



ORDER BOARD

The Official Newsletter of the
CALGARY
MODEL RAILWAY SOCIETY

The Communication Medium For Railway Enthusiasts

April 2000
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Internet Addresses

CMRS Homepage Address - members.home.net/acrocker/cmrs.html
Order Board Newsletter Address - members.home.net/willie.smith/order.html

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President's Message

Greeting Fellow Modelers

Coming into the home stretch of this year's modeling for most (except for us G scalers !) sees the calendar still full of things to attend. We are going to have a picnic/outdoor social this year as well the layout tours are still going strong. With that in mind I want to remind you now that Bow Valley, Cal-O-Rail, Rocky Mtn. Garden, and 2 independent Board members must be elected this September. It is not too early to think about that. If you are interested please contact any Board member and we will fill you in on what is expected. Maybe you could even attend a meeting to get a good picture of the CMRS business.

I am sorry that I was unable to attend the Members night but I was out of town that weekend. I am sure it was a good time for all. Thanks to Peter and Bob for running that this year.

Not much else to say except that I hope this snow goes away so I can start laying track!

Talk to you next issue.

Rob Mills
President

Notes from the Sandhouse

1: The Town of High River is looking for a CMRS volunteer to assist them with a show planned for September 8. They are looking for a liason person to provide contacts and suggestions for Railroad and Model railroad related exhibits or displays. For more info contact P. Berghs @ 234-0165

2: Heritage Park is holding it's annual Railroad Days Event June 10th and 11th.

3: Planning is under way for a CMRS Week-end Railfan trip to Wainwright to tour the Railroad Museum, CFB Wainwright, and chase trains on the CN mainline. More details will be posted in the next Order-board.

4: Unfortunately the boat building work-shops have been canceled until further notice.

5: We are currently calling for nominations to fill several Board positions that will be vacated at the end off this term. Contact Vince Wehnes @ 236-7986 for details.

6: The last two issues of the Order-Board have been mailed out using a Canada Post Publications number rather than postage stamps. Some members have indicted that they are not getting prompt delivery. We are concerned about this problem and would like to know if it happens to most members or just a few. Therefore I am asking for feedback. This issue will be mailed out on April 19. If you receive your copy later than May 1 please let me know via e-mail pberghs@home.com or by phone @ 234-0165.

7: Due to the inclusion of the Member survey with this issue the Membership list will not be sent out until the next Order-Board.

8: Our Web-site has changed locations! The new Address is:

<http://www.calgary.modelrailway.org>

If you have any photographs, items of interest, or suggestions please contact Vince Wehnes, ironhorse@cadvision.com.

By Peter Berghs
Watch for More Notes Throughout this Issue

HERITAGE PARK RAILWAY DAYS No.14

CALGARY, ALBERTA June 10/11, 2000

Not one, but three rail spikes driven home in nineteen, yes one nine, seconds; wow! This was the best time recorded, by a Canadian Pacific track gang team member, in last year's Spike Driving Contest at RAILWAY DAYS.

Year 2000 and we get to do it all again, for the fourteenth consecutive year. Now that the again highly successful SUPERTRAIN show is behind us, the time is upon us to get down to the details for RAILWAY DAYS. As usual, more volunteers are being recruited, press-ganged, whatever.

If you are not familiar with Calgary's Heritage Park Historical Village, the following brief description may whet your appetite. A large group of local buildings have been collected to form a pre-1915 Rocky Mountain foothills town. Situated on the edge of Glenmore Lake, the Park enjoys a wonderfully scenic location. A captive circuit of about a mile of standard gauge track provides a remarkable and somewhat unique opportunity to interpret the railway in context. While a steam train does operate throughout the season, RAILWAY DAYS provides an opportunity once a year to target and showcase the important railway collection.

