



The OrderBoard

Newsletter of the **Calgary Model Railway Society**



Roger Walker's Layout, to be seen on the Layout Tours, Feb 9th. plus Roger is doing a clinic about Geology for the next mini-meet.

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President's Message

With the recent snow falls in Calgary, it's definitely modeling season for most of our members. Some of our members have worked hard to be ready for showing their layouts at the Layout Tours 2013 to be held on February 9th. Please see the details in this edition of the Orderboard.



President's Message Continued...

About 60 members attended the Slide Night on November. Special thanks to our presenters.

I attended a recent Supertrain committee meeting, and they are working hard to put together the next show. See Rob Badmington's Supertrain report for more info.

The March mini-meet and CMT flea market is fast approaching, and Roger Walker has found great presenters for the clinics. This year the meet is being held in conjunction with NMRA regional meet, the event is called "The Chinook" and is being held on the same weekend in Calgary. Find more details in the next few pages.

Dave Landels has great ideas for railfan events, and he is working on one for May or June. Look for the announcement in a future edition of the Orderboard.

Daniel Charest
President, CMRS

Layout Tours

The Layout Tours 2013 has been moved up to an earlier date than it has been held in the past few years. It will be on Saturday, February 9th. We kept the one day formula this year, however we asked the participants to open a little longer to accommodate members that would like to visit all the layouts. Please save this date as we have great layouts on the tour again this year.

The insert included with this Orderboard gives the list of the 8 layouts on tours this year, of which, 2 are club layouts. The layouts are organized such that you can start the tour from the north by visiting the layouts from top to bottom or bottom to top if you start from the south. Make sure to respect the open hours indicated on the insert, for each of the layouts. Please observe the rules that are also included on the insert. Don't forget to look for the crossbuck signs, which help identifying the host's houses.

Please join me to thank the hosts for giving all the CMRS members the opportunity to see their layouts.

Daniel Charest

For Sale- Hornby/Triang OO

Want to find a new home for my collection. Some 14 rolling stock, 28ft curve track, 18ft straight track (various lengths), P-5C controller. Asking price ?? Please call Brent at 403-299-3134 (wk).

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Are Premium Craftsman Structure Kits Worth the Price?

Before answering this question, let's examine the state of our hobby of model railroading. If, as I believe, the genesis of the interest in our hobby was often that first train set under the Christmas tree, then consider this, *Railway Model Craftsman* has for some years published a column entitled, "Collector Consist ...". It has cited that World War II caused considerable shortages of materials with which to produce the average train set and it was only after 1945 that the holiday season popularized these sets as gifts to children, primarily boys, aged 7 to 12. If for a moment we assume that the oldest boys receiving a train set for Christmas were 12 in 1945, then these venerable gentlemen are now 80 years old. If we further assume that by 1960, the train set had largely been replaced by the slot car set, then the youngest boys receiving a train set for Christmas were 7 in 1960 and these baby boomers are now 60 years old. Look around any train show or gathering of model railroaders and this is what you will see. Now further assume that as families mature and children leave home, there is a tendency to downsize into a smaller more manageable dwellings, then these 60-80 year olds are no longer building vast railway empires in their attics, basements, or three-car garages.

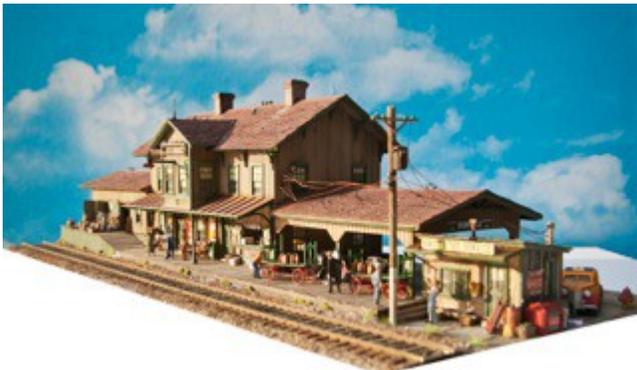


Photo Courtesy of Fine Scale Miniatures

There is a huge move in the hobby from quantity to quality and an increasing focus on true collectibles and model railroading as three-dimensional art. That being the case, today's model railroaders are very interested in having scenes that really depict the feel and texture of times gone by. Enter the realm of the craftsman structure.

