



MAINE 3 RAILERS

M3R CLUB NEWSLETTER FOR JANUARY 2020

NEXT MEETING IS THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 7:00PM AT OUR USUAL LOCATION, THE RICHMOND FIREHOUSE. The address is 7 Myrtle St., Richmond, ME 04357. The Firehouse is just a short distance south off Main Street on Myrtle St., which is almost directly opposite the intersection of Main Street and Alexander Reed Road. The firehouse is also almost directly across Myrtle St. from the Richmond Public Library.

2020 Dues Now Payable – Bring your check made out to Maine 3-Railers, \$20 for individual, \$25 for family, to our next meeting or send to our treasurer: Rick Hills, 8 Winding Hollow Drive, Amherst, NH 03031

M3R 2020 Train Show – Our annual show is March 21, 2020, and 14 tables are committed. Table applications were recently mailed to both club and non-members who have had a table at past shows. If you would like to reserve a table (\$20 for members), use the attached form or contact Richard Ridolfo at 603-929-1441. Last year all tables were sold, so reserve early if you know you want one this year.

2019 and 2020 Club Cars – Preorder for club cars has ended, but you can still reserve a car for \$75. Contact Peter Hanson (pvhan@roadrunner.com) for further information.

2019 Canadian Pacific Holiday Express Train – Lloyd Neal sent these photos of the train leaving Milwaukee on Dec. 2. He reported that the train tours the USA CP mainlines from Binghamton, NY, to North Dakota. It stops at designated station to collect toys for kids whose families have hard times. Rick Hills ran his version of the train at the Maine State Museum show.





Maine State Museum Model Railroad Celebration – We had very successful and well attended layouts at this event on Dec. 6 and 7, using both the trailer and portable layouts. Many members participated and all would agree this was an excellent event for the club. See our YouTube channel for a video on construction of the layout and visitors, if you haven't already. [YouTube channel video of setup and running trains](#)

M3R at Ray & Robin's Hobby Center, Dec. 12 & 13, 2019 – (as reported by Art Shean) Eleven M3R members (see Figure 1) set up a 12 ½' by 19' layout in Ray & Robin's Hobby Center basement, ran trains over four tracks, and tore the layout down in Mid-December. The layout consisted of a 68' outer loop, 90' pretzel loop, 25' trolley line, and a kid's carnival loop of 16'. Total track length was 199' 6" with 6 bridges. The layout included downtown and suburban M3Rville, industrial zone, and a carnival with eight rides. In total, the layout had 46 buildings, 4 train stations, a 5-way traffic circle, and more asphalt than any other M3R mobile layout to date. See Figure 2 for layout plan and Figure 3 for photo.

Date	Day	Hours	Activity	Members Participating
12/11	Friday	3-6 pm	Drop off & Set up	Doug Pollock, John Ash, Sam Carr, & Art Shean
12/12	Saturday	9 am – 5 pm	Set up & Ran Trains	Carlton Spring, Harry Pierce, Dana Lindsey, Tom Hartwell, Jeff Jacobs, Sam Carr, & Art Shean
12/13	Sunday	10 am-4 pm	Ran Trains	Carlton Spring, Harry Pierce, Tom Hartwell, Conrad Berthiaume, Peter Hanson, Sam Carr, & Art Shean
12/14	Monday	9:30-11:30 am	Take Down & Load Up	Tom Hartwell, Sam Carr, & Art Shean