Two steam locomotives, both 0-6-0 1940's vintage wartime issue, numbered 2023, 2024, provide the motive power, usually only one in service at a time. Three different, classic Canadian Pacific stations are located along the circuit, and for RAILWAY DAYS full telegraph service is offered. Passenger train service, occasional freight, speeder rides, operating turntable demonstrations, are among the many attractions for this weekend event. Displays from railway clocks and watches, other museums, through to operating model railways combine to make this an activity filled time. Authentic replica Calgary Municipal streetcars ply a tortuous track from the parking areas to the main entrance.

After heavy boiler and firebox repair, No.2024 is expected to be running again in time for the event. Last year this locomotive had to sit out the weekend as an interpretive exhibit in the backshop. This year anticipates the resumption of doubleheading with the two live 0-6-0's. Relatively small as these engines may be, they still provide a stirring spectacle.

Each year the Heritage Park Railway Days Committee puts out the call for more volunteers. Safety as always is the paramount concern, regardless of anything else that may or may not happen. With two trains running, the frequency of equipment movements rises sharply. Visitors often forget or are simply unaware that another train may be following close behind. Thus it is essential that crossing patrols and other crowd marshaling measures are taken and faithfully carried out. The event cannot afford a preventable accident. Also, the interpretive program expands every year, sometimes ever so slightly, but nonetheless the progress is there. If you have a desire to help in this area, let's hear from you. Interpreters on the streetcars for RAILWAY DAYS was a popular addition a few years back; water demonstrations, backshop, car shop and station areas can all benefit from help.

If you have been involved previously, you can expect to be approached again. If not, or the call goes astray, please contact HPRD Volunteer Coordinator Don Marchant, himself a volunteer of course, through Heritage Park Historical Village by phone (403) 259-1900, fax (403) 252-3528, or by mail at 1900 Heritage Drive SW, Calgary, Alberta T2V 2X3.

See you all at RAILWAY DAYS 2000!

DCC Hints and Tips by Barry Conn

Question: I have a MRC (or Lenz, etc) decoder that only works in 14 or 28-speed steps and I know that my Digitrax system has 128 speed steps. Is my Digitrax system compatible with these decoders?

The answer is yes. Your Digitrax system will send signals in 14, 28 or 128 speed steps. However, as the default setting for Digitrax decoders is 128, you will have to tell the command station that you want to send the signal to your MRC decoder in 14 or 28 speed steps.

(Each type of speed step is like a different language, so you will have to ensure that your command station is talking to the decoder in the same language. The command station can talk to individual decoders on your layout in the language they understand, but the command station has to know what language to send the instructions in first.)

In order to tell the command station which language to send the instructions in, you "status edit" the decoder. On your DT100 throttle, select the loco that has the MRC decoder (left display will now be flashing with the loco number). Once you have it selected, push the function button. Now the right hand display will also be flashing. With the right throttle knob change the display to "10" for 28 step, or "12" for 14 step. Now hit the SEL button and you are finished. When you run a loco in 14 speed steps you will notice that the throttle speed increments is units of "6". When in 28 speed steps it will increment in units of "3".

For a more complete description of status editing a decoder, see your Digitrax manual.

If you have questions please email them to me at dispatcher@home.com. I will try to answer some of the questions in this column.

Barry

FOR SALE

I'm down-sizing my HO layout, so I have a large number of model train items to sell @ good prices. The collection consists of locomotive power both custom painted brass and RTR plastic including Kato and Proto 2000, rolling stock, structure kits, automobiles, electronics, figures, scenery material, detail parts, Fleischmann turntable, 30 framed railroad posters and prints, and Model Railroader magazines 1960 - 1995 inclusive.

Call Rolly Donareshen @ (H) 289-6843 or (O) 269-8110

WANTED

I am a member of the CMRS. I have been looking, unsuccessfully for back issues of Mainline Modeler magazine. From 1996 to present. Alberta libraries do not carry this. If anyone has old issues that they would like to sell I would gratefully buy them. Would it be possible to put a note in the next newsletter in regards to this.

