Friday evening before the show. Doug Pollock and Art Shean joined Sam and Carlton the morning of the show to finish placing buildings, trees, and vehicles before guests arrived. The layout included an outer loop with siding and an inner loop passing through two truss bridge, a girder bridge, and the over/under tunnel. In addition the layout included an elevated Thomas Loop passing over the tunnel and a ground level trolley. Lots of motion moving in every direction. The 12'x14' tabletop covered 163 square feet and included 128+ feet of Lionel FasTrack and 39 feet of 6" wide asphalt roads with 29 buildings. See the below layout drawing with overall layout photo included. Tom Hartwell showed up later in the day to take pictures and help with pack up. He also acted as our liaison with the Channel 13 TV reporter

that appeared to take video near the close of the show. Too bad she did not stay around to watch the real show when our crew packed up.



Hats off to Carlton Spring. He stripped his layout of multiple buildings to augment those provided by Art Shean. By so doing, he assured everything fit in the available vehicles. In his vehicle beside engines and rolling stock he provided his Lionel covered bridge, MTH Dairy Queen, MTH public utility building, Model Power school house, and Menards barn, power plant, Pepsi bottling plant, and FedEx shipping warehouse. Not only that but he provided power to light the MTH buildings and the Lionel electrical generating windmill.





*Carlton's Additions to the Layout*



As with all good things, they must come to an end. At 2 pm, the show ended, and we packed up in around an hour.

Thank you to the Mobile Layout Crew for another special performance.



Photography by Tom Hartwell, Art Shean, & Carlton Spring



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

The unknown man that unknowingly helped me change my LIFE forever.

At a yard sale in Topsham many years ago as I was browsing, I lifted a small house and remarked about how heavy it was. It was a brick that someone decorated into a small house. I talked awhile with the folks and they told me they were selling off their fathers or uncles train collection because he was going blind. He came out onto the balcony for a few minutes, and I spoke to him. He had on a Bowdoin College sweatshirt, and I asked where he had worked because I worked there for 46 years in food service. He said that he had been a student to which I said, "Well I fed you then!" I told the ladies running the yard sale not to sell everything from his collection and they said they had kept some things. For example, his best friend had his favorite engine and he lived close by.

So, at the Topsham Public Library Big Truck-Big Train display, I spotted a man with a white cane and went over to talk to him. From what I gather I believe he was the man that I saw at that yard sale. I did not tell him how he inspired me, I just told him he did. We had a good chat and I told him to B Safe.

To the point, that man inspired me to make a HUGE DECISION! When I left the yard sale, I walked back to my truck and just sat and pondered things. I said to myself, "Doug, you are done working. You have pretty good health, a Great family, and you just made one of the most difficult decisions of your life. You are going to turn in your resignation and enjoy the rest of your life with friends and Family." And I did just that!

I met another friend at the Topsham event from whom I had acquired a picture at a yard sale. It was a drawing of the Bowdoinham Train Station plans. I had it for a number of years and didn't really need it anymore, so I gave it to a friend who lives in Bowdoinham. He eventually



presented it to the local Historical Association who were very pleased. So much so, they really wanted to thank him for his contribution but lost his name. They sent out some kind of announcement and he came forward and explained what had happened and how he came to receive the great find from me. Just another great story.

#### SMMRC Model Train Show

What a great day, I felt it was a little crowded, but it all worked out. There were people everywhere and we were a real hit. Many people came by many times and stayed. Young boys and girls had an outstanding time, very interested in what was happening and running trains. Sal DeVita brought his trains and had a great time running them with his Dad. We had people very interested in the hobby we are in and got at least 6 new members. One husband & wife were into G-scale railroading, but the ground was getting harder on their knees, so they are converting a room in their house for an O-scale layout. He came around at least 3-4 times and the last time I got him to run a train by himself. He was thrilled and thankful.

Another family of 6, mom, dad, boys, & girls stopped by the layout. The mom wanted trains for one of the boys but not Thomas, a real deal. Sam and I had an extended conversation, and they were very pleased with our advice. Later, I was watching this tall lady who was standing in a junction of isles with a large regular size pad writing something down for a long time. For some reason she came by where I was sitting, and I asked her what she was writing down. At first, I thought she was from the show management making charts for next year or planning where we should go. For some reason she sat down at our control table and we talked. She showed me what she had been doing. She was sketching faces of people in the crowd. On her pad she must have had at least ten characters drawn and they looked great. She said I might as well color them while I'm sitting here. A few of us had some really good conversations with her. Eventually she said she had to stand up because her husband would not be able to find her if she was sitting down. When she saw him, she left.