Figure 1

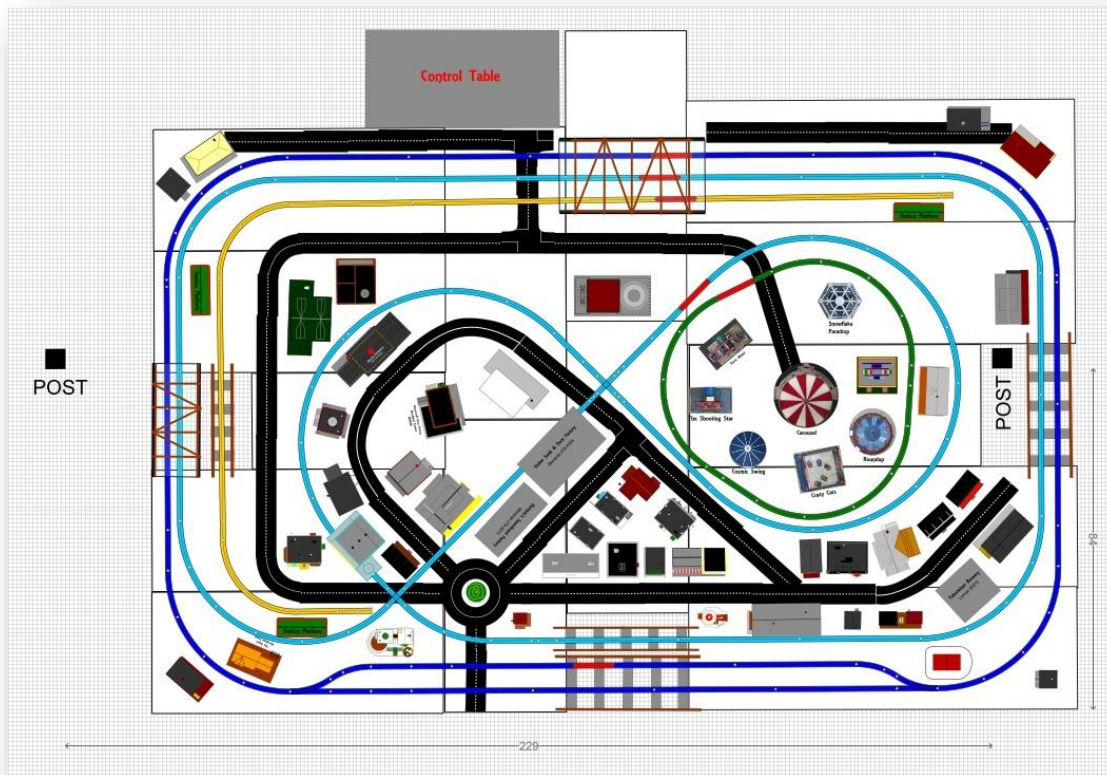


Figure 2. The “As Built” Plan



Figure 3. View While Flying Over the Androscoggin Bridge

Train Operation and Consists: On Saturday, Carlton ran a highly detailed Maine Central passenger consist with a 4-6-2 Baldwin Steamer alternating with a MEC GP7 Diesel w/ Dummy on the pretzel loop (Figures 4 & 5). On the outer loop, he ran a Club Car consist with various Diesel engines including his George Bush 4141, E-3 AA MEC Diesel, and GP-20 B&M Diesel.

On Sunday, Carlton turned over the outer loop tracks to Conrad who ran his 2-8-2 Lionel Holiday Express Engine and caboose with a Christmas consist. The consist included a Santa with reindeer car, a car with an elf chasing a reindeer, a dump car with Christmas gifts, a box car with rotating skaters, a musical box car, and two holiday decorated box cars (Figure 6). Conrad claims the engine is at least 15 years old and was purchased at Charlie Roe's. The crew ran multiple engines with a shortened version of the Club Car consist on the pretzel loop so that it fit between the 90-degree cross over tracks.

On both days, Sam provided two trolleys for the trolley line and a James Engine for the kid's operated Carnival loop. As always Sam powered the whole show with a variety of conventional and remote transformers/controls (Figure 7) and each one was properly labeled and sequenced from inner to outer loop - left to right. Sam loves those labels.



Figure 4. MEC GP7 Entering Androscoggin Bridge



Figure 5. Baldwin Steaming Around Pretzel Outer Loop



Figure 6. Holiday Special Crossing Androscoggin



Figure 7. Call the Electronics Tech

Gracious Host: Ray Labonte, name sake of Ray & Robin's Hobby Center, took great care of the M3R crew. Besides providing us with ample space with a bathroom and background music, he had the floors painted and rugs shampooed prior to our arrival. He also provided coffee & donuts both Saturday and Sunday morning and bought lunch for the entire crew on both days. He also assigned his train guy to work with us and Ray stopped by multiple times offering help when needed. He even purchased additional tables when we came up short during set up. We couldn't ask more from a host. At least Harry and the three wise men thought so (Figure 8 & 9).



