



# The Order Board

Newsletter of The Calgary Model Railway Society



*Eastbound train leaving Field just about to start the steep grade up the Big Hill.*

*Photo by Gord Smith.*

## President's Report

The Spring Mini Meet and CMT Fleamarket are done for another year. CMT managed to squeeze the most tables into the Glenmore Inn ballroom ever and there were good deals to be had. All six clinics were well attended and I wish to thank all the clinic presenters for doing such a great job. The show and tell area had some great models and dioramas on display. Thanks to everyone who brought their modelling efforts in for everyone to admire.



**Table of Contents**

- President's Report
- SUPERTRAIN
- Spring Mini Meet
- CMT Fleamarket
- CMRS Diorama Builders
- Heritage Park Tour
- Grand Tour of BC
- Dirty Track?
- Coming Events

**President's Report Continued...**

We are working on a couple of upcoming railfan events which should interest various members in the community. See more information later in this issue.

I know I have talked about volunteering at Supertrain for the last two editions of The Orderboard and am starting to sound like a broken record but we really need everyone's help in making this year's show a success. Jim McArthur has quite a few positions filled but we can still use volunteers for all areas of the show.

Finally, we have two CMRS Board Club Director and two Independent Director positions coming up for election at this year's AGM in October. Both Cantrak and Bow Valley must nominate a club member for their respective board seats. Daniel Charest has served two 3 year terms and must step down. Rick Walker has reached the end of his first three year term and can stand for election again if he so chooses. If you have an interest in serving the Calgary model railroading community I highly encourage you to think about putting your name forward for one of the Independent seats. Please contact myself or John Lund if you have any questions regarding serving on the board or if you would like to put your name forward.

*Al Matchett,  
President CMRS*

  <p><b>SE·L·K·I·R·K</b> LEAF</p> <p><b>Deciduous leaves in nine colours, from fresh Spring to bright Fall, standard or fine scale, also Branch Netting to enhance your trees.</b> Ph.403-335-2890 <a href="http://selkirkleaf.com/">http://selkirkleaf.com/</a> Email: <a href="mailto:Selkirkleaf1@yahoo.ca">Selkirkleaf1@yahoo.ca</a></p>	 <p><b>THE DISPATCHER</b> <i>Specializing in Digital Command Control</i></p> <p><b>BRUCE SHAW</b></p> <p>Discount prices on: Digitrax Atlas Rapido Peco Kato ExactRail Soundtraxx Athearn QSI Intermountain</p> <p>Website - <a href="http://members.shaw.ca/dispatcher">http://members.shaw.ca/dispatcher</a> Email: <a href="mailto:dispatcher@shaw.ca">dispatcher@shaw.ca</a></p>
--	---

**Photos and Articles Wanted**

Want to see your photo on the cover of the OrderBoard? Then send them in to the editor and they are likely to be published! We are always in need of photos and short articles either about your models or the real thing. Send them to: [orderboard@calgarymodelrailway.ca](mailto:orderboard@calgarymodelrailway.ca)



---

## SUPERTRAIN Report

SUPERTRAIN 2017 is officially full, with over 110 exhibitors and vendors. All possible space at the Genesis Centre has been allocated. I invite you to visit our website, [supertrain.ca](http://supertrain.ca), for a real time updated list of confirmed exhibitors. While on the website, please take time to read useful information about the show, like a list of demos and clinics at the show theatre, check out our sponsors, print the floor plan, and even browse photos of prior train shows.

SUPERTRAIN NEEDS YOU! We received a good response from the CMRS members to volunteer at the show, and we thank the ones that offered their time. However, there are still several spots to fill in, and we would appreciate that anyone that has not yet responded to the invite, please offer their time to do a 2-hour shift or two. If you already offered your time, and are willing to do another shift, please contact Jim McArthur at [volunteer@supertrain.ca](mailto:volunteer@supertrain.ca).

