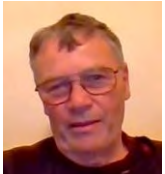




MAINE 3 RAILERS

M3R CLUB NEWSLETTER FOR NOVEMBER 2023

NEXT MEETING IS THURSDAY, November 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

If you stepped outside recently, you'll notice it's November and that means it's train season. The holidays are now just around the corner and if you haven't started getting your trains ready to roll you might hear them calling to you.

I'm sure you are all aware that we are back at L. L. Bean taking part in their Holiday celebration with our Holiday layout. Since we received the official notification last month, we have purchased 2 Lionel ZW-L transformers, a couple of new Williams engines (Maine Central and Boston & Maine E7's), and all new Fastrak for the layout. There will be some new buildings also.

We all know that the layout is not going to built itself and needs daily maintenance. The call for help is now going out. It will take a lot of manhours to get it going and keep it going. Work on it started in earnest Monday 11/6. Watch your emails and please attend our regular membership meeting on Zoom on Thursday 11/9 for more information on how you can help. See you there,

UPDATES



M3R YouTube Channel Update by Channel Master Carlton Spring

Unlike August and September with few model train layouts, in October I produced 3 videos covering the Cumberland Fair, the last week of September, the Baxter Library Fall Book Sale in Gorham on October 13th and 14th, and the Portable Unit's visit to the Sunnybrook Village Retirement Community in Brunswick on October 30th. Please check out our latest Sunnybrook video and see our M3R member Tony Masulaitis who resides there. He is in a couple of still pictures. Direct links to these events are listed below for your convenience.

2023 Cumberland Fair: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZvNmtlqz04U>

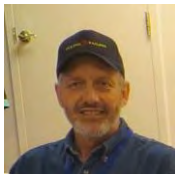
Baxter Library Fall Book Sale: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hLhgFy7xEcQ>

Sunnybrook Village Senior Living Center: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y8Rv6btuJVU>

REQUESTS:

1. If any of you have suggestions for music to accompany the videos, please email me at youtubechannelmaster@maine3railers.org. I will check any suggestions on iMusic and see if there is a version that is the correct length for a segment in a video.
2. I also need help for the 2023 L.L. Bean video. When any of you visit the Bean layout, please snap a picture or two, or more and send them to me at youtubechannelmaster@maine3railers.org. I will keep a file of all the pictures and will use as many as possible in the video and list you on the Photographers page as part of the closing credits. If there are people/children around, please avoid catching their faces.

Thank you very much.



M3R Website by Webmaster Mark David

I made a basic and easy “member only” area on our website that is password protected. The password will be the same for everyone. I will discuss this feature during our November monthly meeting. Afterwards, try it out. You will find it on the main menu, last item.

Always concerned about individual privacy, I found out that Fatcow, who hosts our website, allows us to forward email using our domain (maine3railleurs.org). So, I set one up for each of the Executive Board members and select activity leaders. They are:

president@maine3railleurs.org
vp@maine3railleurs.org
secretary@maine3railleurs.org
treasurer@maine3railleurs.org
art@maine3railleurs.org
sam@maine3railleurs.org
clubcar@maine3railleurs.org
youtubechannelmaster@maine3railleurs.org
specialprojectsmanager@maine3railleurs.org
webmaster@maine3railleurs.org

We can add more if needed. They forward to the individual's regular email address and can easily be changed. Our Officer personal email addresses are no longer found on the website in the public space (I am pretty sure all are removed). I also took the last page out of all of the posted newsletters that had contact info. That page is now in the password protected members area. Disposition of telephone numbers is yet to be decided. Given the cell phone scams we have had, I would suggest removing them, but it is up to the Executive Board to decide.

A few of us have discussed seeking a volunteer to be the club historian/archivist. He, with the help of other members, would pull together minutes, publications, charter member interviews, and other miscellaneous info that is in member's files and brains. The club is 25 years old and if we don't consolidate whatever we can find now, some of that history will be lost forever; probably some has. Also, I think an abbreviated history is something we could give to new members.

In summary, I made many changes to the web site over the past weeks. No personal information is available to the public. All references to Facebook and Instagram are gone. I have put a few things in the members only area, including all newsletters back to 2013. We also now have monitoring of how the site is used.

Bottom line, check out our website and let me know at Webmaster@maine3railleurs.org what you think.



M3R Activity Committee by Chairperson Bernie Pender

Upcoming Events

Description: Two Layout tours on the Same Day! Close enough to each other to visit both. Visit with Rick and his Great Layout. After visiting with Rick, head over to see Trains on Tracks. Rick will provide directions to the store, or we can follow Rick to the store.

When: Friday, November 17th, 2023 10:00am to 2:00pm

Location:

Description: Ray Dellovo will be hosting a visit to his store, Trains on Tracks, in Amherst, NH after the Rick Hills layout tour. Trains on Tracks is an authorized Lionel dealer and service center,

specializing in all model train scales, manufacturers, repairs, and consulting. Ray has been in the business 42 years and is a Maine 3 Railers member. Carpool and go for lunch.

