

BULLETIN BOARD



*Spring
Meets*

*are
coming
up fast!*



Official publication of the Seventh Division, Pacific Northwest Region,
National Model Railroad Association.

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The Seventh Division Bulletin Board is the official publication of the 7th Division, Pacific Northwest Region of the National Model Railroad Association, and is published six times a year. It is distributed to all members in good standing.

The Bulletin Board is solely the responsibility of the editors, and does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Standing Committee, or the organization's policies.

Correspondence and contributions are solicited, and may be sent to: The Editor 7th Div. Bulletin Board, 9300 Ryan Crescent, Richmond, B.C. V7A 2H2. All other correspondence relating to the 7th Division should be forwarded to the Division Superintendent.

EDITOR PHIL MAGNALL

Spring Fever is Here!

If fall is the time we all head back to the basement train room or to the big public shows, spring must be the season to get in the car and take off for some railfanning and conventioning. For the third year in a row we have two spring meets to take in as well as a participation Workshop and plans for good new stuff for members only! Details on all follow.

Page One: From Out of the Paper Jungle to You

It is common wisdom that all things burdensome arrive in threes, but we can confirm that they occasionally appear in numbers like ten. As this is being written, a stack of news and promotional items, the likes of which we have never before seen, awaits the conversion into a comprehensible newsletter. Plug this into a time frame in which your editor has just rejoined the ranks of the employed and has two days left to finish half a dozen chores relating to N-CON 87, plus two freelance jobs and Saturday at the train store and....well, you get the idea.

The first reason for mentioning this flurry of activity is the arrival date of your *BB*. It dawned on us the other day that the rather erratic scheduling of the newsletter, which had been designed to compliment the various divisional shows and 'clinics' was rather pointless now that the "Second Sunday" format has been so firmly established. Therefore, you can now expect to see your copy at the beginning of every second month (January, March, May, etc.). Besides making easier to remember when the *BB* is due out, we can also set a standard, non-varying contribution deadline. *Please take note: all submissions to this newsletter must arrive by the 12th of the month preceding publication.* Due to the circumstances referred to above, this March issue will be arriving a bit later than we had planned, but as new arrangements smooth out, future issues should appear very near the first of the month.

Being busy is also a good excuse to turn to the subject of contribution to the 7th Division. We're in

the admirable position of not needing any extra cash (sorry, no free memberships yet), but we are always in need of new presentations for workshops and of special events for members. Our Standing Committee is virtually bursting at the seams, and we don't really require any more bodies in that group at present, but rather some plain ol' folks to share a little of their knowledge or experience.

Of course, this really doesn't apply to you, right? Wrong! There are scads of experts out there (just make a small factual error in a workshop presentation and you'll see what we mean), even if their area is narrow. There are also those who prefer the social activities associated with the hobby. Why not volunteer to arrange something for your fellow members? Use your imagination; we're not going to spell it all out for you here! Call up a Committee member and come to a meeting with an idea, and we'll help you with whatever you need, and yes, that includes funding when necessary. Is everybody getting enthused? Good! Don't all shout at once, now...

Along similar lines, your SC is looking for suggestions for Division-members-only benefits. A couple of proposals are found in this issue, but we could use some input. The workshops are a tremendous success, but are, of course, open to everyone, and we want a few more tangible benefits for those who pay their dues. We await your input.

We hope that you will take the time to send in the Gold Spike ballot found on page 5. We're making it easy this year by saving you the trouble of writing, and hope to generate more than the pitiful handful of notes that have decided past winners. If you are unfamiliar with the award, the Ross Heriot Memorial Gold Spike is presented to a 7th Division member "in appreciation of his unselfish devotion of time and effort to further the aims of the NMRA and PNR as well as the hobby of model railroaders through assistance and services for the benefit of all model railroaders within the divisional area". There are no preconditions beyond division and NMRA membership. If you have benefitted from the help, advice, or entertainment of a fellow member, how about taking a moment to send in your ballot and telling him you appreciate what he has done?

Last SC meeting, discussion about Gold Spike

nominees led to the point being made that many of you probably aren't aware of just who many of the more active people are; you read their names but can't match up faces with them! For the Committee's part, it was decided that members will be issued a distinctive identification tag to be worn at all events. It is hoped that this will make it easier to meet members, call them up, or at least know to whom someone is referring you. Watch out for them in the upcoming months.

From the Superintendent's Desk

Gordon Varney

Our January Workshop for beginners was another big success with over 125 people taking in the various tabletop clinics. The Annual Swap Meet, held February 8th, saw the usual good attendance and exchange of merchandise taking place. Many thanks to all who took part!

