



BULLETIN BOARD

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ABOVE: The Vancouver Train Expo 2019 is just around the corner and will once again be held at the PNE Forum this year on the Remembrance Day weekend. VTEX is always a family affair. Bring some friends, introduce them to the hobby and you'll all have a good time.

Photo by J. Stevenson

Well, days are shorter, temperatures cooler and the weather more variable and wetter. I'm sure that a few of you are starting to think again about modelling activities, again. As noted above, VTEX is fast approaching. Inside this issue of the Bulletin Board, we have updates on that event including a request for volunteers, if you can find the time and haven't already committed. In addition, several 7DPNR area representatives present their mini-meet reports from the summer and for Vancouver area modellers, there's a chance to register for an upcoming follow-up Arduino clinic.

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Editorial Comments

This is my last issue as your Editor. I've produced the newsletter for almost five years now and it's time for change. My wife and I are hoping to travel a bit more and need to have a more open calendar. I've enjoyed the creative work a lot and am now seeking a replacement. This could be your chance to explore something new.

Although we have tried to produce the newsletter on a prescribed schedule, the Executive have always allowed flexibility there and the publishing dates have occasionally strayed by 1-2 weeks. Over my tenure we dropped one issue (now five per year) to free up the summer months. John Martin, your 7DPNR Superintendent requested that most members of the Executive as well as the Bulletin Board Editor produce a Cole's Notes version of their job function as a succession planning exercise and I duly complied.

Those notes cover the basic creation of a Bulletin Board issue, software suggestions, basic editing techniques for image management, production flow suggestions, time commitments and interactions with the webmaster and secretary for the purpose of getting a .pdf version of the newsletter to you. Maybe now is the time to consider taking the newsletter to a web-based one?

It has been fun and rewarding and I've developed closer ties to many members through interactions related to story ideas and event coverage. One of you out there is ready for the challenge!

And if it wasn't obvious, I will be more than happy to assist the incoming Editor in any way I can.

Happy Trails

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 2019 - 37th Annual Edition

By Tom Lundgren, Leader VTEX Organizing Committee

Vancouver Train Expo 2019 will be held Saturday November 9th (10:00 am to 6:00 pm) and Sunday November 10th (10:00 am to 5:00 pm) at the PNE Forum Building.

There has been a terrific response from exhibitors, six new ones, along with five new vendors. All the floor space has been taken and we have a 'wait list'. Thanks to the exhibitors, and the work of the Committee Members, we will be putting on a great show.

As you will recall, we did well financially last year so table rental and admission fees have been left unchanged. Attendance, however, remains the key to continuing financial success. We are pursuing three new promotional activities this year with the intention of improving attendance.

The train shows in Alberta have experienced significant declines in attendance this year so we cannot be complacent about attracting attendees. That's where you can help. Tell your friends, neighbours, co-workers and contacts about the event and encourage them to come, or to tell their social contacts. If you have a place to put up posters or want reminders to hand out, we can provide them. Please contact chairman@vancouvertrainexpo.ca or any of the committee members. You can find contact information on the webpage under the tab 'The Expo Committee'.

There are 125 volunteer positions to be filled. By the time you read this update I hope to have filled many of the volunteer positions, however, it's not too late! If you are interested in volunteering to help put on the show please contact me at: chairman@vancouvertrainexpo.ca or go the Vancouver Train Expo web page <http://www.vancouvertrainexpo.ca>, look for the 'Volunteers' tab near the top, click on it, and select the job you wish to do. We still need some good people, like you, to help put on the event.

AND, especially for NMRA 7th Division members, Doug Hicks is looking for craftsmen to demonstrate modeling skills and answer questions from attendees at the Craftsman's Corner. One of the objectives of Vancouver Train Expo is to expose members of the public to the hobby of model railroading with the intent of attracting new modellers. Craftsman's Corner is a key part of this endeavour as it provides an opportunity for the public to meet and talk to enthusiastic and active modellers. Please contact Doug at craftsmancorner@vancouvertrainexpo.ca if you can assist.

Come out and enjoy the show! I look forward to seeing you there!

Model Railway Gathering in Prince George

By Russ Watson, Area Representative

The latest PNR 7th Division-sponsored gathering was held at the Prince George Railway and Forestry Museum on Sunday, September 29. Fourteen modellers attended: one from Surrey, one from 150 Mile House, four from Quesnel and eight from Prince George.

Pete Futter discussed a large variety of machinist's tools that he uses for modelling; Ken Goudswaard presented a very interesting study of using a local Prince George industry, Allen Scrap Metals, as the basis for added operational potential on a layout; Jarett Dumas presented an NMRA EduTrain clinic from NMRA.org by Lance Mindheim, titled 'The Pursuit Of Realism'; and David Ross showed us how he used FreeMo modules from the now defunct Cariboo FreeMo group to build a substantial home layout.



