



BULLETIN BOARD

Volume 29 Issue 2

Mar/Apr 2015

The Official Publication of the 7th Division, Pacific Northwest Region National Model Railroad Association (Canada)

FUN WITH A 4 X 8 LAYOUT

*by Rider Cheyne
photos by author*

I am a student of John Olson, Malcom Furlow, Dave Frary and John Armstrong. This indicates to the "mature" members the vintage of my layout. Hopefully there are enough young members around who are asking "who are these geysers?" The basic plan is #28 of 101 Track Plans, suitably customised using John Armstrong's "Track Planning for Realistic Operation". The baseboard is L girder construction, code 100 track and wiring using principles in Olson's "Jerome and Southwestern", and scenery using techniques from the three scenery guys. Although a single track layout, I can run two trains consecutively, and have a third holding to go at any time. It was built as a permanent layout for a basement room. The period is 1880's to early 1900's, which makes a small layout look bigger as 40' cars and 4-4-0's or ten wheelers don't take up much room. I also created the landscaping in scenic units, where the eye is drawn to small areas, minimizing the temptation to look at the whole thing. The generic theme is Rocky mountain valleys where ranching, mining, and forestry are the main activities.

I enjoy watching trains running through the landscape, so that is the main emphasis of the layout. However there is not much time to relax

as running 2 trains requires constant attention to switching blocks from A to B controllers, and there are two reversing loops. After many years of being a permanent layout we moved house and I could not face tearing it down, so managed to move it to a new location. Next problem was that in the new house I had a dedicated 16 x 24 ft railroad room for a larger layout, so how to justify two layouts? The answer was to convert it to a portable (semi) layout for the show circuit, which is what it is now. This involved mostly wiring with connectors and some strengthening of the framework. Some of you may have seen it over the last few years at local (Interior) shows. It resides in a garage between shows, and I really enjoy running it for the public at train shows, though



being an individual exhibit has a disadvantage as it is hard to get away to see the rest of the exhibits.

I have operated with Southern Pacific (my favourite), Canadian Pacific, and Pacific Great Eastern trains, and being a generic mountain/high plateau scenic railroad, all those roadnames fit in quite nicely.

So over the years it has (and continues to be) a lot of fun. A lesson for beginners, plan well, spend the time on basics at the beginning (track, wiring, grades curves etc) and your layout will last a lifetime, though I am not sure that is an advantage as it is a lot easier to dismantle a troublesome layout than one that still performs flawlessly.



Listening to Model Railroad talk shows

by Ken Rutherford

I wonder how many members listen to music on their computers, iPads, iPods, MP3 players or phones. Did you know that there you can listen to podcasts on them as well. There are podcasts (talk shows) on almost any subject from Sports to politics and many on different hobbies. These podcasts are available through iTunes as well as podcast apps for Android devices. There are at least 5 podcasts on Model Railroading. Following are the ones I listen to while out for a walk, working in the garden, driving in my car, or working in the train room.

Model Rail Radio – this podcast is a Skype based interview program that the host Tom Barbelet talks with model railroaders from around the world. The show is recorded live and then Tom edits it for sound quality and posts it as a podcast. There is a website for the show <http://www.modelrailradio.com/> that posts the dates of the live show that any modeler is welcome to join the call and participate. The show on January 17th will be the 100th show. Most episodes are 3 hours or more long.

The Model Railcast Show – There are over 200 show archived for this podcast and new one coming on a regular basis. The hosts are Craig Bisgeier and Tim Harrison. The show usually starts with some general discussion and then they have an invited guest that they interview. These guests can be prominent modelers or people from the manufacturing end of the hobby.

A Modelers Life – This is a relatively new show hosted by Lionel Strang and Jim Rindt. This show is both humorous and entertaining. This podcast is made up of 3 different segments that are released about a week apart. The feature podcast in an interview with a prominent modeler, the discussion usually looks at the history of the individual including his modeling. The second Podcast is called Viewer Mail and on this episode Lionel and Jim discuss the emails and Facebook comments they receive based on these interviews. The third podcast section is called the Kelly Questions. They will interview a prominent modeler and ask the same set of question of them. How they answer can lead to some humorous banter. Jim and Lionel add some slap stick humour to most episodes.

Scotty Mason Show – This podcast is the original model railroad podcast and has been around for about seven years. Scotty Mason is the host and he has a regular team of about 5 modelers that discuss the model railroad issues of the day and also have regular segments where they discuss a project or have a special guest. This show is like sitting down with 5 buddies to have a coffee and talk model railroading.

Model Railroad Hobbyist Magazine podcast – Hosted by Paul Gillet, Jim Lincoln and Chris

The show features interviews with interesting modelers and manufactures, usually one per show.

The Model Railway Show – hosted by Canadians Jim Martin and Trevor Marshall, this podcast is no longer being produced but the original fifty episodes are still available for downloading. The show was split onto two segments with each host interviewing a separate guest.