When: Friday, November 17th, 2023, 10:00am to 2:00pm

Location: [Trains On Tracks, 76 Rt 101A Unit 4, Amherst, NH](#)

Description: Jan Williams will be hosting a layout tour. This is a great opportunity to see Jan's Wonderful Layout!

When: Saturday, December 9th, 2023, 10:00am to 2:00pm

See calendar and club emails for address.

Organizer: M3R Activity Committee

For more information on these activities, type Groups.io into your browser and check out the Club's Calendar.



M3R Club Store by Peter Hanson

Celebrate 25 years of the Maine 3 Railers!

This fall the Maine 3 Railers will be 25 years old. We now have anniversary hats in stock for sale to replace your worn older hats.

Call or write to me to get yours and be up to date. The cost is just \$15.

clubcar@maine3railers.org



From the Editor by Art Shean

I can't believe how busy the Maine 3 Railers have become! We have more events packed into recent months than the few Doers making them happen can document so that the many Watchers can be informed of what the Doers are doing. And when the Doers don't capture the pictures and write the descriptions, then the scribe can't keep this Newsletter up to date for the Watchers. Perhaps that is why newspapers are going out of style and email, text messaging, blogs, and electronic bulletin boards have emerged as the way the general public are informed of the news nowadays.

Besides informing our members of what is coming and what has happened, the M3R Newsletter is a running history of our Club. So, in that vein, we include articles and event reports which may not be breaking news but historical documentation. So, if an article seems old, please understand that this is a Club and Doers don't work full time for the M3R. Some M3R Doers may appear to work full time like Jeff Jacobs during the L.L. Bean display setup or Sam Carr while packing up after the Cumberland Fair or arranging an upcoming event. Maybe if we had more assistants at various events and fewer Watchers those few that make things happen could grab a breath. As my wife says, "Just Saying".



The L.L. Bean Chronicles - 2023 by Jeff Jacobs

10/28/2023

Update on the 2023 LL Bean layout construction: I stopped by the store today and the 2 moose are still in our display area. Despite this holdup we have made progress by procuring needed items for the layout. These include:

- Two new Lionel transformers
- New Fastrak to replace last year's worn out track
- Two new ice skating rinks
- Jan Williams delivered the new Bangor fire house

- Three trucks are lined up to transport the layout modules and equipment from Hiram to Freeport
- Gene Thayer procured several new "conventional" locos
- And I sketched a modification to one of the fence logs for ease of access - hope Beans will go along with it.

We're in good shape except for the most basic factor, the display spot - I expect it will be next week before anything happens.



10/30/2023

Things are starting to happen regarding the set-up at LL Bean for the 2023 Christmas display. First off, the modules and parts will be moving from Hiram to Freeport this Wednesday afternoon. Like last year, there is only a narrow space around the layout table to stand but there is much to be done so it is time to get organized such that all volunteers won't arrive at the same time. This will ensure that we get the job done but at an enjoyable pace and without standing atop of each other.

I am writing because so many of you have offered some form of help. The list below is the names that I recall, but if I forgot you, please don't be offended, just drop me a reminder and I will correct the list. And of course, if you want to be added, write also.

Bragaw, Lou	Brown, Paul
Carr, Sam	Christie, Dave
Dexter, John	Fuller, Vic
Graziano, Rocky	Hanson, Peter
Hills, Rick	Hodgkiss, Dave
Jacobs, Jeff	Kennie, Jim
McCarthy, Joe	Pender, Bernie
Pollock, Doug	Shean, Art
Smith, Dave	Spring, Carlton
Thayer, Gene	Thorson, Ken
Williams, Jan	

We have 4 people loading parts at Jan's on Wed AM so that is plenty for there, no need to make that long drive for the rest of you. We will arrive at Beans around 1 pm +/- on Wednesday and would need at most, one or two more helpers for the balance of that day.

Because Beans is so uncertain about the start day, my schedule got filled up until about next Monday the 6th after 11:00 AM. This means there will be a few days until we really dive into the rest of the decorating (remember, a lot of the heavy construction took place last year). My hope is to get the plaster patching done on Wed the 1st so it can harden during those few days. When we return on the 6th, we will paint, begin track placement, and locate the largest buildings.

In the days thereafter, we will run wiring, place trees, set other buildings & scenic details, and prep the rolling stock. The rest of the time we will clean, test, and debug. I think the opening date is still Nov 17 (Friday) so we should be fine time-wise.

I'm sure most of you have days that are better than others to help - so send me your details. Also be thinking ahead to the operations phase and whether you can be part of either the track cleaning crew or troubleshooting if you live in the area of Beans.

Thanks for being a part of this large M3R project.

