

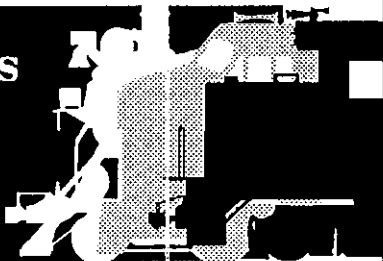


Seventh Division Bulletin Board

Upcoming Seventh Division Events . . .

**Send in your
registration forms
NOW for the**

**Trains
93**



PNR REGIONAL CONVENTION

**to be held in Burnaby, B.C.
from**

**Thursday to Sunday
November 11 to 14, 1993.**

Registration information is available
from the Registrar:

Carol O'Dell, 2169 Qualicum Drive
Vancouver, B.C. V5P 2M3.

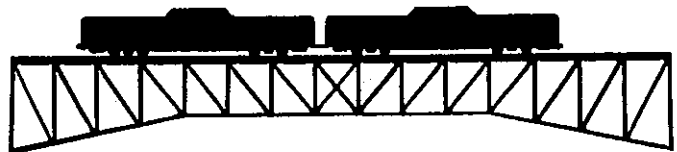
phone 325-1631

or call

Dick Sutcliffe

at 467-4301

VICTORIA MODEL RAILWAY SHOW



NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

Sunday

September 26, 1993

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

at

S.J. WILLIS CENTRE GYMNASIUM

923 TOPAZ AVENUE (OFF QUADRA)

VICTORIA, B.C.



Operating layouts in
Lionel, On₃, HO and N scales
and Swap Tables



POPULAR VOTE CONTESTS FOR:

- Favorite Train
- Display Diorama
- Structures
- Locomotives
- Rolling Stock
- Photographs
- Operating Module

CONTESTS

Admissions

- \$3.00 person
- \$6.00 family
- \$2.00 seniors/children under 12
- \$2.00 NMRA/PNR members

DOOR PRIZES

Information: Ted Alexis 595-4070
Mark Giles 652-4124



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Don Forsyth 336-6481 (Courtenay)			Russ Watson 478-3494 (Victoria)
The National Model Railroad Association (Canada) is a separately incorporated section of the National Model Railroad Association Inc. headquartered in Chattanooga, TN. NMRA (Canada) is presently a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving our railroad heritage through the promotion of model railroading, and by promoting and recognizing craftsmanship and service to others within the hobby.			
President, NMRA Canada: Steve Stark (Vancouver, B.C.)			

The Editor Comments:

First off, this issue contains four pages of the July, August, and September Switchlist. To save postage, we have included the Switchlist in you Bulletin Board, and will be doing this four times a year.

Summer and Fall are the times for Western Canadian explorations. Both B.C. and Alberta (the place out east) have railway historical societies, railway museums, and steam railway excursions. For example, the **Alberta Prairie** operates round trip excursions by a steam powered train until Sunday October 27th from Stettler Alberta down the CWR line towards Drumheller. For more information call 1-800-282-3994. While you are still in Alberta, check out the High River Historical Railway's fully restored mail express car #3622. (OK you model railway fans out there, what railway company did this car belong to?) For more information on all railway heritage oriented places in Canada, we recommend you read *A Guide to Canada's Railway Heritage Museums and Attractions* by Lawrence Adams. On the local railway scene the **B.C. Society of Model Engineers'** new Live Steam Layout at Confederation Park in Burnaby is now operating on weekends until Thanksgiving. They are looking for volunteers and new members to help in extending the layout and to run and maintain the trains. A tour of these facilities is planned during Trains 93. For more information call 420-1778 or 946-2225.

On The Cover:

The two main forthcoming events in the Seventh Division are the Victoria Model Railway Show next weekend on Sunday, September 26th, and the Trains 93 Convention in November. Everyone should have received a Trains 93 update and registration form in the mail last month. We have had a few returns due to incorrect addresses but these are being mailed out again with hopefully the correct address. If you know of anyone who hasn't received this information, please contact Dick Sutcliffe at 467-4301 and the information will be sent out immediately.

