



BULLETIN BOARD

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ABOVE: Another fine example of modelling from the Craftsman's Table at VTEX 2017. BCOL 752 is an EMD SD40-2 lightly weathered by Andy Wegmuller to reflect some road time since the last washing. The reliability and versatility of the 3,000-hp SD40-2 made it the best-selling model in EMD's history and the standard of the industry for several decades after its introduction. BCOL 752 was built in 1980-09 and is one of 17 units purchased by BC Rail at that time.

Photo by J. Stevenson

VTEX 2017 has come and gone, a not-too-distant and hopefully fond memory for many. To tide you over until our next big modellers' meet, the Railway Modellers' Meet of BC (RMMBC) happening in early May, you could take in the Western Rails: Railroadiana Show on Sunday, March 18 at the Cameron Recreation Centre in Burnaby. And over on Vancouver Island, members of the 7DPNR will be hosting a model train show in Nanaimo in late April. See details inside under Regional News updates including a very important VTEX organizational committee report as well as more re: the RMMBC.

IN THIS ISSUE

Editorial Comments	2
Regional News	2
Superintendent's Report	6
Remembrance	8
Contacts	10

Editorial Comments

VTEX 2017 was a big hit. The show statistics were presented in the last issue and it was announced that the Business Manager was stepping down because of other commitments. In this issue, under Regional News, Team Leader Tom Lundgren broadly outlines VTEX's budget and the essential need to replace the last few remaining unfilled organizational positions. Please read this carefully and give serious thought to helping or tapping someone else to step forward.

The Railway Modellers' Meet of BC (RMMBC) is also approaching fast. Last issue we ran an important piece on the subtleties/complexities of the scoring matrix for one element of the Master Modeller Achievement Program. We identified Mike Chandler, MMR, as our Divisional Representative for the AP evaluation. I had the benefit of interviewing Mike for that piece. Despite that, you can't help but come away from a rules-centred discussion with more questions re: the intent of the rules, their constraints, and how an individual modeller can best focus their efforts. The take-away is forewarned is forearmed.

Because I attended the RMMBC last year, I receive advance email feeds re: the upcoming event that include developments around the operating sessions, the layout tours and the clinics. Just a few days ago, an update to the clinic schedule showed that Mike will be conducting a clinic on the MMR Achievement Program process. What could be timelier? Hope to see you at this or any other of the many fascinating clinics. Check the website.

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) Show News Flash

By Tom Lundgren, VTEX Leader



VTEX very successfully increased attendance in 2017 and added several highly effective members to the Organizing Committee. The group met on Feb 4, 2018 to examine three major issues:

1. Human Resources – Do we have enough active members to stage a show in 2018?

VTEX is down one very experienced committee member with Michael Batten's retirement after five years on the committee.

2. Finances – Can VTEX be financially viable? Can VTEX generate a modest profit to increase cash reserves in order to finance the event?

VTEX 2017 lost \$4,500, and a combined \$6,700 over the three years at the Forum. Staging the event requires the outlay of \$30,000, before a single admission ticket is sold on event day. The cash currently available, after factoring in advance revenue from table sales, falls about \$9,000 short. In other words, VTEX needs to beg, borrow or otherwise come up with \$9,000 to open the doors.

3. Organization – Are we able to incorporate as a Society to present a show in 2018?

VTEX is actively pursuing incorporation and expects this to happen in a timely way.

The Committee has decided that VTEX 2018 will be placed on hold until there are enough capable individuals to help organize the event. To do otherwise puts at risk the entire cash reserves, will overstress the existing committee, leaves no backup in the event illness, nor does it provide for succession.

Specifically, there is a need for someone with an accounting designation or background to oversee a \$50,000 per year event, provide guidance on regulatory and tax issues, manage financial models and provide timely advice so that informed committee decisions can be made. A Volunteer Coordinator must also be found. Finally, there must be enough people involved to provide for succession. The 2018 show will not proceed until sufficient resources are found. **This is an urgent matter since there is competition for Forum booking dates in November.**

VTEX HELP WANTED

Business Manager – Seeking a capable and enthusiastic volunteer with an accounting designation or equivalent experience. The position requires:

- Attendance at approximately 10 two-hour meetings per year in East or North Vancouver.
- Roughly 2-3 hours per week to help manage the \$50,000 budget and administration of the Vancouver Train Expo, including providing the financial information and analysis necessary for informed decision making and compliance with financial regulations.
- Must be able to work cooperatively within the Organizing Committee.
- The position requires being available at the venue during the two event days in November in order to oversee admission sales.
- Ideally the person would be willing to hold this position for 3-5 years.

