



# The Order Board

## Newsletter of The Calgary Model Railway Society



*CPR snow plow train seems to have encountered a lot of snow west of Lake Louise. This is a double ended set up with a plough and Jordan Spreader at each end.*

*Photo by Gord Smith*

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### President's Report

I hope everyone had a great holiday season and that your various model railroad projects are progressing well.

The Salvation Army was very appreciative of our Trains For Kids program this year, with the recent hard times in the city they have seen reduced donations but increased needs. The local hobby stores PM Hobbycraft, Trains and Such, and HobbyTech helped by providing the CMRS with discounts on our purchases for the program. Johnny Sorensen at HobbyTech collected donations at his store for the Trains For Kids program. I would like to thank the three hobby stores and all the members who generously donated to the program for your help, it is greatly appreciated.



***President's Report Continued..***

For those of you who have email accounts, you will have seen a recent SurveyMonkey request from the CMRS show up in your inbox. The objective is to find out what CMRS members think of the organization and hopefully get some input as to what you would to see for future events. As far as I am aware, this is the first ever survey of the members. Once the survey closes at the end of January, I will go through the response data and provide a report in the next Orderboard. I did receive a couple of email responses wondering if this was a legitimate survey, it never occurred to me to send out an announcement that the survey would be conducted ahead of time. I apologize for not providing advance warning of the survey and I appreciate all those who have responded.

For those who purchased the Allie's Ice Cream kit for the building challenge remember that they need to be complete and displayed at the Spring Mini Meet in order to receive your refund from the CMRS. My kit is still in its original packaging sitting on my workbench, so I've got some work to do to get it ready. SUPERTRAIN 2019 is on the weekend of April 13th and 14th. You should have seen a request come your way for volunteers, please ensure you sign up. We always need volunteers to make the show a success, even volunteering for a single shift will help us out.

*Al Matchett,  
President, CMRS*

***A HUGE thank you!***

As mentioned by Al in his President's report, I can't but give a big thank you to the hobby shops that helped us this year with our "Toys for Kids" campaign for Christmas 2018. These local shops responded to our request to purchase train sets at a discount for the less fortunate children in our city. These toys are distributed by the Salvation Army to the families in need of help.

I would like to personally thank Johnny Sorensen from HobbyTech, Don Chehowy from Trains and Such and James Hollinger from PM Hobby for their help in providing the train sets. Without the generous help from these gentlemen we could not have been as successful as we were. Please support these local establishments who in turn support CMRS and the modelers of Calgary and area and most importantly the less fortunate. Thank gentlemen and I look forward to Christmas 2019.

*Bain Spielman  
Toys for Kids*

**FOR SALE**

Two real prototype crossing lights for sale, reflectors, mirrors and bulbs are intact... Comes with wiring diagram... See Picture! 403-931-4801

(Western-Cullen-Hayes)

Garry C. Potter





**MEMBERSHIPS**

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.

Completed forms and payment can be mailed to:

**The Calgary Model Railway Society**  
**PO Box 8071, Station A**  
**Calgary, AB T2H 0H7**

**ADVERTISING**

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.

Contact the Editor at [orderboard@calgarymodelrailway.ca](mailto:orderboard@calgarymodelrailway.ca) for details.

**Deadline for the next issue is Feb 20, 2019**

**Board of Directors**

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<b>Bain Spielman - Independent</b> <b>Layout Tours, Trains for Kids, Railfan Events</b> <a href="mailto:bainspielman@shaw.ca">bainspielman@shaw.ca</a>		<b>Brent Ciccone</b> Bow Valley <b>OrderBoard &amp; Communications</b> H- 403-283-0325 <a href="mailto:orderboard@calgarymodelrailway.ca">orderboard@calgarymodelrailway.ca</a>	

