

# ORDER BOARD

The Official Newsletter of the  
**CALGARY**  
**MODEL RAILWAY SOCIETY**

The Communication Medium For Railway Enthusiasts

December 1999

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### Internet Addresses

CMRS Homepage Address - [members.home.net/acocker/cmrs.html](http://members.home.net/acocker/cmrs.html)

Order Board Newsletter Address - [members.home.net/willie.smith/order.html](http://members.home.net/willie.smith/order.html)

Editor Willie G. Smith  
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## President's Message

Greetings fellow modelers. Happy holidays to you all. It is shaping up to be another great year. Both slide night and the Mini meets were great successes. It was good to see and talk to many of you there. We have filled our last board position with an independent, Ralph Hopper, and I welcome him aboard.

In the next few weeks we will see a lot of modeling with a Boat building clinic, a Modeling seminar day, and of course Supertrain. It must be said again that this is a volunteer run show and therefore we need as many as possible to help with Supertrain. Even if you have only a few hours we can find you a job, trust me.

As of the Slide night it was voted on to add a permanent Board member from the Rocky Mountain Garden Railway Club. This will add another Director to help us run this club of ours. This director does not start until next September.

At the last couple events some members have approached me and given suggestions on how to run this club. I want to say that I enjoy this input and one of the results was the Boat clinic coming up in the New Year. Any more ideas please get them to me or any other board member as we are always looking for new ideas or approaches.

Once again enjoy the Holidays and see you in the next century.

**Rob Mills**

The annual MINI MEET that was held on October 30 was a great success!! We had lots of people attend. In fact we had 54 walk ins.

We had nine individuals and groups that brought in equipment for the 'Bring & Brag'. I overheard a few comments about how great it was to see all the different models and dioramas. So hats off to all you who brought something. The following brought models for all of us to admire: Mike Herrfurth, Al Pierce, Doug Baker, Pete Oakley, John Twelftree, Mort Spelman, Rolf Stengl, Rick McPhee, Rocky Mountain Garden RR

All clinics were very well attended. In fact a lot people told me the clinics rooms could have been bigger. I would like to thank all the people that gave clinics (volunteers): Chris Mitchell, Al Love, Dave Stefanek, John Wrinch, Shawn Teierle, Gord Johnson

Finally, I would like to thank the volunteers that help set up and run the show. Before I mention their names, I want to say thank you to the ones that I missed. Morris Despin, Dave Stefanek, Peter Berghs, Russ Pinchbeck, Vince Wehnes and Bruce B.

Without volunteers we wouldn't have had a show!

**Marshall**

## Notes from the Sandhouse

By Peter Berghs

Hello, my name is Peter Berghs and I am the new CMRS Publicity/Order Board Director. As such I'll try to write a small column full of miscellaneous bits and pieces that, if all goes well, will inform and entertain. I'll warn you right up front that I'm not much of a writer and I'll need some help along the way. So, if you have any articles, tips, ideas, and/or news items please send them in. Also, if you have any suggestions or comments regarding the newsletter please feel free to e-mail me at [pberghs@home](mailto:pberghs@home) or phone 234-0165.

### Anyway on with the bits and pieces

1: On behalf of the membership I would like to thank Barry Conn, and Willie Smith for the time and effort they put into the Order-Boards last year. I'm pleased to report that Barry will continue to provide informative articles regarding DCC and that Willie will still cut, paste and edit each and every issue. Great job guys!

2: The Internet is definitely here to stay and the CMRS web page at <http://members.home.net/acocker/cmrs.html> is our space on the web. If you haven't checked out the site please do; it has photos of various layouts and clubs around town, information about upcoming events, and links to other interesting sites. Webmaster Andrew Cocker keeps it running smoothly and should be commended for doing a great job. We hope to add more photos and information to the site as the year progresses. Again, comments, suggestions, and contributions are welcome.

3: In addition to the Order Board newsletter and the Web-Site another way CMRS members can keep informed of local model railroading or railfan events is by subscribing to our new e-list service  
[CMRSnet@onelist.com](mailto:CMRSnet@onelist.com)

E-mails sent to the list address are redistributed almost instantly to all of the other subscribers on the list. If you have a question about something post it to the list, other subscribers probably have the answers. If you want to sell off some surplus equipment post a for sale message, If you see or find out about a potentially interesting trackside occurrence post it to the list. If your club is having an open house post an announcement.