11/01/2023

Today we had good weather as Bernie, Dave Hodgkiss, and I met at Jan William's excellent barn to retrieve the parts for the L.L. Bean layout. Everything fit into the 3 trucks including the new Firehouse built by Jan. We got to Freeport about 1:30 and backed into the loading doors without issue.



Beans had prepared the layout platform, but we discovered that they had put the top plywood in a different order so that our wiring holes do not align - minor issue. We spent some time fitting the modules back together as there were repair issues after squeezing them edgeways through the doors. (see photo B) Next the plywood bases were screwed down and the seams were patched with plaster cloth. (photo A). We also fixed a broken corner the same way and the whole business will harden for a few days until we resume on Monday later in the morning. On that day, we will build up the plaster and begin repainting everything. Next comes track laying. We did discover that the old track in the tunnel had rusted - good thing we bought new track so that we were able to replace the tunnel track pieces.



Photo A



Photo B

11/06/2023

Today at Beans I was joined by Jim Kennie and Joe McCarthy. Jim inventoried the electrical parts and untangled the wires, then took home the crucial timers for testing. Joe helped with final plastering and painted the white areas. He also got the trestles glued back in place. We were visited briefly by Lucy from Beans. She got the maintenance crew to remove the extra platform which had been in our way. By the way, parking has not been as plentiful in 'the convenient corner' as it was last year.

Tomorrow I will attempt to get the streets repainted and start on track & building placement. I am still waiting for the Beans store to arrive. We temporarily removed a log from the fence during construction. Need a permanent fix eventually.

Ken Thorsen ordered many figures, trees, etc. for the display. Expect them to arrive shortly.

I am trying to coordinate who is available on what days for setting up the display. Several of you have already given me their info. Let me know if you want to help but haven't spoken yet.

But wait there's more - We discovered that the overall layout platform is set up 6" closer to the windows than it was last year. This means that the aisle on the window side is very narrow and hard to work in particularly for wiring. I may try to shift it tomorrow. By the way I will arrive for work tomorrow around 11 AM after doing an errand.



11/07/2023

Worked the first part of the day alone on painting streets and moving layout table about 6" to widen aisle next to windows. Photo to the right shows the jack and rollers I used to move 8' x 16' heavy frame. Once on rollers, the table moved very easily. I was afraid of it going too far and falling off the edge near fencing!

Later in the day I was joined by Jim Kennie and we screwed down much of the Fastrak. Beans delivered the model of L. L. Bean store. Hope to place it on the table tomorrow if I get some help lifting it. Visited by Emily of Bean staff. M3R is advised not to drive cars to layout area



exterior doors without a Bean employee guiding vehicle movement. Also was told Beans will not accept an offer from the Bangor Fire Department members to stand by the layout to explain the history of Jan Williams' new Fire Station model. Although as members of the public, they can certainly come to view it.

The last news from Beans is that they will not modify the log fence as recommended by us. However, they will allow us to continue removing the short top log at the far-left end of the fence, even after the layout is open to the public.

Tomorrow I will be at the Beans layout starting about 10 AM. Work tomorrow will be placing buildings, ice rinks, and other large objects. Thursday is uncertain for me at this point - maybe some morning work time. I anticipate we will set trees and begin preliminary wiring on Friday.



New Bean's Window Display



Jim Kennie at Work



Jeff Jacobs & Dave Hodgkiss at Work

11/08/2023

Today at the LL Bean project, I finished installing the upper loop track and smoothed the lower inner loop. Next the boxes with the buildings were unpacked. After lunch Art Shean visited, bringing me some narrow tape to stripe the roads. While there, Art helped lift the LL Bean store model and the new Fire Station into place. We also discussed forming trees from their delivered condition to usable displays. Volunteer(s) will be needed to unfurl the tree branches and form them to look natural. Art has supplied photos showing how they should look.

Tomorrow I can only work from 9 to 11:30. I will be tweaking the buildings into their best locations and laying out the wiring runs which will light them. Oh yes, for those concerned, the church has had "snow" fall on its lawn!

Friday will be a full day of wiring and possibly tree planting. We are coming along well toward opening day of Nov 17 (preview opening the afternoon before), so **NO** need to work this weekend.