Remuneration is the delight on children's faces when attending the show, camaraderie, and the satisfaction of a job well done to publicize and advance the hobby of model railroading.

Volunteer Coordinator – Seeking a capable and enthusiastic volunteer with administrative and people skills to organize volunteers for event day tasks. The position requires:

- An interest in organizing people to do volunteer tasks.
- Sufficient computer skills to solicit, track, and schedule individuals to meet the needs of the event.
- This position does not need to attend meetings but will need to be very active in the month before the event, especially during the three weeks immediately prior, contacting, responding and scheduling volunteers, amounting to as much as two hours per day during this period. Attendance at the venue is required during the afternoon of setup day and during the two days of the event in order to direct, support and supervise the volunteers.

- VTEX has an extensive list of volunteers to work from. Last year almost all of the volunteer positions were filled prior to event day, however, there is always considerable turnover.

Remuneration is the satisfaction derived from making a major contribution to efficient functioning of the train show.

Please contact either:

Tom Lundgren chairman@vancouvertrainexpo.ca 604-813-8403 cell
or John Martin jamartin@jdmartin.ca 604-594-9719

Member Aid Coordinator aka Mike's Corner

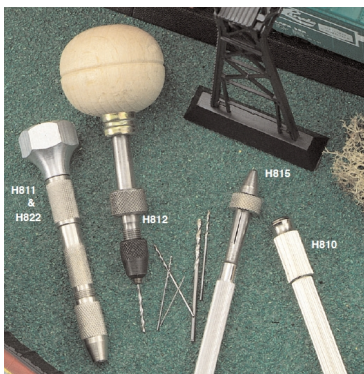
By Mike Barone

Member Aid Coordinator is a service supplied by the 7th Division to provide a source for answers to any questions you may have regarding any aspect of the hobby; e.g., information on track laying, why doesn't my engine run, scenery queries, sourcing prototype data and everything in between. Please feel free to contact me at: fmikebarone@gmail.com.

Question: I need a pin vise for my modeling projects. Do you have any recommendations?

Mike says:

My personal favourite is a Mascot Precision with a swivel head (wood), Walther's Part #230-812 and available at most hobby shops (I bought mine at Central Hobbies). It can take four different size collets (called 'chucks' in the Walther's catalogue). Get one of each - you will use them. Mascot makes one with a small swivel head but, personally, I find the large wooden-headed tool much easier to handle.



Avoid tools with reversible collets. I have found these to be improperly cut to hold the drill bit in the center. The one I have now has a piece of wire in it and is used as a glue applicator. I've also used a Zona tool #795-37170, but without the large head it tends to be less stable when drilling and your fingers will get sore. I've fitted mine with a sewing needle and use it as a scribe and center punch for small drills.

LEFT: Selection of pin vises from the Mascot Precision Tools catalogue. To see the vast range of small tools, many downloadable catalogues are available from Grobet USA, the North American distributor. See <http://www.grobetusa.com/mascot-hobby-tools/>

Having said all that, my first go-to drilling tool is a Dremel 750, a 2-speed unit (no longer available - I believe the current Dremel replacement is the Model #8050). This tool is a small battery-operated Moto tool (Dremel calls it a rotary tool now) and can take the same collets as the Mascot pin vise. This tool was definitely money well spent and perhaps the most used tool on my work bench. How do I decide which tool to use? Multiple holes and higher numbered drills, use the Dremel; if only 1-2 holes with lower numbered drills, then I would most likely use the pin vise. Or to put it another way, cars per drill or drills per car, that's one of the places the difference really shows.

Some thoughts about pin vises with a spiral 'drive'. My experience revealed two major problems: wobble seemed to be maximized and it put too much pressure on the small drill bits. Wobble is the chief cause of breakage. I have talked to other modellers who have found them to be excellent, ergo everyone's experience will be different.

