



MAINE 3 RAILERS

M3R CLUB NEWSLETTER FOR JANUARY 2024

NEXT MEETING IS THURSDAY, January 11, 2024, at 7:00PM on ZOOM. Watch for the email from Dana Lindsey with the link to join.



President's Message by Gene Thayer

Happy New Year to all.

We enter 2024 with a strong membership. But let's look back at a busy 2023. On January 2nd we completed our first display at L. L. Bean in Freeport. It was a great success and the biggest event in Club history. We quickly moved to the second M3R Train Show at the Augusta State Armory in February, another great success.

Along with these events the membership continued to run trains at libraries, nursing homes, and retirement communities. Members opened their houses to the Club to display their layouts. Then September brought the Cumberland Fair layout with members working hard to set up, staff, and tear down the layout.

No rest for the weary when November brought our second run at L. L. Bean. A Bean's employee mentioned to me that people were calling the store wanting to know when the trains would be running. This layout turned out even better than last year's.

I said at the beginning of this message that our Club has a strong membership. We're successful due to our members' dedication to the Club and most importantly to our great hobby.

Frank Sinatra sang the song "It was a very good year" and 2023 was for M3R. I'm sure 2024 will be even better.

UPDATES



M3R YouTube Channel Update by Channel Master Carlton Spring

December found 1 new event and the completion of another event.

First, on December 9 and 10, the Portable Unit visited Ray & Robin's Hobby Center in Falmouth, ME. Set-up was Friday afternoon December 8th, and move out was Monday morning, December 11th.

Video link to Ray & Robin's Hobby Center:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yvWte3Ugel8&t=38s>

The completed event that started in November is the 2023 L.L. Bean Northern Lights model train village that was set up in the large window in the Main Store Camping Section. The moose display that usually resides in this window, was given some time off, and M3R's train display ran 12 hours per day from November 17th to January 1st. Move out was on January 2nd. Video link to 2023 L.L. Bean's Northern Lights Model train village:

<https://youtu.be/ISYOwHafySo?si=fO3BQoydvrXYfpxp>

January looks relatively quiet with only one scheduled event at the Highlands in Topsham, January 18th. See you there!



M3R Activity Committee by Chairperson Bernie Pender

Upcoming Events

No Activity Committee Events scheduled for January. Stay tuned for future developments.

For more information on future activities, type [Groups.io](https://groups.io) into your browser and check out the Club's for a visit.



Club Car Committee by Richard Ridolfo

Hannaford Trailer on Flat Car

Peter Hanson received the Hannaford trailer on flat car Club Cars and began distribution January 2nd at the L.L. Bean layout pack up. If you preordered and have not received your car, please contact Peter Hanson at 27 Norway Dr, Chelesa, ME 04330 or email him at clubcar@maine3railers.org to plan pickup.



The Summer Scenic Car and the L.L. Bean Car are in production. At this point it looks like the Summer car will be here in late spring while the L.L. Bean will arrive in early summer. As you know between overseas production and shipping these delivery times can change.

Bangor & Aroostook Cylindrical Hopper 2024 Summer Car



L.L. Bean Boxcar (Pre-production photo)



On to 2025!



Train Show Committee by Richard Ridolfo

2024 Augusta Train and Doll House Show

When this month's newsletter arrives, we will be approximately 5 weeks from our 2024 Show. The size of this show requires a lot of helpers. Set-up will start at 9am on the 16th of February. We will need to set up 100 tables plus our Outreach Team will be setting up a Club model train layout. With a lot of hands in previous years we were done with the tables and chairs by Noon.

On the day of the show helpers are needed for various jobs. Vic Fuller is manning the ticket sales, some older table holder members will need help carrying their boxes, Doug will be looking for help for the white elephant booth, and Lou will need someone to go to the bank with him etc.

At the end of the day, we need to take down the tables and chairs and store them on the carts. We urge all members to attend and support the dealers. Peter will have 3Rail clothing on sale. Members are reminded that they can bring items they want to sell to the white elephant booth. Items should be priced, the club will receive a small fee, and the balance is given to the owner.



2023 M3R Model Train and Doll House Show

M3R Club Store by Peter Hanson



Does your Club Hat Look Like This?

Then you need one of these!



We have 25th anniversary hats in stock for sale to replace your worn older hats. Write to me at clubcar@maine3railers.org to get yours and be up to date. The cost is just \$15.



