



BULLETIN BOARD

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ABOVE: Nick Batten is the Yardmaster at Aurora in the foreground on Mike Chandler's Western Midland HO scale out-and-back layout while Malcolm (behind Nick) brings the passenger train past the station and into the yard. Set in 1938 and true to the prototype for movements controlled by TT&TO, the outbound freight with the lumber loads (designated by the dispatcher as an Extra) was stuck in the yard awaiting the arrival of a delayed freight with higher class.

Photo by J. Stevenson

Mike is hosting the Time Table and Train Order (TT&TO) learning workshops at his layout to be run on two separate days of the upcoming RMMBC weekend of May 5-7. Scott Calvert is coordinating the Ops Sessions assignments and helping with the design of the workshop. A beta trial of the workshop was run in early April to assess the instructional content and the learning points for a simplified TT&TO session. Still in the planning phase and responding to feedback from inexperienced crew, last minute changes are likely. For example, the normally operating fast clock may occasionally be turned off to facilitate on-the-fly situational tutorials that reinforce the operating principles. Stay tuned.

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Editorial Comments

Well, it's close. We're weeks away from the 2nd Railway Modellers' Meet of BC. Despite a few last minute changes to the clinic schedule, everything is coming together. For those registered for the Ops Sessions including the TT&TO learning workshops, you will have just received the visitor crew assignments from Scott Calvert. We have out-of-province travellers from Seattle, Calgary, Edmonton, Lethbridge and Coaldale, as well as non-Lower Mainland guests from the North Cariboo, Columbia-Shuswap, West Kootenay, Okanagan, Thompson-Nicola, mid and south Vancouver Island Regions as well as two Gulf Islands. There is very definite interest in Operations.

For those that missed out on early registration for these sessions including the TT&TO workshops, there is some consolation - a clinic on Sunday morning with Brian Stokes of the Edmonton Model Railway Ass'n that covers the TT&TO system for a large club layout.

Several minor editorial changes have occurred with this edition of the BB. You'll notice on the Contacts page that Jim Guillaume is now listed as Secretary. He can be reached, like the other executive and appointed positions, by either email or phone. And secondly, I've relaxed the deadline for submissions to the Bulletin Board to just two weeks prior to press which refers to the .pdf download from the 7th Division website and to the print publication for the few members still requesting this delivery method. I'm signing off and hoping to see many happy faces at the upcoming Meet. As always, don't be shy about sending me content!

The views and opinions stated in *Editorial Comments* are not intended to reflect those of the NMRA or regions or divisions thereof. As the editor of the BULLETIN BOARD I welcome your comments and opinions regarding the comments made above or any other statements made in this publication. Send your comments to John Stevenson, Editor (jstevenson@telus.com).

Regional News

Vancouver Train Expo (VTEX) Update



By Tom Lundgren

After the successful reforming of the 'Trains' organizing committee under Peter Mueller in 2013, the public train show grew and moved to the much larger PNE Forum in 2015.

- Paid public attendance rose from 2,000 at the Cameron Centre to over 5,000 last year in the new venue;
- 40 vendors and 27 exhibitors participated in 2016 compared to 25 and 24 respectively in 2013;
- 80 percent of the volunteer shifts were filled before the event started;
- The 2016 show's extended hours generated sufficient revenue to pay honoraria to the exhibitors and yielded a small cash surplus.

This success hides the fact that retirements, illness and competition from work and family demands reduced the core organizing committee to effectively just over two people last year. A major effort is underway to rebuild the Organizing Committee and the 7th Division executive has been active in assisting with the search. You've all seen messages seeking people to volunteer and help.

On March 4th, 26 vendors, exhibitors and other interested individuals attended a meeting to discuss the situation and to identify new committee members. Peter Mueller has retired from the main organizing committee. Tom Lundgren has accepted the leader's role and Michael Batten is now Business Manager. Creative and Operations Managers have been identified, as has the 7th Division Liaison, leaving the main organizing committee short only a Communications Manager. There is one candidate interested in the position.

People have stepped up for a significant number of the assisting 'core volunteer' positions. **Still badly needed are a Volunteer Coordinator, Children's Activity Coordinator and Social Media Coordinator.** Efforts will continue to fill the outstanding openings with a deadline of April 30th for a decision on Vancouver Train Expo 2017, which would probably take place on Nov 11-12.