Regarding drilling into styrene, this is a material subject to distortion from heat and is not easily drilled with a power drill. All too often, the heat causes the styrene to melt and close the hole just drilled. While the slow speed of a hand device won't generate heat, it can be very time consuming and hard on the hands. This problem is much more pronounced with thicker cross sections but manageable in thin ones. I don't use any form of lubrication because this could cause problems with glue adhesion. My usual method is to use the Dremel first, to form a pilot hole, clean the bit after each hole, and then clean out the hole with my pin vise as needed.

One of my current projects involves nearly 1,500 holes about 1 cm deep with a #77 drill, so using a Dremel is almost a necessity. The heating problem, though less pronounced with resins, can still occur sometimes. Finally, metals are always best drilled using lubrication and at high speed, with frequent bit cleaning, especially with soft or brittle materials such as lead or zamac.

Call for Nominations for the Ross Heriot Memorial Gold Spike Award

By John Green

I hope that the next presentation of the Ross Heriot award will be made at the 7th Division Railway Modellers' Meet of BC luncheon on Sunday May 6, 2018.

Since my last report, there has been one new nomination received for the Ross Heriot Gold Spike Memorial Award. While some other names have been submitted in previous years for consideration, a small committee of past recipients of this honour decided to hold them back. Since the award was first presented in 1968, it has been made to 42 individuals and not awarded in nine of those years. In some years the award has been made to two people in the same year. A list of previous recipients is available both on the 7DPNR website. See <http://7divpnr.ca/node/4>

The award is presented annually to the individual or individuals in the PNR 7th Division who has made a significant contribution to the division. It is in appreciation of his/her unselfish devotion of time and effort to further the aims of the NMRA, the PNR and the hobby of model railroading through assistance and service for the benefit of all model railroaders within the division. The award is a once-in-a-lifetime presentation and candidates are nominated by their peers.

I look forward to continuing to receive nominations of additional worthy members who meet the award requirements. These nominations need not be complicated documents - all that is needed is a letter or email to John Green or the Superintendent John Martin, containing the name of the person and a few lines with supporting reasons and comments.

Send those via email to greenjohnca@yahoo.ca or through regular mail or hand delivery.

Nanaimo Model Railroad Show

By Ken Rutherford

The Nanaimo Model Railroad Show will take place April 22, 2018 at the Beban Park Recreation Centre from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. There will be the usual model railroad layouts, swap-n-shop tables, and displays. This will be the 34th year that a show/meet has been held in Nanaimo.

It all started when a NMRA members' meet was organized by Ken Rutherford with clinics and display tables. We had over 30 members show up from around the Island and Lower Mainland. This was at the same time that the Lower Mainland members were having gatherings at the Oakridge shopping mall. The following year we held another gathering and more members showed up. As the meet grew we moved to larger facilities to allow for sales tables and modular layouts. About the 4th year we opened the show to the public and it has been a public show ever since. While the show has grown in size and public attendance, it also unfortunately lost its meet characteristics. The show still gives a place for modellers to gather annually, display their models and renew friendships, but we lost the clinic portion of the event.

I know that there are standing committee members out there that have started to try to hold members' meetings. If you hear of a meeting in your area please try to attend. The committees are working for your benefit and your support is needed for them to be successful.

When I look back on that first gathering so many years ago, I am reminded of the new friends I met that day who are still friends today. The NMRA is about modelling and friendship. A few years ago I invited NMRA members from Vancouver Island to meet in a room during the show to discuss restarting the clinics at future gatherings because they add so much to our membership benefits. Unfortunately life got in the way and I had health problems that killed the effort. I have once again rented a side room for a short meeting of the island membership to see if we can get the clinic meets going again. The meeting will be held in Room 3 at 1:05 pm in the Beban Park Recreation Centre. Hope to see many members there. Maybe it will be the start of some new friendships. If you would like to bring a model project to share with others please do.

Show contact information:

Ken Rutherford 250-724-4698 at kj.rutherford@shaw.ca or
Rick Lord 250-724-4205 at rblord@telus.net

Superintendent's Report

By John Martin

Many of you know I'm relatively new to the 7th Division. The group has been very welcoming and I'm learning more and more about our hobby every day – which is why I signed up. (I also thought I should volunteer to help out, just a little, if I was going to be part of the organization and you can see how that turned out, but that's a topic for another day.)

