



The Order Board

Newsletter of The Calgary Model Railway Society



That "other" Canadian Railway, reflecting in an irrigation canal. Looks to be slightly underpowered!

Photo by Jim Bernhardt

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President's Report

After chairing my first ever Annual General Meeting this past Sunday, I was pleasantly surprised by the member turnout and interaction from the audience. I did take notes of the various questions and comments from the members and the board will consider each as needed.

Selwyn Morris (representing CanTrak) was ratified for his first three-year term on the board, Brent Ciccone (representing Bow Valley) was ratified for his second term on the board. Rick Walker and Paul Clegg were acclaimed as independent directors on the board. This will be Paul's first time on the CMRS Board while Rick will be starting his second three-year term.



President's Report Continued...

The board member assignments will be finalized at the next board meeting in early November. Please welcome the new and returning directors to the board.

At the Mini Meet we, unfortunately, had one clinician who had to bow out at the last minute, which made the clinic choice a little sparse. I also noticed the show and tell room looked a little empty as well. The board will endeavour to have more clinic choices at the Spring 2018 Mini Meet. We also need member support to bring in their projects to exhibit at the show and tell room. I did receive some comments asking if the room would be secure and that is a point that was not considered during planning. I can understand that some members would be concerned about their hard work getting damaged or stolen so security will be taken into consideration for the next Mini Meet.

I would like to thank Peter Bouma for setting up this year's kit building challenge and handling the ordering logistics. A total of 25 members ordered the Roxbury Roofing kit. Peter has placed the order and will advise members when the kits are ready to be picked up. Use your creativity to build the kit and remember to bring it to the Spring 2018 Mini Meet to exhibit and to receive your refund from the CMRS.

The next event on the CMRS calendar is Slide Night which will be on Friday November 24th at River Park Church, 3818 14A Street SW. Doors open at 7:00pm with the presentation starting at 7:30pm. More details are in this edition of the Orderboard.

*Al Matchett,
President, CMRS*

Layout Tours 2018

We are starting planning for the Layout Tours in February. Please do consider opening your layouts to the rest of our members. This can be at any stage you are at in your project from just beginning and looking for help, to complete and fully operational. The 2018 dates will again be in February and will be North on Saturday the 24th and South Sunday the 25th.

Please due consider this invitation and let me know your intentions as soon as you can so I can make the arrangements. You can contact me at bainspielman@shaw.ca or phone 403-560-1896

*Bain Spielman
Layout Chair, CMRS Board*

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<p>MEMBERSHIPS</p> <p>Calgary Model Railway Society memberships can be purchased or renewed at any of our events or by mail. Cost is \$10 per year, running from July 1 to June 30. Multi-year memberships are also available. Membership forms can be printed from our website.</p> <p>Completed forms and payment can be mailed to:</p> <p>The Calgary Model Railway Society PO Box 8071, Station A Calgary, AB T2H 0H7</p>	<p>ADVERTISING</p> <p>Do you have some Model Railroad related items for sale, or perhaps something rare you want? Consider an ad in the Orderboard. Text ads run twice free of charge for members (provided the ad is relatively small), and a \$15/year charge for business card size commercial ads.</p> <p>Contact the Editor at orderboard@calgarymodelrailway.ca for details.</p> <p>Deadline for the next issue is Jan 25, 2018</p>
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Board of Directors

<p>Al Matchett - Independent President al.m@shaw.ca</p>	<p>Paul Clegg Independent pjclegg4@gmail.com</p>	<p>Jim Ironside - Free-mo Secretary H- 403-254-8116 ironsidejim@gmail.com</p>	<p>Jason Thornhill - Rocky Mountain Garden RR Railfan Events jason@spencrossing.com</p>
<p>Rick Walker - Independent Treasurer walkr@telusplanet.net</p>	<p>Selwyn Morris - Cantrak Membership memberships@calgarymodelrailway.ca</p>	<p>Brookes Harrow - CMT Clinics H - 403-201-4937 bharrow@nucleus.com</p>	<p>Rob Badmington - Independent Slide Night, Parks Canada badmington@shaw.ca</p>
<p>Bain Spielman - Independent Layout Tours, Trains for Kids bainspielman@shaw.ca</p>		<p>Brent Ciccone Bow Valley OrderBoard & Communications H- 403-283-0325 orderboard@calgarymodelrailway.ca</p>	