On January 10th, I attended the PNR Board of Directors' meeting in Portland, and have the following short report:

All divisions of the PNR were officially represented, along with several members presenting briefs. The main topic discussed was the apparent lack of interest in the NMRA and the declining membership. Several suggestions to improve the situation were submitted and later taken to the National BoD meeting in San Francisco by PNR president Bob Auberg. Hopefully, if enough members are heard from, changes might be forthcoming.

Another concern brought to our attention was the present model contest format. It was thought that a two- or three-tiered system of competition, that is, experts against experts, novices against novices, etc., might increase participation. Consideration will be given for implementation of such a system at a future meet.

It was also decided that from now on, after expiry of your PNR membership, you will receive one copy of the *Switchlist* followed by one postcard as a final

reminder. So, please check your expiry dates, both national and PNR, and renew if necessary.

Regards for now,
Gordy

Workshop Words

March is Modular Month!

Come to Oakridge Auditorium on Sunday, March 8th, and learn about one of the fastest-growing facets of model railroading.

The Train Gang will present a workshop on constructing the framework and legs of an NTRAK module, as well as its basic wiring. There will also be a presentation on easy backdrop painting. Several NTRAK modules are planned to be on display. NTRAK is responsible for the popularity of the modular concept, although the principles can be applied to all scales.

April is for kitbashing. On Sunday the twelfth, kits will be available to build a mainline log car under the guidance of Vies Szalanski. Kits will be available only in HO scale, but the ideas and techniques should be of value for those kitbashing or scratchbuilding in other scales. Bring your tools and a worklight to enjoy a "hands on" Workshop!

As usual, both workshops start at 1:00 PM sharp.

Vies sends along the following notes:

In this workshop we will be constructing a mainline log flatcar based on an Athearn HO scale fishbelly flatcar with scratchbuilt styrene bunks. The required parts and materials will be available as a kit for about \$5.25.

Your tool kit should include the following:
hobby knife; scale rule; small square; flat file; hack saw; glues (styrene; epoxy or ACC); tweezers o. forceps; coarse and smooth sandpaper; work surface;

ght and extension cord.

If you want to paint your car at the same time you should, of course, bring along whatever extra supplies you need. In addition, there will be a short demonstration on making realistic logs to load onto your new car.

Vies Szalanski

Layout Tours Wanted

7th Division Super, Gordon Varney, will be arranging a day of layout tours for members, probably in late spring. This would likely be an all-day Sunday affair on a non-Workshop weekend, with carloads of map-guided "tourists" being dispatched from some central point. Details will appear next issue, but in the meantime what is needed are volunteers to open their home and layout to several groups of visitors throughout the day.

Family involvement will be encouraged, so potential hosts must be prepared to admit any children who show up with parents. This may not appeal to some layout owners, but it should be remembered that these youngsters will be from model railroading homes where most, if not all, have learned not to touch Daddy's trains on pain of strict punishment! On the positive side, this will be an excellent opportunity to allow spouses and kids to see and enjoy the potential of the hobby and perhaps gain more enthusiasm for it.

If you live in the Lower Mainland and have a layout completed to the stage that you can run at least a demonstration train around it, and think you might wish to share it with fellow Division members, please contact Gordy at: 421-5085.

We would like to welcome four more members to the 7th Division Standing Committee as of the February meeting. The following names will appear on the inside cover as soon as your editor has a few moments to put them there: Carol O'Dell, John ysh, Brian Morgan and Dave Love.

NTRAK Corner

Hank Menkveld

Not much to tell about our group this time. As I write this (in January), we are looking forward to participation in N-CON 87 on February 22. One new six-foot straight module is now available for display. This one was built by George Beil and Otto Stoller, and is now stored at my place, as George is off touring South America.

It would be nice if Module owners could send me a drawing of their trackplan and give the size of their module. This would be a great help when planning a show.

If anyone is planning to attend the Spring Meet in Kamloops and is willing and able to bring a module, please let me know. Maybe we can show our interior friends what we have been doing! There is also a request from Nanaimo for their spring get-together; even four corners and a couple of straight sections would do just fine. Let's use NTRAK to promote model railroading!

Division Video Library Mulled

The 7th Division Standing Committee is looking into the feasibility of establishing a video library for its members, and is open to suggestions or comments. If set up as planned, video tapes, both commercial and member-produced, would be made available at no charge to paid-up full members (NMRA and PNR) other than shipping costs for those ordering by mail. As well, a mobile rack of some sort would be present at the Second Sunday Workshops, and tapes could be borrowed and returned on a monthly basis at these events.

Specifically wanted are lists of five commercial videos from as many members as possible, to see if there are definite trends in interest. If you would like to contribute, select five videos from magazines or catalogues which you would like to see carried by the proposed library. Submit them, and/or any

comments on the idea to any Standing Committee member, either by mail or at the March Workshop.

