

# ORDER BOARD

*The Official newsletter of the*

# Calgary Model Railway Society

The Communications Medium for Railway Enthusiasts

**January 2002  
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*Internet Addresses*

*CMRS Homepage Address - <http://www.calgarymodelrailway.org>  
Order Board Newsletter Address - <http://calgarymodelrailway.org/orderboard.html>  
Editor Gordon E. Smith*

## President's Message

Hopefully, every one had a very merry Christmas and received lots of new models to assemble. I am sure we all need to expand our empires.

Since the last Order Board a lot has happened. We have had two very successful events sponsored by CMRS. Congratulations to the organizers of the Fall Mini Meet and Slide Night. You did a great job and on behalf of the membership I would like to say thanks. This year modelers were also lucky to have an extra event- The Prototype Modelers Meet. This non-CMRS event was excellent and well attended by modelers from Calgary and beyond. So I would like to thank and congratulate Russ Pinchbeck and his committee for organizing this event.

Plans are being finalized for the annual Supertrain show. Barry Conn and his crew are busy getting everything ready for the modeling community and the potential modeling community. Barry may still need some help on event weekend.

I am looking forward to the upcoming Supertrain Show, Layout Tours, Spring Mini Meet, Membership Appreciation Night and hopefully some prototype tours.

Hopefully, I will see you there.

-William

The deadline for contributions for the next Order Board is February 8, 2002. Please forward any articles or information to Gord Smith prior to that date. Phone 239-2514 or e-mail:

[gord.smith@shaw.ca](mailto:gord.smith@shaw.ca)

## Fall Mini Meet Report

The Fall Mini Meet was held at the Hospitality Inn on October 21, 2001 and was attended by approximately 140 members.

Clinics started at 10:30 AM and 5 clinics were presented throughout the day and all were well attended. A special thanks to the members who presented the clinics, they were: Gerry Peters, Jim Pepperdine, Rolf Stengl, Nigel Knight and Bert Haynes.

We had a number of dealers and tables for 'Bring and Brag' as well as commercial and non-commercial. It's felt that we could use more exhibitors in this area but there are some conflicts on the timing as well as some who could not attend due to work commitments.

Coffee and tea were available throughout the day.

There were draws throughout the day. Thank you, to the local dealers for some very good purchase prices.

Total cost of the mini-meet was \$1127.62

A special thanks to John Simpson who has helped organize the last 3 meets and has gone to the extra effort of reminding all members as the date approached. John is stepping down to allow others to volunteer their talents.

- Randy Baldwin



## Slide Night 2001 - Report

On Wednesday November 7, approximately 50 people attended the CMRS Annual Slide Night. If you didn't go, you missed a great event.

Members of the Brotherhood (local rail photographers) as well as some members of the audience showed a great selection of slides. The theme this year was "photos from recent railfanning trips". Each person presented their slides and gave a short verbal description of where the pictures were taken as well as providing other pertinent information about their trip.

We had a number of local Alberta pictures taken in areas where most of us will never venture, as well as shots from across Canada and the United States. The photos were breathtaking –the kind of pictures you see on calendars or in magazines. We really have some talented people living in Calgary.

I would like to thank the following members of the Brotherhood for taking part in the slide night:

John Sutherland  
Grant Watson  
Bob Hadlow  
Doug Phillips  
Garry Miller  
Roz Miller  
Tom Newton

I would like to thank Dale Sproule for donating the use of the Slide Projector and the following members of the audience for also showing some of their favourite slides: Gordon Smith, Rob Badmington, Carl Van Veen, John Wrinch.

Make sure you attend next year, as this is a chance to see and meet some very talented photographers as well as modelers. It's also FREE for members.

Barry Conn

## Canadian Pacific / SAIT Training Facility Tour on Sept. 19, 2001

On the evening of September 19 Keith Jenne and Ross Hunt, 2 instructors at the CPR/SAIT training facility in NE Calgary, hosted 7 members of the Society.

They were scheduled off work at 5:00 PM, and committed an additional 4 hours to be with us until 9.

They answered numerous questions as we operated the 2 locomotive simulators. These are full size replicas of an SD 40-2 and an AC4400 cab, with a large screen simulated view of the track playing via video to match your speed. At one point I was running a freight from Stephen at the Great Divide through the Spiral Tunnels. No grain cars were lost.

The evening seemed to pass in minutes. At the end, Keith and Ross committed additional time to explain the dynamic brakes, train brakes, and signal training systems in the adjoining rooms.

