



BULLETIN BOARD

Official Publication of the 7th Division, Pacific Northwest Region, NMRA Canada

Volume 39, Issue 1

January/February 2025



ABOVE: Under the watchful (or perhaps envious) eyes of their parents, a number of young, up and coming, railway modellers operate one of the layouts at the Vancouver Train Expo held at the beginning of November. A large selection of photos from this event is provided starting on page 9.

Photo by John Stevenson

IN THIS ISSUE

From the Editor's Desk.....	2
Superintendent's Message.....	2
Adding Value to Your Membership.....	3
Upcoming Annual General Meeting.....	4

Vancouver Train Expo 2024 Report.....	6
Vancouver Train Expo 2024 Photographs.....	9
7 th Division Time Table.....	12
Notices and Contacts.....	13

From the Editor's Desk

I apologize for this issue being a few weeks late, partly because this issue is always somewhat delayed by the demands of the holiday season, and partly because of unexpected personal issues affecting the time I had available to work on this. I hope you find the issue to your liking in any event.

This issue focuses on the recent Vancouver Train Expo (VTEX), with two articles for your perusal. The first is a report written by Tom Lundgren on the excellent outcome of last November's show, along with a historical review of Tom's 12 years working on Trains and VTEX. Tom has now retired, leaving VTEX in great shape for someone else to take to even greater heights.

The second article is a collection of VTEX photos taken by former Bulletin Board editor John Stevenson and by VTEX volunteer Ian Heffernan. They provide a great view of this year's show.

As usual, please let me know if there is something you think is missing or could be improved about the Bulletin Board. If you have any comments at all, or are thinking about providing an article, please send me an email at bbeditor@7divpnr.ca.

Enjoy the issue!



Superintendent's Message

By Victor Gilbert, 7th Division Superintendent

Happy New Year to every one of the 7th Division's members!!!

I thank the 7th Division members for their unwavering support and dedication. Your contributions, no matter how big or small, are the backbone of this organization. Your efforts make us thrive, and we are truly grateful for your commitment.

As this new year begins, I have been reflecting on our hobby. At its heart, railway modelling is about connection. From local clubs to online forums, our community is full of camaraderie and collaboration. Whether you're debating DCC systems, swapping tips on weathering techniques, or just admiring each other's setups, we're all in this together. And let's be honest, nothing beats the shared joy of seeing a layout in action.

Crafting a layout is no small feat. It's a blend of artistry, engineering, and storytelling. Whether you're painstakingly detailing a 1940s industrial town or crafting a whimsical fantasy landscape, you're not just a railroader; you are a creator. Every bridge, station, and signal tells a story that only you can bring to life.

There's nothing quite like hunting for that perfect piece to complete your collection. Maybe it's a rare locomotive you've been chasing for years, or perhaps it's finding the ideal tree to round out your forest scene. Sharing these treasures with fellow hobbyists makes the victory even sweeter.

So, as the new year begins and the 2025 shows are starting to be announced, let's enjoy each other's company, share our layouts and have a wonderful year.

I say this every issue, but work on the 7th Division's website continues. You can check out the new look at <https://7divpnr.ca>. The Division is looking for a volunteer to manage the website. Please get in touch with me at superintendent@7divpnr.ca if you are interested.

The login process to the website's Members Only section has changed. To log in, you will need the first six digits of your NMRA membership number. Click the "Lost Your Password" link to get your new password. If you still have no password, please contact webmaster@7divpnr.ca.

Victor Gilbert

7th Division – Superintendent, superintendent@7divpnr.ca

Adding Value to Your Membership

By Victor Gilbert, 7th Division Superintendent

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Yarrow Community Model Train Swap Meet | March 1st, 2025 |
| • Sea to Sky Model Train & Hobby Show | March 22nd and 23 rd , 2025 |
| • Nanaimo Model Train Show | April 13 th , 2025 |
| • Railway Modellers Meet of BC (RMMBC) | May 23 rd to 25 th , 2025 |
| • Victoria Model Railway Show | September 2025 |
| • Chilliwack Train & Hobby Show | October 2025 (TBD) |

For those in the lower mainland, Tim Horton has started a Modelling Night, usually held on the first Friday of the month. The event takes place in North Vancouver. Bring a project with you and enjoy an evening of progress on your models, conversation, and collaboration. Please RSVP to Assistant Superintendent Tim Horton at assistantsuperintendent@7divpnr.ca. Directions will be sent via email the Thursday before the modelling night.