PGE/BCR Items Wanted

The *Bulletin Board* would like to run a special PGE-BCR issue in honour of our own backyard rail empire. We have only a couple of appropriate items for publication so far, and are asking for contributions of personal experiences and photos, historical pieces, modelling articles - in short, anything of interest to our readers. The deadline for the May issue is April 12, and we must have all submissions in by that date in order to include them.

Spring Meet 1: Kamloops

This year's 7th Division Spring Meet will be a place to share ideas with fellow modellers. We want to encourage everyone to become involved in this meet, and to this end, we will not have any formal contests but will feature a number of displays which require *your* help to be successful. Most of you feel all those other guys are professional modellers, but it's *not so!* We are all novices in more than one area of our hobby. Please join in sharing at least one exhibit of your modelling interests.

In fact, we are so interested in your models *that there will be a \$5 rebate* if you bring something to display! We are holding the meet in a school gym so there will be lots of display space. You might bring self-finished or kitbashed cars, engines, dioramas, buildings, a favourite train, electronics projects, photos, or...?

There will be six large portable layouts for you to view and we will use the school shops for participation clinics: boxcar painting (bring your own unpainted or stripped shell) and dry transfer application, white metal casting, hardshell scenery, backdrop painting and turnout building are on the list. There will also be engine pulling and car rolling contests as well as switching puzzles and a flea market. Layout tours include a large Lionel O collection, several N and HO layouts, a double

decker, and Onboard and CTC-16 carrier control all finished, of course!

Remember: the theme is *participation*, so get cracking to finish a project to bring and to share with all your fellow modellers. See you soon!

Eldon Cameron, Registrar
Ken Vere, 7th Div. SC

REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

Send your name, address and telephone along with cheque or money order made out to SPRING MEET 87 COMMITTEE to:

Eldon Cameron
891 Klahanie Drive
Kamloops, B.C.
V2C 5R1

Phone (604) 573-5307

Fare Schedule:

Full Fare: \$28. Day Pass: \$12
Banquet Only: \$16. Flea Market Table: \$2 ea.
Friday Night Wine & Cheese: \$4

Narrow Gauge Modules Sought

Tom Beaton

The Tie and Timber Short Lines is in the process of building up an On3 modular layout. If you are interested in getting involved in building an On3 module, contact Cyril Meadows (597-1592) or Tom Beaton (596-6572) and we will send you a set of specifications. These modules are 30 inches wide and 4, 6, or 8 feet long with a single track through them.

Spring Meet 2: Nanaimo

The Third Annual Mid-Island Spring Meet is on for Sunday, March 29! Our Island members are once again hosting this popular event in the Beban Park Recreation Centre at 2300 Bowen Road, Nanaimo.

The show opens at 10:00 AM and runs until five o'clock. Admission fees are *lower* this year: \$2 for NMRA members and \$3 for non-members.

Attractions will include three clinics, modelling in all scales, modules, swap-and-shop area, and popular vote contests. Visitors are invited to bring along displays, contest entries, videos and anything else they would like to share.

For further information, contact:

Rick Lord (Port Alberni), 724-4205 or Ken Rutherford (Port Alberni), 724-4698.

CUT

Ross Heriot Memorial Gold Spike Ballot

Soon it will be time for our Spring Meet in Kamloops and to date no nominations have been received for this annual award. It is up to you to supply the nominations, the deadline for which is March 30th. Surely we can all spare the time to vote for someone we feel is worthy of recognition. Note that this ballot may be dropped off at the next Second Sunday Workshop.

Hank

FOLD AND TAPE

Nominee: _____

I think that he/she deserves the award because:

Nominated by: _____

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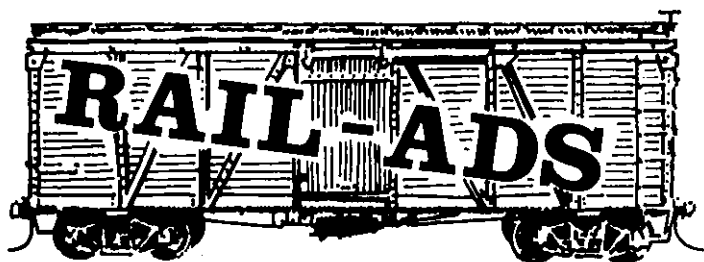
There was some confusion and more than a little amusement over Rick Lord's Island Meet report which appeared last issue, many months after the fact. We printed it more as an encouragement to attend this year's event than as actual "news"; perhaps that should have been noted. At any rate, we are pleased to have a much more timely piece from the interior this month. And Rick promises to be quicker with this year's report.