On behalf of all of us attending, we have thanked them for allowing us to visit.

I enjoy these real railway experiences, and find that the explanations by railway employees increase my understanding and my ability to model. The Board has asked me to be the Railway Tour liaison for the new year. If you have ideas for a tour you would like to see, and if you have the contact, or the desire, to organize a tour for yourself and other members, please call me.

Rolf Stengl 288-7805



E-mail [dispatcher@shaw.ca](mailto:dispatcher@shaw.ca)

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## Willie Smith retires as Order Board Editor

The Calgary Model Railway Society membership would like to express our sincere appreciation for all the work that Willie Smith did as Order Board Editor. Since 1996, Willie has worked diligently to get all the articles together and get them into the format we have all come to recognize. He was also the one responsible for getting our newsletters published on the Web so that people could read them at their leisure, and save us a considerable amount in postage and mailing costs.

Willie retired from his full time job this past summer and is now looking forward to playing more golf and enjoying his leisure time. He will still be around and said that he is very willing to lend a hand if required.

Thanks again Willie for all the hard work



### MEMBERS APPRECIATION NIGHT

Members Appreciation Night will be held at the Hospitality Inn (South) on 11 May 2002. Tickets remain at \$5.00 per ticket and will be on sale at Supertrain.

Cash Bar, entertainment and awards. Further details and tickets at Supertrain and in the next issue for the Order Board.



## Community Relations

John Twelftree and I were in Cochrane on Oct. 22. to speak to a group of homeschool kids about Model Railroading. We were invited by one of the mothers of a group member. This presentation is part of their enrichment program.

There were a group of about 20 kids age 11-12, and another group of 20 kids age 13-16.

John and I brought a few models. We also brought some books and the Supertrain poster. We raised the question of why do people have hobbies, and why someone might enjoy MRing. John and I spoke about our models for about 10 minutes, followed by questions and discussion.

The idea is to help the kids find their own interests, and see if MRing is a possible match.

- Rolf Stengl -

## Layout Tours

CMRS Spring Layout Tours,  
South tour tentatively scheduled for April 6/7  
North tour tentatively scheduled for April 21

Please call Reg Clark 271 7372 (South) or Dave Marecek 547 3269 (North) to volunteer your layout.

More details in the next Order Board

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## **Supertrain 2002 – Report**

Enclosed in this issue of the OrderBoard are a couple of Supertrain Posters. Would you please take these to your place of work, local grocery store, community hall, etc and put them up on the bulletin boards. Previous marketing surveys have shown that the best advertising we can do is the advertising done by our members. Since we all benefit from the money we make at Supertrain (it funds everything we do), we ask that you help to generate some of this income by helping us to promote Canada's Largest Model Railroad Show.

Hopefully you have seen the posters in the hobby shops and will soon see the announcements in the hobby magazines. We have sent color posters to all hobby shops in B.C., Alberta, Sask, Man and the neighbouring States. As the word spreads about the size of our show, we start to get more enquires from further and further afield. This year we to hope to have exhibits from B.C., Saskatchewan, and Manitoba as well as lots of new exhibits from Alberta.

The Supertrain show becomes more successful every year due to the participation of the CMRS membership. I would like to thank all the members that sit on the Supertrain Committee, as well as all the volunteers that step forward and say they will help with one of the many items that need to be done. On the CMRS membership form it has a section that asks "are you willing to help out at Society functions". If you said yes, and mentioned Supertrain as one of the areas, we will likely be contacting you. If you don't get a call it means that we were able to get all the help we needed by the time we got to your name on the list.

This will be my last year as Supertrain Committee Chairman. Please drop by and say hello to me at the show. We always welcome your opinions and feedback on ways to improve the show.

Barry Conn

## **Poster Location Memory Jogger**

Your valuable assistance to distribute the enclosed letter size posters is much appreciated. The following are some memory joggers as to where these posters may be displayed. Should you be in a position to help with posting additional posters, kindly inform a Supertrain committee member or Barry Conn @251-9334. Note: You should seek authorization prior to displaying the poster. Some places will put up the poster for you. Having some thumbtacks, stapler or tape can be useful. For those of you who own a business with walk in clientele, you may wish to have some handouts to give to your clients. Barry Conn has 5½" x 8½" handouts available.