ABOVE: Pete Futter demonstrating useful machinist tools.

BELOW: Jarett Dumas presenting some of Lance Mindheim's ideas to the group. Lance was the keynote speaker at last year's RMMBC.



ABOVE: Ken Goudswaard presents his study of a local industry that could be used on a layout.

BELOW: Ted Worsfold explains how he is kitbashing Walthers kits to build a large HO scale smelter.



We had an interesting Model Show-and-Tell and a no-host lunch break at local restaurants. All of the attendees were fully engaged making the event very informative and enjoyable.

A big thank you to Pete Futter for organizing the venue, Brian Wich for setting up the room and museum Executive Director Kathy Carlson for allowing us to use the wonderful venue and for providing free beverages and extraordinary goodies! The 7DPNR made a \$100 donation to the museum in appreciation, which was very well received.

I plan to hold the next gathering in Quesnel in late March, 2020, so please stay tuned. Happy modelling!

Thompson-Okanagan Mini-Meet

By Jim Guillaume, Area Representative

After much encouragement from John Martin, our Superintendent and the wonderful example of my fellow area representatives, I decided I had to take the bull by the horns and hold the first ever Thompson-Okanagan mini-meet in Vernon.

I sent out a broad appeal to 54 NMRA members in the Thompson-Okanagan Subdivision in late August telling them that there was to be an event on Sept. 14 in Vernon. Only 60% of those emails were opened. Hoping for 10 members to attend I secured a meeting room at a local recreation facility. I was very pleasantly surprised when 15 members signed up. So, my next question was what would people be interested in as activities? I went to the NMRA website and located two national clinics and a short piece about planting trees vertically. That set the event's theme... trees.

My schedule was for two clinics, followed by a light lunch during which a show-and-tell session would be offered. After lunch, a hands-on clinic to construct your own tree using authors Jack Work and Gail Holland's techniques to build furnace filter trees as described in Model Railroader magazine was planned.

A local manufacturer, Daryl Jacobs from InterAction Hobbies in Salmon Arm, graciously donated seven kits for door prizes that were given away by number draw.

Modellers from Summerland, Vernon, Salmon Arm, Kamloops and Kelowna attended. Everyone had a great time.

At the conclusion, an exit survey was requested. Unanimously, the participants agreed this was a good, beneficial and useful effort and all indicated a willingness to assist with future events. The one-hour video 'Ideas for What to Do with Your Old Equipment' was not a favourite, but the clinic on trees from Paul Scole's two-volume set 'Advanced Techniques for Realistic Scenery' was very well received. All participants really enjoyed seeing other modellers work during lunch and some good hints were offered and gladly received about accomplishing certain techniques. There was some really fine work done on the trees and all came away with the feeling that they could do the same at home.



In conclusion, and from feedback I received, the members felt that this was the best added benefit they had received from their NMRA membership and all wanted to pass on to the 7th Division BoD how appreciative they were for the financial support for this event. Further, it was agreed that we should attempt another event early next year. Plans are being made for February 2020 already.

I wish to thank all those that attended the first Thompson-Okanagan event and I encourage other NMRA members to talk to those that attended and/or their area representatives to see if this is the kind of

event you'd like to attend in the future. It's your membership - take advantage of it!

Amtrak Above and Beyond

By Jim Guillaume

The N Scale Enthusiast organization announced last fall that their annual convention was to be held in Chicago in June 2019. In excited anticipation, I checked transportation options and of course the railroad was the method of choice. My itinerary was to start in Vancouver at the Pacific Central Station as Amtrak Train 8909 (Coast Starlight) with connections to Train #8 (Empire Builder) in Seattle bound for Chicago. The published schedule showed a four-hour trip from Vancouver to Seattle with an additional one hour and forty-minute connection time in Seattle. The first portion of the journey, however, was to be aboard a chartered Cantrail Coach Lines bus.

The big day came and I arrived at Vancouver's iconic railway station with time to spare. We departed on time at 11:00 am in a beautiful motor coach with lots of happy travellers. Approximately an hour and fifteen minutes later we all arrived at the U.S. Customs and Immigration facility in Blaine, WA. Our driver spoke to a government agent outside the bus and then came back to inform us all that no one was allowed to 'de-train' until cleared to do so by the U.S. officials. One hour later, everyone was allowed off the bus for processing. Our four-hour trip was now five hours. Similar delays were experienced on the infamously clogged Interstate southbound.

The 'Empire Builder' was scheduled to depart at 16:40. Our coach arrived at Seattle's famed King Street Railway station at 16:40 and there was no train to be seen. I said to myself, 'Self, this does not look good!'

After a quick chat with the courteous first-class passenger agent, the options offered to me were to receive a refund for my ticket or to be rebooked the next day. I asked where Amtrak would be lodging me for the overnight stay as their train was late.

