



# ORDER BOARD

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

The Communication Medium For Railway Enthusiasts

February 2000  
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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)

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## President's Message

### Greeting Fellow Modelers

By now I hope everyone has had a great Supertrain show. It is the one time of the year that I get to spend 3 days with other modelers so I always enjoy it. Many thanks to the people who volunteered their time and effort to run the show this year. Do me a favor and take the time to thank the workers you saw at the show. Tell them at the next opportunity you have how much you enjoyed the show.

Layout tour information is in this issue so jump on that as it is first come first serve to get on these tours. This year's improvement is that it looks like the tours will go on through until June. Thank you to the people that have opened up their layouts so all can enjoy.

We need people to come forward to help with the Modeling day scheduled for the May/June. If you think you can help please contact Don McCloud.

Other events coming up are the Beginning Clinics April 1, Members Night in March and the Bar-B-Que slated for July. Keep these events in mind, as they are not as far away as so think.

Another call for volunteers. The Board needs a few people to look at the Trains for Kids program. A committee will be formed as soon as possible to give the Board some direction to take to the members in September. Along that line I am pleased to announce that the Board will include a survey in the next issue to assist us in long range planning. The last survey was done 4 years ago and was expected to cover 3-5 years so it is time for a new one. You will get a stamped envelope to return the survey to the CMRS mailbox so that it is really easy for you to assist the Board in developing its program.

Another plug I must remind you about is the CMRS Onelist. It does not have many members right now but the idea is to share information about the Calgary area. If you see an interesting train, are going to a show or anything to do with modeling it would be nice to share it with the members. That is the whole idea behind the list. If a store has a huge sale or just got the latest new release in please share it with your fellow modelers in the CMRS.

Bye For Now

**Rob Mills**  
**President**

#### Add to the List

December Issue. The Mini Meet had at least one more participant in the Bring and Brag...namely me. The item was a modest New South Wales RR ballast car. I asked the fellows at the entrance what I was supposed to do with the goodie and was told to simply put it on the table with my name on it. If there was some exercise involved, I was not informed. Although I could have brought a bigger display such as a Soviet military train or part of the versatile modular system which I am developing I thought that I would just bring one interesting car in case display space was limited. I think that this is a good feature for Meets and perhaps when announced in the future, some general guidance might be given even if it is "anything goes".

**Roy Krouse**

*(My apologies, Roy. That may have been a typo on my part in the copy paste and edit of the last issue) Wallie*

## Notes from the Sandhouse

By Peter Berghs

By the time you read this the 2000 SUPERTRAIN show will be over. On behalf of the Board and Members I would like to extend a big THANKYOU to all of the volunteers who made it happen.

I've been working away like mad on a display layout for the show so I've decided to share some tips this issue instead of a detailed modeling article. I'm still looking for article submissions so please send them to me at [pberghs@home.com](mailto:pberghs@home.com) or phone 234-0165.

Here are some quick tips regarding dry transfers.

1. Cut the edge of the paper so that is parallel to the image. Some CDS transfers are not printed straight on the carrier and the tilt in the paper's edge distracts me from getting the lettering straight.
- 2: I use very small (<math>1/4'' \times 1/4''</math>) pieces of drafting tape to help hold down at least two corners of the paper while it is being positioned. If drafting tape is not available "un-stick" some regular tape by pressing it against your skin. The tape (and paper) can be pushed around on the surface of the car until you are happy with the location.
- 3: Plan out what lettering to apply first so that the paper can be trimmed as you go along to avoid protrusions like ribs, etc. Try to get the paper as flat as possible on the car. If the transfer has to go over a bunch of ribs or rivets hold it down at one end and burnish it from the taped end to the free end. That way the image can be folded over the protrusion with out tearing up already applied transfer. Alternately you can start from the center and work out towards each end. I generally apply the larger images first then put on all of the small reporting marks, notices, etc.
- 4: If you have to apply one transfer on top of another to get a multi-color logo overcoat the first transfer with dullcoat before the second one is applied. This will help the second layer stick better.
- 5: If your transfers don't want to stick very well try warming them up by holding them next to a light bulb.
- 6: If all else fails burnish the transfer onto clear decal paper and apply it to the car as per normal decal techniques.

(Continued next page)

### For Sale

1-new Bachmann Spectrum CP Rail GP35 (HO scale) powered locomotive in the old paint scheme.