EVENT REPORTS

Tis the Season for Giving, Halloween Right? By Sam Carr



This M3R model railroad promotion helped me move 84 bags of chips in about 45 minutes! I set up this mini layout on the apron in front of my garage with Thomas going around and round while Trippy Trolley flashed his LED psychedelic lights as he traversed back and forth between bumpers. We have a lot of kids because they and their parents know there are lots of treats here in South Freeport Halloween eve. We may have to have additional stock next year. 😊

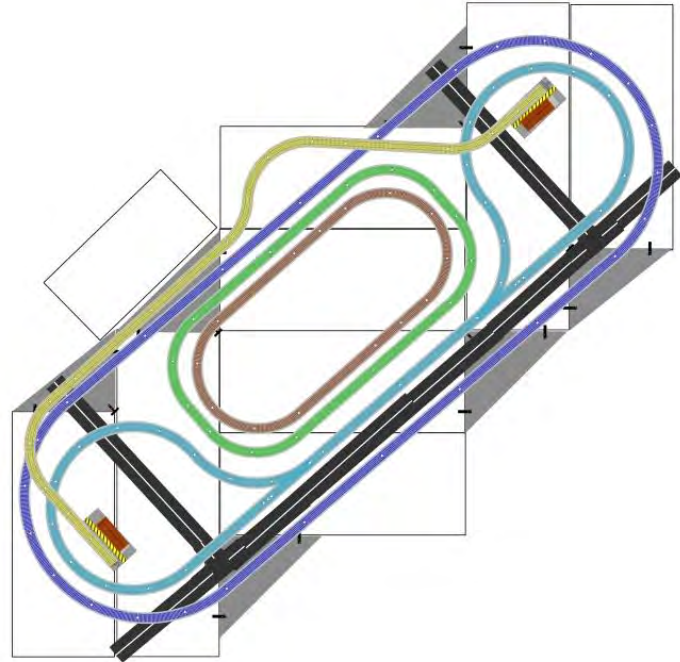


Plenty of Books and Track for the Returning Regulars by Art Shean

Friday October 13th the M3R Mobile Unit returned to the Shaw Gym in Gorham Maine for their 2023 Baxter Library Fall Book Sale. Our engagement encompassed three days of activity, setting up Thursday afternoon and running trains on Friday from 9am-6pm and again on Saturday from 9am-1pm.

Like many of our repeat visits, the venue and visitors begin to take on a profile and character that we can plan for and cultivate. At this stop, the kids take center stage and in particular their desire to operate the engines. Not just new visitors but a number of return customers that know how to operate the controls. These kids are not satisfied with Thomas engines, they want to run the big stuff. With this advanced intelligence, we designed the layout to accommodate the expected demand with two inner rectangle Thomas engine loops, an outer main loop, a double reversing dog bone, and an elevated meandering trolley line. In total we laid 141+ feet of Lionel FasTrack.

We rotated Thomas, Percy, James, Diesel, and a Santa Fe engine with a few cars attached on the green and brown lines. On the Blue lines we ran various freight consists pulled by Carlton Spring's Menards diesel and Sam Carr's assortment of steamers. Although new to our layouts, Sam Carr's Psychedelic Bump n' Go Trolley caught people's attention as it traversed back and forth on the elevated trolley line between elevated trolley platforms.



The 16'x16' table layout covering 147 ½ square feet was an experiment that departed from our norm. Instead of placing the six 2.5'x6' tables and two 2.5'x8' tables in a standard rectangle we staggered the tables in a 45-degree angle away from the book tables. This arrangement provided an appearance of depth normally associated with many more tables. We also used four 30"x30" and two 24"x30" corner fills to smooth the layout sides. Arranged in this manner we created a prominent outcrop facing the book tables that later provided an interesting link between our layout and the book sale. Initially we only had the Menards National Power & Light and Jack's Dog Food Factory buildings out front with their tunnels over the passing outer track. Then one of our crew discovered a Thomas Golden Book at the book sale and placed it out front of the buildings in the vacant space. Later a visitor brought another Thomas Golden book over to add to the existing book. Hence the link between the book sale and our layout with Thomas engines running in the center of the tables. The only missing element was our layout did not include a bridge to match the story in the left book.



The Complete Layout at the End of Day One



Our Tribute to the Book Sale and Our Thomas Engines

As expected, the kids turned out to run trains. The newbies began running a Thomas engine on the inner loop then graduated to the outer Thomas Loop. The experienced engineers from previous events showed up demanding to run the consists on the outer loops. Sam Carr who relishes the kid's participation eagerly relented and we had junior engineers waiting in the wings for their turn at the larger consists. As it turns out, the crew had very little time left to operate the trains themselves. Below is a sampling of the eager junior engineers at work:



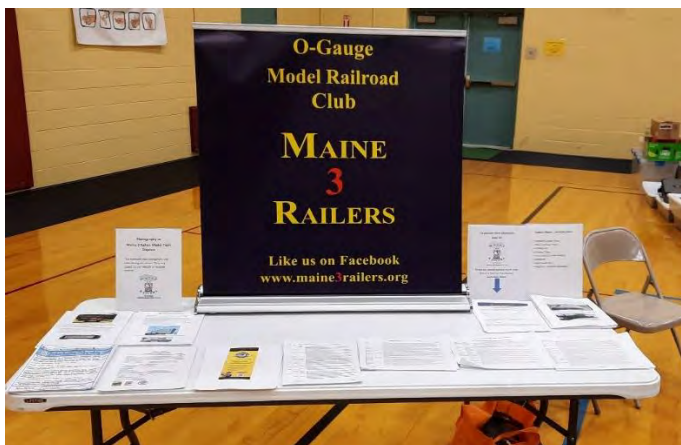




As usual, despite the strong interest in running the trains, everyone had to push the button for the animated fire station at least once. Some more than once!