Awards

Did you know that the 7th Division recognizes our members for their achievements?

If you know someone who should be recognized with one of the awards listed below, contact the award's coordinator or the Superintendent of the 7th Division. Contact information can be found on the [About Us page of the 7th Division website](#).

The **Jack Work Memorial Trophy** is presented annually to the 7th Division member who best exhibits the qualities that Jack Work displayed: imagination, creativity, innovation, artistry, forward-thinking, quality workmanship and the sharing of the results of these qualities with the rest of the hobby.

The **Ross Heriot Memorial Golden Spike Award** is presented annually to an individual or a group of individuals in the 7th Division who have made a significant contribution to the division.

The **Railway Heritage Award** is presented, when appropriate, to a current member of the 7th Division who has contributed in a meaningful way to the preservation of railway history.

Check out the [Awards page of the 7th Division website](#) for more details and past recipients.

Modeller's Help Desk

We are here to help. If you need a solution or an idea for your layout, ask Mike at the "Modeller's Help Desk" at helpdesk@7divpnr.ca.

Changing Your Email Address

We have created a simple way to change your email address. Email the [7th Division Membership Coordinator](#), with EMAIL ADDRESS CHANGE as the subject line. Include your name, NMRA membership number, old email address, and new email address. We will update our records and pass the information to NMRA Regional and National levels.

Volunteering

We need volunteers and have openings for the following:

- Publicity Coordinator
Responsibilities: Coordinate with local events to have an NMRA presence, liaise with NMRA Regional and National for publications.
- Social Media Coordinator

Responsibilities: Work to establish a 7th Division Social Media presence.

- 7th Division Regional Education Team

Responsibilities: Work with the NMRA PNR Regional Education Team to establish a library of “How To” and research material for access by NMRA Members

- Web Administrator

Responsibilities: Maintain the 7th Division’s website and post content as requested.

- Clinic Coordinator

Responsibilities: Work with the 7th Division’s Secretary to coordinate clinicians and resources for the 7th Division’s Winter, Summer, and Fall Clinics

Would you like to volunteer for one of these positions, or perhaps you have an idea for the Division? Reach out to your Sub-Division Coordinator. They are listed on the [7th Division website on the “About Us” page](#) or you can contact me at superintendent@7divpnr.ca.

New Members

The following new 7th Division members have joined us in the last six months. Please welcome them, and work to ensure they are included in our events.

• Jim Gilchrist	Kelowna	October 2024
• Chad Brechin	Abbotsford	November 2024
• Toby Johnson	Langley	November 2024
• Philippe Whyte	North Vancouver	November 2024



7th Division Annual General Meeting

The 2025 Annual General Meeting for the 7th Division will be held on March 11, 2025. The meeting will be held by Zoom. All members are requested to participate. More information about the meeting will be in the next edition of the Bulletin Board.

Please mark this date on your calendar.

Vancouver Train Expo 2024 Report

by Tom Lundgren, Leader, Vancouver Train Expo

Vancouver Train Expo 2024 was a great success with 6,380 attending, essentially matching that of 2019, the highest of the 39 shows since the inception of the public train show.



Setting up the venue went almost flawlessly from the beginning with suppliers arriving on schedule and the entry of exhibitors and vendors completed early.

The electronic admissions payment system worked extremely well. Ticketleader (PNE) promotion appears to have made a significant contribution, with sales representing 33 percent of admissions. Similarly, vacating the venue on Sunday went very well, being largely complete in less than two hours.

Of interest, 49 and 36 percent of admissions revenue came via electronic and Ticketleader sales respectively, with the remaining 15 percent via cash. Times have changed since the all cash days pre-2017, the first year using an electronic payment system.

Saturday ended on a bit of an ominous note with attendance of 2,850. On only two occasions out of six since moving to the PNE, in 2016 and 2017, has Sunday's attendance exceeded Saturday's. The event needed 5,000 to break even financially. It looked like 2024 was headed for break even at best, a disappointing prospect given the effort put into promotion this year. Fortunately, Sunday came through with attendance of 3,530, for a total of 6,380, essentially matching the best year ever, that of 6,400 in 2019.

The event did very well financially. The combination of 2023's admission price increase and attendance of 6,380 resulted in the best financial performance ever. The increased revenue will allow the working capital reserve for future events to increase. It will no longer be necessary to borrow funds to finance the event. Exhibitors will receive an increased honorarium in recognition of their contribution to the success of the event.