To subscribe go to [www.onelist.com](http://www.onelist.com). Search for CMRSnet, click subscribe, then follow the instructions for registering onto the system. Or try this link: <http://www.onelist.com/search?q=cmrsnet>  
Signing on this way allows full access to the shared files, announcements, and archives.

Another way to subscribe is to send an email to [CMRSnet-subscribe@onelist.com](mailto:CMRSnet-subscribe@onelist.com)

To unsubscribe send an e-mail to [CMRSnet-unsubscribe@onelist.com](mailto:CMRSnet-unsubscribe@onelist.com)

Please note that shared file access may be a problem if you sign on this way.

For more info contact me at [pberghs@home.com](mailto:pberghs@home.com) or check out the CMRS web-site.

Well that's it for this issue, For the next issue I hope to have some useful modeling tips and tool info for you.

**Peter Berghs**

**Extras** *From Peter Berghs*

- 1, Membership cards are not being mailed out this year but they are available for pick-up at each event. Sorry for the inconvenience.
- 2, Planning for the Member's Appreciation Night event is well under way. The party will be held at the Glenmore Inn on March 25. There will be dining, entertainment, and a cash bar. Tickets will be \$10.00 per couple.
- 3, Ralph Hopper has joined the Board as an Independent director. He will assume the task of Recording Secretary from Dave Stefanek who has been doing triple duty as Treasurer, Secretary, and VP fill-in. Dave will continue to look after the accounts and take on the VP's job full time.
- 4, Congratulations to Bob Hadlow for getting a photograph published in Trains magazine. I hope to see more of his photographs in upcoming issues, good going Bob.

**DCC Hints and Tips**  
by Barry Conn

**Wiring your layout**

As a general rule of thumb, if your layout runs fine on straight DC, then it will likely run just fine on DCC. However, there are a few facts you should be aware of when wiring your layout for DC or DCC.

Running a DCC system allows you to run a lot more trains on your layout at the same time, resulting in more current being carried through your wiring. A typical DC power pack will put out .5 to 1.5 amps while a typical DCC booster (Digitrax) will put out 5 amps. To ensure that your wiring will handle the increased demands of a DCC layout, it is a good idea to use large gauge wire (#12, or #14) running from the booster the length of the layout. Use smaller wire (#18, #20) as feeders from here to the track. Nickel silver track is not a very efficient conductor of electricity as 3 feet of track has almost the same resistance as 100 feet of copper wire, so make track connections every 3 to 10 feet.

You can test your wiring by shorting out the track with a coin or other metallic object, at various distances from the booster. If the booster does not shut down almost instantly, at all locations, then your wiring is not adequate and you need to beef it up.

**Barry**

# Calgary Model Railway Society

## Model Railroad Events Schedule

Watch this space for schedule additions/changes

Updated December, 1999

- January 15, 2000**    **Boat Building Workshop** – See Page 9 for further details  
Or contact Dale Sproule    E-Mail [g.d@home.com](mailto:g.d@home.com)
- February 12,13**    **CMRS SUPERTRAIN 2000**, Model Railroad Exhibition and Sale  
Big 4 Building – Stampede Grounds  
Chairman Al Peirce – 278-6786
- April 21 – 23, 2000**    **SHUSWAP Rails 2000** – Model Railroad Spring Meet  
Salmon Arm, B.C. Community Center  
Layouts, Clinics, Contests, Swap Tables, Commercial Booths  
Friday 12:00 Noon – 4:00 PM  
Saturday 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM  
Information – Call Gary Hazell (250)-835-8628 Fax (250)-835-8521  
E-Mail – [comhaven@shuswap.net](mailto:comhaven@shuswap.net)  
Also Check the Order Board Web Page for More Information
- June 3, 2000**    Canadian Rockies Model Railroad Group – Presents the Spirals Conference  
Feature speaker will be John Gradek, CP motive power chief, and the  
Feature slide presenter will be Doug Phillips.  
Conference starts at 9 p.m. on Saturday, June 3, 2000  
Field Town Hall, Field, BC.  
For more information, contact  
Dave Chornell at 780-486-0234  
E-Mail [dave@spirals.org](mailto:dave@spirals.org)