Anyone interested in volunteering, or knowing someone who might be willing, can contact Tom Lundgren at chairman@vancouvertrainexpo.ca, Michael Batten at businessmanager@vancouvertrainexpo.ca or 7th Division Superintendent John Martin at jamartin@jdmartin.ca

33rd Annual Nanaimo Train Show

By Ken Rutherford

The annual Model Railroad Show in Nanaimo was held on Sunday April 2.

The show at the Beban Park Recreation Centre hosted six operating layouts featuring the Victoria Model Railroad Club's HO display. It has been quite a few years since the club has attended our show and their exhibit was very well received by those attending.

There were two other HO switching layouts at the show - one was presented by the BC Robotics Company from Nanaimo. This was the second time they have participated. Last year these non-model railroaders had two sections that they built to show and feature some of their product and this year they showed up with four sections (32 ft. long). They used 3D printing to create parts and used 'Arduinos' to control some functions.

They also had many electronic products for sale. For beginners in the hobby, they showed a very high level of skill – their layout was a beautiful showcase. The other switching layout was presented by Sterling Stump and featured a 2' x 12' layout set-up for children to operate. On completing some switching manoeuvres using a handheld Digitrax controller, each child was given an engineers certificate. Other attractive layouts in attendance were the Esquimalt Navy Club's N scale display and Ken Peacock and Richard Slingerland's On30 layout. The Vancouver Island Garden Railroad Club had the use of the auditorium stage to lay out track to run their trains to entertain children.

As with most model railroad shows, there were vendors selling new and used equipment and supplies. While the show's attendance only topped out at 652 (1,115 last year), most vendors said that they did very well on sales. We were at the mercy of a sunny day in Nanaimo and following many weeks of inclement weather, it is no wonder the general public did not want to be indoors.

In the afternoon, there was a 'meet-and-greet' gathering for NMRA members. There had been 55 member admissions to the show but only 13 attended the meeting and just seven from the Island. I would like to see the Island members start to have gatherings to get to know one another and to share knowledge. Island members should look for a notice in future Bulletin Boards regarding such opportunities.

I would like to thank everyone who participated in the show. I would also like to give a special thank you to those who showed up early to help us set up the tables.

See you next year.

Editor's Note: *I had heard of the Arduino Controller but knowing little, did a quick Google search. The 'Internet Archive' is a San Francisco-based nonprofit digital library of millions of books, movies, software etc. The following link takes you to a webpage where 'Arduino for Dummies' can be downloaded as a .pdf or in a file format for an eReader. It'll get you started if you're curious for more information.*

<https://archive.org/details/pdfy--LpbPxUly33g2cjN>

Superintendent's Report

By John Martin

2nd Annual Railway Modellers' Meet of BC

There's **still time** to sign up for this event, which begins Friday May 5th. Take a look at the lineup of clinics and activities on the 7th Division website (<http://7divpnr.ca>) or at (<http://railwaymodellersmeetofbc.ca>).

It took a lot of enthusiasm and extraordinary effort for the organizers to put this event together. They did it without any certainties. 'Build it and they will come' works in the movies, but would enough people be interested in attending? They took a chance – and we're glad they did! Your attendance will justify their commitment.

The operating sessions at RMMBC have proven to be extremely popular, including the 'Timetable & Train Order (TT&TO) Learning Sessions'. It's essentially an introduction to this fascinating aspect of our hobby. Personally, I've found 'Ops' to be quite intimidating, especially when finding myself in a room full of experts who know the layout, the systems, the terminology, and the rules so well. Scott Calvert and Master Model Railroader Mike Chandler have put together an informative session for beginners or those just wanting to learn more. I was one of those invited to try the first presentation and it was both fun and (dare I say it) educational. Hopefully, we'll be able to talk them into doing it again next year.

Webmaster Brian Clogg recently constructed an interactive map showing the location of all 340+ members of the 7th Division. It shows we are well represented throughout most of the province. There's no denying that the location of the Modellers' Meet favours those who live in the Lower Mainland but that's hard to avoid. Your

Board of Directors hopes to organize some local events outside Greater Vancouver that can be attended more conveniently without too much travel and we're trying to find out if you're interested in having us set something up. Please write the Superintendent at jamartin@jdmartin.ca and let him know.

Thanks Peter

On behalf of the 7th Division, I would like to publicly thank Peter Mueller for his contributions to the Vancouver Train Expo (VTEX). Peter stepped up after the 2012 Train Show to lead the Organizing Committee and was instrumental in expanding and revitalizing the event by moving it to the PNE Forum building. Under his leadership, attendance almost doubled and the show incorporated new exhibits and displays.

