



The OrderBoard

Newsletter of the **Calgary Model Railway Society**



Spectacular scenery and fine running CP trains are featured on Herb Stroh's O scale layout. This Layout can be seen as part of "The Chinook" Model Rail Weekend.

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President's Message

We had a very successful Layout Tours on February 9th, with a larger attendance than last year. Cal-O-Rail is the leader with 72 visitors, probably their highest attendance ever. Thank you to the hosts, but also thank you to the visitors and their enthusiasm.

Save the date of March 8, 9 & 10th for "The Chinook", this Model Rail weekend includes the CMRS Mini Meet, the annual CMT Flea Market and the NMRA 6th Division Meet. Details are in this edition of the OrderBoard.



President's Message Continued...

Volunteers are needed for SUPERTRAIN. Please sign up either by replying to Julia's call for volunteers email, or sign up on a volunteer list.

*Daniel Charest
President, CMRS*

Grown Men Playing with Trains

Now that's a provocative title, right?

I have been "playing with trains" for thirty-eight years and enjoying it. However, there comes a time in life when building model railways in the "tried and true" method isn't fun anymore. As your joints age it becomes more and more difficult to align track joiners, wrestle with flex track, hold track nails and get under baseboards to run wiring etc.. So what do you do? Give up "playing with trains"? Not an option!

I found an easier and fun way to build railways. I replaced main line and yard tracks (about 120 feet) and all points/turnouts on my HO layout with Bachmann E-Z Track (except for my Walthers 130 foot turntable and roundhouse area).

Unfortunately Bachmann's turntable is not big enough for my Union Pacific Challenger; however, EZ-Track is compatible with any code 100 track so using a transition rail joiner (code 100 to code 70) it was not a problem to connect to the turntable.



All turnouts have no visible point motors and are remotely controlled with no soldering and minimal reaching under bench work required to feed Bachmann extension cables where needed to reach the supplied switches.



Now you may be thinking, how do you keep the track in place without nails, ballast or glue? You

could use hot melt glue if you like and add ballast to the plastic roadbed too and even nails, but that would defeat the objective of easy assembly and changes. I found a better way that works very well if you have solid top baseboards.

Several years ago I decided to make all my boards modular – mainly 4ft X 2ft and the odd 5ft X 2ft and 2ft X 2ft. This facilitates rearranging my layout whenever I get the urge for a change!



After many years of painting plywood tops I decided to cover them all with Woodland Scenics Easy Grass instead and found that when Bachmann E-Z track is laid on this it stays put! I use an electric brad-nailer to attach the Easy Grass rather than glue which is slow, messy and hard to remove.

You may also ask "What about track feeds and isolated blocks?" Simple, I run two wires to the main line and two wires to my roundhouse and turntable area.

I use a Digitrax Empire Builder (5 Amps) DCC controller and never have a problem with lack of power even running a big steam loco and a couple of diesels with long loads all at the same time. All the locomotives on my layout have DCC/Sound.

If an open or short circuit occurs, which is very rare, it is easy to isolate it by pulling apart sections of track until the affected area is found and it is so easy to reconnect the track!

The next question you may ask is "What about curve radius?" No problem, EZ-Track has 18, 22, 28 and 33 inch radius sections

which can be added together to make compound curves so there is no need to wrestle with flex track. They also have lots of shorter pieces in both straights and curves. Inclines can be made with Woodland Scenics foam risers so it doesn't all have to be flat.

I enjoy landscape painting as a hobby and paint my backdrops in acrylics on coreplast sheets. Last Fall I started an 8ft X 4ft On30 layout powered by a Bachmann EZ Command digital controller.

With Easy Grass covering your baseboards you don't have bare wood showing and can add roads and details at leisure after you have decided where your structures are going to be.

I have no affiliation with any of the companies mentioned and would be pleased to show my layouts to any interested CMRS member. You can find me on Facebook.

Graham Fenton



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The Chinook

6th Division PNR
Spring Meet
March 8 – 10, 2013

Like its namesake train streaking across the prairies, **The Chinook** Model Railroad Weekend is fast approaching. It arrives in **Calgary** at noon on Friday, March 8th at the St. Andrews Presbyterian Church. We hope you can come aboard for some fun and plenty of model railroad activities. Cost is only \$20 for NMRA members and \$30 for non-members. This registration fee will get you into all of the activities listed.