Phone 251-7769. Thank you Joyce Walker

Calgary Model Railway Society

Model Railroad Events Schedule

Watch this space for schedule additions/changes

Updated April 2000

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 – Gary Hazell (250)-835-8628 Fax (250)-835-8521 E-Mail – 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

Memberships are available in the Calgary Model Railway Society

Annual Fees \$10:00

Contact Vince Wehnes – 236-7986

E-Mail ironhorse@cadvision.com

CAL - O - RAIL in 2000

The CAL-O-Rail Group are progressing favorably with their new layout at the Scout Hall located at 22001 18th Avenue SW and hope soon to have regular operating session to which fellow modelers will be invited.

The layout includes our Stoney Creek and suspension bridges from the old layout and a new lift bridge with gauntlet track, which has just been installed in the last week.

The backdrops and scenery are well under way, the new dispatch panel with an upgraded system is being de-bugged and assembly of switches is well along towards completion.

New switching yards and a dock scene with a travelling overhead crane, which will be fully operational, are some of the additional features.

When we are ready to operate trains we will let you know, meanwhile you can visit us any Tuesday evening 7 pm to 9 pm or any Saturday from 1 am to 3 pm.

John Simpson (Treasurer)

It's time for the CMRS layout tours 2000

By Ralph Hopper

... an update

We have had several great tours so far. I know both from my own experience as well as from the comments that other tour attendees have made that we have not only seen really great layouts but we have gathered up lots of ideas that will make their way onto our own layouts. From wonderfully accurate scratch-built buildings and terrific scenery to amazing model railroad empires, every layout that has been on tour so far has provided new ideas and new challenges for attendees. It is obvious that we have talented and dedicated modelers in the CMRS and it is gratifying that others can get a chance to see what is being created in many basements in Calgary.

If you haven't contacted me to sign up for a tour, PLEASE take advantage of this opportunity. Here is an update of the layout tours that remain on the list with one additional tour on May 2. Check out the descriptions below and identify which tour numbers you are interested in at the end of the listing.

And, yes, there are spaces available. Contact me ASAP.

For those who would like to view the layouts here is what you do:

please respond to me by mail:

CMRS, PO Box 63033, 2604 Kensington Rd NW

Calgary, T2N 4S5

email: ralph.hopper@home.com

or phone: 217-3335

Clearly list the layout tours that you would like to view (see the list at the end of the layout descriptions for a number) and give your name and phone number (and email).

I will contact you to confirm your participation and provide you with the information you will need to attend.

Based on the number of members who respond, and due to space limitations at some layouts, the number of people who can view a layout at any one time may have to be limited. The quicker that you respond, the better your chance of seeing the layouts that you want to see. There will be a waiting list of those that cannot initially be accommodated and if there are any cancellations, people on the waiting list will be contacted. For the benefit of both the host and those on the waiting list, I request that anyone who cannot make it to a scheduled tour, call me as far in advance as possible so that I can arrange for another member to attend. Please have consideration for other in this.

Following are the remaining tour dates and descriptions:

Layout Tours

April 15, Saturday afternoon 1pm:

Alan Crance - models the German Federal Railway system as it existed in the early 90's, just prior to privatization. The geographical area of interest is the river valley where the Mosel flows into the Rhine. The layout is over 350 sq. ft. and has approximately 150 feet of double track main line. Scenery is well under way, but not yet completed. The layout features lots of passenger as well as freight traffic. He uses Selnatrix command control and has route control through the main station area.

April 15, Saturday afternoon 2pm:

Carl Van Veen - Concept Chicago RR - As the name implies, actual junctions and places in Chicago are used as modeling inspiration. Follow freight transfers on the multi-track mainline of the Indiana Harbor Belt. Watch trains pass through railroad hot spots like Dolton Jct. La Grange Crossing, Blue Island and many others. Time has been frozen in the late 80's with hundreds of freight cars employed in transfer and mainline service. This fully operational layout has partially completed scenery and has lots of double tracked mainline which runs around the walls of his 16x33 foot basement.