From the Editor by Art Shean

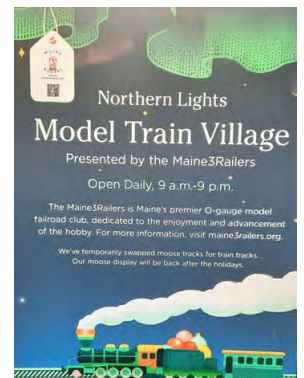
Take a deep breath! The holidays are behind us, the L.L. Bean layout is packed and stored, and we only have one event at the Highlands in Topsham this month. **But we will need all hands-on deck in February!**

February will be the best time for all our watchers to clear their calendars, step up to the plate, and contact Sam Carr or Richard Rudolfo to secure a volunteer position during our busiest month. Between the Club Train Show and three Outreach model train displays, any help that you offer will be greatly appreciated. Enough said!



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

The 2023 L.L. Bean Northern Lights model train village is packed and stored until next year. The set-up team, operating and maintenance volunteers, and pack-up crew each did an amazing job in their respective areas. Overall, things went so well, I am anxiously awaiting next year's opportunity to do it all over again. And I expect it will be even more spectacular next time. Again, thank you all for your support!



The final 2023 O&M Volunteer Calendar:

| 2023 L.L. Bean Operation & Maintenance Volunteer Calendar | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|----------------|-----------|--------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Mon | Tues | Wed | Thur | Fri | Sat | Sun |
| 20-Nov | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| Doug/Ken | Gene | Jeff | Sam | Dave H | Sophia/ Amar/Anuj | Sophia/ Amar/Anuj |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1-Dec | 2 | 3 |
| Jack D Jeff | Walt V Ken/Doug | Sam Carlton | Gene | Rocko | Dave H | Jess D Ronan |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Ken/Doug | Jack D | Sam Carlton | Joe M | Jeff | | |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| Sophia | Jack D | Jeff | | Ken/Doug | Gene | Jan |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| Jack D | Lou B | Jan | Joe M | Jan | Ken/Doug | Sam Carlton |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |
| | Lou B | Gene | Ken/Doug | Lou B | Sam Carlton | |

Email Record (Continued):

Sam Carr, Wednesday, 12/6: B&M E7 A&B units pulling freight on the outer track. Carlton and I put the E7 units on the outer track this morning. They are running smoothly after a little oiling.

Jeff Jacobs, Wednesday, 12/6: Great! I have the MEC version in my car, all fixed. Will drop off on my way later.



Jeff Jacobs, Saturday, 12/9: I did the service today, all was well. Need someone for tomorrow, Sunday, or Monday (I think we can skip one day, based on what I saw today). We are pulling together another Polar Express Set so that we can give those items a rest. Let me know who's going so that we may do a hand-off of the PE stuff.

Jeff Jacobs, Monday, 12/11: Like magic, the Christmas Elves are signing up to keep the tracks polished and the trains running at LL Bean in Freeport. We have passed the half-way point already and the tributes & praises to our display continue to arrive. Please help finish out the time slots.

Jeff Jacobs, Wednesday 12/13: Plans have changed, and we no longer have coverage for Thurs the 14th. If anyone wants to jump in that would be fine, but I think we will be OK if we skip the day. I am going to Freeport in a few minutes and will be bringing more paper towels and Wahl Oil.

Jeff Jacobs, Monday 12/18: Hi Members, Thanks to all who turned out to make our open house on Saturday a big success, hope you all enjoyed the company amongst O scale trains. Rick Hills dropped off several more items which checked out OK to use at Beans.

Here is our latest volunteer scoreboard for LL Bean. A few slots to fill, but I figure we can skip Christmas and New Year's Eve day so that leaves about 4 days to cover.

We have been easing away from applying more Wahl Oil as things are running OK with dry cleaning only. Let's see how that goes.

Who could help on pack-up day if it is Jan 1?

Jeff Jacobs, Wednesday 12/20: As you can see, many of the volunteer service slots for the LL Bean display have been filled in -Thanks to all. Only a couple days remain, and I think we can get by if we don't have volunteers for the 2 Holidays.

Yesterday I put the Bangor & Aroostook GP back in service on the upper loop and added a 3rd car to the PE. Lou B did the cleaning.