There were some challenges along the way. The number of exhibitors and vendors interested in participating seems to be declining. Although the venue was pretty much filled, the uptake of premium booths, regular tables and exhibit floor space all presented challenges. The rate new exhibitors and vendors arrive is failing to keep up with the rate previous exhibitors and vendors drop out.

Two booths went underutilized and three more were used for exhibit space which could have been accommodated in the main exhibit floor. On October 12th and 23rd there were 8 and 3 unsold Marketplace tables respectively. In the end all 59 Marketplace tables were sold but there was no wait list. Filling the venue, especially with family friendly exhibits, will be an ongoing concern as the modelling community ages.

Family and children oriented exhibits are critical to the success of the event. There are simply not enough model railroad aficionados to support the event on this scale. On that front, Tom Stephenson was able to make the trip north from Seattle with his wTrak modular children's exhibit. It is always a great attraction for youngsters. The British Columbia Society of Model Engineers provided the mini-rail train rides and Gordon Hall attended with his Thomas and Friends children's exhibit. These are great children oriented exhibits, along with those of Vancouver Lego Club, Greater Vancouver Garden Railway Club, Canadian Toy Train Association, and Fraser Valley Autism.

There were, of course, serious modelling displays along with more whimsical and legacy exhibits. Vancouver Train Gang, Ingestre and Western, Pacific Northwest TT, Top Link Nettlewood, T-Track, and Victoria Model Railway Club displayed the art of modelling. Moscrop High School students' exhibits were a welcome demonstration of youth involvement. North Island Model Railroaders won the Modeller's Choice Award and Vancouver Lego Club won the Peoples' Choice Award.

As I will be "retiring" as Leader and from the Organizing Committee I thought it might be appropriate to review events during my twelve years with the train show. Perhaps you will find it interesting.

Trains 2013/14 31st/32nd Annual – 2014 Cameron Centre, Burnaby – Attendance 2,500



I joined the Trains Organizing Committee late summer 2013, the year I retired from formal work. This was a new committee, having formed earlier that year after the previous committee largely retired. The event was a combined two day public train show and Modellers Meet.

A few key members (Peter Mueller and Michael Batten), motivated by outgrowing the Cameron Centre with its limited access to the main exhibition area for large exhibits, advocated moving to a new and larger venue.

Vancouver Train Expo 2015 33rd Annual – PNE Forum – Attendance 4,500

The 33rd event saw the most significant changes in its history. While it continued the tradition of a combined public train show and modellers meet, it was re-branded as Vancouver Train Expo in the new venue. The Modellers' Meet was held at the Atrium Hotel across the street. The event was deemed a success even though the public event suffered a small loss (\$2,300).

It became apparent that organizing and holding a combined public train show and modellers' meet was unworkable. The increased size and complexity of the public event, along with the subsequent conflicting demands placed on the people available, hampered the growth of both. The modellers, who were often also the exhibitors, were forced to make a decision as to which event to attend.

A decision was made to separate the events. The result was the first Railway Modellers Meet of British Columbia (RMMBC) held in May 2016 followed by the public train show in November. RMMBC has held very successful events each year since.

Vancouver Train Expo 2016 34th Annual – PNE Forum – Attendance 5,040

Riding on the euphoria of successfully moving to a larger venue, 2016 started out with great enthusiasm. Soon, however, staging the 2016 event became a very serious challenge. Conflicting demands on committee members' time and health issues sapped the committee's capacity. For a number of months over late Spring and Summer I was the only one actively working on the event. Fortunately Michael Batten was able to reengage in the Fall. In the end it came off reasonably well with enough revenue to pay travel expenses and honoraria to exhibitors again while essentially breaking even financially.

Vancouver Train Expo 2017 35th Annual – PNE Forum – Attendance 5,950

Another year of major changes. I became the Leader. The Organizing Committee was rebuilt. Phil Evans joined the committee taking on the marketing role. The resulting Organizing Committee has remained stable since, with most of the members staying on into 2024, other than Michael Batten, one of the original 2013 committee, who retired at the end of the year. Don Thicke joined the committee as Business Manager early in 2018.



The re-branding effort continued with a new logo. Canadian Pacific's children's train, Little General, made an appearance. It was a great addition.

While attendance improved the event itself essentially broke even but incurred a loss of \$4,600 after paying exhibitor travel expenses and honoraria.

Up until this time the 7th Division acted as the legal entity for the public train show. Concerns over the growing size and related liabilities motivated the Division to request the public train show strike out on its own. The Lower Mainland Train Expo Society was incorporated under the BC Society's Act in February 2018.

