



BULLETIN BOARD

The Official Publication of the 7th Division, Pacific Northwest Region, NMRA Canada

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ABOVE: Mother and mesmerized son at the LEGO display table at VTEX 2016. The Vancouver LEGO Club is a perennial hit at the fall train show and participates in a number of public events throughout the year. Come and meet the enthusiasts, builders, hobbyists and consumers of the many wonderful things that The LEGO Group produces. The VLC have received the best display award more than once over the years - you won't be disappointed.

Photo by J. Stevenson

Organizational work for VTEX 2017 continues as we go to press with this issue of the Bulletin Board. Please join us if you are able at the PNE Forum on November 11-12 for many more great layouts, including the LEGO table and Tom Stephenson's w-Trak Brio-like layout for the very young kids. The familiar vendors' tables will include representation from the local hobby shops, photo, book and magazine collections etc. It will be a family affair. See inside for Regional News updates and more from the VTEX organizational committee.

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Editorial Comments

As we approach the big VTEX train show weekend in November, I'm reflecting on some of the hobby elements beyond the public veneer of the show. The fundamental purpose of the show is to celebrate the hobby and simultaneously introduce it to the next generation of enthusiasts. Hopefully some individuals attending VTEX will have their curiosity piqued, visit the 7DPNR hospitality table and be persuaded to become a NMRA RailPass member. They'll be directed to the 7DPNR website and perhaps find some inspiration there through a quick photo overview of several featured layouts or an introduction to our newsletter, the Bulletin Board. The BB provides insight into the organizational work that occurs on behalf of the members. Additionally, the BB has run construction how-to articles and vacation trip reports to railfan sites of interest, showcased exceptional modellers' layouts and projects, summarized model railway operations-related activities, provided historical overviews of railroad-related equipment and encouraged exploration of individual members' websites, specifically weblogs. Many of these articles have been written by guest contributors and we thank them again.

The 7DPNR webmaster Brian Clogg has also just introduced hyperlinks to other PNR divisional newsletters from our website for quick access to the activities of other modellers in the Pacific Northwest.

And readers of the website and newsletter will learn of other events in the region and of the Railway Modellers' Meet of BC. The RMMBC will host its next event May 4-6, 2018.

Obviously, not all model railroaders immerse themselves in the historical minutiae of the region and epoch that they model. Many are content to enjoy more generic aspects of their interest area which might include a simple collection of rolling stock and motive power. But over the 20+ years that I have been involved with the hobby, I have seen many become increasingly more focused. That distillation brings an attention to detail that can be better informed with more historical review. Not surprisingly, those with limited modelling space tend also to bring more focus/detail to their work, as well. This trend is very evident in the UK where layout space is at a premium and single scenes are common. So, conditional on the modellers' inclination, let's accept that historical research can be a fun and rewarding pursuit within the hobby.

I also want to remind readers that we have a very high calibre of modelling talent within the division. And they are willing to share their ideas, resources, modelling work and mistakes so that others can benefit. In the next few paragraphs, I'll focus on a few modellers who have chosen to communicate their work through weblogs, some referenced in previous back issues, either in articles or editorials. Maybe you had a look then? One modeller has interests in the railways of the Vancouver Waterfront c1946 and another that showcases the CPR's Kettle Valley Railway c1949 will be the focus this time. In future issues of the BB, other modellers will be covered.

So what's happened in their worlds in the past year? Let's start with the 'CPR in Vancouver' blog of Rob Kirkum. See <http://saltrails.tumblr.com/archive>.

I last mentioned Rob's work after seeing his Heatley Avenue Depot at the first RMMBC meet last fall. The hyperlink above takes you to Rob's weblog archive which is the easiest way to navigate his entries chronologically. A mouse roll-over reveals the entry dates. Picking up the story from last fall, he explores recreating Heatley Avenue and Alexander Street; especially accurate representations of the cobblestone and asphalt surfaces and details such as storm drains, manhole covers and fences, as well as a retaining wall with vegetative undercover and grass. He discusses materials, methods and mistakes and incorporates more 3D printed parts modelling (recall the stereolithographic printing process from the BB Editorial Comments section last issue?).

And what of the 'Kettle Valley Model Railway' blog by Coquihalla Man aka Anthony Craig? His blog format is different from Rob's above. The page design includes a separate fixed frame containing the archive contents arranged by date and secondarily by subject while still permitting individual page navigation.