Vernon Christmas Show

Hugh Clark

The successful Christmas Train Show was held this year in the Village Green Mall in Vernon, November 23rd To 29th. The Vernon Club (North Okanagan Model Railroad Association) used its HO module system to good advantage. Great interest was generated by this year's raffle's first prize, a 2 1/2 X 8 feet, completely finished and operating, N scale layout. Ticket sales were brisk. Surprising was the observation that women viewers appeared just as fascinated by the layout as the men!

One of the interesting features of the OMRA module system is its scenic variation. Each module is



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FOR SALE:

HO Brass - CPR most new test run only. Phone 526-8882. Write G. Lomas, 1216 - 10th Avenue, New Westminster, V3M 3H8.

owned by an individual member, and although interface standards are used throughout, scenic design is entirely up to the owner. The result is a surprising difference in the theme and character of each module. A chilly, dead of winter snow diorama next to a hot summer pastoral scene with swimmers in a lake or a sawmill next to a prairie village might seem at odds with good design. Surprisingly, it works well with excellent viewer interest. Although we all know the axiom, kids by the score proved to us again that they love action. The inclusion of any operating feature always draws them like a magnet! The current project is to splice in the *Onboard* carrier control and sound system for the spring to be held in Kamloops.

Smaller Crowd Enjoys N-CON 87

About 100 to 110 people showed up at the North Vancouver YMCA's Cloverly Centre February 22 for the third annual N-CON N scalers' convention. The day-long event drew visitors from Washington and even included a Californian who had timed his planned Vancouver visit to coincide with the event! Despite widespread publicity which included an announcement in the NTRAK newsletter, the crowd was down substantially from the previous year. N-CON 87 was moved to February from October because of the increasingly busy fall schedule of events, and it was suggested that this had something to do with the apparently lower level of interest this time.

Those who did come were treated to a display room of "popular vote" contest models and the largest yet Train Gang-organized NTRAK layout, in addition to seven clinics ranging from the mechanical theory of wheel flanges to realistic operation and spray-can backdrop painting. Over a dozen door prizes, courtesy of Pacific N Scale, Van Hobbies, and Mr. Brian Morgan, were handed out to visitors, including a couple of youngsters among the many family groups to come. Some reconsideration of the next N-CON's timing may be in order, but those who did come all seemed to go away glad that they had taken the time to do so.

7TH DIVISION TIMETABLE



March 1, 1987

Swamp Creek and Western RR Club "Rollin' Rails" introduction to model railroading. 700 Main Street, Edmonds, Wa. 11AM to 5 PM. Info: Roger Ferris, 211 Railroad Ave. , Edmonds, WA. 98020. Phone (206) 283-0637.

March 8, 1987

7th Division Workshop: Modular Model Railroading: NTRAK, backdrop painting, displays. Oakridge Auditorium, Oakridge Centre, 41st Avenue and Cambie Street, Vancouver. Start: 1:00 PM.

March 29, 1987

Mid-Island Spring Meet. Beban Park Recreation Centre, 2300 Bowen Road, Nanaimo. Details inside.

April 12, 1987

7th Division Participation Workshop: Build an HO Mainline Log Car. Location and time as Feb. 8.

April 17 & 18, 1987

7th Division Spring Meet. Se-Hali Secondary School, 255 Arrowstone Drive, Kamloops, B. C. Details inside.

July 28 - August 2, 1987

Full Steam to Eugene: NMRA National Convention, Eugene, Oregon. Info: Dave Kleger, Registrar, 2154 Golden Garden Street, Eugene, OR. 97402. Phone (503) 689-2536.

WCRA EXCURSIONS:

March 1, 1987: BCR 75th Anniversary Lillooet trip.

April 4, 1987: E & N daytrip (Vancouver Island).

May 21, 1987: 6-day bus/train trip from Ocean to Rockies and Back.

May 24, 1987: Cariboo day trip on BCR.

May 30, 1987: Two week tour of England and Wales.

Information and prices: 520-3455.

On February 1st, William Fairfax (Bill) Brown passed away. Bill was born on January 2nd, 1895 in Blockley, England, and came to Canada in 1912. He lived in Alberta until 1939, at which time he came to B.C. and farmed in Rosedale. Besides being a farmer (and musician), Bill was also a railroader, and almost singlehandedly built a railroad empire. Those who have seen his all-Lionel P.G.E.

operation will have realized how much fun it was for him. Even in his 92nd year, he could be found running trains in his low-ceiling empire.

Bill introduced many a youngster to the fun of model railroading, as he always had time to let them into his house and give them a go at the throttle. Those who have known Bill will be missing a good friend.