As with all things, creating the Society increased the complexity. Canada Revenue Agency promptly sent notices informing us that we had to file returns and pay GST and Income Tax.

Discussion over the ownership of the public train show's financial assets led to an agreement between the Society and the Division which granted the public train show access to accumulated funds on the condition that all assets would be turned over to the Division in the event that a public train show ceased to be held.

Vancouver Train Expo 2018 36th Annual – PNE Forum – Attendance 5,590

An increase in admission fees, tighter control over costs and good attendance generated a good margin after paying exhibitor travel and honoraria, resulting in a substantial amount of money being retained to increase, by 60%, the working capital reserve.

Vancouver Train Expo 2019 37th Annual – PNE Forum – Attendance 6,400

Attendance improved again, reaching the highest level in the history of the event. The subsequent increase in revenue allowed an increase, nearly double, in honoraria to exhibitors and a significant increase (35%) in the retained cash reserve. There were wait lists for both exhibitors and vendor space.

2020–2022 The Pandemic Years

The COVID-19 pandemic intervened and the event was cancelled for three years.

Vancouver Train Expo 2023 38th – PNE Forum – Attendance 4,370

Restarting the event after a three year hiatus was challenging. Some of the exhibitors, notably Mainland Modular Railway Club had disbanded. Mount Rainier N Scale Club did not have sufficient members to attend. The furniture supplier had gone bankrupt. Fortunately the Organizing Committee remained intact.

Attendance fell to the lowest level since moving to the PNE. Costs rose substantially. The event broke even financially after paying exhibitor travel expenses and honoraria. This was only achieved by an increase in admission fees and the British Columbia Society of Model Engineers generously donating part of the revenue from their train ride to cover our shortfall.

Vancouver Train Expo 2024 39th – PNE Forum – Attendance 6,380

I have already commented extensively on this year's event. The increased revenue will allow an increase in exhibitor honoraria to almost triple last year's. The working capital reserve will increase to an amount sufficient to fully fund the event without any pre-show income.

The Future of Vancouver Train Expo

While the declining participation of exhibitors and vendors is disconcerting, the most serious challenge is renewing the Organizing Committee. For personal reasons I will not be continuing as the Leader nor as Committee member. Other committee members are resigning, including Phil Evans, Phil Breden and John Martin.

The Society will be kept in good standing pending renewal of the Organizing Committee and the election of new Directors and Officers.

Phil Evans, although not a modeller, has led the promotional aspect of the event. His knowledge and contacts built up over his career in the media (radio) have contributed greatly. He will be hard to replace as there are few in the model railway community with the requisite interest and skills.

The train show at this scale is a business venture which needs an Organizing Committee with sufficient combined organization, leadership, finance, risk (liability), legal, and promotion skills. The individuals must be inclined to take initiative and work co-cooperatively with others. They need to have the time to diligently attend to their responsibilities, and it does take time.

To be successful the Organizing Committee needs to successfully manage the two major aspects of a public event:

- Content – what people pay to see – exhibitors and vendors,

- Promotion / advertising – getting those people to come, as well as the administrative and financial parts.

The event needs to appeal to, and attract, 5,000 plus attendees. Families with children are the only audience large enough to deliver these numbers, hence the content must appeal to this demographic.

In closing I thank all of the committee members who have worked with me, put up with my idiosyncrasies, countless e-mails and occasional prodding phone calls. All have performed their duties well, and most importantly, to me, worked constructively together to address the issues as they arose.

If you are interested in seeing the event continue now is the time to step forward. You can contact me by phone 604-813-8403 or by e-mail tom.lundgren@shaw.ca.

Tom
Leader, Vancouver Train Expo
President, Lower Mainland Train Expo Society



ABOVE: Tom Lundgren at last November's Vancouver Train Expo. Thanks for all your great work over the years, Tom!

Photo by John Stevenson



Vancouver Train Expo 2024

Here we have a selection of photographs taken during the recent Vancouver Train Expo (VTEX) by two photographers: John Stevenson and Ian Heffernan. Have a look at the great show Tom Lundgren and his crew put together!

TOP OF THE PAGE: This image shows VTEX in full flight. The photo is taken from just above the main entrance into the Forum, with Victoria Model Railway Club's big mobile layout in the centre of the hall.

Photo by John Stevenson



ABOVE: Before the crowds arrive someone has to set things up. Here the Vancouver TrainExpo crew sets up their layout early Friday afternoon.

