The Orderboard

Newsletter for The Calgary Model Railway Society

Leading a CP inspection train, CP 2816 is seen at Brickburn returning to Calgary from Banff on October 1st amid the fall colours. Thanks to Ian McArthur for the heads up about the train. Photo credit to new CMRS board member Roger Walker.

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President's Message

I want to thank everyone that attended the AGM and Mini Meet on October 17th. As always, the Glenmore Inn provided an excellent lunch, enjoyed by all.

Gord Smith and Roger Walker stepped forward to fill the available spaces on the Board due to Rick Walker and Ian McArthur completing their terms. Thank you to Rick and Ian for their many years on the Board. Their contributions are very appreciated.

The new Board will be meeting in November. We will determine the responsibilities for each Board member and update the CMRS website accordingly.

We had two great clinics at the Mini Meet: "Making Trees" by Maurice Despins and Rick McPhee, and "Tuning Up Trucks and Couplers for Smooth Operation" by Roger Walker. I saw a lot of people carrying trees and Roger's clinic was standing room only.

The next Mini Meet will be held in February. Do you have an idea for a clinic? Let us know and we'll see what we can arrange.

The planning is underway for SUPERTRAIN 2011. See Rob Badmington's report (on Page 8) for more information.

I hope you enjoy reading Part Two of Gord Smith's Viva VIA Vancouver (on Pages 3 and 4)

The next CMRS event will be Slide Night on Friday, November 26th. I look forward to seeing you there.

Linda Laroche
President, CMRS

FALL SLIDE NIGHT 2010

The Fall Slide Night will occur on Friday, November 26th, 2010 at 7:30pm at River Park Church (3818 14A Street SW).

The theme will be: "Photos from your car." Do you have any pictures that were taken from your automobile? Any pacing shots? How about photos that were taken from your vehicle in the winter when it was too cold to go outside? I am looking for presenters who will show slides for around 20 minutes, as well as presenters for the potpourri part of the evening. (bring 5-10 slides of your own).

Among the presenters are: Gord Smith and Gail Myers will be presenting on their VIA trip, Roger Walker will show a contrast of some scenes in different seasons (Brickburn to Bearspaw) and Leo de Groot will present on the demolition of the last grain elevator in Carstairs. I am still looking for a couple presenters, please contact me if you would like to participate.

My contact info is on page 7, or email me at freemo54@hotmail.com if you have any questions or would like to volunteer to be one of our presenters.

We will be showing photos in either digital or the traditional format.

I look forward to seeing you at the Fall Slide Night.

Peter Bouma

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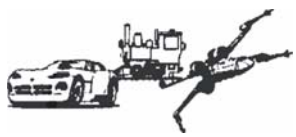
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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

I'm sure at one point or another, those of us who are actively working towards a working (or the even more laughable concept - finished) home layout figure "there's this one thing holding back progress" and for me, it ended up being a chopsaw. Having had the lumber to build the 3/4 wall which will support the peninsula for the past few weeks, I couldn't really do much with it on account of a reliable means to cut it squarely. (Yes, I do have a circular saw, but don't trust me to cut properly with that thing!)

So when Murray offered the use of his, I wasn't going to turn it down and since I've received it, the accordian door to the utility room has been installed and some of the 10' 2x4's have been cut in half (the 3/4 wall is going to be 63.5" tall) and await assembly. Soon, I'm sure there will be shelf brackets and turnouts being built en masse to support the layout. I've also put a bit of time into putting together a website to share the progress on my home layout construction as many on Yahoo's CanModelTrains group have been interested in it. You can take a look at it on the web at http://www.calon.ca/EN1988/.

* * * *

As some of you may know, I'm also a member of the Rocky Mountain Garden Railway Club and wanted to pass along a note/reminder about the club's upcoming show at Heritage Park during their "Once upon a Christmas" event. As has been done for the past 5 years, the Snooker tables are covered over in a large scale Christmas scene and this year is no different. Preparation for this year's event is already underway, and will be ready for the first weekend of the event, on November 20th. The show runs every Saturday and Sunday up to the weekend prior to Christmas. I hope you can make it out during the festive season.

