



BULLETIN BOARD

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CALEDONIA NORTHERN RAILROAD

*by Kevin Shannon
photos by Rider Cheyne*

Having retired at a young sixty three years of age and threatening to paint the house for the third time, my wife suggested I get a hobby! Her brother, Bob Trapp, had been involved in the model railroad world for most of his life and seemed to find it very rewarding. I thought if he can, why can't I? With his knowledge and background as my mentor I then spent the next ten years filling our rumpus room with trains.

The Caledonia Northern Railway has been modeled after Canadian National Railway's northern line from somewhere east of Prince George through to Prince Rupert. The time line chosen was from early 1940 to late 1950s, allowing for the transition from steam to early diesel. The scenery shown along the right-of-way should have been what you would expect to find there at that time. As it happened a good friend of mine gave me a composite photo of the Vancouver skyline as seen from North Vancouver. Therefore you will find parts and pieces of it lurking in the background.



Most buildings are from kits with few scratch builds. A few deciduous trees were from Woodland Scenic.

I gave up on them quickly as they seemed too coarse. I found using Baby's Breath as armatures and judicious use of Woodland Scenic netting and various shades of ground up foam, sprinkled and glued on made a more natural looking tree. As I was going to need hundreds of conifers I settled on using the tallest available spruce/pine/fir plastic armatures I could find. These were liberally coated with rubber cement then dipped, rolled and sprinkled with a mixture of several green colored ground up foam. A final thorough coating of hair spray set them up ready for installation. By the way all of my trees and people are mounted on pins or



pegs before mounting. I find they look more realistic this way.

The operating system is by Digitrax, and the limiting factor is we only have 4 remotes. The layout has been used every Tuesday afternoon by our local modelers as our meet and operating site. Unfortunately its showing a bit of wear these days, but we have really enjoyed its existence.

The stats are as follows and are approximate only:-

Mainline track 124 feet

Branches, spurs, and sidings 190 feet

Mainline curves Minimum 24" radius

Branches,etc. Minimum 18" radius

Maximum grades are 3 %



Postscript to Caledonia Northern

by Rider Cheyne

Since the article was written on the Caledonia Northern, the layout has become the "Caledonia Northern Historical Society". The railroad has become one of the "fallen flags". Kevin's house has been up for sale for some time pending a move to the Island. A buyer took the offer at short notice and at the beginning of November, within the space of a week the layout was dismantled. We thank you for your hospitality and sharing your fabulous layout and wish you all the best Kevin and Eileen at your new location.

From your friends at 108 Mile Ranch, B.C.

Ross Heriot Gold Spike Memorial Award 2014 Presentation

by John Green

This year's recipient has been an active member of the division for more than forty years. Among his many contributions to the 7th Division, some particular highlights come to mind:

He has served as member of Vancouver HO Model Railway club for over thirty years, including terms as president and vice president. He has served as a member of the 7th Division standing committee for many years beginning in 1978, 7th division Web Master, AP Chairman, and Superintendent. He co-chaired the 1985 PNR Regional Convention "Gold Spike 1985" in Richmond BC.

He has served at the PNR Region level both as Vice President of the PNR as well as photo Contest Chairman. He is an active member of the 2014 Trains committee organizing layout tours and as webmaster. He is also serving on the 2015 Portland NMRA National Convention committee as webmaster.

He has been honoured, as PNR Person of the year in 1988.

When I read the opening words of his nomination "I was going through the list of past winners and I did not find Greg Madsen's Name – I had to check several times" - I fear this recognition is way overdue...

I hope all members will all join me in acknowledging Greg Madsen as the 2014 recipient of the Ross Heriot Gold Spike award.

Superintendent's Report

by Russ Watson

My mother passed away in Victoria two days ago as I start to write this on December 2nd, so my thoughts are with her and my family and friends. She had a very good long life, however it is still very difficult.

A warm welcome to all of our new members! Please don't hesitate to contact any of our members with your questions or suggestions. Contact information for our executive members is listed in this issue and a full contact list is available on our website 7DPNR.org and is also included in this issue of the *Bulletin Board*.