PLAY SCHOOLS  
PUBLIC NOTICE BOARDS  
CONVENIENCE STORE  
YOUR SCHOOL  
SAFEWAY / CO-OP NOTICE BOARDS  
COMMUNITY HALL  
LAUNDROMATS  
DAY CARE CENTERS  
WORK PLACE  
LOCAL LIQUOR STORE  
DENTAL OFFICE  
BEAUTY SALONS  
HOCKEY ARENA  
SERVICE STATIONS  
MEDICAL CLINICS  
LOCAL DAIRY QUEEN  
DOCTORS OFFICE  
BARBER SHOPS  
BOWLING ALLEY  
FRIENDS / RELATIVES  
CONDO / APT. ASSOC. NOTICE BD.

**SUBMITTED BY MAURICE DESPINS**



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## **Bring your models to Life**

A few years ago I walked into Trains and Such to find an estate sale of about 15 brass steam locomotives. In their original boxes, wrapped in plastic bags, they looked like they had never been run.

Buying those locos was probably comforting to their owner. At the same time, I'm guessing he had no more pleasure from them when he was alive, than now when he was dead.

I've noticed lots of models like that. Models in boxes. Models in wall displays that hardly anyone sees. Models sitting on a layout collecting a few flakes of dust each day, 365 days a year, year after year. Where's the pleasure in that?

To enjoy your models more, display them on a portable module. Placing models in a realistic setting brings them to life. And sharing them with others lets you appreciate them again and again.

Modules are easy to build, easy to keep, and easy to move. Bring them to the mini meets in the spring and fall. Show them at Supertrain. Take them to NMRA meets in your car.

You've probably got some beautiful models- brass or plastic, kit built or scratch built, super detailed, weathered, or out of the box. You can appreciate them more, even on plain track and bare plywood.

You're thinking you don't know how to build a module, maybe it won't turn out right. You've got no room, you're planning a move, your family needs most of your time, and your finances are limited.

Well, you have lots of practical options. A small diorama is inexpensive to build, and convenient to work on. It's easy to move and store. It gives you many hours of building and viewing pleasure. You can build a single unit, or plan to connect with others by using the NMRA module standards. I've included a portion of those standards with this article.

This is your personal display. You can create whatever works for you. Break out of that boxed in feeling, and bring your models to life. Start building. Small is good. Then bring your work to the meets. You'll enjoy it more by sharing with others.

- Rolf Stengl

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**visit the nmra website  
to learn all about their  
standards and recommended  
practices for module building.**