**Slide Night Report**

About 65 CMRS members braved some slippery roads to attend last November's Slide Night. A wide variety of railroading was shown in several formal presentations. These included "A Trip to the End of the World", exploring the tiny narrow gauge railroad at the southern tip of South America; "An Oz Odyssey", showing heavy haul main line railroading Australian style as well as some fascinating sugar cane trains; "New England Railroading in 1965" with many trains around Boston in the pre-Amtrak era; "Trains of Kansas City", a contemporary look at one of the busiest railroad cities in North America, "Swiss Mountain Magic", with colourful trains climbing to the summit of the Alps, and "The Crowsnest Pass", with CPR highlighted in this scenic area only a couple of hours away from Calgary. Many thanks to photographers Selwyn Morris, Rick Walker, Geoff Southwood, Kevin Dunk, John Sutherland, Tom Newton, Gord Smith, and Rob Badmington. In the informal session, B.J. Ersson showed us show very interesting pictures from the early '60s that he took behind the Iron Curtain in East Germany, and Gord Smith had some great photos from his recent travels around western Canada. Also thanks go to Jim Ironside and Rick Walker for their help behind the scenes with technical matters and refreshments.

In case you missed Slide Night, you will have another chance to see the photos. Some of these presentations



will be shown again at the upcoming Spring Mini-meet on March 2. The next Slide Night will be scheduled for early November, so get out there with your camera or go through your old pictures to put together a presentation we will all enjoy.

*Rob Badmington  
Slide Nights*

## **CMRS 25th Anniversary Celebrations**

For many people it seems like only yesterday, but it has been 25 years since the Calgary Model Railway Society was formed in 1994. We have a number of events and activities in the works to celebrate this milestone. More details will follow in future editions of The Orderboard.

The Saturday SUPERTRAIN Gala on April 13 will serve as the first event to honour the founding of our organization. The program will honour members of the original Board of Directors for their foresight and hard work. We are collecting photos and anecdotes of the early years. If you have anything in your collection that you can share, please contact Bain, Greg, or Rob. Tickets for the Gala will be available for only \$35 through your club or by sending an email to [gala@supertrain.ca](mailto:gala@supertrain.ca) to reserve your ticket.

We will also be running a modelling contest for the 25th Anniversary. Build a module of anything railroad related on a square 25 cm x 25 cm (10" Square for those who are metrically challenged) and bring it to the Fall Mini-meet and AGM. The selection of the winning entries will be made by the Meet attendees with a People's Choice ballot. Use your talents and creativity and maybe take home a prize.

*Bain Spielman, Greg Hancock, Rob Badmington  
25th Anniversary Committee*

## **CMT Annual Fleamarket 2019**

This is the first notice for the 2019 CMT Annual Fleamarket. Yes, the event is not until March. But's never too early to start thinking about The Calgary Model Trainmen's Club Annual Fleamarket. Again this year, this event will be held together with the CMRS Spring Mini Meet.

Your TODO checklist-

- 1/ book your table or tables
- 2/ gather your surplus model railroad supplies for sale
- 3/ circle the date on your calendar

The facts:

- Date- Sunday March 3, 2017
- Time- 8:30 am
- Location- Glenmore Inn, corner of Glenmore Trail and Ogden Road

Tables- \$20 for standard 2' X 8' size table

(Half tables can be booked for \$10. We will try to match someone to share the table with you)

Tables always go quickly, so don't miss out. To book a table, please contact me at [bharrow@nucleus.com](mailto:bharrow@nucleus.com) or call 403-201-4937.

*Brookes Harrow  
CMT*



## CMRS Kit Challenge

All the kits for this years kit challenge have been picked up, and hopefully the participants are busy assembling their "Allie's Ice Cream" kit by K.C. Workshop. An extra kit was inadvertently ordered. If you missed out and are interested in participating, send me an email ([freemo54@hotmail.com](mailto:freemo54@hotmail.com)) and I can sell you the kit for \$35. Looking forward to seeing all the completed kits at the spring mini meet.