Peter has just retired as Chairman after four increasingly successful years. His contributions will be felt for quite some time and he deserves a sincere thank you for his dedication and creative efforts.

7th Division Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held this Fall, as usual. (Date, place and time to be announced.) Ken Rutherford and Steve Stark are working on our new constitution and bylaws, as required by the revised BC Societies Act and we'll be requesting your approval at the meeting. Their work is greatly appreciated.

First Call For Nominations

The positions of Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent are up for election at the AGM. The term is for 2018-19. Nominations are encouraged. Both John Martin and Dan Rowsell have agreed to stand for re-election but we are always interested in having volunteers who wish to serve the 7th Division.

Please submit your own name and/or your nomination(s) to Ken Rutherford, Returning Officer, at kj.rutherford@shaw.ca. (Try to do it by June 1st).

Conducting an election by mail is an expensive exercise so we're planning to save \$350 by having a vote by those attending the AGM in 2017. Our new constitution will hopefully move us into the modern age by allowing for online voting in the future. That way, every one of our 340+ members will be able to participate. Mail ballots will still be accepted – always.

Hobby Shop News

Pacific Western Rail Systems in South Surrey/White Rock has moved just across the parking lot into newer and larger facilities at 15531 – 24th Ave. They have planned an open house on Saturday, April 29 from 10-4 with refreshments and special prices. You're invited!

After 25 years in Kamloops, Kelly's Caboose has relocated to the historic Savona General Store building, about 25 miles west on Highway 1. They officially opened on April 1st with expanded space and inventory.

You can now see Central Hobbies on Facebook at 'Central Hobbies Vancouver'. Just one more way to reach them and their many services.

We wish all three businesses (and, indeed, all our commercial vendors) great success. We hope you'll drop by and patronize your local hobby shop – it's a vital service we all want to see maintained.

All our local retailers are listed for your convenience on the 7th Division website at <http://7divpnr.ca>. Click on 'Hobby Shops' for details.

27TH ANNIVERSARY - VICTORIA'S ANNUAL

Model Railway Show

2017

Sunday, May 28th
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 • Lego & Brio
Commercial & Individual Sales & Displays

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

Admissions

Adults \$7

Family \$15

NMRA/PNR Members \$6

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

Supporters of C-Fax Santa's
Anonymous, the Times Colonist
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Lakeview Station on Wayne Paulsen's "O" Scale Cascade Pacific Railway | Photo by Dan Rowsell

Contacts

Editor's Note: Due to space limitations, we continue to publish our short list. If you need to refer to the complete list that includes additional appointed positions as well as all area representatives, see it at the 7DPNR.org website which is always current.

If you can't access that weblink, call a member friend for assistance!

The **BULLETIN BOARD** is the official publication of the 7th Division of the Pacific Northwest Region, National Model Railroad Association, Canada. It is distributed to all members in good standing. The Bulletin Board is published bimonthly in both print and electronic versions. We strongly encourage migration to the eVersion. Please advise the Secretary of any change requests.

Deadlines for material input are: January 31, March 31, May 31, July 31, September 30 and November 30. Publication dates will normally follow two weeks later; e.g., the Nov 30 deadline results in a mail out or webmail download on or about Dec 15 and will be considered the bimonthly issue of the following two months; i.e., January/February.

Contributions of Letters, Articles, Event News, Plans, Photographs and Art are encouraged and welcomed and should be sent to the BULLETIN BOARD Editor.

ADVERTISING in the BULLETIN BOARD is accepted at the following per issue rates: Full Page = \$48.00, Half Page = \$24.00, Quarter Page = \$12.00, Business Card = \$6.00. Artwork should be supplied in the appropriate size. There may be an additional charge to complete artwork that is not camera ready. Please email your artwork to the Editor and remittance can be discussed and finalized with the Treasurer, payable to the '7th Division PNR/NMRA.'

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For all other subdivision rep and appointed position contact info, please go to our website: 7DPNR.org

Editor's Note: Beginning with the 7DPNR eBulletin v.30 n.5 2016-09 edition of the BB, we added additional newsletter content beyond the postal-cost limited 10 pp mail-out print edition. That means extra pages with more pictures and links to additional reading or resources usually. Those receiving the print-only edition will have the BB end with this Contacts page, whereas the eVersion (available on the website in the Member's Only section) may occasionally have extended content.