* * * *

And since I seem to be well suited for promoting events, I may as well pass along word of the Calgary Free-mo's next layout, a semi-public setup at the Carseland Community Hall on November 20th and 21st. We're opening to the public from around 10am to 4pm on each of the two days. Stop by if you want!

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The Deadline for the next issue is Jan. 30, 2011.

Jon Calon

VIVA VIA VANCOUVER (PART 2)

ARTICLE AND PHOTOS BY GORD SMITH

Monday afternoon my friend Jake Swaney had lined up a tour at the Southern Railway of BC's New Westminster shops. We donned safety gear again and then wandered through the shops. Most of the work we saw being done was with locomotive trucks. Outside the shops sat many locomotives, SD38's, GP9's, GMD1's, wearing both SRY on Montana RailLink livery. Also on the property, we saw a Green Goat and a Neptune Terminals T6.

We finished the day with a seafood dinner at Steveston. People were continuously lining the wharf to buy some of the record catch of Sockeye salmon, priced at $20 each. A great price but we were 2 days from home.

Tuesday morning we stepped outside and were quickly soaked, no more sunshine. Today's tour arranged by the Canadian Wheat Board took us to Viterra's Cascadia Terminal. Here we were treated to a DVD which explained the process of grain exports, from farm to vessel. In one 24-hour period in 2008, Cascadia unloaded 323 railcars, but the unloading facilities were off-limits to us. However, we were met by Lou, the head stevedore who guided us up the gangplank and onto the MV Triton Gannet. Because of the rain the hatches were closed and no loading was being done. We met the first officer who gave us a tour of the ship, work room, dining rooms, quarters, the bridge with all its navigation equipment and charts, and the engine room. Inside, the ship was spotless. The ship is 83,000 deadweight tonnes, built in 2009 and sails under the flag of Panama. The crew were from India and work 4 months on and 4 off. When loaded they were bound for Singapore to refuel, then on to Sri Lanka to unload their cargo of grain. Dry bulk carriers are required to clean their holds before loading grain although they can carry other cargo such as coal or iron ore.

Tuesday afternoon we crossed to North Van. CN was working the grain terminal there. We could glimpse four of Neptune's engines near the fence. Choosing to stay as dry as possible we drove to Coquitlam to browse the 'On Track' hobby shop.

Later that afternoon we returned our car, dined at an Italian restaurant near the VIA station and then waited to board. At 2030, right on time, the front section of our train moved to couple on the rear coaches and we were off into the night, red and green signals reflecting off the wet roofs of the stainless steel cars.

I woke-up in Kamloops, the sky was lightening, it was 0600, and we were on time. A tanker truck began fuelling our locomotives. A handful of

Continued on page 4

VIVA VIA VANCOUVER (PART 2 CONTINUED)

passengers disembarked and others climbed aboard. Soon we were northbound and shortly after, deep in the forest. It occurred to me this must be a difficult line to railfan as I saw fewer and fewer roads. We passed a few towns, a few farms and a few shuttered sawmills. For us, lunch was sandwiches and pop from the snack bar located under the dome. We arrived in Jasper at 1600. This was our first opportunity to see our train. We had 24 cars and again two F40PH-2's pulling. At departure time in Jasper the crew did a little switching, moving a sleeper from behind the engines to an appropriate spot toward the rear of the consist. Before we arrived in Hinton, a red signal put us in the hole for a meet. A CN freight soon rumbled by and we sat for another 45 minutes until a second CN freight had cleared the tracks for us. The rear portion of our dome was set up for dining and the entrees included beef pot roast and salmon. Once again these people turned out a delicious meal at a modest price. It was dark when we returned to the dome, we played some dice, Larry was still trying to win his first game of the trip, no luck! After our long pause in the siding we were seeing only clear boards, and our engineer had the throttle notched back. While it was daylight we were timing mileposts at one a minute, after dark we seemed to be going faster. We had taken my GPS to navigate Vancouver so I dug it out of my bag thinking it could track where we were and see our speed. It was not to be. Despite all the glass panels in the roof we had no reception. I assume the glass was given a sunscreen coating of metal oxide which was impervious to the weak satellite signal, all the glass was manufactured in 2006. [Ed. note: Some GPS units can receive the signals in the domes with the new glass. I know mine does. -Jon]

Our on-time record began to slip. An Edmonton arrival of 2300 was not achievable. It was 0045 on Thursday by the time our baggage was claimed and we were heading south on the last 3 hour leg of return trip. It was 0415 by the time I had delivered my travel mates to their homes and I was climbing into bed with Bonnie. "Yes dear it was a good trip. Yes we had fun. It's good to be home and I'll tell you about it in the morning."