Memberships are available in the Calgary Model Railway Society

Annual Fees \$10:00

Contact Vince Wehnes – 236-7986

E-Mail [ironhorse@cadvision.com](mailto:ironhorse@cadvision.com)

## From the Internet

Author Unknown  
Railroad Humour

**SWITCHMAN** - A man dedicated to doing less today than what he did yesterday. Looks his best when standing in the rain. Some of these men, after years of training, can spot a returnable bottle at 75 car lengths if the light is good. Can also carry three times his body weight in copper, brass, or grain -- depending on the season.

**HEAD BRAKEMAN** - A new man who does all his thinking with his feet. Target of criticism for the rest of the crew. He can generally add short columns of single digits if not rushed.

**REAR BRAKEMAN** - The conductor's stooge; a lazy fellow of average ignorance who bosses the head brakeman, tries to act like an old head while silently contemplating on how he would do the work were he the conductor.

**CONDUCTOR** - A grouchy individual, void of soul, with a big head and flat feet. Continually advising rear brakeman as to how to court women and run engines.

**FIREMAN** - A mental midget with a pointed head, hero worshipper of the engineer. He is usually found talking to a beanery queen or trying to figure his time. Also coaches student brakemen.

**ENGINEER** - A marked success story, an authority on government and financial matters. Can usually write his own name. Has a burning envy of roadforeman; spends most of his time at the water tank taking slack or oiling around.

**CALLER** - An absolutely friendless character who takes fiendish delight in making calls too short when you want to eat and too long when you want to sleep. Passes the buck and sheds crocodile tears for the raw-hided crew. Apathetic soul when time slipped.

**DISPATCHER** - Dot-dash expert wired for sound. Tonnage hog and side track artist. A see all, knows nothing, poor guesser whose hobby is delaying trains.

**ROAD FOREMAN** - A rare blend of talent and tact. A job taken by those engineers with a marked inability to handle switch engines. Usually promoted at insistence of customers to prevent further damage to their goods.

**ASST. SUPERINTENDENT** - Typewriter expert greatly impressed by his own importance. Loves to make tests and instruct students. Chief qualifications: learn to smoke cigars and look intelligent.

**SUPERINTENDENT** - A brakeman or switchman who couldn't add short columns of single digits, abhorred criticism; couldn't act like an old head because he didn't know how to do the work. Chief qualification; has a name with a nice ring to it to go on the timetable.

Willie

## Backdrop Painting Classes a Big Hit

By Willie Smith

On November 7 and 28, 1999, classes were conducted in the art of Model Railroad Backdrop painting. The Classes were held at Swinton's Art Supplies under the guidance of Nancy lynne Hughes, a professional artist. Both classes were extremely well attended, with at least two people being turned away for lack of space.

I attended as assistant at both classes and noted an overall appreciation for the quality of instruction and professional presentation. Many of the participants went away very excited about their new knowledge and abilities. At least four of the attendees immediately purchased supplies to take home and get Started.

### Comment :

Hi Nancy, Thanks very much for putting on the backdrop clinic yesterday. It was extremely useful and I learned a lot of new stuff. I hope you will consider putting on a more advanced clinic sometime in the near future. For example, how to put a bit more detail into the paintings, like grasses, distant trees, actually painting the face of a mountain, etc.

Brian Keay

One participant (no names) even wanted to take home the 2 x 4 foot demonstration pieces done by the instructor, to hang on his wall.

One other fellow even paid for his sister and niece to attend and learn about painting backdrops For Him. I have spoken to the two ladies, 'Connie Ductor' and 'Kay Buce', and I believe he has created a couple of backdrop fanatics. Good Luck Greg.

Most of the comments in the evaluation questionnaire concerned the length of the class. It seems five hours was not enough.

