



BULLETIN BOARD

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Trains2013 show and meet report

by Peter Mueller

I'll bet you heard the rumours. the committee was ready to pack it in and Trains2012 was the end of the line. I heard the rumours too, and I thought, "I love that show and I know so many people in the hobby and the wider public in greater Vancouver love that show. It's time to step up". So at the show I mentioned to one of the organizers that I was interested in volunteering, and left my contact info.

In late January I received an email asking if I was still interested; in February there would be a meeting to see if there was sufficient interest. I showed up at the meeting at John Green's house with a notepad and an open mind. there were about 20 people there, including several outgoing committee members. We started chatting about the show. At some point I started taking notes, and asking directed questions. Once we had established that there was enthusiasm for running the show, I start to ask "who wants to be meet registrar, who wants to do publicity, etc. There were enough people to fill in all the key roles, with a few gaps. Then I asked, "who wants to be chair?"

I don't recall exactly, but I think someone said, "um, you're the guy with the notepad and you're the guy asking questions, so we thought you're the chair".

And that's how I got to be chair of BC's largest train show and meet.

And it's been a load of fun. I'm pleased to announce that Trains2013 was a success.

It happened. Every member of the organizing committee was new to their job, and all but 3 of us were new to



the organizing committee over 2000 people came out to view the layouts, the exhibitors and the vendors. about 140 people registered for various parts of the meet, clinics, the layout tour and the banquet.

the NMRA PNR 7th division AGM happened on Sunday.

the regional Railway Prototype Modelers shared a room with a small Free-mo display

Tom Jones organized the model contest and we had some lovely submissions.

We wanted to provide some interactive play for children so the Vancouver Lego Group set up a track on a very low table

We handed out an exit survey, which is also available on the bctrains.org website -- Polling is very, very positive and all the verbal comments we received were very positive as well. Except for one thing. The city of Burnaby did not provide a canteen service this year and that was sorely missed. We won't let that happen again.

Michael Batten did a great job of organizing the show floor. He chose to make the aisles extra-wide. This reduced revenue space slightly, but made it much more pleasant to navigate. We have several visitors in wheelchairs and the wider aisles greatly improved their experience.



Tom Lundgren joined the committee part way through the season. He took on the challenge of collecting door prizes, and organizing a craftsman's corner. His excellent analytical skills revealed that we were getting only 40% uptake on the show-floor door prizes so he adapted from hourly draws to half-hourly draws and increased uptake to 75%.

My thanks to the whole committee for putting in such excellent effort, thanks to the folks who set up on the show floor and put in long hours. Thanks especially to the people who volunteered 2 to 4 hours to help with doors, cash, traffic etc. The past committee were a huge support, always available to answer questions about logistics and provide advice. Russ Watson and team of PNR 7th div. , and Clark Kooning of NMRA Canada as well as Kristy at HMRA HQ all played parts in helping make it happen.

Please visit the bctrains.org website to see all the committee members, and all the donors and sponsors.

Think about how much reward you have gotten from the hobby of model railroading, and think of all the volunteers that have made your experience possible. Then sign up.

Andrew Robertson's connection with the Work Experience Counsellor from Burnaby Mountain Secondary School was brilliant. The Grade 12 students were very helpful in all phases of the weekend, helping with set-up, cleaning track and operating Thomas the Tank for little ones on our layout, supervising public show hand stamps, entry and exits, and assisting with the take-down on Sunday.

See you at Trains2014

Mike Chandler MMR (right) receives his Master Model Railroader Award

by Russ Watson, John Green photo



I was very pleased to finally present Mike Chandler with his MMR award at the TRAINS 2013 banquet. Mike earned his MMR in 2012, however it did not arrive at his home in time for presentation at TRAINS 2012. TRAINS 2013 was the first event since then that he and I were present at for the presentation.

Mike received MMR #489 by earning the following certificates: Author, Nov. 1, 2011; Volunteer, Dec. 1, 2011; Structures, May 1, 2012; Engineer Electrical - June 1, 2012; Engineer Civil, June 1, 2012; Cars, July 1, 2012 and Motive Power, July 1, 2012

Mike states, "at first glance, this would give one the impression that I earned my MMR over a period of just nine months! However, as you know, that was just the period of documenting and qualifying everything. 99 percent of the model building and 100 percent of the service components were completed over the 43 years preceding that phase. Two of the scratch built cars which I used to qualify for my car certificate were built in early 1969.

Mike first became aware of the achievement program in 1970 when he joined the NMRA, but at the time, it seemed so far beyond his reach that he

put it out of his mind. However, by the late '90s with his present layout starting to take shape, he looked at the program again and concluded that it wasn't such a stretch after all.