Jeff Jacobs, Sunday 12/24: As you can see, we have completed the volunteer schedule (thanks to Lou). Things have run so well, that I plan to leave the display alone on Christmas day and hope I don't get a panic call from LLB!

I now have a forecast that goes out to the proposed take-down date of Jan 1 and it looks very good both in Freeport and Hiram. We have a volunteer list started and could use just a couple more people to wrap, pack and label the delicate train items.

Ken & Doug will arrive early and remove the tiny figure/vehicle items. Lou will be on hand to get an inventory underway. Gene will be bringing the packing boxes from Doug's shed. Others will arrive between 9 and 10 to disassemble and load. By noon, we will probably be ready to head for Hiram (maybe lunch along the route?)

Here's where some of the items are headed for storage: layout plywood sections & buildings to Jan's in Hiram; figures to Ken's and electrical gear to my house. To be determined are: trees, track, rolling stock and skating rinks.

I am confident it will all come together. Everything has been so much smoother this second year of presenting. Thanks to all!

Jeff Jacobs, Wednesday 12/27: Just when I had the LL Bean display removal completely organized, I was thrown a "curve ball" today. Beans is having a big sale on Jan 1 and due to the activity, wants us to leave the trains in place until the following day, Jan 2 (Tuesday).

Things have run smoothly at the Freeport exhibit and the removal plans were all in place, so this comes as a disappointment for sure. Thanks to all who volunteered.

Fortunately, the weather is still clear on Tuesday but the question remains: how many of you can switch to helping on Tuesday at the same times??

| | | |
|------------------|--------|---|
| The timeline is: | 8:00 | Ken & Doug remove figures, cars, & trees from display |
| | 8:00 | Jeff & Gene go to Doug's to get packing boxes |
| | 9:00 | packing crew arrives at Freeport to disassemble and wrap trains |
| | 10:00 | begin loading trucks |
| | ~ noon | trucks head to Hiram to storage at Jan's barn. |

Thank you everyone!

Jan Williams, Wednesday, 12/27: works for me.

Jeff Jacobs, Monday, 01/01/2024: Well Troops, it is coming to an end - the second lengthy display of M3R trains at LL Bean will close tonight at 9pm. AND tomorrow {Jan. 2} the fun begins!

I can't guarantee exactly how it will go (I learned my lesson there when Beans extended the run schedule by a day) but here's what MAY happen -

At 8 am Doug & Ken will be quietly removing delicate items from the display, unfettered by the rest of us who should not arrive before 9 so that they can "do their thing".

Meanwhile, also at 8am, Gene & I will meet at Doug's storage shed in Topsham to load the packing boxes which we will then bring to Freeport.

At 9am the remainder of the packing crew will begin arriving in Freeport.

Sam will have tables to conduct the packing and labeling. The rolling stock, buildings, and track will be carefully removed and passed to the packers. Amidst that, the LL Bean building must be carefully set aside for the store employees. Also, requiring care are the 2 detailed buildings constructed by Jan which need lots of soft material added to their cartons.

Jim Kennie will be on hand to help me disconnect the wiring and electrical parts.

Lastly, the 4 base panels of plywood with mountains attached will be unscrewed from the base table and set outside for loading onto the trucks.

So far, I have Bernie and Gene for trucks, anyone else have a pickup which will accept 4x8 plywood? The trucks and volunteers will head for Hiram ME and the barn of Jan Williams where the large items will be stored for the months ahead.

On hand will be Lou Bragaw who will inventory all of the bits and pieces and note where each item went for storage. Please give him your assistance and patience as he performs this important job. Also on hand will be Carlton Spring who will capture some photos of the efforts of the 3 Railers as they remove the evidence of another display well done and appreciated by thousands.

But that's not all - Pete Hanson will be lending a hand AND bringing the Hannaford "club cars" for those who have been waiting for them this Fall.

Sure to be a busy and fun day for M3R

One last Thanks to all involved -

Jeff Jacobs, Wednesday 01/03/2024: Thanks to all who came to Freeport Tues. We had more than expected - many hands, made light work! Great to see the enthusiasm. After you left, the Beans workers came by and were amazed that the trains were already gone.

Between now and next season, I'd like to hold a session where we go through all of the rolling stock and repair or service every item. Would be a good teaching opportunity for members to learn how to fix stuff.

Currently southbound for warmer climates. See you next spring.

Jeff Jacobs, 01/03/2024: And a special shout out to the vehicles that hauled trains to Hiram, and of course our host storage person Jan.

