



The Order Board

Newsletter of **The Calgary Model Railway Society**



Cabin in the Bush, 5" Square challenge by Peter Bouma

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President's Message

The Board of Directors wishes all of our members and their families a Happy and Healthy Year 2014.

We start the year with the Layout Tours in February, followed by the Spring Mini Meet in March. You will find the details for these two events in this edition of the OrderBoard. Al Matchett has found some fantastic layouts to visit, and Roger Walker has put together great clinics for the Mini Meet. These are popular CMRS events, and I hope you will find some time to attend.



President's Message Continued...

Along with the Spring Mini Meet is the Flea Market run by the CMT club. This is your chance to either sell the extra train items that are collecting dust in your basement, or to find items that you have been searching for, or just to browse the items that are for sale, and who knows, find some deals.

*Daniel Charest
President, CMRS*

Model Railroad Layout Tours 2014

This year, based on feedback from the members at the 2013 Annual General Meeting, the decision was made to hold the layout tours over two days. There are a total of nine layouts open for the tour; four on Saturday in the south part of the city, De Winton and High River. And five on Sunday in the northwest part of the city. There are several returning layouts and four new layouts to the tour; Michel Marcotte, Richard Murray, Chuck Johnstone and myself. Scales this year run from G to O to OO to HO. Unfortunately, there were no N or Z Scalers offering their layouts for the tour this year.

I would like to thank all the hosts who have volunteered their layouts for the tour. I can personally attest to the feeling of time slipping by as the tour date gets closer. There are always things that could be done on the layout but other commitments always seem to get in the way.

I would like to offer special thanks to Richard Murray who had his layout destroyed in the 2013 Southern Alberta floods. It takes a great deal of courage to start the rebuilding process and then offer to show it to others a mere seven months later. I hope the CMRS members take the opportunity for a trip outside the city and see Richard's layout and also stop in at Barrie's layout in DeWinton.

Richard Murray has a request to all CMRS members that I will leave verbatim.

Wanted! Any old HO steam locomotives, tenders or parts. Any condition will do as they will become scenery on the locomotive servicing facility. Clear out those old steam locomotives that never really looked good or ran well. They still have horn hooks? Not a problem. The PBRR shop crews will make those disappear. Only have the running gear? We'll work it over in the shops. Any road will do as they will get repainted. It's doing our part for the war effort. If we can put it back in service we will. If not, its parts will help keep other trains running or its metal will help build the tanks our boys need!

If anyone would like to help out Richard, I am sure he would appreciate the donation.

Details of the tours are included as a separate attachment with this edition of the OrderBoard.

Let's hope to good weather for the tour days.

*Al Matchett
CMRS Layout Tours Coordinator
(and layout host)*



SUPERTRAIN Saturday Night Gala

April 12, 2014

Spring is just around the corner and that means SUPERTRAIN will be here before you know it. SUPERTRAIN Saturday Night Gala tickets are now available for purchase. The Gala will be held at the Glenmore Inn.

Tickets cost \$30.00 each.
Cocktails @ 5:00 pm
Dinner @ 6:30 pm

If you have any food allergies or sensitivities, let me know when you order your tickets. The Glenmore Inn can provide special meals if we provide them with sufficient advance notice.

We will again have numerous door prizes and our ever popular raffle for prizes from SUPERTRAIN Vendors. VIA has generously donated two return tickets from Edmonton to Vancouver for our Volunteer Appreciation.

To reserve your tickets contact me either by phone at 403-934-1372 or email at LBQ@shaw.ca. Tickets can be picked up at the Mini Meet on March 9th or the Volunteer Orientation on March 30th.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Linda Laroche

Bouma Squares

Peter Bouma has issued a challenge; to make a scene on a 5 inch by 5 inch board (no overhangs allowed, except for the occasional tree branch !). Peter's entry is shown on the cover. All of the squares were picked up at the last Mini Meet, so hopefully you are busy putting your little diorama together. If you want to enter and don't have a square, contact Peter at freemo54@hotmail.com, or just cut yourself a square of plywood or some other material that is 5" on a side.