See: <http://kettlevalleymodelrailway.blogspot.ca/2017/03/brodie-station-plans-and-details.html>

He places emphasis on a very thorough and detailed interpretation of the prototype resources; e.g., CPR's engineering drawings of structures and of the local ground plans. He regularly cross-references to other data that reinforce his discussion with the result that your general and specific knowledge in research methodology is immeasurably enhanced. He is a consummate educator sparing nothing for the keen reader.

Recent entries over the past year (seven) have covered Brodie Station and the surrounding bridges, and both Juliet and Brookmere Stations as well as the detailed reworking of a brass model into a very good credible CP 2-8-0 M4f Consolidation.

And finally, a recent reference on the CPSig YahooGroup brought my attention to the University of Northern BC's Northern BC Archives. Back in 2013, the entire railway-related collection of David Llewellyn Davies was catalogued. There is a vast amount of material and the textual content is thoroughly detailed and listed in a downloadable .pdf. There is CP, CN and PGE content.

See: <https://search.nbca.unbc.ca/index.php/david-davies-railway-collection>

Look to the central page bottom for a file titled [david-davies-railway-collection.pdf](#) that contains the 99 pp catalogue of the textual material. On this same web page you'll have access to 3,354 images (b+w) which all enlarge significantly and are downloadable. Image quality is very good with photos dating from the 1960s through mid-1980s. Image format is a 9 cm x 9 cm print. Clicking on the 'Show All' brings up thumbnail images and both a geographic and subject-based keyword search. Cataloguing of the images is incomplete and thus not available yet. The usual terms governing use, reproduction and publication apply; i.e., personal or academic use welcomed and commercial use subject to copyright with permission required.

Have a look. You might find something of interest. And to my point earlier, research is exciting, isn't it? Have fun! Hopefully we'll see you at the show with someone you're introducing the hobby to.

And please, we need your volunteer hours at VTEX if you are at all able to help!! See Tom Lundgren's report.

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, VTEX Leader



Vancouver Train Expo 2017, November 11th and 12th, is three weeks away. Organizing for the event is well in hand.

We have a good core of child-friendly exhibits with West Coast Railway Association Minirail, Tom Stephenson's w-Trak, Gordon Hall's 'Island of Sodor', Canadian Toy Train, and Lego committed to attend. To encourage participation Phil Breden and George Carroll are developing a 'treasure hunt' for dinosaurs hidden among the exhibits. There will be an entry form for participants to fill out and submit for a chance to win either four tickets to the Polar Express or a one-year 'Family-of-4' WCRA membership which, among other things, grants unlimited access to Heritage Park in Squamish BC. Both prizes have been generously provided by the West Coast Railway Association.

Phil Evans is busy organizing promotion for the event. We are trying a different approach this year using contests on radio (NEWS 1130) and the local Vancouver, North Shore and Burnaby newspapers. VIA Rail Canada has generously donated two round-trip tickets on the 'The Canadian' from Vancouver to Jasper which will be used in the radio contest. The newspaper contests will feature an opportunity to win a starter train set. In this way we hope to generate more media coverage than we could otherwise afford.

George Carroll is working on setting up stations where attendees can try their hand at some basic model activities. 'Run a Train' will be two loops of track with controllers and two trains for attendees to operate. 'Early Scenery' will provide an opportunity to construct scenery, 'Plaster Rock Colouring' (self-explanatory), 'Train Set Basics' to assemble a basic train set and 'DCC Basics' will be an introduction to DCC. The objective is to provide a hands-on introduction to the hobby. Of course all of this takes volunteers to help make it happen, so please let us know if you are interested in helping George put on these activities. Contact: creative@vancouvertrainexpo.ca if you are interested in helping out.

Craftsman's Corner will run again this year. This is your opportunity to display, for a couple of hours, some modeling project that interests you. The objective is to demonstrate an aspect of the hobby and engage with attendees. Doug Hicks is coordinating Craftsman's Corner and would like to hear from you. You can contact him at: craftsmancorner@vancouvertrainexpo.ca

We have also had a good response from vendors. Who knows, you might just find the modeling item you are looking for at a good price!

Vancouver Train Expo needs volunteers (2-hours shifts) to staff many positions:

- On Friday for set-up, traffic control and door security
- On Saturday and Sunday for admissions (ticket sales, handing out tickets), traffic control, line monitor, and door security
- And on Sunday for takedown

To volunteer contact me chairman@vancouvertrainexpo.ca or go to the website <http://www.vancouvertrainexpo.ca>, and click on the 'Volunteer' tab near the top on the right hand side. This will take you to a page listing the jobs needing volunteers. Volunteers get free admission to the show.