Carlton Spring, Wednesday, 01/03/2024:

2023 L.L. Bean Crew List:

| | | |
|----------------|--------------|--------|
| Ash | John | |
| Bragaw | Lou | |
| Brown | Ron | |
| Carr | Sam | |
| Davis/Knowlton | Jess & Kevin | Ronan? |
| Dexter | Jack | |
| Fuller | Vic | |
| Graziano | Rocko | |
| Hodgkiss | Dave | |
| Jacobs | Jeff | |
| Kennie | Jim | |
| McCarthy | Joe | |
| Mediratta | Sophia | |
| Mediratta | Amar | |
| Mediratta | Anuj | |
| Pender | Bernie | |
| Pollock | Doug | |
| Shean | Art | |
| Spring | Carlton | |
| Thayer | Gene | |
| Thorson | Ken | |
| Westra | Jay | |
| Westra | Caleb | |
| Williams | Jan + Sally | |
| Voskian | Walt | |

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE check this list if you volunteered in any way with this year's L.L. Bean layout. Both Jeff and I have gone through the "book" and pictures and have tried to make an **accurate** list. All contributions are important. Please check the spelling too.

If your name has been omitted or misspelled, PLEASE email me at cspring@maine.rr.com. with the correct information.

This list will be included in the last part of the video with names printed in alphabetical order.

The video is nearly complete and should be ready for uploading to YouTube tomorrow. If I don't hear from you and your name is omitted or misspelled, I can't correct the error.

Carlton Spring, Thursday, 01/04/2024: The 2023 version of the L.L. Bean Christmas Northern Lights Model Train Village has been successfully uploaded to our YouTube channel. A direct link to the video is provided below for your convenience. <https://youtu.be/ISYOwHAfySo?si=fO3BQoydvrXYfpxp>

Enjoy the show!

Sophia Mediratta, Thursday, 01/04/2024: Thank you everyone! This video is wonderful, and we loved every minute we got to participate in this year. We'll be watching often I'm sure to reminisce.

Thank you for all the hard work in set up/take down! So cool to see since we weren't there.

Thank you!

January 2, 2024: Dismantlement, Packing, Transport, and Storage
From This:



To That in Half of a Day:



Despite a change in schedule from New Years Day until the following Monday, fifteen stalwart Maine 3 Railers appeared at the L.L. Bean Main Store at various times during the morning to dismantle and to recover the Club model train display. Ken Thorson and Doug Pollock led things off at 8am to remove vehicles, trees, and figures.



Sam Carr, Art Shean, and Carlton Spring showed up shortly afterward with focus on removing and packing the engines and rolling stock.



By 9 am, the full crew arrived. Jeff Jacobs was directing traffic, Jim Kennie was disconnecting building lights, Lou Bragaw was trying to inventory every building, engine, rolling stock, and accessory while the rest packed boxes and boxes and boxes.





When the tables were cleared and everything was packed, the crew literally cut the layout into four sections and passed them out the doors to load on awaiting pickup trucks.



With the four layout modules loaded along with the many boxes, a caravan consisting of Jeff Jacobs, Bernie Pender, and Peter Hanson rolled north to Hiram to store the goods until next year in Jan Williams' barn.

Photography by Art Shean & Carlton Spring

EVENT REPORTS



A Tale of Two Cities - Ray & Robins 2023 by Art Shean

December 8th the Outreach Team arrived at Ray & Robins Hobby Center in West Falmouth to set up for our annual two-day holiday themed model train display. Since the shutdown of the Maine State Museum several years ago, this event has provided our only outlet to show off Christmas colors and our holiday equipment. As usual, Sam Carr, Art Shean, and Carlton Spring arrived before the appointed one o'clock start time and unloaded their SUVs and trailer. John Ash and Lou Bragaw joined them shortly afterwards.

The Center offers an expansive location for our layout in their lower activity room with small windows on the entrance side and solid walls on the parking lot side. This arrangement allowed us to darken the room when desired by flipping a few switches. Normally, the room is used by an RC Model Car Racing Club. For our layout they clear the room of the various racetrack obstacles and curves.



We gained access through a backdoor one level below the parking lot. However, the pathway down to the door did offer a challenge with a few touchy moments descending the back snowy walkway to the lower entrance.