Roger Walker reports that he has just started on his square, partly by dumping out the junk box to see what is in there. He is amazed at how many different scenes that could be made in such a small space, and it's given him all sorts of ideas about how to fill some of those little empty spaces on the layout. I have mine in progress, the walls are up and detailing is proceeding. I can report that I have used all of the 5", no space to waste!

There will be no judging of the 5 inch modules, but everyone who enters will get their name in a hat. We'll draw a winner, who will receive a \$100 gift certificate from Trains and Such. Think about it – that's \$4 per square inch of your module.

Also it is planned to display these squares at SUPERTRAIN as part of the Diorama displays.

Editor

Are these yours?

At The Calgary Model Trainmen's Club we have come across a box of 7 modern era HO scale Diesels such as GP-35 and AC units who are looking for their owner. No present CMT members own these so I believe they may belong to a past CMT member. Would the owner please identify these before they become club property? Please call Dale at 403-274-4852 or email at sproules@telusplanet.net.

Dale Sproule



CMRS MINI MEET, MARCH 9, 2014

I'm pleased to announce lots of activities for the Spring Mini meet, and hope to see lots of you there. The clinics will be as follows...

Ian McArthur – The history of Steam Locomotives: how they work and why they disappeared.

Mike Borkristl – Painting clouds on your backdrop

Bill Bergman – Dimensional loads – how the railroads manage wide, long, high and heavy loads, modelling this

George Barr – how to photograph your layout

Roger Walker – all the Dirt on Diesels – how and where the dirt accumulates, and how to model it.

The regular **show and tell** room will be open, and as always, I encourage you to bring something along, preferably with a short description of the model and how you made it.

I love to see your feedback about the Mini Meets and clinics, so if you have any ideas for a clinic in the future, or would like to volunteer a clinic, please let me know.

See you in March.

Roger Walker

CMT Flea Market, March 9, 2014

Just a reminder that CMT will be hosting the Flea Market in conjunction with the CMRS Mini Meet on March 9th. To book a table Contact Garth Praestegaard (403) 650-1391 or Brookes Harrow (403) 201-4937, email: bharrow@nucleus.com Tables are \$20 each.

Admission is \$2 for CMRS members and it runs from 9:00AM to 12:00 at the Glenmore Inn.

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Here is an invitation to display your stuff at SUPERTRAIN!

Whatever you are modelling; dioramas, structures, modules, scale models, rolling stock, craftsman kits, scratch building, kit bashing, maybe even a small switching layout, everything railroading and any scale.

Please consider showing your stuff at SUPERTRAIN 2014 in the Diorama Modellers Booth. We want to show, to the *general public*, work of different skill levels, not only models of master builders, but small projects or works in progress. We want to inspire the viewer, and set his fantasy in motion. Please contact me by e-mail and indicate what you could exhibit so that we may start some pre-planning, or just ask if you have further questions. We have a number of tables booked for displays at SUPERTRAIN this year.

BJ Ersson bcersson@explornet.com



SUPERTRAIN 2014 Report

It is only a little over two months until SUPERTRAIN rolls into town again. By my count, this will be the 20th time that CMRS has presented what has become Canada's biggest and best train show. We can be justifiably proud of our show, starting with the quality, variety, and sheer number of layouts, exhibits, vendors, and manufacturers. From the very beginning, our mandate has been to promote the hobby of model railroading, and what better way to do that than to attract young families with budding enthusiasts down on their hands and knees in the Play Area or watching G scale trains at their eye level. Our clinics and demonstrations are also aimed at beginners, but the level of skill and modelling excellence on display throughout the building shows everyone where the hobby can take you.