*Peter Bouma*

 <p>3610 - 50.Ave SE, unit 23 Calgary, AB T2B 3N9 Canada 403-291-9398</p>	  <p>Deciduous leaves in nine colours, from fresh Spring to bright Fall, standard or fine scale, also Branch Netting to enhance your trees. Ph.403-335-2890 <a href="http://selkirkleaf.com/">http://selkirkleaf.com/</a> Email: <a href="mailto:Selkirkleaf1@yahoo.ca">Selkirkleaf1@yahoo.ca</a></p>
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## Calgary Prototype Modellers Meet

The annual Proto Modellers Meet is coming to St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 703 Heritage Drive SW. The Friday evening and Saturday sessions are on March 1 & 2. Admission Covers Both Sessions: Adults: \$10, under 12: Free.

FRIDAY MARCH 1 19:00 – 21:00 Photo Night Participants are invited to bring 10 to 20 digital images or slides around the theme of modelable subjects. This can include locomotives, cars, structures, bridges, scenery or almost anything else. The idea is to inspire someone to build a model.

SATURDAY MARCH 2 09:00 – 16:00 Our goal: To provide a venue to exhibit how models are built to accurately reflect their real world counterparts past or present. Emphasis is placed on sharing information, modeling techniques and most importantly, displaying one's own models.

### CLINICS AND PROTOTYPE PRESENTATIONS RUNNING ALL DAY

10:00 "The Trans Canada Limited Rides Again" – Mike Westren

11:15 "Planning & Building a Prototype Inspired Layout" – Cal Sexsmith

12:15 - 13:00 Lunch Break, Coffee, Soft Drinks and Chips available on site. Pizza will be brought in at \$5.00per person for those who wish to sign up.

13:15 "Some Short Line Operations in Alberta – Pre 1930" - Doug Phillips

14:30 Pending Confirmation

### FREE DRAW TICKETS (LIMIT OF 10) FOR BRINGING YOUR MODELS FOR DISPLAY

For further information and updates, please contact: Dave Audley, 403-275-1869 ([daudley@telusplanet.net](mailto:daudley@telusplanet.net))



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## **Kootenay Express 2019**

All modellers are invited to attend the upcoming NMRA – Pacific Northwest Region Annual Convention to be held in Cranbrook BC. This five day event includes layout and prototype tours, clinics, a train show, model and photography contests, a banquet, and full access to the Canadian Museum of Rail Travel. The convention runs from May 29 through June 2 at the Prestige Hotel. If you are not already a member of the NMRA, for only \$20 you can join through the Rail Pass program, which gives you full access to all NMRA benefits and programs for 6 months.

Cranbrook is only a four and a half hour drive from Calgary through scenic Crowsnest Pass. You can see plenty of CP main line action along the way. Prototype tours are being lined up to visit one of the Teck coal mines in the area and the Sullivan Mine in Kimberly. Guest speaker at the Saturday evening banquet is Jim Cullen, is a life-long railway enthusiast and a part of the Western Canadian railway preservation scene for the past thirty years. He has also served as a director at the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento. His illustrated presentation will focus on the lighter side of railway preservation and will feature some of his railway museum misadventures in Canada and the US, some memorable personalities, and what the future holds for railway preservation.

You still have until January 31 to get in on the early-bird pricing for the convention. Visit the website <https://www.kootenayexpress2019.ca/> to get all the latest information.

<p><b>FOR SALE</b></p> <p>Extensive collection of Hornby 2 and 3 rail items, most in boxes. Complete set of Hornby companion series. Contact Burt Burtwell 403-251-2937</p>
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## **Layout Tours – Feb 9-10**

The CMRS annual layout tours will be held on Saturday, Feb 9<sup>th</sup> for the North side of the city and Sunday, Feb 10<sup>th</sup> for the South side. The layouts are open from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Details are contained in the attachment to the email announcement or as an insert with the paper copy of the OrderBoard. As usual, please respect the hosts homes and layouts, no touching of anything and ask if photos are OK. Please do not share the information with anyone who is not a member of CMRS.

*Bain Spielman*



## Photos from Lethbridge

Those of us who went on the bus trip to Lethbridge will remember Bill Smienk's fine layout. He has sent us some photos of his latest work. Here is Bill's description:

I am including a few pictures of the latest addition to my layout (CPR Strathcona Division) The scene depicts the addition of Oatman's mercantile to the layout. It is a Fine Scale Miniatures kit but has several modifications including a fully detailed and lit store interior and gas pump island including scratch built light above the island. There is still a small amount of foreground scenery to complete but the residents are pleased to be able to purchase items at their local store.