Thanks to all the exhibitors and vendors who have registered to attend. The success of Vancouver Train Expo depends on having a quality event, and on attracting people to attend. You can help by encouraging your friends and neighbours to attend.

I hope to see you at Vancouver Train Expo 2017 November 11-12, 2017 at the PNE Forum. Show hours are 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM on Saturday; 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Sunday. Admission fees are: Adults \$10; Youth (8 to 18) \$5; under 8 free; Seniors (60+) \$8; Families \$25; NMRA members presenting membership card \$5.

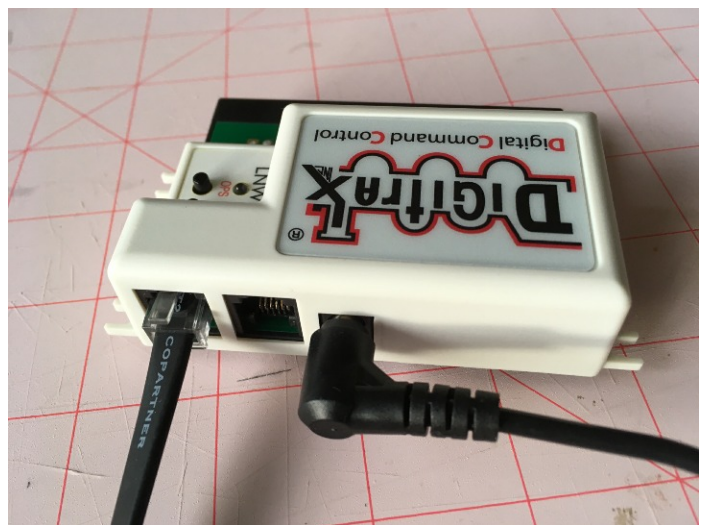
Cell Phone Throttles

By Russ Watson

Almost everyone today owns a smart cell phone that is capable of being used as a Digital Command Control (DCC) throttle to run model trains. All that is required is the downloading and installation of a free application (App) on your phone and a wireless connection (WiFi) to your layout DCC system. Apps are available for iOS (Apple) and Android cell phone operating systems.

I only have experience using my Apple iPhone SE cell phone using the WiThrottle App with my Digitrax DCC system, so my discussion in this introduction article is limited to that experience.

I initially tried to connect my phone to my layout using my home internet Telus WiFi system through my Mac computer using the free Java Model Railway Interface (JMRI) software. I wasn't able to get it working. However I know others who have been able to use cell phone throttles using JMRI on a PC with Telus or Shaw internet systems with success.



I recently purchased a Digitrax LNWI device - \$US 79.99 suggested retail - to provide cell phone throttle functionality to my layouts (Photo above left). I discovered that the LNWI would eliminate the need to use my computer, JMRI and my Telus WiFi system for cell phone throttles. Only two plug and play connections are required as shown in the close-up in the (Photo above right): a connection to the Digitrax Loconet bus (left) using the included cable and the power connection (right) using the included power supply.

I had already installed the WiThrottle App on my phone, so after I had made the LNWI connections and turned on my DCC system, all I had to do was open settings on my phone and select the LNWI WiFi server and open the App. All within a couple of minutes! Very slick and easy!



The left photo shows WiThrottle open on my phone. Loco #9 has been selected in the green box. The '(S)' indicates Short Address mode. The touch-and-drag vertical throttle is on the left, the blue 'Idle' arrow at the top indicates that the throttle is set to run trains in the forward direction, and the top left function button shows the locomotive light is on. Locomotive direction is controlled by touching the 'Rev' and 'Fwd' buttons at the top and emergency stop is activated by touching the 'Stop' sign. Touching the yellow Lantern icon turns on the light on your cell phone, which is a very handy feature! Swiping the screen from right to left provides access to function buttons from F6 to F28. There are settings that can be user configured such as turning on or off audio clicks as the throttle is slid up and down, throttle sensitivity, locomotive dispatch and release functionality and others.

My initial use of WiThrottle has been a very good experience. The throttle response has been great and I have not lost the connection. I walked about 60 feet away from the LNWI out into my garage and I could still hear the whistle blowing as I pushed the F2 function button, so the range is more than enough for my layouts.

The biggest advantages of using cell phones for me is that they provide wireless throttles on my otherwise non-radio-equipped DCC system and considering that most of my operators own smart phones, I won't have to buy any additional Digitrax throttles for my operating sessions.

I highly recommend the Digitrax LNWI and WiThrottle.