- Friday, March 8**
(St. Andrews Presbyterian Church) noon- 9 PM
Registration, Layout Tours, Prototype Tour, Clinics
- Saturday, March 9th**
(St. Andrews Presbyterian Church) 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Prototype Modellers Meet
- (Legion) 5:30 PM PNR Annual Meeting
6:30 PM No- Host Dinner
- Sunday, March 10th**
(Glenmore Inn) 9:00 AM - Noon
CMT Annual Flea Market
9:45 AM
CMRS Mini-Meet Clinics
12:15 PM Lunch
1:15 PM Repair and Maintenance – Open Forum/ Q&A Open Clinic

For the most up-to-date information, please check our website <http://pnr.nmra.org/6div/thechinook/>. There won't be pre-registration for The Chinook but we would certainly appreciate advance notice of your attendance so we can properly plan our space requirements. Please send me an email at TheChinook@pnr.nmra.org.

Friday, March 8 and Saturday March 9	St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, 703 Heritage Dr. S.W.
Clinics – Friday 1 PM to 5 PM and Saturday 10 AM to 4 PM	<p>Assembly of Athabasca passenger cars - Dave Audley/Bob Hardcastle.</p> <p>The History of Banff Station (3 variations?) - Don Thomas.</p> <p>NAR passenger trains and stations -Colin Hatcher.</p> <p>Timetable & Train Order Operations on the Monashee Pacific Railway - Mark Johnson.</p> <p>Using Google as a Modelling Tool - Rob Badmington.</p> <p>Plus additional topics still being finalized.</p>
Prototype Tour – Friday 2 PM to 4 PM Calgary Transit's Anderson Road LRT Maintenance Facility. (Limited to 25 participants max.)	Layout Tours - Friday 7 PM to 9 PM



<p>Layout Tours</p>	<p>Friday, 7 - 9 PM and Saturday 2 PM to 5 PM (except as noted)</p>
<p>Hans Foltinek, HO, German prototype with full catenary and computer control.</p> <p>Ed Hopkin, HO & N, freelance, full basement with amazing scenery too many structures to count!</p> <p>Al Hough, O, CPR prototype steam and diesel, exquisite scratch built rolling stock and scenery.</p> <p>Herb Stroh, O, CPR prototype, full basement, beautiful scratch built locomotives and scenery. <i>(Open Fri evening only)</i></p> <p>Grant Eastman, N, modern freelance featuring scale length trains and scenery of southern Alberta.</p>	<p>Cal-O-Rail, O, a large club layout nearing the end of a major rebuild and conversion to DCC.</p> <p>Rick Reimer, On30, This layout was featured as the cover article in the On30 Annual 3 years ago, and has beautifully weathered rolling stock and structures.</p> <p>Brian Keay, HO, freelance, large full basement layout featuring modern freight operations in mountain and urban scenery. Brian invites everyone to operate a train while visiting.</p>
<p>Saturday, March 9 - St. Andrews Presbyterian Church</p>	<p>Saturday Evening, Royal Canadian Legion, 9202 Horton Road SW</p>
<p>Prototype Modellers Meet – Saturday 9 AM to 4 PM</p> <p>Bring your favourite models to display and discuss NMRA Achievement Program Evaluation upon request.</p> <p>Awards for Best Models by popular vote.</p>	<p>6th Div Annual General Meeting – Saturday 5:30 to 6:30 PM</p> <p>No-Host Dinner, Socializing, and Slides – Saturday 6:30 PM until ??</p> <p>Good food and beverages at great prices!</p>
<p>Sunday, March 10</p>	<p>Glenmore Inn, 2720 Glenmore Trail SE</p>
<p>Calgary Model Trainmen’s Flea Market – Sunday 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon</p> <p>Many bargains to be found! Bring Cash!</p> <p>Calgary Model Railway Society’s Spring Mini Meet</p> <p>Clinics</p> <p>9:45 AM DecoderPro - Brent Ciccone - an introduction to JMRI DecoderPro.</p> <p>9:45 AM Geology and Landforms for model railroaders - Roger Walker – Effective and realistic scenery starts with understanding the real world.</p>	<p>Special Clinics</p> <p>Manufacturing- How, What, When, Where, Why - Don Smith, Pacific Western Rail Systems - the secrets manufacturers don’t want you to know about.</p> <p>1:15 PM Rolling Stock and Track - Repair and Maintenance – Open Forum/ Q&A - Glen Judd and Roger Walker – Learn how to fix up those bargains that you just bought at the Flea Market.</p> <p>Lunch will be provided by CMRS (12:15 - 1:15 approx.)</p>



CMT 2013 Annual Flea Market

It's that time of year again. The Calgary Model Trainmen's Club Annual Fleamarket will be here soon.