## DCC++, How to Build your Own DCC System

Further to the article about the Arduino in the last OrderBoard, I would like to present some information about building your own DCC system using an Arduino and a supplementary Arduino Board, called a shield. A really smart guy by the name of Gregg Berman came up with the idea of using an Arduino Uno in combination with an Arduino motor shield to generate the DCC signal. These components in combination with JMRI running on a computer gives a fully functional DCC system good for up to 2 amps for a cost of around \$50. This can be extended by adding boosters for more power, also others have written code that allows you to build your own throttles. I demonstrated such a system in a clinic at last years mini-meet.

The basic system uses the Arduino to generate the required signal timing, but the Arduino can only generate one half of the signal, in a brilliant move Gregg figured out that he could use a motor shield to not only amplified the signal up to the required current and voltage levels, but also by reversing the signal generate the other half of the DCC square wave. He produced a series of YouTube videos explaining how the system works:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-nsVdpMhiTU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r4rfmdKGXww>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yUIKV601th0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2JAl5caFFh4>



You don't have to understand the programming to build the system, all you need is an Arduino Uno, and an Arduino motor shield, some sort of power supply and a computer running JMRI. The program is available from GitHub, a repository for code: <https://github.com/DccPlusPlus/BaseStation>

The only "wiring" required is pretty simple, there are a couple of traces on the motor shield that need to be cut, two jumper wires need to be added to the shield and a power supply and track connections need to be added. For the power supply, any old wall wart type that is capable of a couple of amps at 15-18 volts will do, an old laptop computer charger works well.

Once wired up you need to load the DCC++ or one of its variants onto the Arduino, connect it up to JMRI and you can run trains. It also includes connections for a programming track so that you can program decoders as well.

More information can be found on the Trainboard forums <http://www.trainboard.com/highball/index.php?threads/introducing-dcc-a-complete-open-source-dcc-station-and-interface.84800/> and on the DCC++ Wiki [https://dccwiki.com/DCC\\_Plus\\_Plus](https://dccwiki.com/DCC_Plus_Plus) or by searching for DCC++ or DCC plusplus on Google. Since the original was introduced about 4 years ago, there have been many variations of the code with different features added. A popular way to utilize this system is to combine it with a Raspberry PI computer running JMRI. This can be configured to run "headless", meaning no screen or keyboard, it automatically boots up into JMRI when powered on and you can connect to it using your cell phone running the WIThrottle or Engine Driver apps on your phone. Steve Todd has provided an image that can be downloaded onto an SD card and put into the Raspberry PI with everything configured and ready to go. <https://mstevetodd.com/rpi>

All of the necessary bits and pieces can be obtained from Amazon, Ebay and other sources online. B&E electronics and Solarbotics/ActiveTech in Calgary may also have most of the parts, although at a higher cost than direct from China. If cost has kept you from converting to DCC, this is an economical route for the conversion.

### **Coming Events Schedule**

<b>February 9, 10, 2019</b>	<b>CMRS Layout Tours, Saturday Northside, Sunday Southside</b>
Feb. 23, 24, 2019	All Aboard 2019 – Saskatoon Model Train Show
March 2, 2019	Prototype Modellers Meet
<b>March 3, 2019</b>	<b>CMT Flea Market</b>
<b>March 3, 2019</b>	<b>CMRS Spring Mini Meet</b>
March 23, 24, 2019	Moose Jaw Thunder Creek Model Train Show
<b>April 13, 14, 2019</b>	<b>SUPERTRAIN 2019</b>
May 29 - June 2, 2019	THE KOOTENAY EXPRESS 2019, hosted by the 6th and 7th Divisions of the PNR in Cranbrook, B.C.

Send an email to [orderboard@calgarymodelrailway.ca](mailto:orderboard@calgarymodelrailway.ca) with submissions for coming events!  
*Deadline for the next issue is Feb 20, 2019*