After listening to these podcasts for a few years you get to listen to many of the regulars who participate. They start to become like old friends. Most of these podcasts have Facebook pages and websites. For those of you who have not heard of the Model Railroad Hobbyist magazine, it is a free monthly online magazine. The magazine is funded by the advertisers and its content is not limited by page counts like print magazines. Their website is <http://model-railroad-hobbyist.com/> where you can download the current issue and all of the back issues also it has a very good forums section where modelers post what they are working on or help fellow modelers with problem.

Hope you will try some podcasts and get some enjoyment from them.

**Submissions
Date for
May/Jun Bulletin
Board**

March 15th

AP Corner

by Russ Watson

Congratulations to member Steve Stark for his recent accomplishments - he now holds Official, Author, Chief Dispatcher, Electrical, Scenery, Prototype Modeller and Volunteer certificates.

That equals seven of the eleven certificates required to earn the Master Model Railroader award. So great, Steve should now be an MMR, but wait, the regulations state that at least one of the seven certificates must be earned in each of the four categories. Those categories are: Model Railroad Equipment; Settings; Engineering and Operation and Service to the Hobby. So Steve is missing a certificate - either Motive Power or Cars - in the Model Railroad Equipment category. Steve is primarily an N scale modeller but it is important to note that he doesn't have to build N scale cars or motive power in N scale to earn that missing certificate, he could build them in any scale or combination of scales.

The next opportunity to have AP assessments (judging) done at a meet will be at the Nanaimo and Victoria Shows. 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!

2016 PNR Regional Meet

by Doug Mayer

The meet will be in Salmon Arm from June 15 to 19, 2016. The convention hotel is The Prestige Harbourfront Resort & Convention Centre. The public show will take place at the Shaw Centre, which is a dual hockey arena. It is a modern facility with a Junior A rink as well as a minor hockey rink. The smaller rink will be used for a large FreeMo setup.

The tentative schedule of events is as follows:

Wed. June 15 - PNR Executive Board Meeting and evening clinics.

Thur. June 16 - Bus trip to Kettle Valley Railway in Summerland, with stops in Vernon on the return leg to visit the O'Keefe Ranch and Okanagan Landing. Clinics in the evening.

Fri. June 17 - Bus trip to the Revelstoke Railway Museum, Last Spike at Craigellachie and a possible stop at Three Valley Gap. On returning to Salmon Arm there will be a meet and greet evening of burgers and beer at the Shaw Centre restaurant. Other food and beverages will be available.

Sat. June 18 - Public show at the Shaw Centre. Self guided layout tours during the day.

Sun. June 19 - Public show.

Again, let me emphasize this is a tentative schedule. We should have more definite information available prior to your next BB deadline.

Superintendent's Report

by Russ Watson

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*.

We have an update on the Jim Ferrier collection (the collection of large, mostly CPR prototype drawings and diagrams held in Revelstoke) from Doug Mayer, by email Doug writes: "Good news about the Jim Ferrier collection. A company in Revelstoke now has the ability to scan these large drawings. The charge per scan is \$10. I recently had some drawings scanned and will be forwarding the pdf's to the Canadian Pacific Historical Association (CPHA) for their online documents library. If you think it is in order we can get Greg to place a note on the 7th division website that this is available. I've attached the drawing index that I've been working on. If a drawing is highlighted in yellow, it is a drawing that has been located in the collection and I can access it easily.

I've also attached the old Word index as some modellers already have a copy of it and have been using it. Unfortunately it is almost useless, as the drawings have been switched from tube to tube over the years and in some cases the sticky notes listing the drawings have fallen off of the tubes. The result is that the only drawings I can access reliably are the ones in the tubes that Mike Barone and I have sorted and confirmed. These are the ones highlighted in yellow in the Excel spreadsheet. *(I have asked our webmaster Greg Madsen if it makes sense to put the two indexes on our 7th Division website, Russ)*

If someone is desperate for a drawing listed in the old index, I can check the tube and if the drawing is there I can get it scanned. If it isn't there I'll contact the person and let them know. If they want the drawing scanned they will have to come up and help me look for it. It is a two man job and I can't do it by myself.

So here's what I'm proposing. If I can access a drawing and get it scanned, the person requesting it has to pay for the scan as well as a donation to the Revelstoke Railway Museum for my time. A charitable donation receipt will be issued for this. A flat fee of \$10 to start with seems appropriate. In a case where a person wants multiple drawings scanned a reduced amount can be negotiated prior to the search.

If a person comes up and helps me look, which of course will help us sort the collection, then I can forget about the donation. I also propose that the digital scans be sent to the CPHA for their documents library."

Thank you very much Doug for your continued work with this very valuable 7th Division asset! Doug may be contacted at doug.mayer@telus.net

The next 7th Division sponsored events are the Nanaimo Model Railway Show on April 26th, and the Victoria Model Railway Show about four months earlier than the usual date on May 24th. Please check out the details on our web site <7DPNR.org> I hope you can attend.

The *Pacific Northwest Region (PNR) Annual Convention - Selkirk Express 2016* - will be held in Salmon Arm in 2016. Tentative details are available in this issue.