7th Division Bulletin Board

The *Bulletin Board* is published five times a year during February, April, August, October, and December by the 7th Division, Pacific Northwest Region, National Model Railroad Association Inc. The *Bulletin Board* is distributed to all Seventh Division Members in good standing. Editorial opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the Seventh Division Standing Committee.

Contributions of letters, articles, event news, plans, photographs, and art are welcome, and may be sent to:

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The cutoff date for upcoming issues is the 22nd of the month preceding publication.

All communications directed to the Division should be forwarded to the Superintendent:

Dick Sutcliffe
12140 - 230th Street
Maple Ridge, B.C.
V2X 6R5
467-4301

Membership renewals, and address changes must be sent to the P.N.R. office manager:

Gail M Norton
P. O. Box 280
Hoodsport, WA., 98548
(206)-877-9642

All other membership inquiries including new memberships should be forwarded to the Membership Co-ordinator:

Gary Hazell, RR #1, S4-C6,
Tappen, B.C. V0E 2X0
835-8628 (h)
832-4286 (w)
832-7328 (fax)

Mid Island Spring Meet Report:

by Rick Lord

Sunday, April 25th was the Ninth Annual Mid Vancouver Island Spring Meet. Outside the rain poured down. However inside the Country Club Mall, patrons viewed model trains from N scale to live steam. Children laughed and pointed to trains in motion with lights flashing and smoke belching from steam engines. Many questions were answered. What is scale? How do you make, fix and repair these? Many came away with a yard switching engineer qualification issued on Alvin Adam's Riverside, Bridgeboro & Mount Holly Railroad. Al's layout in a suitcase is a great way to introduce children and adults alike to operating a locomotive. Thanks Al.

Other thanks go out to the Victoria Ntrack Group for bringing their 12 by 40 foot modular layout. The city scene gets bigger and better every year. The Upper Island Group from Campbell River and Courtenay were a big hit as usual with their 12 by 40 foot H.O. modular layout. A new train this year, featured many B.C. Rail cars hauled by a trio of the new Atlas Alco C425 diesels, in the B.C. Rail colours of course.

The Tie & Timber Short Lines group of Tom Beaton, Carl Sparks and Cyril Meadows was operating complete with PFM sound. Thanks to Tom for providing PNR-Seventh Division information.

Michael Kocot And Rick Slingerland from Nanaimo displayed their N scale layout that is built on a hollow core door and features lots of foam for mountains. The shaping had been done by power saw and blow torch. Now that would have been an outdoor clinic!

Live steamers John Purdy and Bob Roy from Comox displayed five locomotives. An SD-40(electric 3½"), a Porter live steam(3½"), an 0-4-0T(3½"), and an 0-4-0T(5½"). They are now starting work on a CNR 6000 series locomotive.

Table top clinics were active as Ken and Phyllis Rutherford built a number of furnace filter trees.

Paul Crozier Smith repaired several sets of trucks and couplers.

Patrick Lawson demonstrated his C.P. Rail bathtub gondola castings.

The door prize was won by Phyllis Rutherford.

The Popular Choice winners were:

Favourite Train: Rick Lord's HO APL #9 Shay with skeleton log cars.

Locomotive: Bill Mack's HOn3 boxcab.

Rolling Stock: Rick Slingerland's On3 M.O.W. car.

Structures: Ted Dockree's HO warehouse and Bill Van Bergen's HO warehouse on a wharf.

Diorama: Nils Nelson's HO stockyard.

Module: Tom Beaton's On3 East Camilles

Congratulations to the winners !

On behalf of the organizing committee, thanks to all who attended. In 1994 it will be our 10th anniversary and we hope to do something special. Planning will start in June. Look for information at Trains 93 in November.

In Memorium: Tom Schuh

We regret to announce that former 4th Division superintendent, Tom Schuh of Seattle, died in August. Tom was a well known and longtime active PNR member in the Seattle area, and was highly respected by his friends and peers. He will be sadly missed. The next issue of the *Bulletin Board* may carry a more detailed article on his association with the PNR.

Next Issue: next month !

Rock Casting

by Brian Clogg.

It is **Rock**. Wherever it is not covered by water or soil we see exposed rocks. If you model **British Columbia** you will find lots of it. I confess a love for modelling rockwork. I am starting 31 linear feet of floor to ceiling mountains. This article will discuss how I model rockwork and mountains.