Figure 8. Harry Sampling the Goods Figure 9. The Three Wise Men

Challenges/Learnable Lessons: First challenge arose before we even got started. Set up was originally scheduled for Saturday morning but an approaching ice/snowstorm was scheduled to arrive early Saturday. After due consideration and coordination with Ray & Robin's, a skeleton crew mustered out to transport and to unload the mobile layout materials before the storm hit. By so doing, everything arrived dry and we were able to start setting up early.

The "Ripple Effect" hit us during our second challenge. Our layout designer, who shall remain nameless, miscounted the number of available 8-foot tables by one. Unfortunately, the one short table was planned for the middle of the layout and provided the gaps necessary for three bridges. As we brainstormed alternatives, Ray Labonte stepped up and purchased a replacement. He first tried a nearby rental company without success then found two 6-foot folding tables at a local big box store. Nice try but 2x6 is greater than 8. Because the girder bridges we use are not flat, we needed a 30" gap. Using the two 6-foot tables, we bumped out the layout 2' at the back next to the control table to obtain the 30" gap needed in the front of the layout. See Layout Plan, Figure 2. We then moved the triple wide truss bridge from the front to the layout rear because it laid flat and moved a double and a single girder bridge to the front where we created the gap. Then we discovered that the two folding 6-foot tables were $\frac{1}{2}$ " taller than the rest of the tables causing bumps where the tracks crossed over the layout center. Fortunately, Jeff Jacobs stepped up and shimmed the tracks where needed. He obviously did a great job because we did not experience a single derailling due to the table levels during our two days of operation.

Due to the width of the layout, we had to run some power cables across the full width to connect to the transformers. Fortunately, Sam thought ahead and replaced all of the mobile layout power tracks with 18' cords. As a result, every power track was connected without an extension.

On the maiden run of Conrad's Holiday train, we loaded the Christmas consist on the siding located at the front of the layout. On the first run, the caboose was not coupled to the consist and the leading switch to the siding was left turned in the wrong position. As you can guess, the engine found the rear of the caboose.

Never enough 1 3/8" track! We came up short during setup. Never again!

We had to split up the club car consist into two consists when we ran it on the pretzel loop due to the limited track length between 90-degree crossings. See Figure 2.

Ooh and Aghs: The Crew received a few oohs! and aghs! when we shut off the lights while folks were watching the layout. The basement was sufficiently dark and the consist and layout lights were bright enough to provide a festive holiday picture (Figures 10 & 11)

[YouTube video on our channel showing nighttime run](#)



Figure 10. Carnival, Power Plant, & James by Night



Figure 11. M3Rville by Night

Crowd: Overall the customer flow was consistent at between 2 to 8 people at any one time. The R&R sales people sent customers down stairs before they left the store. Most visitors came on Saturday and lingered, while some hobbyists engaged in extended conversations with M3R members (Figures 12 thru 15). Many groups were families including three generations (Grandparents, Parents, and Kids) and a few folks came back for a second look. In general, the participation justified our outreach efforts and it is likely that participation will grow in the future as customers spread the word to other customers.



Figure 12. No! Can't be.



Figure 13. Old and Young Alike Admire the View

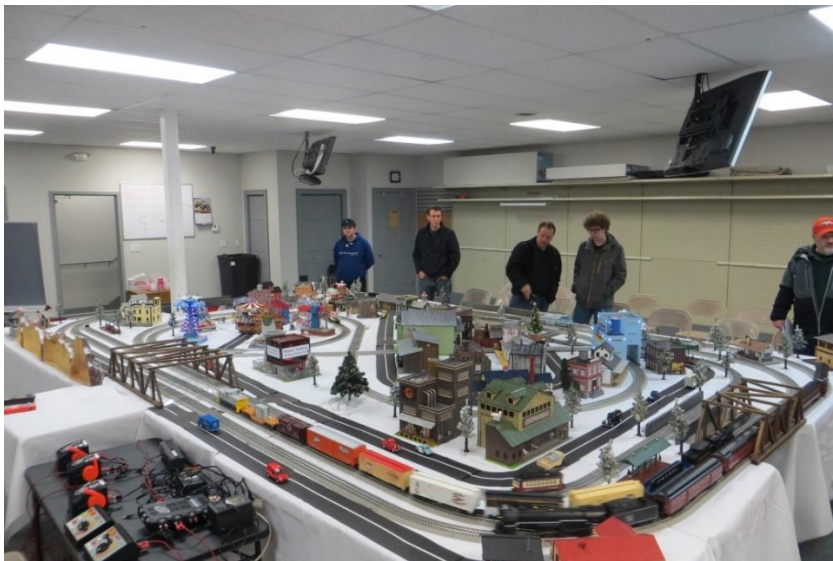


Figure 14. How Long Did It Take?