A Change to Your Membership

The CMRS Board discussed the rising cost of postage and printing and have decided to further encourage members to take the OrderBoard in an electronic format. We do acknowledge that not all our members are comfortable with the computer, so the OrderBoard will still be available in printed form. The change is that you will have to specifically request the printed and mailed copy when you renew your membership, otherwise it will default to electronic delivery. We encourage you to become accustomed to reading documents electronically, it is made much easier if you have an iPad or similar tablet computer. While I can agree that it is nice to read a paper copy, to me it is not worth the added cost. I now take many magazines electronically as it saves me substantially in subscription costs. It won't be too much longer that paper magazines and newspapers will be relegated to the history books, so we had better start getting used to it!

We are now using an email delivery service, MailChimp. Some people may find that the emails are ending up in their spam folder. You can usually fix that by adding orderboard@calgarymodelrailway.ca to your contacts. Note that you will continue to receive a paper copy of the OrderBoard once per year along with SUPERTRAIN posters in advance of SUPERTRAIN.

Brent Ciccone
Editor



Wanted to Buy

Jordan Product/Highway Miniatures plastic automobile kits.

Contact Peter Bouma at freemo54@hotmail.com



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Slide Night 2017 – November 24th

If you enjoy seeing the best in railroad photography, you won't want to miss Slide Night 2017. We have lined up some great presentations, including Highlights from the Peter Cox Collection. Peter, who passed away in 2013, authored the book "Locomotives From London" in 1968. His photos include active steam taken in 1957, all the early diesels, and a few surprises from one of the best Canadian railway photographers.

This will be followed by Roger Walker's Mainline Action in the Thompson Canyon, What Happened to Engine 29? by John Sutherland, Trains in Canada's National Parks by The Brotherhood, and Some Interesting Freight Cars by Tom Newton. Wrapping up the evening, we invite members to share 10 or 15 of their favourite photos in the Potpourri session. Please bring your photos on a memory stick (i.e. thumb drive). Snacks and beverages will be available during the intermission.

All this takes place on Friday, November 24 at the River Park Church, 3818 – 14A St. SW. Doors open at 7:00 pm and the show starts at 7:30. Hope to see you there.

*Rob Badmington
Slide Night Coordinator*



Using Christmas LEDs for Model Railroads

A couple of years ago I was looking for Christmas Lights to replace some of our older light strings. While checking out the selection at the local Rona, I came across some packages of 'micro dot' and white indoor LED lights made by Danson Décor. Looking at them more closely, I came to realize these could easily be adapted for model railroad use. I ended up buying several packages of each to experiment with.

The white indoor set is a string of 20 cool white T1 size LEDs that are battery operated. The LED has a conical indentation that better scatters the light from the LED source. The LED has two long leads connected to wires and is shrink wrapped with clear tubing. For model railroad use, I usually cut the wires off at the lead, remove the clear shrink tubing and then solder on new flexible wire to the leads. I have used these LEDs in building interiors for internal lighting, I would generally add a plastic disk with a central hole sized to match the LED to use a lamp shade and reflector.



The second interesting part of this LED set is the battery power supply. This uses three AA batteries and is current limited in order to drive the LED string. I cut off the LED string, added alligator clips and marked the positive and negative leads. Now I have a great LED tester and power source for portable structures.