**[www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org)**



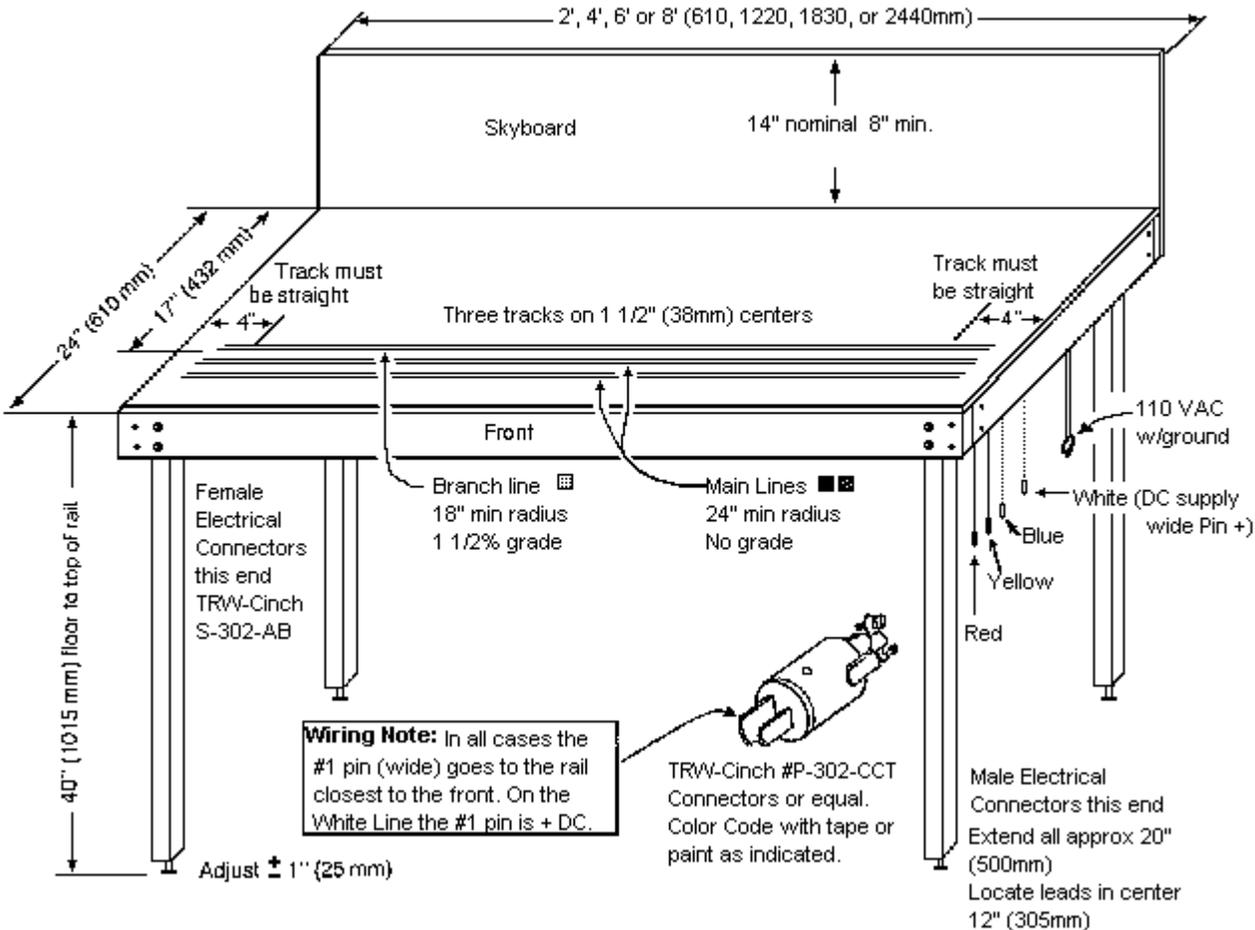
# STANDARDS AND RECOMMENDED PRACTICES

Recommended Practices are only less mandatory than Standards by virtue of their slightly less critical subject matter and/or the fact that deviation for specific reason is permissible.

SCALE	MINIMUM PARALLEL TANGENT TRACK LENGTH *+	MAXIMUM MAINLINE GRADE	MINIMUM MAINLINE TURNOUT	MINIMUM MAINLINE RADIUS **	MINIMUM (*)INDUSTRIAL RADIUS +++
Z	(*)2-3/16" (55mm)	4%	#5	7-1/2" (195mm)	6" (152.4mm)
N***	2-1/2" (63.5mm)	(*) 0%	#6	(*)24 (609.6mm)	17" (431.8mm)
TT	3-1/2" (88.9mm)	3%	#6	28-3/4" (730.2mm)	20" (508.0mm)
HO	(*)3" (76.2mm)	3%	#6	32" (812.8mm)	24" (609.6mm)
OO	3" (76.2mm)	3%	#6	36" (914mm)	30" (762.0mm)
S	(*)3" (76.2mm)	2%	#6	43" (1092.2mm)	34" (863.6mm)
O	4" (101.6mm)	2%	#6	60" (1524mm)	36" (914.4mm)
HIRAIL TINPLATE	5-1/2 (139.7mm)	2%	022 or equal	21" (533.4mm) inside 36" (914mm) outside	

Shown below are the basic specifications for standard NTRAK modules. These are the minimum requirements for all modules. Optional tracks, construction methods and module sizes are given on other pages.

Several units of any length may be combined to form a "module" that is a standard length (8', 14', etc.)