Photo by Ian Heffernan



ABOVE: Now it's Saturday afternoon and the TrainExpo's layout is being admired by attendees. Just a bit of TLC needed here and there!

Photo by Ian Heffernan



ABOVE: Here a young engineer checks out a passing train as a member of his train crew points out another sight to him on the Canadian Toy Train Association display.

Photo by John Stevenson



ABOVE: The Craftsman's Corner booth provided a changing set of modellers demonstrating their skills. Here Anthony Craig runs a clinic on styrene scratch building.

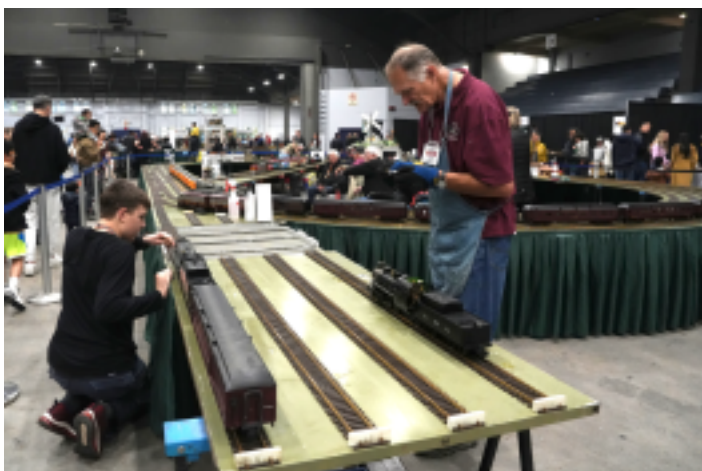
Photo by John Stevenson



ABOVE: The staff manning the Revelstoke Railway Museum booth chats with a visiting VTEX attendee.
Photo by John Stevenson



ABOVE: Doug Mayer, well-known author of a series of "CPR on the Revelstoke Division" books, sits in the Revelstoke Railway Museum booth and chats with a visitor.
Photo by John Stevenson



ABOVE: Two members of the Greater Vancouver Garden Railway Club layout crew work to get a couple of trains ready to run.
Photo by John Stevenson



ABOVE: The Ingestre & Weston is a beautifully modelled British prototype shelf layout, Modelled in British O gauge (7mm), it attracted a lot of admiration from attendees.
Photo by John Stevenson



ABOVE: The Vancouver Lego Club's layout seems to get bigger and more energetic every year.
Photo by Ian Heffernan



ABOVE: This display always seems to be one of VTEX's most popular!
Photo by Ian Heffernan



ABOVE: The Marketplace area, with its rows of vendor's displays, is the place to browse and see if you can find a bargain or maybe something you haven't seen before!
Photo by Ian Heffernan



ABOVE: Operation Lifesaver provides one of the community service booths. Here Phil Breden (also the VTEX Creative Manager) talks with a young booth visitor.
Photo by John Stevenson



ABOVE: The Top Link Model Railway Association's Nettlewood display provides an attractive British-prototype layout.
Photo by Ian Heffernan



ABOVE: VTEX also provides commercial booths to satisfy those who might want to visit a hobby shop! Here we have The Train Exchange, a Edmonton area concern.
Photo by John Stevenson



ABOVE: The People's Choice Award was presented to the Vancouver Lego Club for their very popular layout.
Photo by John Stevenson



ABOVE: The Modeller's Choice Award was won by the North Island Model Railroaders. Here two members of the club display the plaque with their layout in the background.
Photo by John Stevenson

7th Division Time Table

TIME TABLE No. 60, SEPTEMBER 29th, 1930
PACIFIC COAST DIVISION

WESTWARD TRAINS - PACIFIC COAST DIVISION

Train No.	Station	Time	Fare	Notes
1	Vancouver	7:00 AM	\$1.00	Express
2	Seattle	10:00 AM	\$1.50	Express
3	Portland	1:00 PM	\$1.00	Express
4	San Francisco	4:00 PM	\$2.00	Express

EASTWARD TRAINS - PACIFIC COAST DIVISION

Train No.	Station	Time	Fare	Notes
5	San Francisco	7:00 AM	\$2.00	Express
6	Portland	10:00 AM	\$1.00	Express
7	Seattle	1:00 PM	\$1.50	Express
8	Vancouver	4:00 PM	\$1.00	Express

The following events are coming up and may be of interest to 7th Division members. Check out the identified website for more information.