The 'micro dot' lights come in a string of 96 LEDs

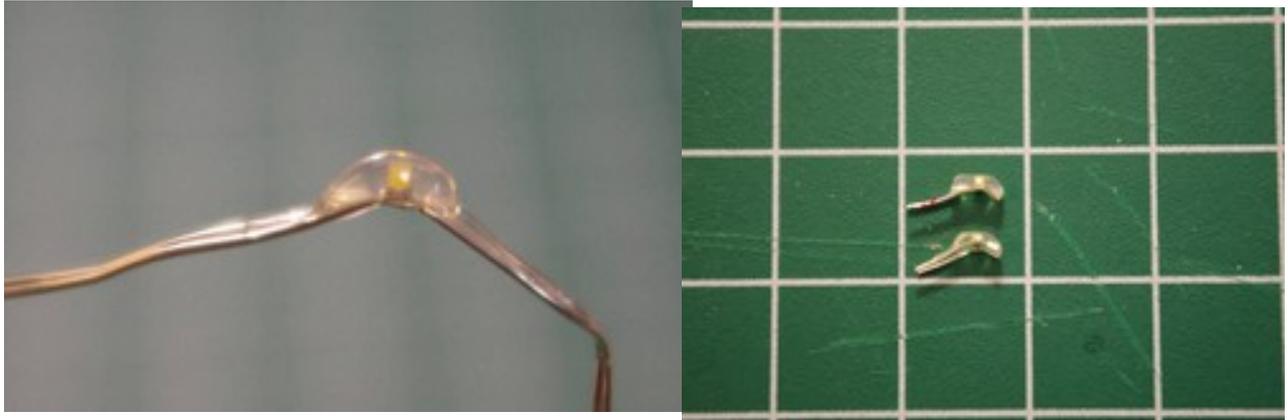
complete with a wall wart transformer and come in warm white and multi color strings. The LED light string is built of small rectangular LEDs encased in a drop of clear plastic all wired in parallel. The LEDs are connected via solid wire with a thin insulation. It is very easy to cut out as many LEDs as you need by clipping the wires between individual LEDs.



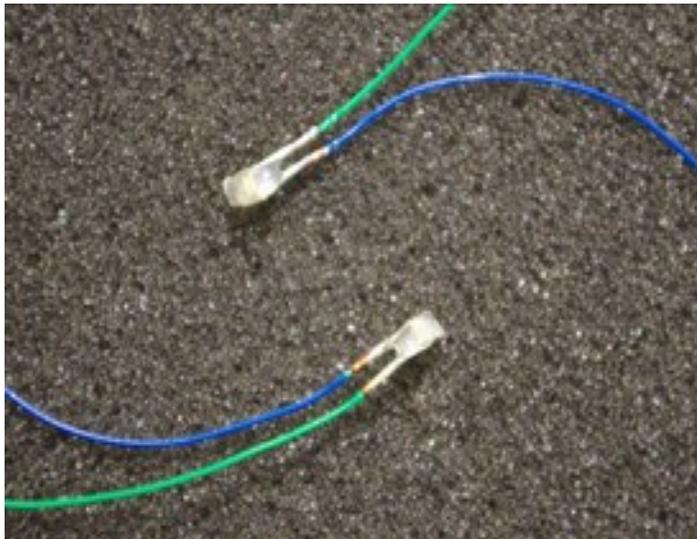
Normally I file the plastic drop flat above the LED to provide a better surface to glue the LED to whatever I happen to be working on. I then cut the leads flush with the plastic drop on one side and short on the other, scrape off the insulation using a knife blade and then solder on very flexible wire to the leads. Make sure to determine the LED polarity using a battery tester so you can get your wire color correct. For locomotive use, I



follow the NMRA specifications and solder on a blue wire to the positive side, and whatever color you need for the negative side. For the front headlight I use a white wire, rear headlight a yellow wire, number boards a green wire, etc.



I have tried to completely remove the plastic drop by cutting and filing but ended up detaching one of the wires from the LED terminal. I did attempt to solder another wire onto the LED terminal but destroyed the LED in the process. It may be possible to isolate a single LED but the effort is probably not worth it.



I am currently working on a sound decoder install for an older Proto 2000 GP60 that will use the 'micro dot' LEDs for headlights and number boards. I intend to write another article detailing the decoder and lighting installation for this locomotive.

I don't remember exactly what I paid for each of these sets but I'm pretty sure it was under \$10 each. Next time you are in your local big box home improvement store, make sure to check out the LED Christmas lights and think about how you can use these for your model railroad needs.