Other than transport, the unloading, unpacking, and set up went relatively smoothly. While Sam and Carlton focused on track and bridges, Lou, John, and Art tended to buildings and accessories. Some of which were removed from their boxes for the first time ever.

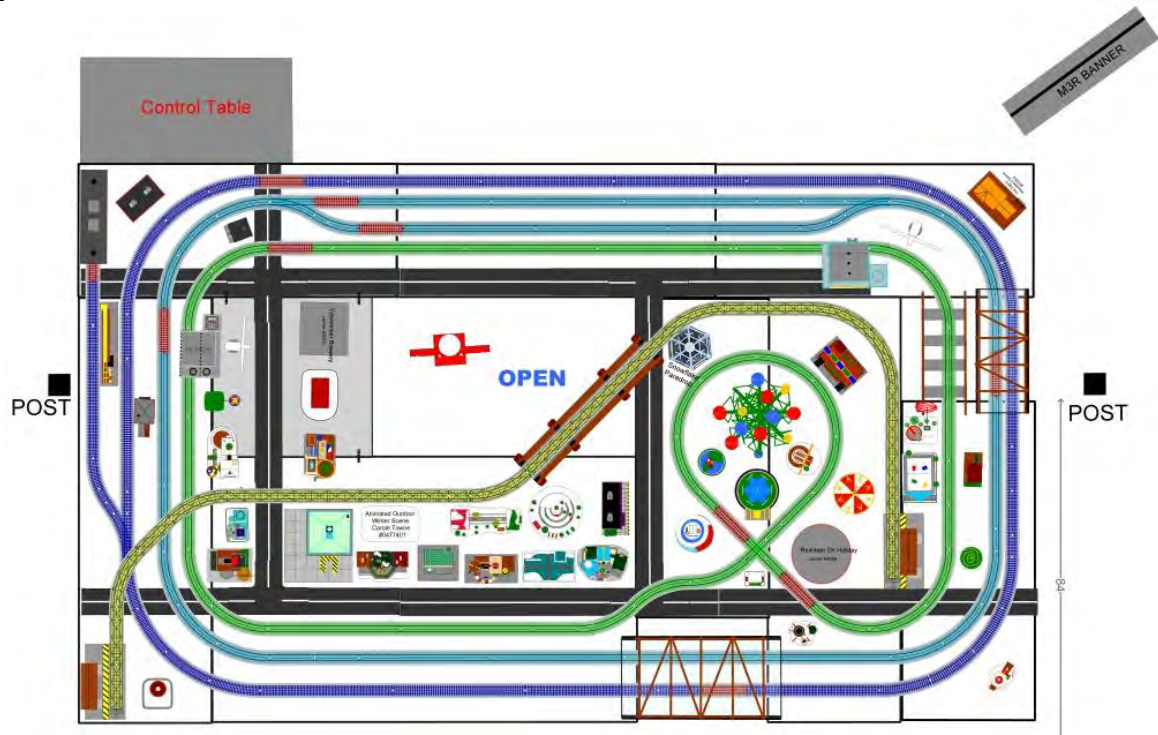


While some of us worked above the tables, others did not!



Lou Bragaw, Carlton Spring, and Art Shean

The R&R Center provided us with four 2.5'x8' tables and five 2.5'x6' plastic folding tables which we arranged into a 189 square foot 10.5'x18' layout. The crew laid 187 feet of Lionel FasTrack using four bridges and a 3'x3' Gap Fill.





Key features included: an outer loop with deadend siding, an inner loop with through siding, a Thomas loop with loop-dee-loop around a lighted Christmas tree, raised trolley line passing over our Lionel Collectors Club of America arch bridge, and raised terminals at each end of the line. On the right side of the layout around the Christmas tree we displayed an extensive Winter Carnival area and on the left side at the North Pole we displayed an extensive Holiday Shopping experience with multiple animated Lemax buildings.



James pulling a Christmas consist around the Christmas tree.



Winter Carnival



North Pole Shopping Area

By day the layout was impressive but with a simple flip of two switches an observer's focus completely changed to flashing lights and motion – a display with two cities.



The North Pole at Night

While visitors were inspecting the layout, we would switch off the lights and hear them “Wow!” in surprise. Quite the show! Overall, the crowd was moderate with a small but steady flow of individual families. And as usual, they all wanted to run trains. In particular every member of one family took their turn at the controls. As they say, the family that runs trains together, stays together.