April 16, Sunday afternoon 1pm:

Brian A. Keay - The Wolverine Lynx RR (W/LX) is a 35' x 37' HO scale modern layout with a minimum radius of 30". The main line is 5 scale miles in length with two hidden staging yards. Trains start at Lynx City, move to Lazo Cerrado (means loop back in Spanish) in the prairie/desert area, and cross a 1044' viaduct into Eagle Cove, which is in the foothills region. Trains depart Eagle Cove climbing up through Keay Pass (60" above the floor) in the mountains and then descend a 1.8% continuous grade through two spiral tunnels into Wolverine Falls (42" above the floor). Eastbound trains require helpers to get over the pass.

The WLX railroad is operated as a link railway (like Montana Rail Link) in which CP, BN, SF, BNSF, UP and SP trains move from one hidden yard to another (6 tracks each). The main yard at Lynx City has 4 receiving tracks and can hold 110 x 50' cars. Passing sidings are 1400' in length (2 engines plus 20 x 50' cars). Scenery has been started in Lynx City. Some buildings have been added to the layout. There is an automatic operating road crossing with gates and lights in Lynx City that protects 3 tracks. The intermodal yard is approximately 1130' scale feet in length (13' real feet) complete with a dock. A 1174' modern ballasted viaduct spans the city. The majority of rail cars are weathered as are the engines and buildings. Digitrax (radio control) is used to operate the layout. The CPR main line to Vancouver passes by the back yard. Come and see the models and the real stuff.

(Continued)

Pacific Western Rail Systems

Canadian Address: 16015 - 10 Ave., Surrey, B.C. Canada V4A-2J4
American Address: po Box 8110-368 - 250 31 Street
Blaine, Washington 98230

Tel: (604) 531-9481 Fax: (604) 535-7691
E-Mail: info@pwrs.pwco.com

Web Site: <http://www.pwrs.pwco.com>
offering 6 pack, Special Run, sets of Canadian Train Cars.



E-mail: dispatcher@home.com

The DISPATCHER

Specializing in Digital Command Control

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discount prices on:

(403) 251-9334

213 Oakchurch Bay SW

Calgary, AB T2V 4B6

Digitrax Atlas

Roco Kato

Soundtraxx Proto 2000

Web page: <http://members.home.net/ dispatcher>

Layout Tours Continued

April 24, Monday, 10am and 1pm

April 26, Wednesday, 10am and 1pm

Elmer Holm's HO layout covers the region from Regina to Vancouver. He runs early CP diesels and models the early 1950's era on the 25 foot by 30 foot layout. He has a lot of buildings constructed from a variety of kits and models both city scenes (Calgary downtown) as well as the mountains and foothills around Golden, Revelstoke and Vancouver. He estimates that his scenery is about 85% complete at this stage. The layout has a lot of hidden staging tracks using remote sensing and automatic switching of reverse loops. During operating

sessions, the dispatcher monitors trains on the dispatch panel and gives orders to the operating crews. Elmer uses a computer driven command control system (Digitrax) and a computer program to develop the waybills for his operating sessions.

April 27, Thursday, 7:pm and 8pm and 9pm

Barry Conn's HO scale layout depicts the modern diesel era (primarily CP Rail, UP with some BN as well) located in a fictional era similar to the interior of British Columbia. His 33 foot by 13 foot layout is designed for mainline running as well as local switching. The railroad uses the Digitrax digital command control system

and utilizes a computerized dispatch program to generate switch lists for operating sessions. The layout was designed to be operated by up to 5 engineers at one time. The painted backdrop is completed and scenery (both plaster and Styrofoam techniques have been used) depicting the dry rolling hills of Southern B.C. is also complete. A block detection and signaling system has been installed and is now operating.