The day passed smoothly, and both set up and break down went great. I only had one glitch - the bathrooms were to the left as you left the gym, not straight ahead as I found out when I ended up in the showers. We had a very good day with everyone willing to help everyone. B Safe Doug

## MODEL RAILROADING



### **Progress on My Suburban Station?** By Jan Williams

Here is a progress report on my project to build a fire station based on the historic Bangor building, for the club layout at L L Bean...this is really a journey in progress. The project involves two structures: the fire station for the Beans layout, and a passenger station for my own layout.

The station on my layout is included for two reasons: I had been looking for a design for a station for my Budd commuter service, and really like the Bangor building. In addition, I realized I need to learn how to model some of the brick work on the Bangor fire station (more below). The station on my layout functions as a practice run.

The actual Bangor fire station is on a hill - I decided early on that a hill would not work on the Beans' layout, so am modelling our fire station on level ground. Pictures 1 and 2 are the Bangor fire station, built in 1897.



*Bangor Firehouse, Pictures 1 & 2*

Picture 3 is my final mock-up of my suburban station. I've shortened the building to fit my available real estate.



*Sculpted Facade, Picture 4*



*Suburban Station, Picture 3*

A big challenge in modeling this station is the pattern of the brickwork; the architect decorated the facade by sculpting the surface at two different depths. Picture 4 illustrates this. Pre-embossed sheet bricks will not work here. Conrad Berthiaume suggested a brick product that is great, but it is scaled at 1/12 for doll houses... I talked with the woman who runs the company, amazingly, she's not interested in the 1/48 world... I've concluded I must carve the facade in clay - we'll see how that works out.

OK, my progress so far... Picture 5 shows three sides of my station: clay has been applied to foam board and sanded. Carving comes next.



*Picture 5*





Figure 6

Finally, the fire station is starting to take shape in Picture 6. I'm working on black foam board because white foam board peeks through every gap in a structure showing all my mistakes. The downside is sketches have to be in white ink... The Bangor fire station is a pretty big building, it scales out at 15 ½ inches deep.

I welcome comments and suggestions about the model fire station. Is 8 ½ by 15 ½ too big for the Beans' layout?



## LOCO-SOUND TROUBLESHOOTING by Ken Thorson

This will be the first in a series discussing the several varieties of MTH engines and their features. This edition talks about Loco-Sound engines.

LOCO-SOUND TROUBLESHOOTING – Loco-Sound, a conventional sound system found in (early 2000's) M.T.H. RailKing locomotives with item numbers ending in -0. If you have the original box, the label will say "LocoSound". These engines do not have the sophisticated software to control the variety of features found in the MTH Handheld Remote using the MTH TIU (Track Interface Unit). The MTH Remote and TIU can be used to control conventional engines but a conventional or Loco-Sound engine will not respond to all the multifunction keys on the remote control. On the other hand, by using a series of coded messages involving alternately pressing the horn/whistle and bell buttons as found in the Operator's Manual, it is possible to control some very limited functions. Here are some issues and limitations of Loco-Sound and how to fix them.

**Start Up Remedy** When I first turn the power on, the engine will not begin to run. I have to turn the throttle off and then on again to get the engine to operate. This is normal behavior. To prevent accidental high-speed start-ups, Loco-Sound is programmed to start up in neutral anytime track power has been turned off for several seconds.

**Whistle/Horn/Bell Remedy** I can't get the horn to blow when I press the whistle button. You may be pressing the button too quickly. Try pressing the whistle button more slowly, taking approximately one full second to fully depress the button.

**Speaker Sound Quality** There's a crackling sound coming from my tender. Check to see if a screw or some other material hasn't lodged itself in the underside of the tender.

The sounds seem distorted, especially when the whistle or bell is activated. Loco-Sound volume is set too high. Turn the volume control knob or rheostat on the underside of the chassis of the diesel engine or steam tender counterclockwise to reduce the volume.