There are two ways to make plaster rocks. The first is to hand carve rock detail into plaster. This may be best for representing sedimentary features, however I have not tried it. There is an excellent demonstration in the *Great Model Railroads Volume 12* video tape. The method I use is to employ rock molds (this is not a video show)

A rock mold is a latex rubber mold made from a real rock. In order to make a mold you first need a master to copy. A good place to look for suitable masters is at the base of road and railway cuts. I can see a model railroader out for a walk with the family. While their loved ones are enjoying the bounty of nature, he/she is on their knees looking at moss and rocks and the family wonders how strange this person will get. Seriously though if you look you can find a lot of good candidates. The rocks you are looking for should have features like the rockwork you are trying to model. The rocks can either be carted home or you can make your molds right there if you don't mind the strange looks from passers-by. You may need to spend all day there but if the feature is on a solid rock face it may be worth it. Lumps of coal are said to make good masters but I haven't tried any. Another source for masters is to burrow molds from your friends and copy them by filling with plaster and letting them set. Copies can then be made of these at your leisure and the molds returned promptly.

Making Molds:

To make rock molds you will need:

- a cheap 1 inch paintbrush
- latex molding rubber
- cloth: nylon, cheesecloth or medical gauze
- a plastic or glass dish filled with soapy water to store the brush

Before you begin if you are likely to spatter rubber around put on some old clothes because the rubber won't come out. Next the rocks should be cleaned to remove dirt and foreign matter. I use an old toothbrush under running water. Now put the rocks on a piece of plywood so the face to be copied is accessible. You may get two or three molds from one rock. Try breaking it up with a hammer once all the molds are made and you may find new candidates. Now take the brush and dab the rubber on rather than brushing it on since this seems to cover the detail better. The first coat is the most important so try to get the rubber into all the cracks and crevices to capture all the detail. It is important to try not to create any air bubbles since these would appear as a flaw on the

casting.

After the coat has thoroughly dried follow with four more coats allowing each to dry. A coat can be applied when you have a few minutes and left for hours or days until you get back to it. Always soak the brush in soapy water until you use it again. I found that eventually the brush became unusable and had to be replaced.

It is now time to add a fabric of your choice to stiffen the mold. Cut a piece to fit the mold. Apply a thin coat of rubber and push the fabric down into the rubber with the brush. Adding another coat of rubber on top while the mold is still wet will help the fabric nestle into the mold. Allow this to dry and apply a final coat of rubber. When this is dry the mold can be peeled away from the rock. Trim the excess fabric from around the edges and the mold is ready to use.

Making Rocks:

Now it's time for some fun using the molds to cast some rocks. I used to cast rocks with hydrocal but now I prefer casting plaster. It is easier to carve and stain. I have about 35 molds but 5 or 10 is probably enough. As you apply the molds turn them around different ways and no similarity will be noticed. Select the molds you will use before beginning and plan where they will go. Work with only 2 or 3 molds at a time I pay more attention to artistic effect than to geology but our editor does it the other way around and that works also. Remember though that rock cuts blasted into the mountain side will have sharper features than rock that has been worn by wind and rain for centuries.

To make rocks the way I do, mix some plaster the consistency of pancake batter. Always add plaster to the water and not the other way. Fill 2 or 3 molds with plaster and place them on the mountain. When the casting is hard enough the mold can be peeled away. The plaster will get warm as it cures and the mold will no longer feel mushy. If you are not sure peel a corner away and see if the detail remains. To blend between two castings, I place another mold over the first two castings. When this has set enough, peel off the mold and blend the details from one casting to the other. This will ensure that the plaster density will be consistent so all the molds will stain the same. When placing new castings over set plaster, thoroughly wet the old plaster or it will soak up the moisture from the new plaster and the new casting will not bond.

The rubber mold technique need not be limited to making rocks. Molds can be used for forestone or brick walls, tunnel portals, tree stumps, chimneys and who knows what else. Try it and have some fun.

Additional References:

Scenery for Model Railroads by Bill McLanahan, Kalmbach Publishing.

Realistic Model Railroad Scenery by Dave Frary, Kalmbach Publishing.

Model Railroader magazine, June 1993, page 82.