Father, Mother, and Son

One of our younger new members, Caleb Westra, along with other youngsters also joined in on the fun of operating an o-scale locomotive with consist.



Sal DeVita showed up late Sunday with his collection of steam engines to test them out. Sal has become quite the expert on pre-war engines. While he was operating his engines, a visitor came in looking for advice on a similar non-operating engine. Sal quickly diagnosed his problem and offered some sound advice.



Art Shean testing his Menards ABA Union Pacific engine set

During planning for this event, Sam Carr suggested that we set up a "Members Only" set of tables so that members could "Meet and Greet" while visiting the display. Despite having two Club events on the same day (Jan Williams' Open House in Hiram and the R&R Hobby Center Display) a good number of members and a past member stopped by to chat. Beside Caleb, Sal, their fathers, and the crew, Fred Guth and his wife, Tom Hartwell, Jeff Jacobs, Dave Christie, Vic Fuller, Gene Thayer, and Moe Guevin came by.



M3R "Members Only" Table



Caleb and his father, Jay even helped Carlton Spring move his stuff out on Sunday.



Photography by Art Shean & Carlton Spring



Open House – **Jan Williams' Home** by Jan Williams

On December Ninth I held my annual Open House at the layout in Hiram, Maine. By all accounts it was a big success; we had about 60 guests, perhaps half were children. It's great fun to watch the children's faces as they discover the art of the possible.

Two aspects of the event got my attention...

Early on I noticed a young man, perhaps ten or twelve, who seemed responsible. Yeah, I know how do ya know... anyway, I showed him what the cab controller buttons do, and he proceeded to run trains to his delight. Sally noticed this. Soon kids started coming up to me saying, "Sally says you'll let me run a train". I remember thinking "Let's see how this works". I learned two things... Give these kids a minute or two tutorial on how to work a Cab 1 and they get it. Second, these kids are careful and responsible about how they run the trains. Well, there was one case in which I was chatting with someone and a train went by me at about 100 miles an hour. I did ask the young dude to slow the train down, no problem...

The second event would have been annoying if I hadn't laughed so hard. On my layout, track turnouts are controlled on panels with a track diagram and push buttons with red and green LEDs that indicate turnout position. At one point I noticed that a train was missing, actually gone! I finally found it snug up to a bumper on an obscure siding. I remember saying to Tom Vallas, who was assisting, "wow, that train must have picked a switch". Then another train went missing, crashed into a train on a passing siding. Then I got it... one of our young guests had hit every one of the turnout controls on the panels; everything was set for chaos! Lesson learned: turn off the turnout controls during an open house!

Some of my photos and those of visitors showing scenes from my layout:





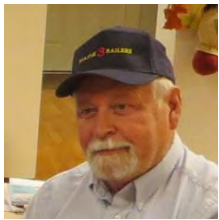
About half the visitors were kids. As you can see in the below photos, Sally and I grabbed their attention:





Young M3R Member, Orson Higgins Thanks You Jan & Sally for Hosting

Photography by Robin Sills, Ken Thorson, Jan Williams, Tom Vallas, and Joe McCarthy



Christmas Party at the Jacobs on Dec 16th by Jeff Jacobs

With better weather than 2022, many M3R members and neighbors filled the Jacobs' train room at Riverside Railway. Young and old enjoyed 3 trains running continuously under Legacy control. Roof top signs flashed, and lumberjacks toiled while hot air balloons rose and descended.

Always popular with the young set, the scale Lionel Polar Express Berkshire made its annual run to points north. A CSX new England consist crawled through Maine mountains and cities taking over two minutes to complete each loop. New this season was signaling recently added by Jeff & Brian Inch.



To the left, the Polar Express inched its way across the high trestle on its journey to the north pole.

About a dozen & a half M3R members stopped by along with many more family & neighbors, such as these cousins who follow M3R activities like the Cumberland Fair & LL Bean.



Lou Bragaw and Mark David enjoyed the coastal scenery on the layout below:



Gene Thayer and Ernie Vannah caught up, while Doug ventured into the “city” portion of the display. Mrs Bragaw & Bernie had their attention riveted on a mountain view.



City scenes: an S2 rumbled through Portland downtown while Independence Class MEC 405 passed the station.





Gene, Mark, Doug, and Ken visited, while a static display of Portland Union Station hovered above them to the left. A BAR GP38-2 and a UP Veranda were parked on the workbench, below center.