The manager was summoned, and a quick decision was made to transport me back to Everett to catch the eastbound train there. It had taken an hour and eleven minutes to get from Everett to Seattle, a distance of 47 kilometers and the taxi driver was told that he had 38 minutes to cover the same distance. The race was on!

The southbound lane of the Interstate was still a mess but the northbound was clear sailing. One problem still existed. Neither the cab driver nor myself knew where the Everett train station was but we were making great time getting there! With frantic typing into the GPS while driving at a great rate of knots, the driver got me to the Everett station in 34 minutes. I escaped from the cab and quickly made my way to the passenger ticket wicket. There was no train to be seen anywhere but there were other passengers milling about. Hmmm...

I introduced myself to the agent and shared with her what can only be described as my harrowing journey. She broke into a great big smile and exclaimed, 'You made it!! The Seattle manager called ahead for you and had asked us (Everett) to hold the train for you.' Five minutes later, the 'Empire Builder' rolled into the Everett station. I was met at the door by the sleeping car attendant and was escorted to my roomette. A short ten minutes later, the 'All Aboard' was announced and we were then all on our way. Post haste, I made my way to the lounge car to recover, to meet friends and to raise a glass to the fabulous staff at Amtrak, and to the King Street Station staff in particular, for a job that was above and beyond. Here's to you Amtrak. Cheers!

7DPNR-NMRA Hands-on Clinic Opportunity: ‘Arduino 201 – Now What Do I Do?’

By John Green, Area Representative

As a follow on to our Spring event, I am pleased to announce that Victor Gilbert has offered to prepare and share a hands-on clinic about programming Arduino Microcomputers - details follow. The clinic will be held on Saturday November 23 from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm with lunch included.

As the preparations for this clinic involve the gathering of various electronic parts, pre-registration and payment will be needed to secure a spot at a cost of \$36. Registration instructions and more details follow.

Initial registration will be offered for the next two weeks to 7DPNR members who reside in Vancouver, Burnaby, New Westminster, and Richmond. After two weeks if there are still some of the twenty seats available, then this opportunity will be offered to members who reside in the broader Lower Mainland.

Please direct any questions to Victor who can be contacted at victor@sugarwood.info. Wishing you a happy and enjoyable fall; hopefully with time to enjoy some model railroading.

Arduino 201 – Now What Do I Do?

Saturday, November 23, 2019

At BCSME (British Columbia Society of Model Engineers)

So, you have taken one of the ‘getting started with Arduino clinics’ and you have the examples working. But you are not sure what to do now or how to modify the examples to do what you want. Have we got a deal for you! We have created a Make-N-Take clinic that is designed to build on what has already been learned. This clinic will:

- Review the Arduino software
- Review the parts of an Arduino Sketch
- Write the simple Blink Sketch (about 12 lines)
- Show how to use libraries
- Modify an existing sketch
- Build a speed trap box, to measure your actual scale locomotive speed

The clinic will be held at:

Burnaby Central Railway
British Columbia Society of Model Engineers
Confederation Park
120 North Willingdon Avenue
Burnaby BC

There is street parking at the BCSME site. Lunch is included. BCSME will be providing lunch during the noon break. Lunch will be their famous Trainman’s Lunch (chili, buns, salads, veggies, etc.), just the thing on a cool fall day. Only 20 spots are available. Cost of \$36 for this Make-N-Take workshop. Your NMRA membership is working for you as the 7DPNR is underwriting some of the cost. Pre-registration is required.

[Use this link for payment through PayPal or credit card](#)

It is 'highly' recommended that the participants have some experience with the Arduino software, via YouTube or by participating in an Arduino Clinic. We will not be loading the Arduino software as part of this clinic.

If you haven't experimented with the Arduinos before, we may be able to accommodate you. Please send me a note (victor@sugarwood.info) and tell me why you want to take this clinic and how computer literate you are. I'll try to get you involved, even if we need to run another clinic after Christmas.

Refresher material:

YouTube - [You can learn Arduino in 15 minutes](#)

YouTube - [Absolute Beginner's Guide to Getting Started with Arduino!](#)

Instructables - [A Beginner's Guide to Arduino](#)