We are desperately looking for volunteers to control traffic in the parking lot, and when the lot is full, direct visitors to the McKnight-Westwinds station to take advantage of our free shuttle. Rest assured, you'll not be alone, as the Genesis Centre graciously provides 5-6 of their staff at all time to help with this task. Again, please contact Jim McArthur at [volunteer@supertrain.ca](mailto:volunteer@supertrain.ca) if you are interested to help. More information on this position will be provided at the Volunteer Orientation meeting.

SAVE THE DATE! The Volunteer Orientation meeting will be held on Sunday, April 9th, from 1pm to 3pm, at the Genesis Centre. Refreshments will be served. This is your opportunity to learn about your tasks, ask questions, and pick up your name badge ahead of time.

VIA Rail has again supported CMRS with the donation train tickets worth \$1500 for use anywhere on their system. These tickets will be given to the winner of a draw from the list of members who have volunteered for a CMRS event in the past year. In addition to the trip tickets, CMRS is donating twenty \$25 gift certificates for a local hobby shop of your choice, to be drawn from the list of SUPERTRAIN volunteers.


SUPERTRAIN Saturday Night Gala tickets are selling fast and we invite you to order yours as soon as possible. We must provide the Glenmore Inn the number of guests a week prior to the gala, therefore there will be no tickets for sale at the show. To reserve your tickets, contact Jeffrey Burk at [gala@supertrain.ca](mailto:gala@supertrain.ca) (preferred method), or at 403-613-0603 and leave a message with name, return phone number and number of tickets and we will call you back for a confirmation. Tickets can be picked up at the Volunteer Orientation meeting in April.

The guest speaker at the Gala will be Mark Dance, a well known N-scale modeller from the Vancouver area. His presentation is titled Relocation of the Klondike Mines Railway. A couple of committee members have seen it at the Vancouver Train Show and provided great feedback about Mark's presentation.

SUPERTRAIN admissions can be purchased online. A special 2-day weekend admission is available, online only, for \$22.00 plus processing fee until March 31st, 2017. The wristband will be mailed out in early April. Visit <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/supertrain-2017-tickets-27664248512> to order, or use the link available on the SUPERTRAIN website and Facebook page.

*Daniel Charest  
Chairman, SUPERTRAIN 2017*



 <p>3610 - 50.Ave SE, unit 23 Calgary, AB T2B 3N9 Canada 403-291-9398</p>	<p><b>For Sale</b></p> <p>If any of our members has something Model Railroad related that they would like to sell, this space is available for free.</p>
--	--

<p><b>MEMBERSHIPS</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Completed forms and payment can be mailed to:</p> <p><b>The Calgary Model Railway Society</b> PO Box 8071, Station A Calgary, AB T2H 0H7</p>	<p><b>ADVERTISING</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Contact the Editor at <a href="mailto:orderboard@calgarymodelrailway.ca">orderboard@calgarymodelrailway.ca</a> for details.</p> <p><b>Deadline for the next issue is April 30, 2017</b></p>
---	--