And who do we have to thank for bringing and servicing both the Firehouse and handout? None other than our Event Coordinator, Sam Carr.



Setup and tear down went smoothly with help from John Ash, Sam Carr, Joe McCarthy, Doug Pollock, Art Shean, and Carlton Spring. We even had some help from a group of teens helping to pack up the book sale residuals.





Event Learnable Lessons:

No matter how well an event goes there are always things that can be learned or interesting side stories to be experienced from participating. This event was no exception.

One interesting item that Doug and I observed while transiting to and from Topsham to Gorham was this Monster Fire Truck parked beside the road near the Gorham town line. The locals had a Freight Night scheduled on Friday the 13th.

Another interesting item I've pondered for some time was the switch on the bottom of Menards Diesel Engines. Carlton Spring recently purchased the latest edition and was running it on the double reversing dog bone. When I turned it over during pack up, I noticed his version had the switch labeled, "Diesel Sound On/Off". Now I know!

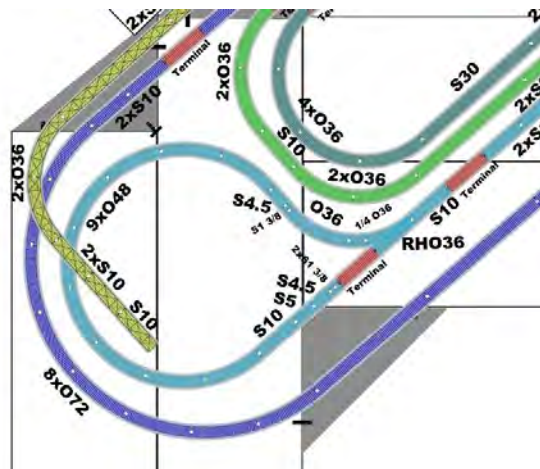




Bottom of Carlton Spring's Menards Diesel Engine with Switch Shown

We also learned to be especially careful when running the New Haven Diesel with the electrical pantogram attached. While running the NH with the pantogram down, it accidentally sprang free and guess what? It did not fit under the Menards' building tunnels. We ran the NH without pantogram the rest of our visit.





17



Thomas may have his many adventures on his make-believe island of Sodor, but the Maine 3 Railers had their own island on a sea of hardwood in Gorham Maine during the 2023 Baxter Library Fall Book Sale!



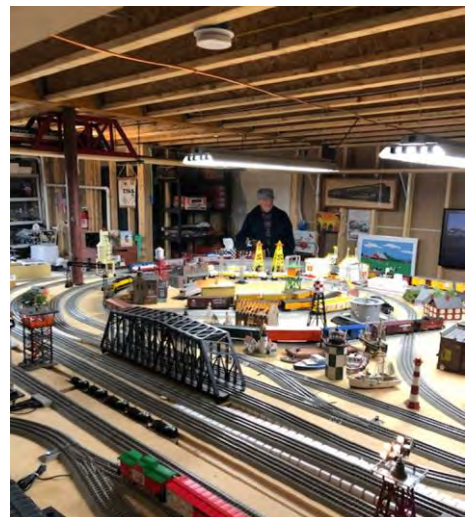
In person Reprise of Bob Osur's Fabulous Home Model Train Layout

On Saturday, October 14th in North Yarmouth, Bob Osur opened the doors to his beloved and detailed model train layout. Bob gave us a virtual tour back in our September 2022 Newsletter, but experiencing the real thing in person was a special treat. Bob runs mostly O-scale but also includes several G-scale runs. Key features of his O-scale runs include:

- All Fast Track
- 22 Fast Track Switches run via Cab 2 and manually
- 2 ZW-L Transformers, 3 CW80 Transformers
- Legacy, TMCC, Lion Chief Control Systems
- 18 Meynard's Buildings/Accessories
- Boston and Maine Rolling Stock
- Lionel Accessories
- MTH Buildings

- All brands of rolling stock including M3R Club Cars
- Signals
- Three bridges

The pictures below illustrate the scope of Bob's endeavor:





Bob's Power and Controls

Thank you to Bob and Sharon for inviting us into their private train sanctuary.



Lionel Legacy Training Part 1 by Bernie Pender

On Friday, October 27th, the Maine 3 Railers had the first of several training events at the EMT medical facility in Brunswick on Neptune Drive. Dave Hodgkiss arranged for our use of the facility.

Fifteen club members attended.