April 29, Saturday at 12 noon:

Grant Eastman - The Southern Alberta Railroad is a fictional bridge line running from Dunmore Alberta in the East to the west Kootenay region of BC. Traffic on the railroad is comprised of mainly grain, lumber and natural gas and associated by-products from the Pecten Waterton region of southern Alberta. The layout has a westbound ruling grade of 2.8% and an eastbound ruling grade of 2.5% which requires two helper districts to keep trains moving. Southern Alberta Rail is a 1000 square foot N-scale layout with 32 inch minimum radius curves on the mainline. The layout is run with a Digitrax command control system and has approximately

7 scale miles of single track mainline. The movement of trains is controlled with a recently installed signal system and minimum 50+ car passing sidings. The scenery on the layout is about 80% complete and is built to dwarf the 50 car trains that run through it. Anyone who has seen the layout on a previous tour will find that many things have changed.

May 2, Tuesday, 7:30pm

Ed Hopkin's layout - Urban in HO. A 10' by 26' tightly packed working diorama of four adjoining towns with their interconnected transportation systems - rail, road and water. The layout includes some 200-plus painted, weathered, landscaped structures buildings, 150-plus cars and trucks, lots of people and many different trees. Mainly CN steam and diesel power with a variety of rolling stock (90% complete).

To summarize, here are the dates and start times that you can sign up for.

A reminder – some layouts have limited capacity for visitors and thus a waiting list will be created as required.

- ◆ #7 April 15 1pm Alan Crance - the German Federal Railway
- ◆ #8 April 15 2pm Carl Van Veen - Concept Chicago RR
- ◆ #9 April 16 1pm Brian A. Keay - Wolverine Lynx RR
- ◆ #10 April 24 10am Elmer Holm's HO layout
- ◆ #11 April 24 1pm Elmer Holm's HO layout
- ◆ #12 April 26 10am Elmer Holm's HO layout
- ◆ #13 April 26 1pm Elmer Holm's HO layout
- ◆ #14 April 27 7pm Barry Conn's HO layout
- ◆ #15 April 27 8pm Barry Conn's HO layout
- ◆ #16 April 27 9pm Barry Conn's HO layout
- ◆ #17 April 29 12 noon Grant Eastman -The Southern Alberta Railroad
- ◆ #18 May 2 7:30pm Ed Hopkin – Urban HO layout

When you have identified which layouts you want to see, contact me as noted above, indicate the numbers from this list and make sure that you include your contact information as well.

There are lots of great things to see on these layouts and this is a great time to have a conversation with other modelers about layout issues so let's see a good number of tour participants.

I should also say that I am very grateful to the hosts who have agreed to this. I know that getting ready for a tour will mean extra effort and thus I very much appreciate your participation. I am sure that everyone, including myself, who view the layouts will have a great time.

Ralph Hopper

CMRS, PO Box 63033, 2604 Kensington Rd NW
Calgary, T2N 4S5
email: ralph.hopper@home.com
or phone: 217-3335

More Notes from the Sandhouse

9: And lastly, a recipe for sweet 'n sour staining mix.

Sweet and Sour Weathering Mix

1 pint cheap white vinegar, one of two steel wool balls, put in GLASS jar with a PLASTIC top, leave 3-4 days until steel wool is gone. Strain through paper coffee filter, that's it. I did this in a slightly different manner several years ago and am still using the weathering solution with great results -- plus some side benefits. I bought a quart of white vinegar, and kept adding steel wool to the bottle, one pad at a time, until no more would dissolve with the bottle cap on within a 10 day period. At that time, I assumed the solution was neutral and no longer acidic. I opened the bottle every day to let the built up gas escape so the solution would not "boil" over. I then used a siphon to move the clear upper portion (the remaining rust settles to the bottom of the bottle) into a separate container. I took the

remaining rust in the bottle and mixed it very well about half and half with a solution of one part rubbing alcohol to three parts water. I poured this rust solution into an equal portion of flat finish latex polyurethane varnish, sealed the container, and let it sit for a week.