There is often debate as to the exact definition of a craftsman structure. Some purists believe that it has to be scratch built. Some believe that it must be based on prototypical plans. Others accept that the skilled construction of one of the



Photo Courtesy of Rail Scale Miniatures

premiere wood, hydrocal, resin, cardboard, or plastic kits constitutes a craftsman structure. More flexible approaches might allow a store bought kit to be "kitbashed" to fit the space, era, or venue being modeled.

Most would agree that a craftsman structure properly executed can and often is the centerpiece of any scene. Tongue in cheek perhaps, but the model train is sometimes just an excuse for the scene to exist at all.

The acknowledged leaders amongst today's advanced kits are often considered to be George Sellios of Fine Scale Miniatures (F.S.M.) and Bob Van Gelder of South River Modelworks (S.R.M.). Both produce exquisite kits that justly enhance any layout. Curiously, many of their limited run kits never get built or are only built by their third or fourth owner. The kits are produced in limited quantities and are unveiled in early fall and often sold out by late January. This year's editions were the Brownsville Depot by F.S.M. and O.V. Hooker & Sons by S.R.M. These kits typically sell for plus or minus of \$300.



Photo Courtesy of South River Model Works



I should quickly add that we have our own Canadian premiere kit producer in Dario Le Donne of Rail Scale Miniatures (R.S.M.) and he will shortly have his smaller format Diamond Series, Dome Oil Company on the market for just under \$100. He regularly attends Supertrain.

Now are these kits worth it? Firstly, let me address this as a kit builder. These premiere kits are very well researched and include the history of the structure being modeled. They contain first class instructions that assist experts and novices alike, and contain complete and accurate parts in the form of laser-cut lumber, precise castings, high quality windows and roofing materials, and pictures, templates, fixtures, and jigs to assist in the construction. The larger kits by F.S.M., S.R.M., and R.S.M. generally (but not always) contain several buildings that you may or may not choose to arrange as the manufacturer suggests. If you break down the cost of the individual buildings and consider the large number of often unique castings, the average cost per scale square foot is very reasonable. You could buy a number of smaller kits from other manufacturers and by the time you added store bought castings and details not included in the smaller kits, your cost would be as high or higher than the premiere kits. And that is, if you could find the castings for sale individually. What if you never intend to build the kit or just don't get around to it? Can these kits be resold at or near their original cost? The answer would have to be a qualified "yes". There are resellers in the market who will buy them from you and sell them at or above the original cost, mind you taking a profit themselves, and therefore netting you less than you paid. There is also an active market on eBay where you can resell direct at closer to full original price. Would I advise speculating in these kits? No. The creeping demographics of the 60-80 age group are not in your favour.

What if you compare the hourly cost of the pleasure you get from building these kits to attendance at a feature film or sporting event? No contest, you'll get 100 to 200 hours of pleasure in building a \$300 kit. You do the math! These kits are not nearly so daunting as they might at first seem. If a model railroader of reasonable skill tackles the building of these kits patiently and in an organized manner, the results are amazing. The instructions lead you through. And then, you'll have the pride of completion and the accolades from fellow modelers and visitors alike. Incidentally, every one of these kits is also a chance to hone your skills so that the next building will be better and the one after that better still!

So are they worth it? You bet they are. More next issue.

The Badger

Rail Fan Events

I am currently working on setting up a tour of the Oliver Bowen LRT Maintenance Facility (May Evening?) also looking into a weekend trip to Field, B.C. (Camping, Hotel or B&B's) to take in The Walk in the Past History of the CPR in the Kicking Horse region, (August ?). Watch for more information in future Orderboard's to come.

Dave Landels

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Walk Through Gate

The North Island Model Railroaders of Campbell River, B.C. are researching information on the construction of a "gate" for entering and exiting the inner area of our HO scale modular layout. Anyone having experience with this device please contact Bill Van Bergen at either of these methods:

telephone 250-923-5820, e-mail billvan2@shaw.ca or by mail 3925 Seamist Drive, Campbell River, B.C. V9H 1H7

The PHOTO GRAIL

Railway Photo Prints
 by Léo de Groot
thephotograil@gmail.com



SUPERTRAIN 2013

We have had an overwhelming number of requests to exhibit layouts and displays at SUPERTRAIN, and this has created some difficulty in trying to fit everyone in. At our December Committee meeting we agreed that Registrar Jon Calon should send a message to everyone who submitted an application asking for help. We wondered if some layouts could be reduced in size a bit, would consider being displayed on the Mezzanine level, or maybe even voluntarily sitting out this year.