My question is, **'Why did YOU join the NMRA?'** If you were looking for good advice, or an opportunity to try an operating session, or meet other modellers, or visit some terrific nearby layouts, or watch a clinic on an interesting subject presented locally by an expert – have I got a deal for you!

The annual Railway Modellers' Meet of BC (May 4-6) is open for registration. Last year's show, held on the Simon Fraser University campus was genuinely enjoyable. I was, however, amazed that only 49 of our 141 members who live right here in the Lower Mainland were there. That's just 35% - which sounds like a municipal election turnout in a bad year. Many of you throughout our province lost out on a great event. There is no shortage of registrants and slots are filling up quite well. I'm genuinely hoping YOU will take advantage of the opportunity to attend a top-quality event right here at home in BC. Don't miss the chance to be there.

The cost is minimal for three days of entertainment (\$45 after your NMRA discount) and those who attended in 2017 had a very worthwhile experience. Why not sign up right now?

I urge you to visit <http://railwaymodellersmeetofbc.ca/> and register now, to avoid disappointment. Very inexpensive accommodation is also available at the SFU campus for those travelling to attend and you'll have just a short 5-10 minute walk to the meet site.

Privacy Regulations

When a new member joins the 7th Division, he or she receives a welcoming email from the appropriate Subdivision Area Representative. In future, we plan to include in the email a list of the other members within the new person's area. This will show the name, city, and email address of every other NMRA member in your local subdivision. It will NOT show your home address, telephone number, or any other personal information.

Privacy is a concern these days so, if you don't wish to have your name and contact information made available to a new member, please advise our membership coordinator Brian Clogg at bcclogg@shaw.ca and we'll keep your existence a secret. (Unfortunately, we can't protect you from the telemarketer who always calls when you're sitting down to dinner.)

On the other hand, if you'd like to do everything you can to welcome a new member to our group, I'm sure they would appreciate it very much. By the way, NMRA policy prohibits making our mailing list available to anyone outside our group - period.

Constitution and Bylaws

As you may know, we are currently working on a new Constitution and Bylaws as required by the BC Government. Progress continues and we hope to have something sent to you by email in the near future. Everyone will have an opportunity to comment and then we'll ask each of our 350+ members to approve the new document by electronic ballot.

Your Board believes it important to allow a voice for every member.

Remembrance

By Gary Hazell

Bob Gardner

July 12, 1927 to January 12, 2018

On Friday January 12, we lost Bob Gardner at 90-1/2 years. Bob was a very kind man who enjoyed life to the fullest. He was also very gentle, always willing to help, very intelligent with a great sense of humour and always participated in everything from camping to attending NMRA (National Model Railroad Association) events and train meets.

After graduating from UBC, Bob started out in Winnipeg and joined the local model railway club there. Then he spent many years in Lethbridge as Chief Engineer at Lethbridge Iron Works. His wife, Von, was very active with the Cubs and Scouts including camp-outs.

After raising four children, Bob and Von retired to Salmon Arm where they constructed a beautiful log home and he built an award-winning layout in the new basement. He joined the Salmon Arm Model Railway Association (SAMRA) where he helped with many projects. He will be missed by many and particularly the SAMRA members at our camping outings to Juniper Beach Provincial Park where late at night he would say; "Let's have another thimble-full" (Scotch). We are much better off for having known Bob and we will cherish memories of him.

Editor's Note: Bob was Master Model Railroader (MMR) No. 103. Gary reports that Bob had achieved all but one of the Achievement Program certificates. A Celebration of Life is planned for May 19, 2018 in Salmon Arm.



28TH ANNIVERSARY - VICTORIA'S ANNUAL

Model Railway Show

2018

Sunday, May 27th
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
Christmas Fund.

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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: Postal costs limit most mail-out print editions to 10 pp. though we push that to 12 pp. or more for a special edition. Those receiving the print-only edition will have the BB end with this Contacts page, whereas the eVersion (available online at the 7DPNR website) 'may occasionally' have extended content - extra pages with more pictures and links to additional reading or resources. **If you received the BB as a download via the website, you've got the full content.**