**Smoke Remedy** My smoke output is poor or nonexistent. Check your owner's Operator's Manual for this more complicated fix if the manual says the engine is equipped with the smoke feature. It requires removing the shell and the smoke unit, not an easy job. Once you have the smoke unit removed and opened, check the wick to see if it has become hard, blackened, and un-absorbent around the heating element. Follow your Operators' Manual for

instructions on how to remove the engine's body to inspect the smoke unit. Replacement wicks are available.

**Operation Remedy** I can't get the engine to run after I power up the transformer. It sits still with the engine sounds running. The engine is locked into the neutral position. Follow the procedure in the "Lock into a Direction" section of your Operators' Manual. The engine won't lock into forward, neutral, or reverse. Engine speed must be below 10 scale mph (approx. 10 volts or less in conventional mode) to activate the lock function.

Good luck and follow the manual closely. If you do not have one, most engines have an MTH webpage (identified and located by the catalog item number) from which the manual can be downloaded and printed.

**SOURCE:** Gathered from various MTH material, manuals, and websites



## **Pine Tree Power** by Jeff Jacobs

Modelers who know me understand that my collection and layout emphasize Maine rolling stock and scenery. Most of my locomotives therefore are badged with Maine RR heralds.

Here we will take a look at one engine that I think is unique in the O scale universe - a Belfast & Moosehead Lake GE 70 tonner. Many of you are familiar with the smaller GE offerings to the rail industry from the GE 44 tonner which the M3R promoted a few years ago. The larger 70 tonner was a little less popular with an end cab and the B&ML owned the only fleet of them in Maine. When I saw a sale in a Mario's Trains ad for a Williams 70 tonner, I got the idea of modeling one of the B&ML's units. Here are photos showing what inspired the model.



And here is the B&ML herald blown up:



Quite a few years back, the M3R had Weaver make a small batch of covered hoppers with this herald. The B&ML hauled a lot of grain once upon a time and used cars like this, tho' they never owned any with their brand on them.





I figured it would be neat to run a train with these unique Maine markings. Dave Kenyon agreed to do the painting and decorating, and Highball Graphics made the one-off decals at some expense. Here is the final product:



The B&ML line ran from Penobscot Bay on the Atlantic to Burnham Junction where it met the Maine Central line - which never allowed the small line's tracks to cross, preventing it from ever reaching Moosehead Lake. The small road struggled for years and eventually was run by MEC. When it became no longer financially viable, MEC turned it into a tourist RR. Today it is operated by the Brooks Preservation Society, and you can ride seasonal and holiday trains or rent a pedal car to explore the rails by yourself. With permission, I have ridden the line in my speeder a few times. The trackage actually belongs to the State of Maine.

At the water end of the road, the City of Belfast, who once was the major B&ML stockholder, has pushed the trains about 2 miles out of the city hoping to entice more financially sound enterprises to occupy the city's prized waterfront real estate. The line today runs from Burnham to City Point through the important town of Unity. It's most notable function is to provide conveyance from remote parking fields to the annual Common Ground Fair in that town.

When the B&ML was at its lowest ebb and things were being sold & scrapped, one of the engines made its way to Ellsworth ME for use on the Downeast Scenic Railway. Here it is today (75 years old) in service as # 54:



Back to the model, this unit is one of the later offerings of Williams (by Bachmann) and has 2 motors and basic sound. It started life as a Rutland unit pictured here:



But with a little foresight and the steady hand of Dave Kenyon it is now a part of my Pine Tree Power



If you enjoyed this review, let me know and more may follow.



## **Product Review and Update: Lionel Trippy Trolley by Rick Hills**

### **Background:**

I always loved Lionel trolleys. As with most of my trains, Lionel trolleys bring back fond memories of when I was a kid. I remember when I was eight, going to New York City to visit my Aunt Emma and Uncle Lew who lived in Manhattan. It was just two weeks before Christmas. The city was absolutely magical, and they insisted I visit FAO Schwartz on a snowy day to see the 1957 Lionel layout. The layout was exactly what you would expect - massive, museum quality, and loaded with the latest train products and accessories.



I saw a little yellow and red bump and go trolley traveling back and forth and much to my surprise my mom and Aunt asked me if I would like a trolley for Christmas. We didn't have much money in those days and the \$15 price tag seemed so out of reach to me. Of course, I said yes, and the clerk handed me the trolley, a postwar number 60 in a bright orange box. It was the best runner on my layout, and it ran for hours at a time.