We are compiling our photos into a presentation we will show you on Slide Night, coming up on November 26th.

Gord Smith

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2011 CMT ANNUAL FLEAMARKET

Here's an early heads up for vendors to start gathering your surplus equipment for sale at the Fleamarket. As in the past few years, the event will be held as part of the CMRS Spring Mini Meet.

Date - Sunday, February 27th, 2011

Time - 9:00 am

Location- Glenmore Inn, corner of Glenmore Trail and Ogden Road SE

Table rental will be $20.00 this year. To book a table, please contact me. My contact information is on page 7 in the Orderboard.

Brookes Harrow

2011 CMRS RAILFAN TRIP

Following the successful railfan trip to Stettler, Big Valley and Alberta Free-mo, we are pleased to announce the next potential railfan trip:

Northern Montana!

Fellow CMRS member Murray Larsen is organizing this weekend trip to the BNSF northern mainline starting on Friday, May 6th, 2011, returning on Sunday, May 8th back to Calgary.

The proposed itinerary:

11:00am, Friday, May 6th - Depart Calgary via Bus to Whitefish, MT via Sparwood and Fernie BC. Arrival in Whitefish to be late afternoon. Overnight in a hotel.

7:45am, Saturday, May 7th - Depart Whitefish aboard Amtrak's Empire Builder to Essex, Montana. Arrival in Essex at 9am. Majority of day is free to railfan - BNSF's northern mainline passes right by, visit the Isaak Walton Hotel, and potentially tour their F45 locomotive which has been completely converted to a luxury suite complete with a wonderful view!

Modern BNSF power at Whitefish (top) and at Essex. Both locales will be featured. Photos by Richard West.

Late afternoon, Saturday - Depart Essex aboard the coach for Cutbank, MT. Overnight in hotel in Cutbank.

Late morning, Sunday, May 8th - Depart Cutbank for Calgary after Amtrak leaves town. Arrival in Calgary would be in late afternoon.

The bus would be a higher-end coach with nice reclining seats, DVD player (which will be playing railfan videos where appropriate), washroom, and big windows.

For those concerned about border crossing issues, the coach company has plenty of experience with groups like ours and will be doing customs pre-clearance to eliminate any potential concerns ahead of time.

Cost for this trip will be $250 (Canadian) per person based on double occupancy, and includes all bus/train transfers and hotel lodging. Food and other incidentals are not included. We will need a minimum of 28 people to book this trip by February 28th to make it a go.

If you're interested in taking part in what promises to a be a fun trip to railfan somewhere a little further away from home, please ensure you have a passport and send Murray an email at bnsfoakway@shaw.ca for more information.

Jon Calon

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WELCOME TO THE BOARD!

[As is custom now, we invite the new members of the board to introduce themselves to the membership. Here then are Roger's and Gord's introductions. -Jon]

Who is Gord Smith and why is he back on the board?

I have been model railroading and railfanning for about 35 years. It all started when I bought a train set from a toy store in Nelson, BC at an after Christmas sale. I was curious about these modern looking diesels, wondering if they were scale models or simply the figment of someone's imagination. Meanwhile in Calgary, my dad had been buying a few things at Jim Scott's store. One of those things was The Second Diesel Spotter's Guide which I poured over trying to discern what I had purchased. I ignored the shabby locomotives working around Nelson; they were, it turned out to be the last of the CLC Fairbank-Morse units. The units I purchased were GP40's.

Living in Cranbrook in the early 80's I joined Garry Anderson's railway club, and helped lay track for one of the early expansions of the Cranbrook Railway Museum. This was where I met other model railroaders and we built the Quintet tunnels in HO scale. Here I also began railfanning when I met modeller, author, and photographer and now friend Bob Whethan. Our first trip together was Colorado, followed by the last of the narrow gauge in Mexico. Since then I've photographed locally as well as in exotic locales such as Cuba, China and Peru.