**Board of Directors**

<p><b>Al Matchett</b> – Independent <b>President</b> <a href="mailto:al.m@shaw.ca">al.m@shaw.ca</a></p>	<p><b>Daniel Charest</b> Independent <b>Vice-President,</b> <b>SUPERTRAIN</b> <b>Chairman</b> <a href="mailto:daniel@dan-nscaler.com">daniel@dan-nscaler.com</a></p>	<p><b>Jim Ironside</b> - Free-mo <b>Secretary</b> H- 403-254-8116 <a href="mailto:ironsidejim@gmail.com">ironsidejim@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>Jason Thornhill</b> – Rocky Mountain Garden RR <b>Railfan Events</b> <a href="mailto:jason@spencrossing.com">jason@spencrossing.com</a></p>
<p><b>Rick Walker</b> - Independent <b>Treasurer</b> <a href="mailto:walkr@telusplanet.net">walkr@telusplanet.net</a></p>	<p><b>John Lund</b>– Cantrak <b>Membership</b> H - 403-239-1070 <a href="mailto:jlund@telusplanet.net">jlund@telusplanet.net</a></p>	<p><b>Brookes Harrow</b> - CMT <b>Clinics</b> H - 403-201-4937 <a href="mailto:bharrow@nucleus.com">bharrow@nucleus.com</a></p>	<p><b>Rob Badmington</b> – Independent <b>Slide Night, Parks</b> <b>Canada</b> <a href="mailto:badmington@shaw.ca">badmington@shaw.ca</a></p>
<p><b>Bain Spielman</b> - Independent <b>Layout Tours, Trains for Kids</b> <a href="mailto:bainspielman@shaw.ca">bainspielman@shaw.ca</a></p>		<p><b>Brent Ciccone</b> Bow Valley <b>OrderBoard &amp; Communications</b> H- 403-283-0325 <a href="mailto:orderboard@calgarymodelrailway.ca">orderboard@calgarymodelrailway.ca</a></p>	



VIA Rail has again supported CMRS with the donation of train tickets worth \$1500 for travel anywhere on VIA's routes. These tickets will be given to the winner of a draw from the list of members who have volunteered for a CMRS event in the past year.



## CMT Annual Fleamarket

This year's Fleamarket was a great success, with a record 43 tables rented out. Thanks to everyone who brought items for sale. And thanks to everyone who came to look over what was for sale and frequently left after purchasing an item or many items. Even if you came in to visit and socialize, we hope everyone enjoyed themselves.

Unfortunately, we had to turn a few sellers away as we were sold out, even after adding more tables. After carefully looking over the room, we still could have added a couple of more tables; but this was too late for the people we had turned away.

We plan to be back next year. A couple of changes- the Fleamarket will still start at 8:30 am but will now run until 11:00 am, an additional half hour.

So when we start beating the drums for the 2018 Fleamarket, make sure you reserve your table soonest! All in all, it was a fun time. Look forward to seeing everyone next year.

*Brookes Harrow*

## Spring Mini Meet

The Spring Mini Meet was held at the Glenmore Inn on Sunday March 5, 2017, following the CMT Annual Fleamarket.

The Show and Tell room had several interesting displays for us to enjoy.

Six clinicians did a great job. In the morning, Gail Myers did an interesting presentation on how to make fallen leaves from, well, leaves. Garth Praestegaard showed how he is planning on modelling the CN Bridge across the Bow River making the abutments using MDF board. In the afternoon, Ian Mears showed attendees how to make realistic structures using paper. Geoff Southwood put on a presentation of layouts he has seen in the New England area and drawing out the ideas and inspiration from these layouts. Brent Ciccone showed how to enhance your layout with sound and lighting effects. Brian Zhung showed how to enhance your locos appearance using your airbrush.

All clinics were well thought out and well presented. Any or all would help modellers go home and improve their layouts. Thank you all clinicians. And thanks to all for attending.

There is a need for future clinicians, either at the Fall Mini Meet on October 22, 2017 or next Spring Mini Meet on March 4, 2018. If you have a topic you would like to share, please contact me by email at [bharrow@nucleus.com](mailto:bharrow@nucleus.com) or by phone at 403-201-4937.

*Brookes Harrow*

### **For Sale**

BLI light Mikado, DCC sound, unlettered \$235  
Contact Brent Ciccone at [brentglen@yahoo.ca](mailto:brentglen@yahoo.ca)



## Calgary Model Trainmen Update

Work continues on the CMT's new premises. The work of extending the back wall outwards to give us more layout space has been completed.

Now our focus is on the show layout. We have added two new pieces to make the layout wider to give more space in the centre for the staging yard. New track has to be placed across the new sections and switches have been built using Fast Tracks jigs to access the staging yards.