Four years later, I sold my full Lionel set with the trolley to upgrade to HO which was never successful. How I missed that trolley!

Fast forward to today, I started collecting and operating Lionel Modern O Gauge 15 years ago. I have a pretty decent layout, but you know, all the trolleys I've purchased never meet the mark and simply sit. I have a Polar Express trolley and a Christmas trolley, I never run them. Why? Probably because the motors were changed from AC to DC so no ozone smell, forward/reverse mechanisms were cheapened, lighting was poor, resulting in no excitement.

### **The Lionel 2235030 Trippy Trolley**

One of my friends called me a year ago and asked if I had seen the new Lionel 2022 Big Book. I said "of course" but he then said "in the back, Rick, in the back!" I turned to the back and there was the **most "mind blowing" rendition of a trolley I had ever seen!**



I figured a simple order through my local train store was all I needed to do. Ray Dellovo the manager of Trains on Tracks, tried for weeks to find one through his distributors with no success. **Lionel had mis-sized the demand and was totally sold out!**

I finally got lucky and purchased my trolley from Trainworld at the Springfield 2023 Show thanks to the Bianco family. Ken "senior" told me Lionel would be delivering additional trolleys

in eight months but if I really wanted one, he had one hidden “under the counter” which he would send me and he did!

### **Review:**

Why is the Trippy Trolley so insanely popular?

- Eric's trains reviewed the Trippy Trolley and was very enthusiastic. Thousands of people watch his videos.
- There are many new trolley features:
  - ✓ The Trolley has been re-designed
  - ✓ It has 6 ditch lights
  - ✓ It has flickering multicolor interior LEDs
  - ✓ It has **a secret interior control panel** that controls all lighting effects which include Mode-flashing or steady, light speed, color
  - ✓ Crazy people are partying in the windows and looking out!
  - ✓ The paint job is out of sight! Definitely created for 60's Hippies like me.

### **Pros:**

- The LED lighting package and extensive control panel
- Smooth operation
- The paint scheme
- The overall party like atmosphere is fun
- The price is very reasonable- \$124.00!

### **Cons:**

- I would have liked to see trolley bell sounds included. But to be fair, there isn't a lot of room in the cab for a board and speaker.
  - I will probably use an accessory activation track with external sound board and speaker to make things more realistic.
  - You can also add sound yourself by referencing the presentation Ray Dellovo and I did on adding ***Sounds for Model Railroads***, a couple of years ago, as a guide. Check the M3R website or give us a call.

### **Review Conclusion:**

- It's a fun piece that will amaze your grandchildren and remind you of the flowerchild era you might have been part of, long gone by! They say if you remember the 60s you weren't there...
- I'd place a 2023 order at your local Lionel Dealer for one of the second batch of Trolleys before they run out.

I hope to demo my Trippy Trolley at an upcoming Round House meeting so watch for Art's notification!

### **Eric's Trains Trippy Trolley Review Link:**

<https://youtu.be/Oe3a2Zl0dg8>



# Maine 3 Railers Upcoming Schedule of Events

## Future Events Where Maine 3 Railers Will Be Running Trains

- May 5&6 **Baxter Library Spring Book Sale**, Shaw Gym, Gorham Recreation Center, 75 South St, Gorham, ME 04038. Set up Thursday May 4 2-6pm, run trains 9am -6pm Friday & 9am-1pm Saturday. Break down to follow. (Portable)
- May 24 **Togus VA Hospital**, Theater Lobby in Building 240, 1 VA Ctr, Augusta, ME 04330. Setup 8-10am, run trains 10am-3pm followed by moveout. (Portable)
- 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):

- May 08 Executive Board
- May 11 Regular Monthly

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

- May 18 Roundhouse Session, Topic: Program Planning – Member Layout Open Houses/Visits, Future Roundhouse Topics, and Rotating Roundhouse Session Hosts.
- May 25 Roundhouse Session, Topic: Should the Club Model Train Layouts have a signature feature that recurs for every future display? If so, what should it be?
- Jun 01 Roundhouse Session, Topic: To be determined (TBD)

## 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](mailto:m3r@groups.io), change how you receive emails, or unsubscribe. If you have any questions, contact Dana Lindsey, M3R Secretary