Bernie Pender

Vic Fuller

Ernie Vannah

Mark Lasher

Dave Smith

Dave Hodgekiss

Jeff Jacobs

Dana Jipson

Peter Hanson

Ken Thorson

Dennis Robillard

Mark David

Jan Williams

Paul Brown

Rick Hills

Our meeting lasted four hours. The first three hours provided an insightful introduction to Lionel Legacy Software led by Rick Hills who discussed basic Legacy concepts and led a workshop with operating trains. Lionel LLC provided gifts of high-end freight cars which several members surprisingly won in a lottery run by Bernie Pender!



Members also had their handhelds and bases updated with the latest 1.72/1.6 software and several even had chips created.

Rick's presentation, developed with Ray Dellovo, consisted of 44 slides, including links to external sources, and quizzes. His presentation slides are available to review on the M3R website in the "Members Only" section or by contacting Rick directly at hillsrick@aol.com.

The following slide segments from Rick's quizzes illustrate the scope and depth of the training and expected outcomes.

Exercise 4

Try the following:

- Take one of Rick's engines or your engine and program the engine ID, a name, type of engine, software type, and sound type
- Address the engine using the road number you programmed and blow the horn
- Shut down the engine using the touch screen key pad

Exercise 6:

Try the following exercise:

- True or False "the velocity controller is green and uncouples cars"
- True or False: "the multi-controller boosts speed, changes direction."
- True or False: "the train break slider should be taped at the top to avoid confusion"
- What speed icon reflects 50 mph?
- Set your's or Rick's engine to run at restricted speed 5 mph.
- On Rick's steam engine, set the front marker lights to white from green

Exercise 8

Try the following exercise as a team:



Build a Lash-up



Add an operating car or engine



Run the Lashup



Develop a recording and run the train automatically



Delete the recording



The fourth hour was an exciting review by Jan Williams of building construction and materials he uses. Jan reviewed how to make brick and stone walls step by step and the detailed results were absolutely fantastic!

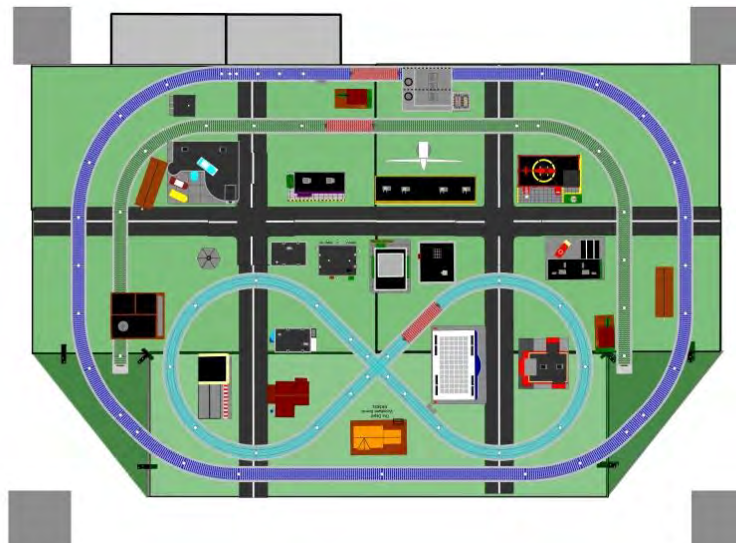


Model Train Layout for Tony by Sam Carr

On Monday, October 30th the Maine 3 Railers brought their portable layout to the Sunnybrook Village Retirement Community in Brunswick. This was our first visit in several years, and we were glad to see long-time M3R member Tony Masulaitis who is now a resident there.



Set up with five tables went smoothly, and we were ready to run at about 9:45am. For this layout the trolley line was extended but not raised, and the buildings were not lighted. As shown in the drawing below, the layout included an outer loop, small inner figure eight, and a trolley line.



One of the key challenges we faced was fitting the layout within the four columns in the lower-level vestibule.



Jeff and Doug Working on Setup.



Santa Fe Freight nearing Platform with Trippy Trolley at the Trolley Station.

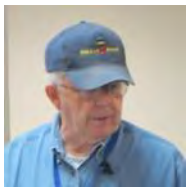
The residents enjoyed seeing the trains running on the layout. We ran a Santa Fe diesel freight with an A-B unit on the outer track, and a steam engine pulling club cars on the figure 8 track. Tony brought down his new Lionchief Plus 2.0 Milwaukee Road diesel to pull a train for a while. The Lionel Hobby shop shown in the below picture came from Tony's vast collection of model train accessories.



Tony's Lionel Hobby Shop Sits Center Stage

The cooks at Sunnybrook provided an excellent lunch, and there were no complaints about ice cream for dessert. There were fewer visitors after lunch, which is normal for events like this. Ken Thorson suggested that we consider packing up at 2pm instead of 3 when we have light traffic like this. We can include this when talking with contacts at our future layout sites. The move out was smooth, and we loaded up despite some afternoon rain.