Congratulations to Mike and I hope his success encourages more 7th Division members to pursue MMR status.

AP Corner

by Russ Watson

I attended a clinic that Jack Hamilton, PNR AP Chairman, presented at TRAINS 2013, which proved to be very interesting. In a nutshell Jack and his team are helping members achieve AP merit awards and certificates by minimizing the paperwork required. He accomplishes this mainly during the evaluation of layouts where the builder is present. Jack explained that most of the answers to the questions previously recorded on documentation can be obtained verbally from the builder. Jack also explained that with a few exceptions, the documentation - layout plans, photos, drawings, etc. - does not need to be sent to him.

Jack has submitted an article about this new approach to the NMRA Magazine, which I hope is published soon. I will be updating all of our evaluators (Jack strongly dislikes the title 'judge' and the term 'judging') on this new approach soon. He also stated that anyone who holds an AP Certificate is automatically qualified to evaluate in that certificate and of course MMRs automatically qualify as full evaluators.

Please contact me with your questions about this new approach or for anything related to the AP.

I was disappointed that there were no models submitted for AP evaluation at TRAINS 2013, however I did receive two requests for evaluation of scenery and other certificates on layouts in member's homes, which I will set up soon.

In the mean time, if you're not really sure what the AP is all about, check out the NMRA [Achievement Program](#) or [contact me](#), I'd be happy to chat about it with you.

Lastly, a reminder that you don't have to wait for a meet to happen to be able to have your AP work assessed, I can usually arrange to have that done between meets, please contact me.

Happy modelling!

2013 Jack Work Award

Mike Chandler MMR (right) receives the 2013 Jack Work Award from John Green.

The Jack Work Memorial award is a lifetime achievement award that is presented to the 7th division member who best exhibits the qualities that Jack Work displayed, namely: imagination, creativity, innovation, artistry, forward thinking, quality workmanship and the sharing of the results of these qualities with the rest of the hobby.

In the fifteen years since this award was created, this is only the eighth time it has been awarded.



This years winner has been actively involved in the model railroad community since returning to the West coast. His craftsmanship was recognized with a gold Award at the NMRA PSX convention in Seattle in 2004.

As a Master Model Railroader, and a winner of contests, this modeller's skill is renowned. His quality workmanship, creativity and imagination in problem-solving touch every aspect of his modelling, whether it is in physical models or in modelling the operations themselves.

Moreover, Mike has become a frequent byline in publications such as Model Railroad Craftsman, and he has delivered excellent clinics as recently as at TRAINS 2013.

We would like to thank Mike Chandler for sharing his insights and craftsmanship with the hobby both locally and at large by presenting him with the Jack Work Memorial Award.

Congratulations, Mike Chandler

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Golden City Railway Modellers

Bob Flegel was kind enough to send a couple of photos of the Golden City Railway Modeller's layout along with the following information:

"Our club is made up of members from the West Kootenay area. Our club room is located at the Waneta Plaza, in Trail. We are open to the public every Wednesday and Saturday from 10:30 until 4:30. Our club is 100% NMRA. Check out our web site for more info. and pictures. www3.telus.net/goldencityrailwaymodellers."



Superintendent's Report

by Russ Watson

Thanks to the TRAINS 2013 organizing committee and to everyone else who volunteered to help present a very enjoyable meet and show. Please read show reports elsewhere in this issue. I am very pleased to hear that TRAINS 2114 is already in the planning stages, so please consider volunteering to help with next year's event by emailing [Peter Mueller](mailto:Peter.Mueller@trains.ca).

As I write this in mid-November we have not received a bid for a 2014 Interior Spring Meet. Although when I recently chatted with Brian Kelly at TRAINS he did not rule out doing it again in Kamloops. If you would like to see that happen in 2014 please consider offering to help. You don't have to live in Kamloops to help with some aspects, please contact Brian at (250) 377 8510.

At our Annual General Meeting (AGM) at TRAINS, Gary Hazell stated that the Salmon Arm Model Railroad Association (SAMRA) is unable to host the Pacific Northwest Region (PNR) annual convention in Salmon Arm in 2016 as they had hoped to do. A declining number of members and aging members is the reason. However, Doug Mayer of Revelstoke said that Salmon Arm would be a great location for the convention and he offered to help organize it. Jim Little of Coldstream also offered to help. So Gary will work with Doug and Jim to see if it is doable. Thank you all! It is the 7th Division's turn to host this convention in 2016, we last held it in 2008 in Chilliwack.