Figure 15. Really?

Thank you to Ray Labonte for inviting us to his hobby center and for his gracious hospitality. Thank you to Sam Carr for arranging our visit. And thank you to everyone that helped make this event roll.

Merry Christmas and have a Happy 2020, as Santa flies off to the North Pole. See you next year.



FUTURE EVENTS WHERE MAINE 3-RAILERS WILL BE RUNNING TRAINS:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event (confirmed events are shown in bold)</u>
Feb 15	Whitefield Lions Train and Dollhouse Show, Augusta Armory, 179 Western Ave, Augusta, ME 04330. Hours 10am-3:30pm with setup at 7am. Trailer.
Feb 18-19	Patten Free Library, 33 Summer St. Bath, ME 04530. Trains run 10am-4pm on Tuesday and 10am-3pm on Wednesday with setup at 8am Tuesday. Portable.
Feb 21	Topsham Library, 25 Foreside Rd, Topsham, ME 04086. Trains run from 10am-3pm with setup at 8am. Portable.
Mar 21	Maine3Railers Annual Model Railroad Show, Augusta Elks Lodge #964, 397 Civic Center Dr, Augusta, ME 04330. Hours 10am-3pm with setup at 1pm on Friday. Trailer.
Apr 18	Second Annual SMMRC Train Show, Westbrook Community Center, 426 Bridge St., Westbrook, ME 04092. Hours 10am-3pm. Portable.

- Apr 25 Spring Model Railroad Show sponsored by the Great Falls Model Railroad Club, Mt. Ararat High School, 73 Eagles Way, Topsham, ME 04086. Hours 10am-3pm with setup at 4pm on Friday. Trailer.
- May 1-2 Target date for Baxter Library, 71 South St., Gorham, ME 04038. Trains run 10am-4pm on Friday, and 10am-11:30am on Saturday with move out by 1pm. Setup Friday 8-10am.

Mark David
M3R Secretary
mbd1325@yahoo.com

Maine 3-Railers Officers and Appointed Positions, January 2020

Elected Officers and Executive Committee:

President, 2019-2020
Richard Ridolfo, 603-490-3832
rmrsr@aol.com

Vice President, 2019-2020
Harry Pierce, 207-737-2327
hpierce500@gmail.com

Secretary, 2019-2020
Mark David, 207-273-0185
mbd1325@yahoo.com

Treasurer, 2019-2020
Rick Hills, 603-673-9262
8 Winding Hollow Road
Amherst, NH 03031
hillsrick@aol.com

At Large, 2019-2020
Maurice Guevin, 207-423-1931
schmoe@twc.com

At Large: 2019-2020
Doug Pollock, 207-729-3225
dpollock207@yahoo.com

Recent Past President: 2019-2020
Dana Sullivan, 207-737-2577
danastrains@twc.com

Appointed Positions and Committees:

Events Coordinator:
Sam Carr, 207-865-4467
secarr1@comcast.net

Webmaster (website, Facebook):
Tom Hartwell, 207-749-8246
thartwell@gmail.com

YouTube Channel:
Carleton Spring, 207-646-4413
cspring@maine.rr.com

Club Car Committee:
Jeff Jacobs, Chair, 207-729-2252
sailboatjj@gmail.com

Tom Hartwell
Jerry Goureau
Peter Hanson

Club Car and Merchandise Sales:
Peter Hanson, 207-522-4256
21 Norway Drive, Chelsea, ME 04330
pvhan@roadrunner.com

Layout Design:
Jeff Jacobs
Art Shean, 207-373-1608
artshean@comcast.com