Train Crew: Jeff Jacobs, Vic Fuller, Ken Thorson, Doug Pollock, Sam Carr, and Tony Masulaitis. Art Shean could not attend the event, but had already dropped off tables, covers, roads, electrical, buildings, vehicles, and trees.



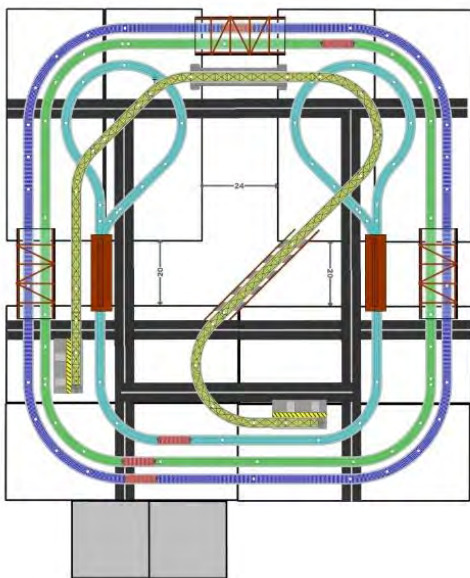
Lots of Bridges on Bridge Street in Westbrook by Sam Carr

The Southern Maine Model Railroad Club held its first fall show in the gym at the Westbrook Community Center on Saturday November 4th. We arrived around 4:30 pm Friday evening and found that set up was already in progress. We asked where our layout would be, and the SMMRC crew brought our tables. The setup crew included Carlton Spring, Art Shean and Sam Carr. Art stayed to get the track in place then had to leave.





We continued with setup and had buildings in place and trains running around 8:15.



The layout included an outer and inner loop, a double reversing bent dog bone, and an elevated meandering trolley line as well as ten bridges.



On Saturday we returned around 8:30 am for a 9 am start. The crew included Doug Pollock, Carlton Spring, Caleb Westra, and Jay Westra.



Caleb at the Controls

The Boy Scouts were serving both breakfast and lunch this time, and they had coffee available. Once the show started, we had kids running all three remote-controlled trains almost all day and waiting for turns under Carlton's experienced direction.

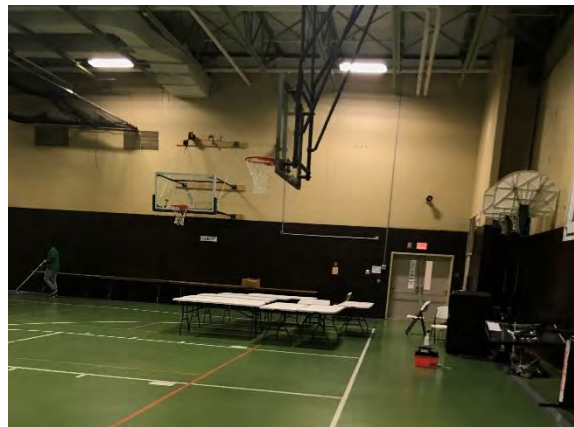


We had the outside track with club cars and a Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream Tanker pulled by a steam locomotive, and the inner track with Carlton's Maine Central Passenger cars pulled by a B&M RS-3 switcher. Thomas engines ran on a long U-shaped track through two tunnels and with reversing loops at both ends.

During the show we had visits from Tom Hartwell and Peter Hanson. Traffic picked up as the morning went on, slowed down during lunch, and then picked up in the afternoon. We had an MTH transformer stop working, so it probably needs a new “brick”, and the Trippy Trolley with the flashing lights stopped working so it probably needs a good cleaning.



Move out went smoothly with the extra help from Caleb and Jay Westra. Art came back to pick up his table covers, buildings, and roads. We were on the road around 3:45pm. Next stop is the Plant Home on November 15th.



From Operating to Empty Tables in Less Than an Hour

MODEL RAILROADING



New Project - Copley Plaza Hotel by Jan Williams

Those that have seen my layout know I have a large hotel opposite my central station. Both the hotel and the station are ‘temporary’ foam board place holders.



Copley Plaza Hotel - The Prototype

The hotel is inspired by the Copley Plaza Hotel in Boston. We once lived a few blocks away; I knew a version of this building belonged on my layout. The place holder on my layout represents my compression of this building (below).



Current Placeholder on My Layout

The building is carved granite, ideal for modeling in air dried clay. The challenges include the exquisite detail in the facade, and the large size of the building. Even my compression measures 15 by 27 inches. For ease of handling, I decided to model the building in eight panels, one at each end and three each for the front and rear walls.

The model uses air dried clay applied to foam board. I cut the foam board to match the four walls of the building, then cut the long sections into three panels each. Since my model building involves so many arched windows and smaller windows, I made plywood patterns to facilitate molding the window openings (picture 3).