So bring in your bargains to help clear your clutter!!

Tables are still available, but only a few are left. Table rentals are \$20.00 each for a standard 2' X 8' table. To reserve a table, call me at 403-201-4937 or email bharrow@nucleus.com.

Even if you have nothing to sell this year, come for a fun morning! Perhaps that hard to find item you have been trying to locate for years will be sitting on one of the vendor's tables. And thanks to Trains and Such, there will be draw prizes once again this year.

The CMT Annual Fleamarket is being held as a joint event with the CMRS Mini Meet. The Fleamarket opens to the public at 9:00 am and runs until 12:00 noon. Again this year, we are located in the Glenmore East Ballroom at the Glenmore Inn, 2720 Glenmore Trail SE, Calgary. The event is being held on Sunday, March 10th, 2012.

Admission to the Fleamarket is \$2.00 for CMRS members and \$5.00 for non-members. Members will be asked to show their CMRS membership card.

So we hope to see y'all there.

Brookes Harrow

Trains for Kids

The Train for Kids Program this year underwent some changes as guided by the discussion at the 2012 AGM.

- instead of the Christmas Trains For Kids giveaway, we would use the train sets as a children's giveaway at SUPERTRAIN 2013.
- in lieu of train sets it would be up to the CMRS Board to give a donation to the Salvation Army.

The Salvation Army indicated that they actually have specific brands of toys that are always in very high demand. For trains this is the Thomas brand. Thus in December we donated 5 medium size Thomas Wooden Sets and 3 Thomas Portable Take-a-Long Sets. These were extremely well received by all the volunteers, and the Salvation Army coordinator indicated that the sets would be gone immediately. We should consider this approach for next year, perhaps adding a Thomas book or other accessories. Young fans of Thomas may move into Thomas electric train sets; however, hobby shops with whom I spoke indicated that many go directly into the mainstream model railroading. Thus the Thomas community benefit indirectly promotes model railroading to the next generation.

Currently we have purchased the train sets for SUPERTRAIN, and are putting in place the infrastructure to distribute them to 16 lucky winners. A report on the results of this distribution will be provided after SUPERTRAIN.

Vlad Maritiu



SUPERTRAIN 2013

One of the wonderful things about planning and organizing a big event such as SUPERTRAIN is that as soon as you think everything is lined up, and especially right after your article is published in the OrderBoard, something changes. Last month, one of the clubs from out of town let us know that they won't be able to bring their big layout to SUPERTRAIN this year, so that opened up space for a number of late entries and allowed us to move some small layouts from the Mezzanine level to the main floor. However, we will still have some layouts on the upper level at the Soccer Centre.

If you haven't already done so, please sign up for a volunteer shift if you can. Julia will have sign-up sheets at the upcoming Mini Meet on March 10th at the Glenmore Inn.

Don't forget to pickup your Gala tickets from Linda at the Mini Meet.

*Rob Badmington
Show Chairman
SUPERTRAIN 2013*



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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 for details.

Deadline for the next issue is March 24, 2013

From the Editor's Desk

You may have noticed that we had a bit of an issue with Canada Post with the last issue. It seems that putting one extra sheet of paper in with the OrderBoard put the weight of the mailing at 32 grams, 2 grams over the limit! The Post office returned them all and we had to add postage and re-mail. A few people got it in time for the Layout Tours, hopefully everyone else received it by e-mail in time.

I think this incident should push us to get more people to take the OrderBoard by e-mail. Costs of printing and mailing the paper copies eats up a good chunk of your \$10 membership fee, the society could save that money and put it to other uses, so I would encourage you to take it electronically. We could also include more content with the electronic version since there is no weight limit to electrons!

I hope you read Graham Fenton's article in this issue. His approach is not only good for those of advancing age, but might also prove useful for those with physical impairments or even if you just want a

temporary set-up while you are waiting to get that empty basement to build your empire.

- Brent Ciccone
Editor

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Coming Events Schedule

March 8, 9, 10, 2013	The Chinook , CMRS Mini-Meet, CMT Flea Market, Prototype Modellers Meet, NMRA 6th Division Meet
March 23, 24, 2013	18th Annual Moose Jaw Model Train Show , Western Development Museum, http://tcmrc.org/
April 5, 6, 2013	Kamloops Model Railway Days , The 7th Division PNR BC Interior Spring Meet
April 20, 21, 2013	SUPERTRAIN 2013 - Subway Soccer Centre, Calgary, AB

Send an email to orderboard@calgarymodelrailway.ca with submissions for coming events!