1- new Bachmann Plus Santa Fe SD45 ( HO scale) powered locomotive in the war-bonnett blue and yellow.

### Notes From the Sandhouse (Continued)

7: Don't go too far away from the lettering when burnishing as this can leave marks in the paint. When the image is down lay the carrier paper on top and burnish it again.

8: I use the teflon burnisher put out by NWSL for large flat areas and a really small smooth metal burnisher, from an art supply store, for the smaller areas.

9: One neat trick that works with CDS transfers (maybe other brands as well) is to lightly brush them with mineral spirits after they are applied to get the herald or lettering to just start pulling down. The resulting effect is quite subtle but it makes the car look like it has been in service for a long time. Keep the brush almost dry and use vertical downward strokes only.

10. Applied transfers tend to pick up weathering materials like chalks and paints more than the underlying painted surfaces so I generally overspray the whole car with dullcoat prior to weathering.

**Peter Berghs**

### DCC Hints and Tips by Barry Conn

#### Dispatching and "stealing" your locomotives

This hint applies only to Digitrax systems. If you ever get a display showing "FF", it means that all the memory slots have been filled in the system and it can't handle any more. This usually occurs because you have been selecting numerous locomotives with various throttles and then never telling the system that you are finished with them. Eventually it becomes full and displays "FF". To prevent this happening, whenever you are finished with a locomotive (either at the end of your operating session, or when someone else may want to access it, it is a very good idea to "dispatch" it. This clears it from the system, frees up a memory slot and also makes it available to be picked up on another throttle. To "dispatch" a locomotive, just hit the select button and then the dispatch button.

Now here is a hint on accessing a locomotive that you forgot to dispatch or is lost in the system. If you try to select a locomotive and the display shows "33" on the right hand side, it means that the loco is already in use on another throttle, and you can't access it. However, there is a way to actually get it using your DT100 throttle (with battery installed). Push the SEL button, dial in the loco number, then disconnect the throttle from the loconet. The display will now show "idle". Hold down the direction key for the loco you are trying to access, and plug the throttle back in again. Release the direction key and you should now have access to the locomotive (in Digitrax terminology this is called stealing a locomotive). Note that if someone else was using the locomotive, then both throttles can now control it. You should not have to do this very often, as the key is to "**Dispatch**" your locomotives when you are through with them.

**Barry**

# Calgary Model Railway Society

## Model Railroad Events Schedule

Watch this space for schedule additions/changes

Updated February 2000

### March 18, 2000 – Calgary Model Trainmen – Spring Flea Market

Crescent Heights Community Center – 1101 – 2 St NW : 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

\$1.00 Entrance fee, kids under 12 Free - **Door Prize Draw – KATO Locomotive**

\$10.00 fee for a 6 ft x 2 1/2 ft Table

Contact Russ Pinchbeck @ 272-0637 to Reserve a Table

### March 25, 2000 — CMRS Member's Appreciation Night

The Glenmore Inn at the corner of Glenmore Trail and Ogden Road—6:00 P.M.

Buffet and Entertainment, a great evening of fun and fellowship.

Tickets are \$5.00 per person

Contact Bob @ 279-4563 or Peter @ 288-3754

### April 1, 2000 The Model Railroading Basics Clinic

( this is no joke ) at a location to be announced at SuperTrain.

I need lots of experienced modelers (skill not required) to help out at this clinic.

If any one would like to volunteer to help, please contact

**William Cameron at [wcameron@efasoftware.com](mailto:wcameron@efasoftware.com).**

### 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](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)

## It's time for the CMRS layout tours 2000

By Ralph Hopper

Would you like to view others' layouts? Would you like to put your layout on display? Then read on about the details for this year's layout tours. A notice will be placed in the next Order Board with an update on available tours. Be sure to check it out as soon as you receive it.

I am looking for CMRS members who would like to host a tour of their layout. This year I am arranging tours for March, April and early May. A few have been arranged and are listed below.

If we can get a good variety of layouts, there should be lots of great things for all members to view. This is an excellent opportunity for people to get ideas for their own layouts, to see what others are doing in the hobby, to learn techniques and solve the problems that we all experience as well as enjoying the fellowship of meeting other members. The more members who participate, both as hosts and as guests to view the layouts, the better this will be.

**If you would like to host a viewing of your layout**, please contact me for complete details. Layouts in all stages of completion and all scales are welcome. You will set the time and date to your convenience and I will co-ordinate the viewing with you.