My favourite aspect of model rail-roading is scratch building, but track laying, wiring and scenery get in the way. The Purgatory and Pacific RR is beginning to take shape in my basement. The camera comes out of the bag quite often.

About 3 years ago I retired, so I thought another stint on the board would be a good community service contribution. Although I am a member of the Bow Valley RR Club and I attend slide shows of the clandestine Brotherhood, for this term I am representing the membership at large and will be in charge of Society memberships.

I came to Calgary from Ontario in 1998, but was very busy in my consulting business to do much railroading. The turning point was at SUPERTRAIN, where Barry Conn was demonstrating diesels with sound - I had never heard anything like it before. I put aside my On3 Rio Grande module and began a contemporary CP layout. Barry told me about CMRS, and as always, the best way to make new friends is to participate. My layout has been on the layout tour three times, and I have given many clinics at the Mini Meets. Now that I am retired, I rack up many kilometers on my mountain bike every summer, usually following the CP tracks somewhere in northwest Calgary. My camera is always in my pack, and so I have contributed to Slide Night. My modelling philosophy might be summed up as realism, hence my reputation for weathering my rolling stock, and trying to make effective mountain scenery for my trains (confession - I am a retired geologist). Joining the Board is one more step in contributing to CMRS, and hopefully bringing some fresh ideas about stimulating model building and sharing the results at Mini Meets.

Roger Walker

The Calgary Model Railway Society Board of Directors

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Abbreviations: CMT – Calgary Model Trainmen's Club IND – Independent, not representing a club
RMG – Rocky Mountain Garden Railroaders Society

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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 they are relatively small), and a $15/year charge for business card size commercial ads. Contact the Editor at orderboard@calgarymodelrailway.ca for details.

Deadline for the next issue is Jan. 30, 2011.

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:

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SUPERTRAIN 2011

SUPERTRAIN 2011 promises to be another great show, with some new layouts, exhibits, commercial displays, and entertainment lined up, along with a lot of our old favourites. If you are a past exhibitor, you may have already received your customized application to participate again next April. The Committee is already hard at work on preparing registrations, advertising, promotion, and a few surprises.

The Saturday Evening Gala will be another memorable event with plenty of good food, great prizes, and fun along the way. Appreciation Night will again be combined with the Gala, to recognize all of the hard work of our volunteers, not only for SUPERTRAIN, but also all of the other CMRS events throughout the year. There will be a limit of 250 tickets available to CMRS members and out of town SUPERTRAIN exhibitors so be sure to get yours early.

The SUPERTRAIN Committee will be meeting about once a month right up to the big show. If you would like to get involved with an organizing role in helping to put on Canada's biggest and best model railroad show, please contact me. We would love to have you aboard.

Watch our website (www.supertrain.ca) for new announcements about SUPERTRAIN.

Rob Badmington
SUPERTRAIN Chairman

2010 BOOMER AUCTION

South Bank Short Lines Boomer Auction 2010 was the most successful ever. We have never sold as much "stuff" as we did this year taking over 6 hours to get it done. As always the majority was HO but we had a good supply of N scale as well as some G scale this year.

Norm Haines in his element as Auctioneer.

Our thanks to the 24 people who offered items for sale and the 80 or so who attended!

Mark your calendar as the tradition continues next year, same location on Oct. 15, 2011.

John Wrinch
President, SBSL

For Sale:
Al Peirce's collection - kits, rolling stock, locomotives, books, plates and other memorabilia.
For more info, email Heather at peirceah@shaw.ca

COMING EVENTS SCHEDULE

Items in Bold type are Calgary Model Railway Society events.

November 13-14 – Trains 2010, Burnaby, BC http://www.bctrains.org

November 26, 2010 – CMRS Fall Slide Night, River Park Church, Calgary, AB

February 27, 2011 – CMRS Spring Mini Meet & CMT Fleamarket, Glenmore Inn, Calgary, AB

April 16-17, 2011 – SUPERTRAIN 2011, Subway Soccer Centre, Calgary, AB

Do you have or know of an event which should be listed here?
Send an email to orderboard@calgarymodelrailway.ca with the details!