Thank you to Peter Mueller, the full committee and everyone else who volunteered to present - or participated in - a very successful TRAINS 2014 in Burnaby in November. The committee did an excellent job of advertising the public show to achieve a remarkable increase in public attendance from 2000 last year to 2700 this year. I heard both very favourable comments about the event and a couple of negative comments. The committee wants your feedback, so please complete their short survey at <http://bctrains.sbcrailway.ca/survey>. I am concerned that the number of registrations for the meet portion of the event were down considerably from 122 last year to 86 this year. I am interested in knowing why you didn't register - and for those living in the Lower Mainland - why you perhaps decided to attend just the public show for a day rather than the full meet? I understand that for some of you travel expenses and weather conditions may have been the reason and for others, work commitments, etc. So what I am really after are reasons that relate to the quality of the meet activities and events? Do we need to do things differently to attract you to register for the full meet? It takes a considerable amount of work to arrange the meet portion of TRAINS, so if the registration numbers don't rebound to a higher number it may be difficult to maintain the meet portion of TRAINS, meaning that in the future it could just be a public show. Please contact me at russwatson@me.com or 250-992-3452 with your comments.

And thank you to Ken Rutherford for his idea and his work to award special door prizes at TRAINS 2014 of NMRA track gauges in the winner's choice of N or HO scale. Ken's idea - which I believe worked very well - was to draw people into our 7th Division display tables where we could engage them in conversation and ask them to enter the draw. Time will tell whether these people will join the NMRA or not, but that is the hope. The majority of the winners are already model railroaders.

Also thanks once again to Dick Sutcliffe for setting up our 7th Division display tables at TRAINS 2014, ensuring that the latest posters and forms were available and for manning the table. I'm not sure who else manned the table except thanks to Bob Leggett and Ken Rutherford who I know did, however thanks to everyone else who helped us out.

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) was well attended, thank you. When Bob has the minutes and annual reports complete they will be posted on our web site 7DPNR.org or those wishing hard copies may receive them by contacting Bob directly. Our new Pacific Northwest Region (PNR) President, Michael Highsmith made the trip north from the Seattle area to attend our AGM and address the meeting. Michael talked about his strategy of contacting people directly when looking for volunteers. He also gave us his thoughts on the NMRA insurance from his perspective of being a professional insurance broker himself. Thanks to Michael and 4th Division Superintendent Russ Segner for coming up to support us.

**Submissions
Date for
Mar/Apr Bulletin
Board**

January 15th

Congratulations to Greg Madsen for being awarded the Ross Heriot Award at the TRAIN 2014 banquet for his many years of service to the 7th Division! A most deserving recipient. Thanks to John Green for taking care of the logistics of the award and please read John's article elsewhere in this issue.

For many, many years member Steve Stark has served the 7th Division as our legal advisor without remuneration. Steve is completely retiring from his law practice at the end of this year and will no longer be able to officially provide legal advice to us. On behalf of all 7th Division members thank you very much Steve for your outstanding service, it has been very much appreciated! One of the free services that Steve has provided is to file our annual BC society report. Larry Sebelley has agreed to perform this task for us now, thank you Larry!

The next 7th Division sponsored event is the Nanaimo Model Railway Show on April 26th, please check out the details on our web site <7DPNR.org> I hope you can attend, Ken Rutherford and Rick Lord always put on a great show.

Up next after that is the Victoria Model Railway Show about four month earlier than the usual date on May 24th. I have heard nothing but good things about the show especially since Ted Alexis and his crew moved the show to the new venue. Again please check out our web site for the details.

The *Pacific Northwest Region (PNR) Annual Convention - Selkirk Express 2016* - will be held in Salmon Arm in 2016. Details will be published soon here and on our website and I hope you are planning to attend.

I wish you all the best for the Holiday Season and hope that your New Year is full of very enjoyable model railway experiences!

Until next time

AP Corner

by Russ Watson

Congratulations to Kyle Gardiner and Dick Hawkshaw for recent AP achievements. Kyle earned a merit award for his excellent scratchbuilt HO scale CPR Sand House complete with full interior detail at TRAINS 2014. That completes the requirements for Kyle's Structures Certificate and gets him one step closer to achieving his Master Model Railroader (MMR) Status. And Dick earned the Golden Spike Award for his wonderful home HO scale layout after I attended his open house as part of TRAINS 2014 on my way home.