So, If you would like to participate as a host, please contact me as soon as possible at either my home phone, 217-3335 or by email, [ralph.hopper@home.com](mailto:ralph.hopper@home.com).

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

CMRS, PO Box 63033, 2604 Kensington Rd NW

Calgary, T2N 4S5

email: [ralph.hopper@home.com](mailto: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.

Tour dates and information on following pages.

### **For Sale**

Due to health reasons, I am drastically reducing my large 50 year International (including Canada) collection of Kits & RTR HO plastic, wood, older brass, some O, TT, & N. small parts & rarer pieces. **Fair prices**; Don't expect "give-a-ways". Possible exchange of items for neat assembly of advanced kits and custom painting.

Contact Roy Krouse 282-7558

**So far the following dates and layouts have been scheduled:**

**March 4**, Saturday afternoon 1pm:

**Dale Yanke** - CP Rail in Southern Alberta. This railroad is based on various CP Rail operations in Southern Alberta. Traffic consists mainly of grain, sulfur, butane, cement and lumber products with some run through Intermodel and coal traffic. Highlights of the layout include custom detailed and painted locomotives and cars as well as walk around operation with Digitrax. Up to four operators can be kept busy operating the layout which features a large mainline and a branchline junction. Scenery construction has just commenced in February with several structures yet to be built.

**March 11**, Saturday afternoon 1pm:

**April 16**, Sunday afternoon 1pm:

**Brian A. Keay** - The Wolverine Lynx RR (*WLX*) 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.

*(More Tours Next Page)*

**Pacific Western Rail Systems**

Canadian Address: 16015 - 10 Ave., Surrey, B.C. Canada V4A-2J4  
American Address: p/o Box 8110-368 - 250 '11' Street  
Blaine, Washington 98230

Tel: (604) 531-9481 Fax: (604) 535-7691

E-Mail [info@pwrs.pwcom.com](mailto:info@pwrs.pwcom.com)

Web Site <http://www.pwrs.pwcom.com>

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E-mail [dispatcher@home.com](mailto:dispatcher@home.com)

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Calgary, AB T2V 4B6

Digitrax Atlas

Roco Kato

Soundtraxx Proto 2000

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

## More Tours

**March 11, Saturday afternoon 1pm and 2pm**

**Rolf Stengl** - Scenery on this layout is 85% complete. All structures are scratchbuilt from photos and plans and all scenes are based on the modern CPR in the Calgary area. The layout is 8X20. (modelers of grain elevators, this layout has structures that are excellent)

**March 25, Saturday afternoon 1pm:**

**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 Selectrix 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 Jet, 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 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.

(More Tours Next Page)

**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.

**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.

- ◆ #1 March 4 1pm Dale Yanke - CP Rail in Southern Alberta
- ◆ #2 March 11 1pm Brian A. Keay - Wolverine Lynx RR
- ◆ #3 March 11 1pm Rolf Stengl's RR
- ◆ #4 March 11 2pm Brian A. Keay - Wolverine Lynx RR
- ◆ #5 March 11 2pm Rolf Stengl's RR
- ◆ #6 March 25 1pm Alan Crance - the German Federal Railway
- ◆ #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 28 9pm Barry Conn's HO layout
- ◆ #17 April 29 12noon Grant Eastman -The Southern Alberta Railroad

When you have identified which layouts you want to see, contact me as noted below, 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 all those, 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](mailto:ralph.hopper@home.com)  
or phone: 217-3335

## BOARD of DIRECTORS - Positions and Responsibilities

Phone Numbers H - Home B - Business F - Fax

President - Rob Mills  
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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)

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Cal-O-Rail 288-3754  
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Events- Bill Cameron  
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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

## Appreciation Night

This year's Appreciation Night will be at the  
Glenmore Inn on Saturday March 25/2000  
at 6:00 P.M.

The Glenmore Inn is located at Glenmore  
Trail & Ogden Rd. S.E.

We have a great buffet for your enjoyment  
and some wonderful entertainment lined up.  
Tickets are **\$5.00 each** and the deadline is  
**March 15**. If you did not get your tickets at  
Supertrain please call

Bob @ 2794563  
Peter @ 288-3754

Tickets must be turned in at the door  
Thanks again for your support over the past  
year.

Your Calgary Model Railway Society