As of November 5th we have 293 members, which is an increase over the previous month. We are finding that it can take at least two or three months for a member's renewal to appear on the member spreadsheet roster we receive from our PNR Office Manager via NMRA Headquarters. I have exchanged several emails with our NMRA Canada president Clark Kooning lately. He and his partner, PJ Dawson, took over all of the NMRA Canada office responsibilities from Don Hillman and the required work as Clark explains it is really too much

to expect from two volunteers in my opinion. However, Clark states that if the duties were returned to NMRA HQ in the U.S., our dues would rise substantially. Clark and PJ action renewals near the end of each month, so if you send in your renewal near the beginning of the month there is a delay of close to a month in starting your renewal action. And the renewal information has to be forwarded to NMRA HQ from there. Please be patient, however don't hesitate to email our 7th Division membership coordinator [Brian Clogg](#) if you have any membership concerns, we need to all work together to improve the process. And to that end Brian will be emailing a renewal reminder out to you about six weeks before your membership expires. This is in addition to reminders that you should receive from NMRA Canada.

Still with NMRA Canada, Dick Sutcliffe has volunteered to act as our 7th Division member at large for NMRA Canada. Dick will keep us informed about what is happening. And Clark has started a Canadian-only eBulletin, which I received recently. Among topics discussed is a new Live Call-In Show via Skype for NMRA Canada Members starting November 23, 2013 on model railroading, with a focus of Canadian model railroading. If you have not received the NMRA Canada eBulletin please [email me](#) and I will email you the latest issue.

Thanks to all of you who attended and participated in our AGM. And thanks to Tom Lundgren for suggesting and holding the door prize draws for meeting attendees. Two motions that were passed are: if the 7th Division video library is not used in the next year, the holdings will be sold or donated; and the Spring Meet float - presently \$1000 - will now be held in trust in the 7th Division bank account. You may find the complete AGM minutes on our [website](#) by clicking on the 'Documents' tab.

Our next scheduled 7th Division event is the Nanaimo Model Railway Show on April 27, 2014. Once again Ken Rutherford and Rick Lord will present a great event that I hope many of you will attend and enjoy. Click on the 'Timetable' tab on our [website](#) for details.

I hope you all have an enjoyable holiday season and I wish you all the best for 2014!

Until next time

From the Editor

I would like to thank Lori Sebelley for the suggestion to make all the articles single rather than double column. It does make it much easier to read electronically.

I hope that everyone has dropped sufficient hints to the powers-that-be to ensure that there are some model railroad goodies under the tree. I am in the fortunate situation that I have everything I need to complete this winter's projects (and no, I won't speak a little louder). All the components are sitting on my desk just waiting for a little time and inspiration.

All the best over the upcoming holidays.

OPERATING

By Russ Watson

For the last few years I have taken advantage of the opportunity to operate trains as a registrant for the annual TRAINS meet held in Burnaby - another great reason to register for the complete meet. Last year I had fun operating on Mike Chandler's Western Midland HO layout and this year on Steve Stark's N scale Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway.

I chose to run the Victoria yard on Steve's layout and although I'm sure other operators have completed that assignment in a much more efficient manner, I enjoyed the task. I was born in Victoria and spent the first 52 years of my life there, so the area on the layout was quite familiar. In fact a few days before, while in Victoria, I had ridden my bicycle with my friend Patrick Lawson down one of the roads depicted on Steve's layout. There used to be a CNR interchange track in that location running over the road on a trestle. Sadly that is gone along with the rail portion of the Johnson Street bridge over the harbour, but not on Steve's layout, where everything still remains.



The CNR Interchange track is shown in the centre.

Steve uses coloured sticky dots on the roofs of his cars to indicate where they belong on the layout. This popular method was used on Brian Morgan's N scale Selkirk Division with good success when I operated there many years ago.

I started with a CNR way freight - albeit rather slowly until I became familiar with what colour dot meant what and where the industries were. And oh ya, sorry Steve about running those cars into that blind tunnel at Colwood! My next assignment was to build a northbound freight. I was well underway with that when I got a call on the radio from a southbound freight that was asking permission to terminate in my yard. What! Where! Anyway, with some sage advice from Steve we managed to get the freight into the yard and store the locos and the caboose and still allow me free tracks to build the northbound. However, it wasn't long before a second southbound asked to terminate and then after that the southbound passenger train had to run straight through the yard and over the Johnson Street bridge to Victoria. Thank goodness for Jock's advice on that maneuver! The 2 1/2 hours went by very quickly but yes, I did manage to get that northbound built complete with caboose and motive power - and even with cars correctly blocked for the switching locations - before the operating session ended.

More information on Steve's layout can be found on the VanRails website by scrolling down to the appropriate link.

Thanks to Steve, Mary and Jock for your kind hospitality and allowing me to operate on your wonderful layout. Now, I wonder which layout I'll operate on during TRAINS 2014