After cleaning the now empty vinegar jar, I poured the sweet and sour weathering mix back in (nearly 3/4 of a quart) and it has lasted very well and provides tremendous weathering effects, particularly when coupled with a final light wash of black shoe dye dissolved in rubbing alcohol. After about a week or so, I strained the polyurethane - rust mix through a piece of screening to remove the chelates that had formed as well as any remaining steel wool solids. I now have nearly a half pint of rust stain that bonds well to all surfaces and is just that -- rust. It is extremely

realistic because it is the real thing and since a little bit goes a long way, has lasted and will last for quite some

BOARD of DIRECTORS - Positions and Responsibilities

Phone Numbers H - Home B - Business F - Fax

President - Rob Mills
Independent 936-2093
E-Mail millsrs@cadvision.com

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

Secretary - Ralph Hopper
Independent 266-0122
E-Mail ralph.hopper@home.com

Membership- Vince Wehnes
Thursday Night Group 236-7986
E-Mail ironhorse@cadvision.com

Supertrain- Barry Conn
Independent 251-9334
E-Mail barry.conn@home.com

Special Events - Peter Moon
Cal-O-Rail 288-3754
E-Mail moonpr@cadvision.com

Events- Bill Cameron
Independent 269-9898
E-Mail wcameron@efasoftware.ab.ca

Publicity/Order Board - Peter Berghs
CMT 234-0165
E-Mail 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://www.calgarymodelrailway.org/>

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

The Order Board

CMRS LONG RANGE PLANNING SURVEY

Mission Statement

The objective of the Society shall be to promote the hobby of Model Railroading and encourage fellowship amongst railway enthusiasts.

The object of this survey is to help The Board Of Directors meet the future expectations of the members. Please fill in this survey and return to : **Al Love, 19 Douglasbank Dr. S.E., Calgary, T2Z-2B5.**

Membership Information

How long have you been a member? 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 years.

Why did you join the Society? Please order the following from 1 to 5 with 1 being the most important.

Social Interaction	
General Railway interest	
Learn more about hobby	
Society Events	
Other _____	

Are you a : Club Member NMRA Informal Group Rail fan Independent

How are we doing

How content are you with:

Social Interaction	1 2 3 4 5	(1 is very good) (5 very poor)
Learn more about hobby	1 2 3 4 5	If scoring 4 or 5 please offer constructive suggestion's in the comment section on page 4.
Society Events	1 2 3 4 5	

<u>Present Activities</u>	<u>Important to you</u>	<u>Have you Attended</u>		<u>Important to CMRS</u>	<u>Should be continued</u>		(1 is very important) (5 is not important)
	1 2 3 4 5	Y	N	1 2 3 4 5	Y	N	
Mini meet	1 2 3 4 5			1 2 3 4 5			
Slide night	1 2 3 4 5			1 2 3 4 5			
Clinics	1 2 3 4 5			1 2 3 4 5			
Supertrain Show	1 2 3 4 5			1 2 3 4 5			
Layout Tours	1 2 3 4 5			1 2 3 4 5			
Member Appreciation Night	1 2 3 4 5			1 2 3 4 5			
Family BBQ	1 2 3 4 5			1 2 3 4 5			
Order Board	1 2 3 4 5			1 2 3 4 5			

Are there enough events? **Enough** **Not Enough** **Too Many**

Would you like some of the past events to be repeated?. Circle those you would..

Tour of Ogden shop **Tour of Hump yard** **Tour of Alyth Loco service shop** **Backdrop clinic**
Boat building clinic **Day with the pros** **Charity events** **Other _____**

Do you like the present Mini Meet format **Y / N**

Is the Mini Meet at the correct time of the year **Y / N**

Should the Mini Meet be expanded **Y / N**