A lot of the comments concerned an advanced class to paint detailed trees and other scenery. Well, Nancy is booked until late spring, but if enough people show interest, I am sure we can get her to do another series. Let me know by dropping an E-Mail, either to her or me at [willie.smith@home.com](mailto:willie.smith@home.com)  
If you have internet access, and wish to ask questions, you can reach Nancy at [nlhughes@home.com](mailto:nlhughes@home.com)

Willie Smith

### Pacific Western Rail Systems

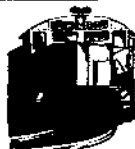
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# ***SUPERTRAIN 2000***

## **Model Railway**

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**9:00 am - 5:00 pm**

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\$1.00 off your admission!**



## Boat Building Workshop

CMRS is presenting our 2<sup>nd</sup> series of Boat Building Workshops. These will again be held under the leadership of Gord Johnson. The first project was a waterline model of a 50 foot fishing trawler, the idea was well accepted, participants had a great time and wanted to have another session.....well here it is!

The second vessel will be a longer version of the first, a 80-90 foot sardine carrier or trawler allowing the modeler several options of where to place his cabin and cargo hatches. You may want several hatches, maybe just a couple but with a bigger cabin or the wheelhouse behind the cabin ....it's entirely up to you. Gord will be introducing some modelers to new materials to use on this project-very thin plywood!


The same format will be followed. Participants meet the first night, receive plans and parts to be used in construction of the project, learn the definition of terms, and discuss work that needs be completed before we meet again. Following this first evening, you work at your own speed in order to have work completed up to a designated point by the second time. We then gather with your model for work and discussion, then you are on your own until we meet for the third and final time.

I need a headcount before January 15, 2000 allowing time to organize parts, plans, etc. Cost will be \$20.00 per person (payable the first night) which covers materials, refreshments. Time is also needed to convert plans into different scale drawings as needed. CMRS subsidizes this project by renting facilities. Again, we meet three times, schedules yet to be planned. We will not be meeting on Wednesday evenings!

Plan to participate by building a boat in the scale of your choice. Interested persons please contact me with name, address, phone number and scale in which you choose to make a model for.

**Dale Sproule**  
**275-5852**

**e-mail address: g.d@home.com**




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President - Rob Mills  
Independent 936-2093  
E-Mail [millsrs@cadvision.com](mailto:millsrs@cadvision.com)

Vice President/Treasurer - Dave Stefanek  
Cantrak - 279-4886

Secretary - Ralph Hopper  
Independent 266-0122  
E-Mail [ralph.hopper@home.com](mailto:ralph.hopper@home.com)

Membership- Vince Wehnes  
Thursday Night Group 236-7986  
E-Mail [ironhorse@cadvision.com](mailto:ironhorse@cadvision.com)

Supertrain- Barry Conn  
Independent 251-9334  
E-Mail [barry.conn@home.com](mailto:barry.conn@home.com)

Special Events - Peter Moon  
Cal-O-Rail 288-3754  
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Events- Bill Cameron  
Independent 269-9898  
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Publicity/Order Board - Peter Berghs  
CMT 234-0165  
E-Mail [pberghs@home.com](mailto:pberghs@home.com)

General Events - Don McLeod  
Bow Valley 284-1498

*Individual Directors have separate responsibilities.  
Please contact the appropriate Director for  
information on the Area you want to know about.*

For Commercial Advertisers, please contact the  
Publicity/OrderBoard Director for rates and approval prior to submitting Ads to the Editor.

## Mailing Address

Calgary Model Railway Society  
Box 63033, 2604 Kensington Road N.W.  
Calgary, AB T2N 4S5

## Web Pages

Order Board Newsletter Address: <http://members.home.net/willie.smith/order.html>  
CMRS Homepage Address: <http://members.home.net/acocker/cmrs.html>

## Classified Advertising

Do you have some model railroad related items you would like to sell. If so, consider putting an ad in the Order Board. Ads will be free for members (assuming they are small and don't take more than a few inches of space).

Commercial ads (business card size) are also accepted for a setup fee of \$10.00. A good selection of Computer Clip Art (Railroad Related) is available to spice up your Ad.

E-Mail [willie.smith@home.com](mailto:willie.smith@home.com)

The Order Board