Until next time

'Time 4 Trains' @ Art Knapp's

by John Shortreid

From January 10th to 31st the Greater Vancouver Garden Railway Club's portable display Sectional Layout was set up at Art Knapp Plantland in South Surrey. The Sectional Layout, which was set up in the store's adjoining green house, was available for member's use anytime during store hours for that period. The following photos are of the member's running on the Sectional Layout and includes the very busy annual 'Time 4 Trains' sales event by the Art Knapp's Train Department on January 24th & 25th



Contacts

SUPERINTENDENT (president)

Russ Watson 250-992-3452 (Quesnel)

Email: russwatson@me.com

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT (vice president)

Tom Carr 604-463-9156 (Maple Ridge)

Email: tajcarr@shaw.ca

SECRETARY

Bob Leggett 604-464-0868 (Coquitlam)

Email: bobleggett@shaw.ca

TREASURER

Larry Sebelley 604-858-5717 (Chilliwack)

Email: sebelley@shaw.ca

DIRECTOR AT LARGE

Ken Rutherford 250-724-4698 (Port Alberni)

Email: kj.rutherford@shaw.ca

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

Brian Clogg 604-588-2194 (Surrey)

Email: bcclogg@shaw.ca

BULLETIN BOARD EDITOR

Adrian Noble 250-747-8377 (Quesnel)

Email: anoble@telus.net

For all other subdivision rep and appointed position contact info, please go to our web site:

<<http://7dprn.org/about>>

Vancouver Sun Train Video

by Mark Dance

Following the Trains Convention in Burnaby in November 2014, the Vancouver Sun contacted NMRA HQ in Tennessee looking for a Vancouver area layout to video to illuminate our hobby for the general public. HQ forwarded the request on to NMRA Canada President Clark Kooning who forwarded it on to Russ Watson, 7th Division Superintendent, who just happened to attend an operating session on my Columbia & Western at Trains! With that experience fresh in his mind, Russ emailed me to see if I would be interested in having the C&W featured in a video article the Sun planned? Would I? Sure! It sounded like a fun experience and it might be an opportunity to get some of my key “hot buttons” about Model Railroading addressed to the general public.

With this in mind I replied to the Vancouver Sun’s Mark Yuen - the assigned videographer for the shoot - and said I was “in”. Mark in turn introduced me to Bill Inglee, a copy writer for the Sun, who would be working with Mark to develop the story and see the edited video published. I answered a few questions for Bill through email – enough for him to develop some talking points – and then, early in December, the two of them showed up loaded for bear with camera and lights. (For those of you photographically inclined Bill and Mark used Canon digital SLR cameras and lenses from 16mm to 100 including a 100mm macro. They also used a GoPro camera for the ‘aerial’ shots of the layout, a couple of Manfrotto tripods for stability and a jib arm for the GoPro over the layout. The lighting was a mix of ambient and a Lowel Tota kit. Yes, I just copied what Bill emailed to me!)

The shoot was about three hours long and, between exclamations of “sick shot” and “just dope” from Marc, I learned that Bill was a very sympathetic interviewer. He models 1/35 scale armor as a hobby and so had a true appreciation for the craftsman side of Model Railroading. Additionally, Bill’s grandfather was a fireman and engineer with the CPR from the 1920s until mid-40s running from Moose Jaw all the way to Vancouver so his grandfather may well have worked the rails the Columbia & Western represent!

They sent me the link to the video the day before it was posted and I must say I am very happy with it. While the camera’s depth of focus didn’t really suit shooting models the image quality and editing were great as was the emphasis of the role of CPR’s Southern Mainline in BC’s history. And the accompanying newspaper article even touched on some of items I had hoped it would, namely that MR operations brings a very social aspect to our hobby and that new techniques like laser cutting, solid modeling and 3D printing are joining the traditional tools of knife, soldering iron and airbrush in the modeler’s arsenal! I hope you enjoy the video, which is viewable at:

<http://www.vancouversun.com/life/Video+Exploring+model+trains/10716041/story.html>

25TH ANNIVERSARY - VICTORIA'S ANNUAL

Model Railway Show

2015

Sunday, May 24th
10 am - 4 pm

West Shore • Curling Rink at
Juan de Fuca Recreation Centre
1767 Island Highway, Colwood
Free Parking • BC Transit Bus Route #50

Hourly Door Prizes!

Operating Model Railroads
Commercial & Individual Sales & Displays

For More Information: Ted Alexis ph: (250) 595-4070

Admissions

Adults \$7
Family \$14
NMRA/PNR Members \$6

Children (8 and under) **FREE**
when accompanied by an adult

Supporters of C-Fax Santa's
Anonymous, the Times Colonist
Christmas Fund.

Supported by

B.C. SHAVER & HOBBIES
Hobby Supplies and Electric Shavers



Sponsored By The 7th Division P.N.R. and National Model Railroad Association.

Layout by Wayne Paulsen | Photo by Dan Rowsell