Detailed information is available at these links:

Digitrax LNWI: <http://www.digitrax.com/products/wireless/lnwi/>

WiThrottle: <http://www.withrottle.com/html/home.html>

Android 'Engine Driver': <https://enginedriver.mstevetodd.com/>

Superintendent's Report

By John Martin

I walked by the 7th Division's table in the Cameron Centre several times over the years - and finally in 2012 stopped to talk with a very friendly gentleman named Dick Sutcliffe.

As a Master Procrastinator, I put a RailPass application in one of the many piles of paper on my desk until eventually submitting it and by November I was a full-time member. It was a good decision.

Dick Sutcliffe is still waiting for some energetic soul to step up and assist him in his position as Publicity Coordinator. He's been doing the job (extremely well) for many, many years and deserves some help. He would actually like to be replaced some day so that he can enjoy running a few trains at the shows, but let's start with an assistant. What about you?

Our Division has 340+ members – which is actually quite impressive. Just for the record, 200 of us live outside the Lower Mainland and (for those who struggle with arithmetic) 140 are here in Greater Vancouver and the Fraser Valley. More of those 340 need to step up and get involved. We model railroaders are reputedly fairly solitary folks, but you might actually enjoy associating with your fellow members a few times a year. It's also a great way to learn something new and get hands-on experience.

My point?

First, I've only met about 60 of you so far – at the Modellers' Meets or train shows or conventions. Every one of those encounters has been a pleasure, by the way. Our group includes some unbelievably knowledgeable and genuinely friendly people. It would sure be nice to hear from the rest of you though. It's hard to know what the 'silent majority' is thinking unless we get some input. How about taking two minutes (okay, maybe ten) to drop me a note and tell me what you'd like to see the 7th Division do to make your membership more worthwhile. Seriously – send me an email at jamartin@jdmartin.ca. I really would like to hear from YOU.

Secondly, the same old message. Vancouver Train Expo (VTEX) urgently needs some volunteers for just a few hours on Sat and Sun. Please consider helping. They need you, not someone else.

Lastly, an apology. I really wanted to see if we could arrange for a 'local' event in every single area of our province this fall. It didn't get done. Soon, you'll be getting an email from your local area coordinator asking if you'd be interested in attending a Mini-Meet close to your home – and what you'd like to see presented. I hope you'll respond – and I sincerely hope you'll say YES to the idea.

Dan Rowsell and I are up for re-election this November by the way. Nominations remain open...

Train Shows

Last Sunday afternoon (Oct 15th), I attended the Mt Cheam Lion's Club Train Show in Chilliwack – mostly to give Dick Sutcliffe a hand. (Thanks to Ken Robertson and Tom Lundgren for doing the same on Saturday.) The show attendance was down, probably because of sunny weather, but the exhibits were good and people seemed to be enjoying themselves.

I hope you'll try to get to VTEX on Nov 11-12 this year – and maybe even the 7th Division Annual General Meeting on Saturday night. Sorry - free food and drink will NOT be provided, but we will be talking about model railroading and how we can make the NMRA serve you even better. Here's the details again.

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The 7th Division will hold its Annual General Meeting on **Saturday, Nov 11, 2017 at 7:00 pm** in the **Breakfast Room of the Atrium Hotel**, 2889 East Hastings St., Vancouver BC. A social get-together will precede the meeting beginning at 6:15 pm.

All relevant documents can be seen on our website at <http://7divpnr.ca>.

The Atrium is located one-half block west of the PNE Forum, Pacific National Exhibition Grounds, which is on the northeast corner of Hastings and Renfrew Streets; once again, the site of the 2017 Vancouver Train Expo this year on November 11-12, 2017 from 10 am - 6 pm on Saturday and 10 am - 5 pm on Sunday.

FREE ADMISSION to Vancouver Train Expo

All you have to do is volunteer to help out for a few hours, meet some fellow modellers, and enjoy the show. Send Tom Lundgren a note at: chairman@vancouvertrainexpo.ca

Put May 4-6, 2018 on your calendar for the 3rd annual Railway Modellers Meet in Burnaby and visit <http://7divpnr.ca/events> for the dates of the Nanaimo and Victoria shows next year. We hope to see you there.

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SAT NOV 11 • 10AM-6PM & SUN NOV 12 • 10AM-5PM

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ADULTS: \$10 • SENIORS (60+): \$8 • YOUTH (6-18 YRS): \$5 • CHILDREN UNDER 8 YRS: FREE
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Vancouver Train Expo

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.