This year, we have some extra challenges to surmount to ensure we have the best show possible. The City of Calgary has taken over direct management of the Soccer Centre from the Calgary Soccer Federation, meaning we have to deal with new people and new policies. More importantly, the City has begun construction of the new Annex to take the place of the bubble on the northeast side of the complex. The construction zone severely impacts the amount of parking space available. Not only has the bubble pad been taken over, but much of the paved parking on the north side of the building is presently being used for material storage. We have assurances that some of this space will be returned to parking before April, but in 2014, parking for our paying guests will be more difficult than ever before. The Committee strongly urges all CMRS members, volunteers, and exhibitors to park off-site at one of the designated warehouse parking lots. We are attempting to secure permission to use a large parking lot a few blocks away and operate a shuttle bus to the front doors. However, at this time, it is not a sure thing and overall attendance at the show may end up being impacted.

Another result of the construction is the loss of the ramp between the upper mezzanine level and the field level. This means that we will have to use the north side doors N2/N3 as access to the floor for wheelchairs and strollers. A ticket booth will be set up nearby to allow guests to enter directly. If the weather is poor, we will need to protect this entrance with a rental tent to keep cold winds from blowing in. The loss of the access at the bubble ramp will also impact move-in for the many exhibitors who used this entrance last year. We must ask all exhibitors to be patient during set-up and tear-down if access is taking longer than they would like. The new Annex should be completed by summer, so these extra difficulties should be limited to this year only.

With our extra challenges, we need even more Volunteers to help with security, admissions, ticket sales, and everything else that goes into the show. This year, you can sign up with your preferences for times and jobs on line. Please go to <http://bit.ly/STvolunteer> to fill in the simple form. If you have any questions about Volunteering, you can email volunteer@supertrain.ca. We will be holding the Volunteer Orientation Session on March 30 at the Glenmore Inn with a light lunch served. This is your opportunity to learn about your tasks, ask questions, and pick up your name badge ahead of time.

Finally, don't forget about our Saturday Night Gala on April 12 at the Glenmore Inn. It will be another great evening of fine food, great entertainment, and lots of prizes. Please contact Linda Laroche either by phone at 403-934-1372 or email at LBQ@shaw.ca to get your tickets.

*Rob Badmington and Daniel Charest
Co-Chairmen, SUPERTRAIN 2014*



Improving A-Line Totes



If you have an A-Line tote, you have likely found it a very good way to transport your trains to meets – BUT – getting trains into and out of the tote is a pain, and can easily cause damage. Ask me how I know. You have likely also accumulated a lot of bubble wrap from your eBay purchases – ask me ... – and do not know what to do with it.

We can solve both problems at the same time, by discarding the thin foam in the bottom of the A-Line tote trays that catches coupler trips, and replacing it with individual car slings

made of the bubble wrap – see photo 1. For this purpose, the bubble wrap should be the very soft type with the small bubbles – not the big stuff in which they wrap your new Mercedes.

A sling of 8" provides sufficient finger grip above the standard height cars to pinch the wrap and lift the cars or engines out – see photo 2.

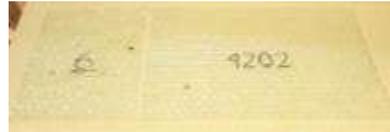


A longer sling would be required for the deeper trays used for over height cars. The width of the sling approximately matches the length of the car being lifted. The sling should reach the end of the car plus or minus a bit, supporting the trucks but leaving the couplers exposed. I standardized on widths of 5" (36' cars, e.g. my shorter tanks); 6" (40-42' cars, eg boxes and longer tanks); and 8" (60' cars, e.g. long tanks and flats) reflecting my roster. I also made a special long sling so I can leave my 2-10-2 coupled to its tender – see photo 3.

To help identify the various lengths in the hustle of packing up,



I write the length in inches – or the specific loco/ car – with a Sharpie on the smooth side of the sling – see photo 4.