*Al Matchett
President, Calgary Model Railway Society*



Dust to Dust

We live in a very dusty environment, the low humidity, especially in the winter, and windy weather contributes to Calgary being a very dusty place. Rumours are that household dust contains a fair amount of human skin cells, along with hairs and other cells from both the human occupants and pets in the house. All this dust is going to settle, and our concern is that it is going to settle on our models and our layouts. This not only doesn't look good, but it can interfere with the performance of our trains.

What can we do about it? There are a number of approaches, we can try to eliminate the dust (good luck with that!), we can try to control it, and we can clean it up. Eliminating dust sounds great in theory. If you have just won the lottery, maybe you can build a clean room with HEPA filtration and positive air pressure complete with sealed double doors and its own heating and ventilation system. For the rest of us who don't have a spare \$million or so to spend on the train room, there are some things that can be done.

First is to prepare the room, in most cases that means finishing the basement with insulated walls, flooring and especially a finished ceiling. Most of the dust probably comes filtering down through the floor boards from the rooms above, you can actually see the dust coming down if someone is walking around upstairs and you watch from below. So a finished ceiling of some type, either drywall or ceiling tiles should be your first priority. Bare concrete floors can be generators of significant dust depending on the state of the concrete, sometimes the concrete doesn't set up right and you are left with a floor covered in powder that never seems to go away. A coat of paint can help, but some sort of easy to clean flooring is best. I put in cork laminate flooring that I am very happy with, it has the bonus of being warmer on the feet. Finishing the walls is less important from dust control perspective, but it sure makes it more comfortable when you have an insulated basement!

The next step is to design our layouts with dust control in mind. I personally like the look of the "shadow box" or "proscenium" framed layout. By essentially having a "roof" over the layout we keep that dust from settling straight down onto our trains. It also provides a good place to attach lighting, and can result in some useable shelf space above the layout.

Now that we have a lid on it, we also have a place to attach curtains. I have my shelf layout covered by curtains when it is not in use. This not only helps to keep the dust out, it also keeps the cats off the layout! You would think with these measures that dust would be minimal, but you would be wrong, it still gets in somehow! That leads to us having to clean up the dust periodically.



Illustration 1: Shadow Box Design



Illustration 2: Curtains closing off the Layout



Illustration 3: Mini Vacuum attachments

A good vacuuming at least once a year is needed. You can purchase these miniature vacuum accessories at Canada Tire or Home Depot, these are great for vacuuming around the layout. Before you start, you can put a stocking over the hose to catch any little people or other details that you don't want to lose, or you can empty the vacuum bin before you start so that you have less stuff to look through to find that figure!

Simply vacuuming alone is not sufficient, dust really likes to stick, especially to plastic. I have a soft brush, somewhat like a fluffy shaving brush that I use to clean the models, I brush them with the brush in one hand and the vacuum in the other to suck away the dust as I brush.



Illustration 4: Buildings being built on a Diorama Base

I used to glue buildings in place, until I realized that I was going to need to vacuum around them. Now I build all my buildings on a base of 1/4 " hardboard. I build them as mini dioramas with multiple buildings, including the sidewalks, fencing and figures. The bases are put on the layout and the edges can be hidden by the edge of tracks, roads, bushes grass etc. When it comes time for a dusting, I can lift off the entire diorama, take it to the bench and dust it carefully. Then it can be returned to the layout and any edges hidden again with some loose material. While the buildings are off the layout I can then run the vacuum around without worrying about damage.

I can't say that I have conquered my dust problem, but with these measures I am able to keep it somewhat under control.

Brent Ciccone
Editor

Coming Events Schedule

Nov. 4, 2017	EMRA quarterly Open Operating Session, Monashee Pacific Railway, Edmonton - info: Peter Ulvestad ulvestad@telus.net
Nov 24, 2017	Slide Night, Riverpark Church
Feb 24, 25, 2018	CMRS Layout Tours
March 4, 2018	CMRS Spring Mini Meet - Glenmore Inn
March 4, 2018	CMT Flea Market - Glenmore Inn
April 14, 15, 2018	SUPERTRAIN

Send an email to orderboard@calgarymodelrailway.ca with submissions for coming events!
Deadline for the next issue is Jan 25, 2018