With CSX now owning tracks in Me, the layout is beginning to feature their logo on its equipment roster.



Inspired by conversations with fellow modelers and seeing some items from his own former O layout, Fred Guth is seen heading home to get started on his upcoming HO layout. Wife Ruth was kind enough to do the driving so we could have this visit with them. Fred is a former club VP and lives in Brunswick.

Hope your holidays were happy and filled with train memories!



A few photos and comments from admiring visitors:

Member Caleb Westra said he wanted "a layout just like this". Jeff amazed us with his wireless control of Tom Hanks's voice from the PE. Ronan and Caleb (both 7 yo) asked Jeff what all of the building buttons did. Jeff also showed them his Shay engine and told us all about their operation and use. Caleb especially loved all the bridges in the layout. **Jay Westra**





According to New M3R member Orson Higgins, visiting Jeff's layout was almost as exciting as Christmas morning.

Photography by Robin Sills, Jay Westra, and Jeff Jacobs



The View from Doug's Chair by Doug Pollock

Hi. I started to watch a Christmas Movie and it started out with a model train going around the tracks and the operator handling some figures on the layout. The scene was followed by the movie. At the end, the operator returned handling 2 figures from the layout and said how on a layout you can make changes just like in life itself. I

thought the movie was very good.

Ken and I were performing normal L.L. Bean duties on the layout Friday and at the layout Ken was talking to Jeff on his cell phone about whatever changes were going on which was fine. We did everything and went back to Ken's car and Ken called Jeff to report what we had accomplished. *My wife thinks I am a little hard of hearing but no problem.* While I was listening to everything Ken is saying, I can't hear Jeff. So I get a little closer to Ken in the car and still can't hear nothing. When Ken is done I said could you hear Jeff and he said yes. I said I could not hear a word he said. At that point, I am thinking I am really getting worse on hearing. Ken says I have the phone go right to my hearing aids. Dah!! I can't keep up with all these changes - HELP !!!

Hope U ALL had a GREAT CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR. B Safe and keep the tracks CLEAN. Doug

MODEL RAILROADING

Model Train Notes from Ken Thorson by Ken Thorson

- **Product Availability – Maine Eastern RR Passenger Cars – The Whole Story**

When MTH was sold some time ago, it sold off the tooling and production rights to some of its more popular items among which were Premier passenger cars. Atlas was one of the beneficiaries of such sales and Atlas recently announced that it was offering passenger cars in the now-defunct Maine Eastern livery. The Maine Eastern RR was owned and operated by the Morristown and Erie RR based in New Jersey. These new cars have recently been mentioned more than once by M3R members. While the cars bear the Maine Eastern logo, they still maintained the Morristown and Erie banner on the upper sides of the cars.

The cars are offered through Atlas affiliated retailers. Check out our Maine 3-Railers website under the headings Club Resources/Club Member Businesses for our very own member retailers' contact information. **The last day for those retailers to order such cars with guaranteed delivery is January 10** so prompt attention is necessary if you are interested in the cars. There are a total of six cars available (all prices shown are MSRP but retailers may offer a better price): a four-car set (three green, one red) (\$479.95) (Atlas catalog #3001672) and a single car issue (\$119.95) (Atlas catalog #3001673). From the Atlas catalog, it looks like there are two versions of the single car issue, one in green and the other in red, so you may be able to pick up two cars there. The cars are expected to be available in the fourth quarter of 2024. You can find pictures and descriptions

at: [StreamlinedSurpriseDec2023MSRPOnly.pdf \(atlasrr.com\)](#)



Our M3R annual volunteer support of the Tri-County Literacy Society's Candy Cane Train, a chartered Maine Eastern four-car consist, last ran in December of 2015 from Bath to Wiscasset and return. Morristown and Erie surrendered its Maine operating license after that final excursion ride, and the train withdrew from Maine to its New Jersey home. The Atlas cars are faithful reproductions of those Candy Cane Train cars. Atlas previously produced an F40PH engine in Maine Eastern livery. I am not aware whether that engine is sold out. The primary motive power for the Candy Cane Train was

an EMD FL-9 diesel engine. That model railroad engine, cab number 489, was produced some time ago by 3rd Rail, a division of Sunset Models. Incidentally, 3rd Rail engine body shells are brass castings with great detail. Here are a couple of pics of the real Candy Cane Train:

- In the MTH December 27 Newsletter, MTH announced that it will be releasing an upgraded version of the DCS app software for iOS iPhones and iPads running iOS 13 and later, and will in the near future will upgrade the Android version, as well. Also included in the announcement is mention of an upcoming release to retailers of the brand new DCS WiFi TIU device (TIU with built-in WiFi) in the summer of 2024, and a new version of the DCS app that will enable iPhones and iPads to control the DCS WiFi-TIU.