And thank you to Mike Barone and Jim Little for judging at TRAINS 2014.

The next opportunity to have AP assessments (judging) done at a meet will be at the Nanaimo and Victoria Shows. Please check in with the contest table coordinators to let them know that you have models for AP judging and I will ensure that judges are available. Detailed information about the events are on our website 7DPNR.org

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!

Trains 2014

*by Peter Mueller
photos by John Green*

Trains2014 has come and gone. Overall we had a successful event. Attendance was up 35% from last year -- 2700 people came out for the public show, including a large number of families with small children. The children had a blast looking at the trains, but especially interacting hands-on with the live-steam equipment, with Thomas the Tank Engine (electric HO), with lego and with Tom Stephenson's awesome modular WTRAK (Brio-like) setup. Watching people leaving the venue I saw many many smiling faces (and some crying children who weren't ready to leave).

In order to expand the public-facing show, we experimented with putting several vendors upstairs in the Spruce Room. This was a bone of contention, but in the end many of these vendors were happy with the outcome, however several attendees wished for more vendor tables.

Several people in wheelchairs came to the show, and there were several moms with children in buggies. Cameron Centre does not have a working lift or elevator, so these folks had to go around outside to get between levels. In the November rain that's no fun. I personally apologized to every wheelchair-bound person. There are also many elderly model railroaders who found the stairs to be a barrier. So, I want to find a better venue for next year. How about you? What do you suggest?

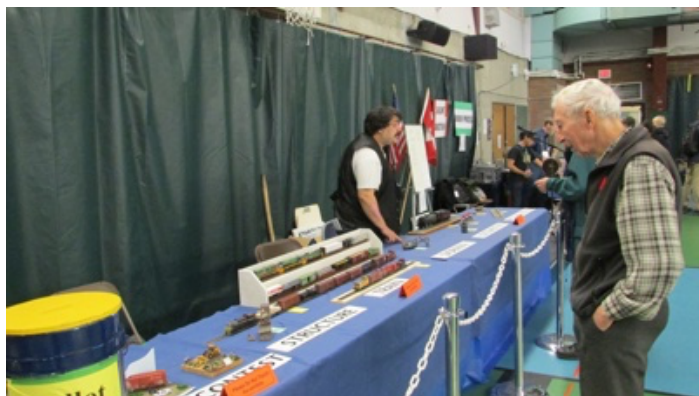
This year we switched to self-guided layout tours, as the financial risk of hiring buses and drivers is substantial.

Our meet attendance was down compared to the year before. We'd like to understand why. Was it the increase in fees or something else?

Thank you very much for supporting Trains2014, and especial thanks to the volunteers, tour layout owners, clinicians and my fellow committee members.

Please help the committee improve Trains2015 by completing our survey online at www.bctrains.org/survey, and/or sending me an email at trainschair@sbcrrailway.ca





BULLETIN BOARD 6X6 CONTEST

by Russ Watson

The special 6X6 contest held at our annual TRAINS meet is supposed to be judged by the 7th Division Bulletin Board editor, however with the editor out of the country during TRAINS 2014 the enjoyable task fell to me. Individuals are invited to submit a model, diorama, scene or anything they can think of. The only rule is that it has to be railway related and have a base of exactly 6 by 6 inches. There is no limit to height or any restriction of scale. Past entries in this light-hearted contest have ranged from serious, to humorous to bizarre, it's up to the individual! A \$25 prize is awarded at the meet banquet to the winner.

The two entries this year both fell into the humours category and I had a hard time selecting the winner, so I declared a tie. Larry Sebelley's very graphic "One Less Graffiti Artist" provided a very good laugh as the police stood around the dead artist laying in a pool of blood, while Roy Zschiedrich's "Let Them Eat Cake" was satirical and timely about the CPR destroying the resident's gardens along the Arbutus Sub in Vancouver. Congrats to Larry and Roy and thanks for making the effort to enter the contest for our entertainment.



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