Picture 3, End Section w/Wood Patterns

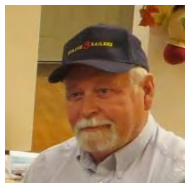
The size of each panel, roughly 12" high and 8 ½" wide, meant that when glued to foam board the panels would want to warp. I let them warp, then use support beams and serious clamping to bend them back to true; sanding requires them to be flat. If they crack, no problem, that is easily fixed. Picture 4 demonstrates my subtle technique.



Picture 4, Pressing the Warp Out of the Side Panels

So here is the state of play on 20 October.





Pine Tree Power by Jeff Jacobs

In the 5th edition of Pine Tree Power, we return to locomotives which operated in Maine, and which have been modeled in O Scale. Here we pay homage to the sturdy SW series of road-switchers made by EMD. These appeared in Maine in the early fifties bearing cab numbers from 331 to 335 (3 were SW7s and 2 were SW9's).

Powered with a 12-cylinder diesel developing 1200 HP these units lived up to their name finding service in yards and on the branch-lines. More often than not, they were MU'd working as a pair with cabs back-to-back and sometimes even in triplicate.

My affinity for the SW's came from the frequent assignment to the Bucksport Branch (my hometown) serving the tank farm and St Regis Paper Co there. That branch ran through my father's property and occasionally dropped off a car or two with building products on his siding - Longview. As a youngster I watched the SWs make several trips per day in the heyday of papermaking in Maine.

Railfan friend Dave Larrabee grew up trackside in Bucksport and was excited to find this hi-resolution slide on eBay showing the in-town subsidiary of my father's Lumber Company with SW331 pushing a caboose and a box car toward the south end of the line. In the background we see a portion of the papermill flanked by the Penobscot River (Dave's father was the PR manager at the Mill). Hidden by the 4 tall tanks is the loading dock where empty boxcars were filled with paper destined for "Time" magazine, Mill's primary customer.



George Melvin in his book "Maine Central in Color". referred to the SWs as "Nomadic". The 5 SWs saw service on the B&M and MEC with stints all over the joint system including the Mountain Division. The period from 1966 onwards at Bucksport was their signature performance, however. Early paint jobs reflected the maroon with gold stripes shared by the MEC & B&M but later

“Dartmouth Green” was predominant owing to the MEC’s president E Spencer Miller’s alma mater, Dartmouth College.

Bill Rogerson captured 2 of the SW’s in Bangor in 1978. Both paint schemes are shown.



What about O Scale models?

The best bets for my money were the Atlas versions. The earliest have little in the way of electronic features but display sharp detail and are powered with a horizontal drive that will “pull a barn down”. Bill Haley recently furnished me with this copy.



Norms O Scale of Casco had Atlas make both a maroon and green version with TMCC elements and MEC heralds. Here 334 is switching the sawmill on my layout.



These are quite collectable, note the electric couplers.

MTH produced a MEC maroon copy with proto sounds 3 and literally all of the “bells & whistles”. Unfortunately, the maroon is not deep enough for my tastes.



web photo

So, if your pike needs a versatile switcher with plenty of New England history, be on the lookout for a pair of SW7s or 9's and be sure to MU them back-to-back.

- END -

Maine 3 Railers Upcoming Schedule of Events

Future Maine 3 Railers Events

- Nov 15 **Portable Layout at the Plant Home**, 1 Washington St, Bath, ME 04530, Setup 8-10am with trains running 10am – 3 pm. (Portable)
- Nov 17 **M3R Member Model Train Layout Tour**, (Activity Committee)
- Nov 17-
Jan 01 **L.L. Bean Model Train Village**, Camping Department, 1st Floor, 95 Main St., Freeport, ME 04032. Layout operating 9am-9pm daily with M3R on call support. (Special Projects)
- Dec 09 **Open House – Jan Williams Home**, 10am-2pm. (Activity Committee)
- Dec 09-10 **Ray & Robin's Hobby Center**, 65 Gray Rd, Falmouth, ME 04150. Setup Dec 8th at 1pm. Trains run Saturday 9am-5pm and Sunday 11am-4pm. Move out Dec 11th at 10 am (Portable)
- Feb 17
2024 **Annual Maine 3 Railers Model Train and Dollhouse Show**, Augusta 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):

- Nov 09 Regular Monthly

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

- Nov 16 Roundhouse Session, Topic: Folklore, Yarns, and Faire Tales Maine 3 Railers Tell the Public II, Host: Art Shean
- Nov 23 No Roundhouse Session, Thanksgiving
- Nov 30 Roundhouse Session, Topic: TBD, Host: TBD

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” (Lou Bragaw, 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, Lou, Dana, or Art will review your first two posts to assure you are a member. The URL for our group is: <https://groups.io/g/M3R>.

Once subscribed you can email all other M3R members by addressing your email to m3r@groups.io, email individual members by using the Directory, update your personal profile, change how you receive emails, or unsubscribe. If you have any questions, contact Dana Lindsey, M3R Secretary.