Thank you to everyone who responded, and especially to those who agreed that they could assist in one of these ways. Several of the larger club layouts have reduced their floor areas as have some of the displays. There will be several layouts on the Mezzanine along the corridor leading to the ramp, and a couple of layouts have decided to hold off until 2014 to show their progress. You have all helped significantly and we can say that we will be able to show off the most layouts we have ever had. Some are new layouts, others are old favourites making a return after a year or two away, and all that were in the show last year are changed and improved. We will also have some new manufacturers and vendors at the show in 2013, showing off their latest products.

Perhaps you heard media reports that the City of Calgary has decided not to renew the contract with the Calgary Soccer Federation to operate the Subway Soccer Centre. Even though their contract expired at the end of 2012, the current management remains in place until at least the end of April, so there will be no effect on SUPERTRAIN 2013. We have a five year contract with the Soccer Centre to hold SUPERTRAIN there through 2017, so we will work with the new management group to ensure our interests are protected. The construction of the new addition to the building to replace the bubble is expected to start in the spring, and again, we will do what we have to to ensure that our show is not negatively affected.

As part of the CMRS mandate to promote the hobby of model railroading to the public, we will be giving away train sets to kids at SUPERTRAIN. We will be drawing a ticket every hour from the Children and Youth entry tickets filled out and deposited in the barrels. They won't have to be present to win. This is sure to be a popular addition to the show, so be sure to tell your friends and co-workers about it.

It is only a little over two months until SUPERTRAIN and a lot still needs to be done. As always, we count very much on our volunteers to help in so many ways. Julia, Steve, and others will be contacting you soon to see if you can join in. And don't forget to order your tickets for the Saturday Gala, which Linda has more details about in the sidebar.

If anyone has any questions about the show, please check our website: www.supertrain.ca or feel free to contact me by email at info@supertrain.ca.

Rob Badmington
Show Chairman
SUPERTRAIN 2013

Volunteer Appreciation & SUPERTRAIN Gala Saturday, April 20, 2013

We have been busy planning the Volunteer Appreciation & SUPERTRAIN Gala. Tickets are available for purchase:

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

The Gala will be held at the Glenmore Inn. The Glenmore always provides an excellent meal. If anyone has special dietary needs (ie. Kosher, Vegan, etc.), please contact me and I will enquire as to whether the Glenmore can accommodate those needs.

Laurie Kitchen will be our speaker this year. Laurie spoke in 2011 and had us laughing during his entire presentation. I'm sure this year will be just as entertaining. Also, VIA has generously donated four 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 appreciation@calgarymodelrailway.ca.

Tickets can be picked up at the Mini Meet on March 10th or the Volunteer Orientation in April.

Last year we sold out quickly so don't delay in buying your tickets.

Linda Laroche



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The Chinook

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

The NMRA Pacific Northwest Region, 6th Division traditionally holds its annual meet in the spring or fall somewhere in Alberta or Saskatchewan. This year it is Calgary's turn to host the meet, named "The Chinook". The name of the meet honours the high speed passenger train that Canadian Pacific Railway introduced in 1936 to connect Calgary and Edmonton.

March 8 - 10 is a special weekend in Calgary - three days packed full of model railroading activities. The weekend will be filled with plenty of activities, many of them centred around the theme of passenger trains, operations, and facilities. This meet also links together three other model railroad events taking place in Calgary; the Prototype Modellers Meet, Calgary Model Trainmen's Flea Market, and the CMRS Spring Mini-meet are all coordinated and registering for The Chinook gives you access to all of them. Maybe the best part of all is that the cost of registration is only \$20 for NMRA members and \$30 for non-members. To keep costs low, we will be using three different venues and all meals are no host.

We will not be doing pre-paid registrations, but would certainly appreciate advance notice of your attendance so we can properly plan our space requirements.

Please check our website at <http://pnr.nmra.org/6div/thechinook/> to get more information on the contests, clinics, and layouts.

We're looking forward to seeing you at The Chinook!