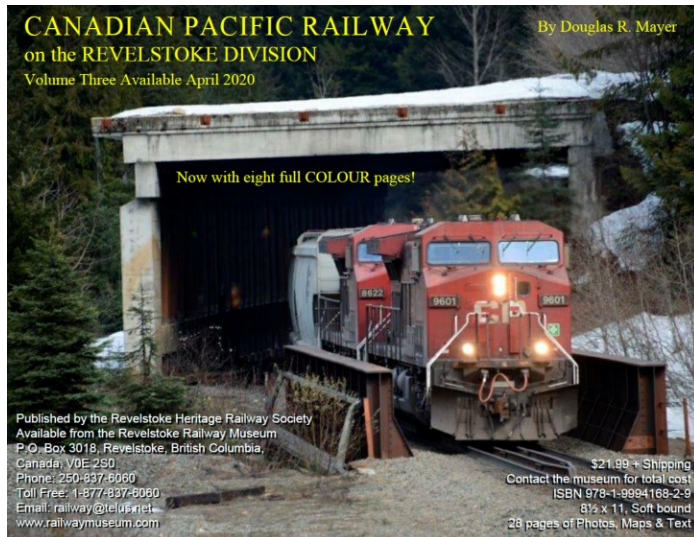
Instructables - [Arduino for Beginners](#)

Or search 'Arduino for beginners' on your favorite search engine (Google, Bing, etc.) You will need a laptop with the Arduino software loaded on it. If you are bringing a MAC or Linux laptop ensure that the laptop has the Arduino software loaded and can load an Arduino. The clinic will be from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm. Contact Victor Gilbert (victor@sugarwood.info) if there are any questions.

Superintendent's Report

By John Martin

Canadian Pacific Railway on the Revelstoke Division - Volume Three



Doug Mayer is a long-standing, accomplished, and respected member of the 7DPNR. You have probably run across him at conventions and meets. He has produced two books already in this series and the third is on its way for delivery around April 2020. Proceeds from book sales go to the Revelstoke Museum. Doug has done considerable work for them in the past and continues to do so.

Doug's first volume was favourably reviewed by Robert Turner, local transportation historian and modeller, and appeared in Vol. 32 No. 5 on p. 6 of the Bulletin Board. See the review in the BB back issues online at the 7DPNR website.

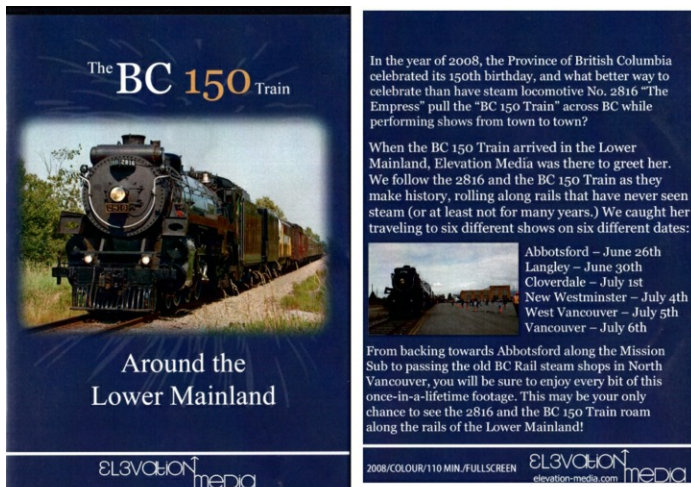
Superintendent's Comments

I hope October 2019 finds you enjoying some aspect of model railroading in your spare time. Cooler and wetter weather is a great excuse to spend some time working on a layout or reading or even rail-fanning from a warm car.

Please consider donating just one or two hours of your valuable time to help the folks at the Vancouver Train Expo (VTEX) put on their show. VTEX is a great way to expose young people to our hobby and generate interest for the next generation. Volunteering is also a chance to get to know other modellers and renew friendships. We aren't a bad bunch, all in all. We need your help and you'll enjoy yourself. Give us a call (details right here in the BB).

7DPNR SPECIAL AUCTION - ONE TIME ONLY OPPORTUNITY

Own your own DVD from the 7DPNR's collection. Buy one or two or all five for yourself or as a gift. All are in excellent condition. See example one of five below.



DVD 1

We are retiring our lending library and would like to get your bid on these DVDs. Simply go to <http://www.7divpnr.ca/node/503> for details. Click on an image to enlarge it, then click on the 'Make A Bid' button to send us your offer. We'll let you know what other bids we receive and conduct an auction by email.

Annual General Meeting

The 7DPNR AGM will be held in Vancouver at 7:30 pm on Saturday, Nov 9, 2019 in The Atrium Inn, (2889 East Hastings St.) during the VTEX 2019 train show (at the PNE Forum). All NMRA members are invited - that's you!

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 web link, 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 (except for the early fall edition) in both digital and print versions but we strongly encourage migration to the eVersion. Please advise the Secretary of any change requests.

For the calendar year, the five publication dates will be December 15 (January/Feb), February 15 (March/Apr), April 15 (May/June), June 15 (July/Aug) and October 15 (Nov/December). Publication means the .pdf file is available for download from the 7DPNR website on or around that date and members will be notified by email. Mail out of the print edition will be reserved for exceptional circumstances.

Deadlines for material input will be two weeks prior to publication but this is somewhat flexible according to circumstances.

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.**