March 11, 2025 – The next Annual General Meeting for the 7th Division will be held by Zoom. More information about the meeting is coming in the March/April Bulletin Board.

March 22-23, 2025 – The Fourth Annual **Sea-to-Sky Model Train and Hobby Show** will be returning to the Railway Museum of British Columbia, 39645 Government Road, Squamish. Check the show's website www.wcra.org for more information.

April 5-6, 2025 – **SUPERTRAIN 2025** – This Calgary train show bills itself as the largest model train show in Canada and is well worth seeing. This year the show is at the Olympic Oval, University of Calgary. See the show website for more details: www.supertrain.ca

April 13, 2025 – **Nanaimo Model Train Show** – Beban Park Recreation Centre, 2300 Bowen Road, Nanaimo BC. See the show website for more details: www.nanaimotrainshow.com

May 9-11, 2025 – **Ainsworth Connector PNR Regional Convention**, Pasco, Washington. See the event website for more information: <https://pnr5d.org/pnr-5th-division-home-page/2025-pnr-convention/>

May 23-25, 2025 – **Railway Modellers' Meet of BC (RMMBC) 2025** – BC's top meet for railway modellers will be back later this year with the features you have come to know and love. More information is available on the RMMBC website.

September, 2025 – **Victoria Model Railway Show** – Details TBD. Stay tuned!

If you are organizing or helping with an event, even a local one, or just know of an event that you think other 7th Division members would like to know about, send an email to the [Bulletin Board Editor](#) describing it.



Notices and Contacts

The Bulletin Board is the official publication of the 7th Division of the Pacific Northwest Region, National Model Railroad Association, Canada. Note that the views and opinions stated in the Bulletin Board do not necessarily reflect those of the NMRA or its regions or divisions. Bulletin Board contents are protected by copyright and may only be copied or republished with permission.

The Bulletin Board has five issues per year: January/February, March/April, May/June, September/October, and November/December. Each issue is published around the start of the issue period. Publication means the Bulletin Board is available for download from the 7th Division website. Members will be notified by email when the download is ready. In exceptional circumstances, such as Internet unavailability or medical conditions, the 7th Division may agree to distribute paper copies to affected members.

The PNR 7th Division maintains a list of members that includes postal and e-mail addresses and phone numbers. If you move or change your internet service provider or in any other way cause your contact details to change PLEASE contact the [Membership Coordinator](#) to provide the new information. If you fail to do this we will lose contact with you and you will miss out on 7th Division benefits. Note that the member list is held in strict privacy.

Your comments and opinions on this publication are always welcome. As well, contributions of letters, articles, event news, plans, photographs, and art are strongly encouraged and welcomed. All should be sent to the [Bulletin Board Editor](#). A phone call or email to the editor beforehand is advised if you are thinking of submitting something large or complex. The deadline for submission is two weeks prior to publication but this is somewhat flexible according to circumstances.

ADVERTISING in the Bulletin Board is accepted at reasonable rates. Please contact the [Bulletin Board Editor](#) for more details.

The following is a shortened list of division volunteers. A complete list that includes additional appointed positions as well as all area representatives is available on the [7th Division website](#).

Superintendent	Victor Gilbert	604-708-4161 (Vancouver)	superintendent@7divpnr.ca
Assistant Superintendent	Tim Horton	604-785-2860 (North Vancouver)	assistantsuperintendent@7divpnr.ca
Secretary	Randy Nussli	250-380-6814 (Victoria)	secretary@7divpnr.ca
Treasurer	Larry Sebelley	604-858-5717 (Chilliwack)	treasurer@7divpnr.ca
Director at Large	Ken Rutherford	250-724-4698 (Port Alberni)	directoratlarge@7divpnr.ca
Membership Coordinator	Doug Hicks	604-421-0809 (Burnaby)	membership@7divpnr.ca
Webmaster	(Position open)	604-708-4161 (Vancouver)	webmaster@7divpnr.ca
Bulletin Board Editor	Rob England	250-629-2006 (Pender Island)	bbeditor@7divpnr.ca
Achievement Program Coordinator	Mike Chandler, MMR	604-526-5078 (New Westminster)	achievementprogram@7divpnr.ca
Modeller's Help Desk	Mike Barone	250-367-6134 (Fruitvale)	helpdesk@7divpnr.ca
Publicity Coordinator	(Position open)	604-708-4161 (Vancouver)	publicity@7divpnr.ca