We started work on enhancing the wiring the modules, both for new needed connections and to improve the quality of the existing wiring and connections. The things learned here will be useful in building the new layout.

Check out our Web site: <http://www.calgarymodeltrainmen.com/> And we are now on Facebook thanks to the efforts of a couple of our younger members.

You are welcome to come and see what we are doing on any Wednesday evening. If you are interested in joining, new members are welcome.

*Brookes Harrow*

## CMRS Member's Railside Diorama Builders

This is a reminder to all CMRS members that would like to display some of their work to take part in our groups booth at SUPERTRAIN. Hopefully we can inspire a few of you to finish a diorama of some sort, including some structures and landscape details. Those may be free standing... or could be intended to be eventually, included in a home or club layout. Any size and scale is welcome, you can even bring a small switching layout or a standard module.

Should you be in the process of modelling one of those fabulous "craftsman kits" we'll like to help you to exhibit it. Or, if you have invested the time and effort to kitbash or to build something from scratch, may it be a model of the real thing (often rolling stock) or a freelance, fictional railside diorama, don't hesitate to ask us for a spot at our booth.

A few years of experience has given us the idea how to protect your model from sticky fingers and allow serious on-lookers to inspect the detail up close. By mounting them on risers, up to a couple of feet from the table top, also allow you to add a short story card, photographs and other information.

Remember, there is no cost to your participation. However, it helps us if you write me an email once you plan to possibly have something ready. Helps me to apply for space, early. I also welcome suggestions and comments.

*BJ Ersson*  
[bcersson@explornet.com](mailto:bcersson@explornet.com)



## Heritage Park Tour

A call went out to the CMRS members by email on March 16 about a behind the scenes tour of the roundhouse at Heritage Park. The tour will be on Wednesday March 29<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM. This call garnered a lot of interest and by the next day the tour was full! Sorry for those who did not respond fast enough!

## Grand Tour of BC

Work is underway in planning a weekend tour of various railway related sites in BC. Leaving on a Friday evening by bus from Calgary, the trip will start at 3 Valley Gap west of Revelstoke. We will take in a tour of their "Ghost Village" and roundhouse which includes many buildings rescued from locations in BC. The roundhouse also holds an assortment of passenger cars and a few locomotives.

After overnighing at 3 Valley Gap the tour will continue to Summerland for a trip on the Kettle Valley Steam Railway. After the train trip we will continue on to Oliver for a winery tour and an overnight stop to be determined. Sunday will see the bus heading to Fort Steele outside of Cranbrook and then on to a tour at the Bellevue mine in the Crowsnest before returning to Calgary sometime late on Sunday evening.

Final details are being worked out, including a possible date change. Cost will include the bus, admissions to each venue, hotel (based on double occupancy) and most meals. It is anticipated that cost will fall in the range of \$285 per person. The tentative date is June 9-10-11, but we are looking into the possibility of changing this as that date conflicts with the PNR meet in Spokane.

We would need a minimum of 40 people and up to 52 (depending on the bus capacity) to make this happen. If you would be interested in this trip, please let us know by sending an email to:

[orderboard@calgarymodelrailway.ca](mailto:orderboard@calgarymodelrailway.ca)

*Jason Thornhill*

## Dirty Track?

A few years back I did some experimenting with various methods of cleaning track. These experiments resulted in an article published in Model Railroad Hobbyist magazine ([July 2014 issue](#)) I will summarize the results of those experiments and review additional results that I have observed since that time.

Nothing seems to get Model Railroaders discussions going like the topic of track cleaning. I have heard all sorts of methods and lots of old wives tales (or Old Model Railroader Tales?) about how best to clean track. Since I had a perennial problem with dirty track on my home layout, I decided to do some experimentation to see what worked and what didn't.