# MODULE STANDARDS & RECOMMENDED PRACTICES

Gauge	Height From Floor To Top of Rail	Hand Laid or Commercial Rail Code ***	Track Clearances H=Horiz V=Vertical *	Interface Track Center Lines from Module Front	Track Setback From End of Module	Center Lines On Curves	Track Centers For Parallel Tracks
N	40" (1016mm)	80 n5 55-70 (*)	H=19/32" (15mm) V=1-21/32" (42mm)	4, 5-1/2, 7" (101.6mm) (139.7mm) (177.8mm)	2-15/32" (62.7mm)	1-1/2" (38.1mm)	1-1/2" (38.1mm)
Three through tracks required, Mainline. One through track required, Secondary.							
HO	40" (1016mm)	100	H=1-1/32" (26.2mm) V=3" (76.2mm)	5" (127mm) 7" (177.8mm)	4-1/2" (114.3mm)	2-1/2" (63.5mm)	2" (50.8mm)
Two through tracks required, Mainline. Others optional.							
OO	40" (101.6mm)	100	H=1-3/16" (30.2mm) V=3-7/16" (87.3mm)	5" (127mm) 7-3/8" (187.3mm)	4-1/2" (114.3mm)	2-5/8" (66.7mm)	2-3/8" (60.3mm)
Two through tracks required. Mainline.							
S	42" (1067mm)	**	H=1-3/32" (27.8mm) V=4-1/8" (104.8mm)	6-1/8"**** (155.6mm) 8-7/8" (225.4mm)	2" (50.8mm)	3-1/2" (88.9mm)	2-3/4" (69.8mm)
(*)One or two mainlines optional. Check local NASG group for details.							
O	42" (1067mm)	148	H=1-7/8" (47.6mm) V=5-1/2" (139.7mm)	6" (152.4mm) 10" (254mm)	2" (50.8mm)	5" (127mm)	4" (101.6mm)

Two mainlines required

## RECOMMENDED PRACTICES FOR ALL SCALES

Module lengths for all scales shall be in 2' increments with 2' allowed as transition module.

1. Module width (except Z) will be 24" minimum, 36" maximum
2. All trackage behind the mainlines shall be insulated from mainlines.
3. All trackage behind the mainlines should have its own power source, separate from mainline power source.
4. A maximum mainline grade according to MRP-1 for each scale/gauge may be used if proper care is given.
5. If uncoupler magnets are used on the mainlines, they should be the electromagnetic type
6. All trackage behind the mainlines is not covered by NMRA Module Standards and is left to the discretion of the individual or group, with the exception of S-7 Standards pertaining to mainline clearances.
7. If sky boards are used,, recommended range is 8" to 18"; (optimum 14") scenery dividers are optional.
8. Recommended roadbed can be cork, wood or Homosote.
9. Legs should be 2"x2" construction with either 1/4" or 5/16" bolts in leg bottom for adjustment of 1".
10. Construction of module should be of either 1/2" plywood or L-girder top.
11. Forward extension modules, i.e. those protruding toward the public viewing side rather than inward toward the back of module, will mark the "front edge of module" reference point as the point at which the front edge would be located if it were not extended outward. This is the point of reference for center lines of mains.

This is a very abbreviated list of NMRA standards, please consult their website for more details.

## **Model Railroad Events Schedule**

\*items in bold are Calgary Model Railway Society events

January 25 & 26, 2002 Time: 9:00AM to 4:00PM  
SAIT open house at all campuses, including the:  
N R 'Buck' Crump Building  
1940 Centre Ave, N.E.  
This is the facility that houses their railway training programs

**February 16, 17, 2002**

**Supertrain 2002**

**Big Four Building at Stampede Park, on the lower floor**

**Time: 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM**

**Admission: Family \$10.00, Single \$5.00, Under 12 \$3.00, (\$1.00 off admission with food bank donation)**

**March 17, 2002**

**Spring MiniMeet**

Best Western Hospitality Inn (South), 135 Southland Drive, SE

Times: TBA (all day)

Admission: Members – free, non-members \$5.00

**April 6/7, 2002**

**Layout Tour – South Calgary**

**Details in the next Order Board**

**April 21, 2002**

**Layout Tour – North Calgary**

**Details in the next Order Board**

**May 11, 2002**

**Member Appreciation Night**

Best Western Hospitality Inn (South), 135 Southland Drive, SE

Times: TBA (evening)

Admission: **Members and guests only**, tickets \$5.00 each

**Tickets available at Supertrain and the Spring Mini Meet**

**September 9, 2002**

**Annual General Meeting**

**October 20, 2002**

**Fall MiniMeet**

**November 13, 2002**

**Slide Night**

Calgary Model Railway Society **memberships can be purchased or renewed at any of our events**  
or by mail.

Calgary Model Railway Society  
Box 63033, 2604 Kensington Road, N.W.  
Calgary, Alberta, T2N 4S5

# BOARD of DIRECTORS- Positions and Responsibilities

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For Commercial Advertisers, please contact the  
Publicity/OrderBoard Director for rates and approval prior to submitting Ads to the Editor.

## Mailing Address

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## Web Pages

Order Board Newsletter Address: <http://www.calgarymodelrailway.org/orderboard.html>  
CMRS Homepage Address: <http://www.calgarymodelrailway.org/>

## 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 [gord.smith@shaw.ca](mailto:gord.smith@shaw.ca)