- END -

Maine 3 Railers Upcoming Schedule of Events

Future Maine 3 Railers Events

- Jan 18 **The Highlands** Assisted Living, 30 Governors Way, Topsham, ME 04086, Run Trains Thursday 10am-3 pm, Setup 8am. (Outreach Team)
- Feb 2-3 **Wilburs Chocolates**, 174 Lower Main Street, Freeport, ME 04032. Set up Friday, Feb. 2nd from 2-5pm with trains running Saturday during store hours and Sunday until 3pm. (Outreach Team)
- Feb 17 **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. (Outreach Team)
- Feb 20-21 **Patten Free Library**, 33 Summer St., Bath, ME 04520. Setup Feb 20th 8-10am. Trains run 10am-5pm on Tuesday and 10am-4pm Wednesday. (Outreach Team)
- Feb 23 **Topsham Public Library**, 25 Foreside Rd., Topsham, ME 04086. Setup: 3:30-6pm on Thursday with trains running 10am - 2pm Friday. (Outreach Team)
- Mar 07 **Sable Lodge**, 74 Running Hill Road, South Portland, ME 04106. Set up 8-10am with trains running from 10am-3pm. (Outreach Team)
- Apr 27 **Great Falls Model Railroad Club Show**, Mt. Ararat High School Gym, 68 Eagles Way, Topsham, ME 04086, Trains run 10am-3pm. Setup Apr 26th 4-8pm. (Outreach Team)

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

- Jan 08 Executive Board Meeting
- Jan 11 Regular Monthly Club Meeting

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

- Jan 04 Roundhouse Session, Topic: M3R news, holiday train displays (Cont.), and Show us what train related items you received over the holidays, Host: Art Shean
- Jan 18 Roundhouse Session, Topic: TBD, Host: TBD
- Jan 25 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.

Maine 3 Railers Elected Officers and Appointed Positions

Elected Officers and Executive Board

President, 2023-2024



Gene Thayer

president@maine3railers.org

Vice President, 2023-2024



Bernie Pender,

vp@maine3railers.org

Secretary, 2023-2024



Dana Lindsey,

secretary@maine3railers.org

Treasurer, 2023-2024



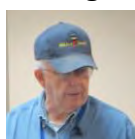
Lou Bragaw,

1 Wren Drive

Topsham, ME 04086

treasurer@maine3railers.org

At Large, 2023-2024



Sam Carr,

sam@maine3railers.org

At Large, 2023-2024



Art Shean,

art@maine3railers.org

Recent Past President: 2023-2024



Richard Ridolfo,

pastpresident@maine3railers.org

Appointed Positions and Committees

Club Car Committee: Richard Ridolfo, Chair

Members: Jerry Gotreau, Peter Hanson, & Tom Hartwell

Club Car and Merchandise Sales:

Peter Hanson,

21 Norway Drive, Chelsea, ME 04330

clubcar@maine3railers.org

Event Coordinator: Sam Carr

M3R Activities Committee: Bernie Pender, Chair

Members: Dave Hodgkiss, Mark David, & Rick Hills

Gifts Manager: Bernie Pender

Train Show Committee: Richard Ridolfo, Chair

Members: Sam Carr, Vic Fuller, Bill Halley, Peter Hanson, Tom Hartwell, & Gene Thayer

Special Projects Manager: Jeff Jacobs

specialprojects@maine3railers.org

Event Layout Design:

Jeff Jacobs (Trailer Events)

Art Shean (Outreach Events)

Media Committee: **Vacant**, Chair

Members: Conrad Berthiaume, Dana Lindsey, & Douglas Pollock

Webmaster (Website):

Mark David,

webmaster@maine3railers.org

YouTube Channel Master:

Carlton Spring,

youtubechannelmaster@maine3railers.org

Newsletter Editor:

Art Shean

*The Maine 3-Railers is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.
1 Wren Drive, Topsham, ME 04086*