To see what was causing the dirt on the tracks I did a little experiment. I took a left over piece of flex track, gave it a good cleaning and then covered one half of it with cloth and left the other half uncovered. Why the cloth? I wanted something that air could still get through to the track but would keep dust off. I placed the track back on the shelf and left it there, for a year and a half! I did take it down once or twice and looked at it, then returned it to its resting place. What did I see after all this time? Well the uncovered half had a nice thick layer of white dust on it, the covered side was completely clean. No accumulation of black gunk or any sign of oxidation to the rails that were covered. What does that suggest to us? The culprit in the formation of that black gunk on the track is the accumulation of dust combined with the electric current through the rails. I further noted that on some of my sidings where cars get parked but locomotive seldom ventured, that



those tracks stay relatively clean, so it is the combination of locomotives, electricity and dust that are the culprit.

I experimented with various methods of cleaning track, finding that strong organic solvents like Varsol are most effective. I settled on the use of Acetone as a cleaner, it may be slightly less toxic than Varsol and is readily available, just be careful as it can strip paint, as will Varsol. I have a CMX track cleaning car that I fill with acetone and run around the layout to clean the track, although expensive, these cars are very effective and a much easier way to clean track, especially hidden track.

I also did a test (see the Myth busting sidebar in the MRH article) about “scratching” the rails with abrasive cleaners. In summary I could find no evidence after a year of testing, that the abrasive has any effect on making the track any dirtier than any other section of track. Which is why Micro Engineering and Peco both recommend using the “bright boy” type of cleaning block. In fact these are the quickest way to get track clean, takes a little bit of effort but it is the fastest method of getting track clean!

I have finally settled on the use of graphite as a preventative measure for keeping the track clean. I used to have to clean track every 3 weeks or more in the winter, now I clean track in the fall, apply graphite and maybe have to repeat it in February. Graphite is applied by obtaining a 3 to 6B graphite stick from an art supply store (\$1.50) and simply rubbing it along the rails. Since graphite is a good conductor the trains run great. There may be some slight loss of traction, if your grades are too steep you could have a problem, but most of us run with too much head end power anyways, so a little loss of traction is no problem.

I had tried a product called No-Ox on the rails and it worked great for a while. I obtained a couple new locomotives and after running them on the layout for a short while noticed a build up of dirt on the wheels. My other locomotives had their wheels treated with the No-ox and were OK, but the untreated wheels really got gunked up badly. Since that would create a problem for any visiting locomotives, I decided to remove the No-ox and have used the graphite treatment ever since.

*Brent Ciccone  
Editor*

### **Coming Events Schedule**

<b>April 9, 2017</b>	<b>SUPERTRAIN Volunteer Orientation, 1 - 3 PM, Genesis Centre</b>
<b>April 22, 23, 2017</b>	<b>SUPERTRAIN, Genesis Centre</b>
April 25, 2017	Chinook Country Historical Society - "Saving the Hanna Roundhouse" 7:30 Central Library, Calgary
May 6-7, 2017	REGINA RAILFEST - Tartan Curling Club <a href="https://www.facebook.com/Regina-Railfest-2016-465866883620383/">https://www.facebook.com/Regina-Railfest-2016-465866883620383/</a>
May 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 2017	Day Out With Thomas, <a href="#">Heritage Park Historical Village</a> , Calgary
May 19-21, 2017	PNR Meet, 6th Division Annual Meet at the Black Knight Inn, Red Deer, AB Info: <a href="http://www.calgaryedmontonexpress2017.ca">www.calgaryedmontonexpress2017.ca</a>
May 27, 28, 2017	Banff Canada 150 Anniversary train setup
June 6 - 11, 2017	PNR Convention, Spokane Washington
June 16 - 18, 2017	Chilliwack BC Free-mo
June 22 - 24, 2017	Big Valley Canada 150 Anniversary celebration with Alberta Prairie steam train and Free-mo setup

*Send an email to [orderboard@calgarymodelrailway.ca](mailto:orderboard@calgarymodelrailway.ca) with submissions for coming events!  
Deadline for the next issue is April 30, 2017*