*Rob Badmington
Committee Chairman*

Schedule

Friday, March 8

Registration opens at noon
Model and Photo Contest entries, Display set-up
Prototype tour of Calgary Transit's Anderson Road Maintenance Facility
Clinics
Layout Tours from 7 to 9 pm

Saturday, March 9

Railroad Prototype Modellers Meet starts at 09:00
Four Clinics on passenger trains, stations, and operations
RPM Displays
NMRA Achievement Program Evaluations
NMRA Contest Judging
Layout Tours 2 to 5 pm
6th Division Annual General Meeting
No Host Dinner, Socializing, and Slides – starts at 6 pm

Sunday March 10

Calgary Model Trainmen's Flea Market starts at 09:00
Calgary Model Railway Society Mini-meet
Clinics start at 09:45
Displays

The daytime activities on Friday and Saturday will be held at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, 703 Heritage Drive SW. The AGM, Dinner, Socializing and Slide Night will take place at the Royal Canadian Legion, 9202 Horton Road SW, just a few blocks from the church and close to Calgary Transit's Heritage Station. The Legion offers a great selection of food and beverages at very competitive prices. On Sunday, all events take place at the Glenmore Inn, 2720 Glenmore Trail SE. Eight layouts are on the tours in scales from N to O with most open both days to give you time to see them all. Layout tours will be drive yourself, with the committee providing accurate maps and addresses to plug into your GPS.

If you are coming from out of town and need a place to stay for the weekend, the Glenmore Inn is about a 10 minute drive from the church and legion. There are also several hotels and motels along Macleod Trail within a five minute drive from the church, including the Econo Lodge, two Travelodges, and the Carriage House.



Board of Directors

Daniel Charest - Independent President & Layout Tours C - 403-463-6920 daniel@dan-nscaler.com	John Lund – Cantrak Vice President & Slide Night H -403-239-1070 jlund@telusplanet.net	Jim Ironside - Free-Mo Secretary ironsidejim@gmail.com	Marvin Burk – Rocky Mountain Garden Ry Event Facilities H-403-995-3319 burkpm@telus.net
Rick Walker - Independant Treasurer walkr@telusplanet.net	Gord Smith – Independent Membership H - 403-239-2514 gord.smith@shaw.ca	Dave Landels - Bow Valley Rail Fan Events keddes@telus.net	Monty Schnieder – Independent Membership Appreciation & Communications mschnied@telus.net
	Vlad Maritiu - CMT Trains for Kids buildingelements@shaw.ca	Roger Walker – Independent Clinics H-403-208-0210 walkerrg@telus.net	

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. 24, 2013



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From the Editors Desk

First off, I have to apologize to Graham Fenton, due to the large amount of information in this issue I was unable to include the article he has written about his layout. Graham has a different approach that will be of interest to those who are having issues with reaching into and under their own layouts. Look for Graham's article in the next OrderBoard.

I would like to encourage anyone else that has an idea for an article to write it up and send me something. Layout descriptions are always interesting, especially if you are unable to participate in the physical tours that are happening on Feb. 9th. Articles need only be 1 to 1½ pages with a picture or 2. Brief descriptions of a model or diorama that you may have built are also of interest.

A reminder that the mini-meet is coming up and I would like to encourage people to bring something to the show and tell portion. It is always interesting to see a structure, car or engine that you have been working on. I need to get busy and get my buildings finished in time to show off!

- Editor

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Artist Tip - Tips from the Art World

It is always best to have items in odd numbers. For example, 2 figures standing together, or 2 trees, or 2 vehicles or 2 of anything doesn't look as good as 1, 3 or 5 of the same. Sometimes simply different sizes can help, say an adult figure and a child will look better than 2 adults figures together, or a big and large tree, but better still to have 3 trees, or 2 adults and a child. We have to fight against our human nature that wants to place everything in nice even rows, variety is much more appealing to the viewer.

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Building an Engine Carrying Case - G Scale

Barrie Roberts has forwarded on a link to an article about building an Engine Carrying case in G Scale. The article is too large to reproduce here, but you can read it at this link::

<http://dewintonstation.com/g-scale.htm>

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Coming Events Schedule

Feb 9, 2013	CMRS Layout Tours
March 9, 10, 11 2013	The Chinook
April 21, 22, 2013	SUPERTRAIN 2013 - Subway Soccer Centre, Calgary, AB

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