The other half of the puzzle is separating the cars. One of the spacers that A-Line sells (1/2" thick) will

separate two box cars enough that the couplers will not engage; two are required for tank cars, since the tank ends are inset from the frame end. At each end of each row I glue two spacers so that they clear the couplers of the cars and press only against the car ends. There is no need to buy A-Line spacers, of course – you can cut your own from soft (must be soft to protect end detail) open cell foam bought locally.

The third half of the puzzle is actually putting the cars in the trays. Each car at the end of a row is put in its sling (smooth side up, bubbly side down) on a flat surface, lifted by pinching the sling over the top of the car, dropping it down into the tray slot, and sliding it with the sling so that the end of the car is against the spacers glued to the end of the row and the coupler disappears below. It takes longer to describe than to do. Remaining cars are slung into the space between. When no more cars will fit, additional loose spacers are inserted between the cars, clearing the couplers, and pressing against the ends of the cars, until the cars are snugly but not tightly packed. It will take a variable number of these spacers depending on the mix of car lengths – for four 42' tank cars, two spacers between each car seem about right.

For specific cars, a special spacer can be made of foam – photo 5 is one I use for the front of my CNR 2-10-2, pressing against the smokebox front and clearing the coupler, visible in photo 1.



To unload the tray, first remove the loose spacers and lift the cars individually. C'est tres facile.

Photo 1 is a filled tray. When the lid is put on, the protruding bubble wrap of the slings is compressed, putting gentle pressure on the top of the cars, although I do not recommend transporting the tote upside down.

This packing method has assuaged my paranoia about getting my roster safely to and from shows. Then again - maybe it is not paranoia – maybe they really are out to get me.

Jim Ironside



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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:

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 Feb. 22, 2014

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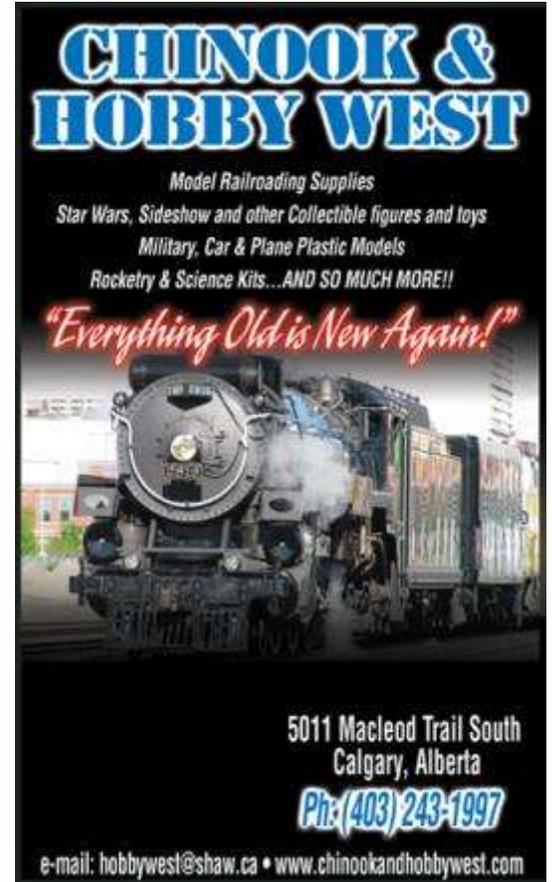
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Coming Events Schedule

Feb 8-9, 2014	CMRS Layout Tours
Feb 22 - 23, 2014	30th Annual All Aboard 2014, Western Development Museum, Saskatoon www.prairierailworkshop.com
March 9, 2014	Spring Mini Meet and CMT Flea Mart, Glenmore Inn
March 22-23, 2014	Moose Jaw Model Train Show, Moose Jaw http://www.tcmrc.org
March 30, 2014	SUPERTRAIN Volunteer Orientation, Glenmore Inn
April 12-13, 2014	SUPERTRAIN, Subway Soccer Centre http://www.supertrain.ca/

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