



BULLETIN BOARD

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

Volume 34, Issue 4

September/October 2020



ABOVE: The sunshine and warmth of this time of year calls for a nice garden railway picture. This is Steve Granholm's Shay crossing a trestle in his backyard layout.

Photo by Steve Granholm, courtesy of GVGR's *Burnt Journal* newsletter

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From the Editor's Desk

COVID-19 continues to cast a big shadow over all we are doing and, unfortunately, that includes railway modelling. We have strictly limited in-person meetings and no large face-to-face events. A quick look at the list of events on page 4 shows that all BC events this year are now cancelled. Fortunately, this does give us increased time to spend on our models and layouts, and new ways of interacting with our fellow modellers have begun to appear.

One of these is the virtual event. Our spring face-to-face Railway Modellers Meet of BC had to be cancelled, but was replaced by a virtual meet. We have an article on page 6 describing the virtual meet, how it was produced and how it went.

Another new interaction method is the 7th Division Exchange online gathering spot. This has just been set up and is now ready to serve 7th Division members wanting to exchange news or information, or sell/buy/trade model railroading gear. There is an article on page 8 explaining how to join this.

Finally, I would like to point out that this is a smaller-than-usual Bulletin Board. We need articles and other input from you, the reader.

- Do you have a modelling project you are proud of?
- Have you been on a prototype information gathering or photographing trip lately?
- Have you developed some experience with a modelling technique?
- Would you like to show off your layout or maybe your buddy's layout?

All of these things can make excellent articles. How about sharing with your fellow modellers?

Don't worry about producing something beautiful or elaborate. I can help you make your writing, or even just your notes, into something that will work in the Bulletin Board. Give it a try.

Enjoy the issue!

Superintendent's Message

By John Martin, 7th Division Superintendent

One of the major attractions of NMRA membership is the chance to get together with your fellow modellers. The Vancouver Train Expo, the Railway Modellers Meet of BC, the various train shows, and even our AGM usually help make that possible – but this year is profoundly different, as we all know.

Platforms like Zoom or Facetime are a huge help to stay in touch. John Green wrote an excellent article about “virtual” sessions in the May/June Bulletin Board and I've been fortunate to take part recently in a similar group. It's been fun, and highly educational and motivating – just what we all need right now.

A few people have now come up with an idea that will enable our members with computer connections to interact to exchange ideas and share projects throughout our entire area. The pandemic has dragged us firmly into the electronic age and we're going to take advantage of these platforms for your benefit. The 7th Division's new “Exchange” is introduced in this issue of the Bulletin Board! We really hope you'll use it and enjoy it when it hits the road on opening day on September 15th.

Member Aid – We are here to help.

As many of you undoubtedly know, I'm most definitely not an expert modeller (unlike most of our previous Superintendents). I joined the NMRA to get back into the hobby after years of doing silly things like working and raising a family. Recently, I've had a few “interesting” questions about things I'm working on – and the

friends I've made through my NMRA membership have been invaluable in providing help and assistance. Without them, I'm sure I would have given up on a project or two and the quality of what I've done has been improved considerably. My genuine and sincere thanks to those people, many of whom have a truly astonishing amount of knowledge and experience.

There are some extremely helpful and generous folks in the 7th Division, and they are available to you. If you have a question or are stuck trying to figure out what the murky instructions in a kit are trying to tell you, send an email, or telephone someone in the group. We can cover almost everything – from basic track painting and ballasting right through to the intricacies of scratch building an N-scale steam locomotive.

Mike Barone is our Member Aid Coordinator (our “Help Desk”) and your Area Representative can often be of assistance. If he or she doesn't have the answers, we can find someone who does. There is contact information on the last page of this issue and more at: <http://7divpnr.ca/node/543>.

If you wish, send me an email and I'll point you to someone with what you need. It's all part of what you get from belonging to the NMRA.

Additionally, there is a good library of videos at www.nmra.org. You'll need to sign in, but that will be quite easy for a smart person like you. The NMRA Turntable should appear in your email every two months – the most recent issue got to me on 15 Aug 2020 (Volume 4, Number 8, August 2020). All previous issues are posted inside the “members only” area on www.nmra.org. Finally, we have lots of worthwhile material in past issues of our own Bulletin Board at <http://7divpnr.ca/node/37>.

There is a wealth of information available for your enjoyment – all free with your membership. Why not take advantage of it?

John Martin
Superintendent

Have you changed your telephone number, home address or email information?

If so, please send a quick note to Brian Clogg (our Membership Coordinator) at bcclogg@shaw.ca.

We would like to stay in touch with you and make sure you keep getting the Bulletin Board and other NMRA material. One quick email or call to Brian or to the Superintendent is all it takes. Thanks.

Call for Nominations

Nominations **and volunteers** are requested for the positions of 7th Division Secretary, and Treasurer, and Director-At-Large. Please submit nominations to our Returning Officer – Victor Gilbert by e-mail to victor@sugarwood.info or Canada Post to 3250 Matapan Cres, Vancouver, BC V5M 4B1. Successful candidates will serve a 2-year term on the Board of Directors in 2021 & 2022.

There are still a few people out there who have never served on a committee or as an executive. It's not a lot of work and it can actually be enjoyable. We most definitely need at least one new face this year. Please email the Superintendent if you want to know more about what's involved.

Changes to Events Due to COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc on railway modelling conventions, meets and mini-meets this year. The following table summarizes what we know about the status of events relevant to the 7th Division.

Event	Original Date	Current Plans
CPHA-GNRHS Joint Convention, Nelson	Sep 19-23, 2020	Rescheduled to September 2022. See CPHA website cptracks.ca
Victoria Model Railway Show	Sep 27, 2020	Cancelled for this year.
Nanaimo Model Railroad Show	Apr 26, 2020, rescheduled to Nov 1, 2020	Cancelled for this year.
Vancouver Train Expo	Nov 9-10, 2020	Cancelled for this year.

Discouraging news, but most events are expected to return once COVID-19 is dealt with. Keep your fingers crossed.

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the 7th Division will be held on 12 November 2020 at 7 PM using “Zoom” video conferencing. The meeting originally scheduled for 14 November has been cancelled.

You will receive a Zoom invitation by email at the beginning of November (please see details below).

It is easy to participate by telephone, if you don’t have a computer.

The meeting is open to every member of the 7th Division, PNR, NMRA in good standing.

We hope you’ll join us.

7th Division Annual General Meeting

By John Martin, 7th Division Superintendent

We are legally required to hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM) each year. It will come as no surprise that your Board of Directors has decided an “in person” event would be unwise. Even though we would probably be in compliance with current regulations, it makes little sense to risk everyone’s health in the name of our hobby – and we value your welfare too much.

On the positive side, the Zoom format will allow everyone in the Division to participate in the AGM for the first time in many years. No late-night driving in Vancouver traffic and no expensive ferry ride or hairy trip on the Coquihalla or the Hope-Princeton or down the Fraser Canyon. There will be a “BONUS” feature this year with the addition of a short-clinic or guest speaker – which we hope will boost interest and attendance. Brilliant ideas and suggestions for a topic would be most welcome.

We regret that we won't see all of you this year because of the many cancellations but, hopefully, there are better days ahead. Meanwhile, please stay healthy.

Zoom

Many of you have already used Zoom. It was our choice for the Virtual Railway Modellers Meet of BC (VRMMBC) in May and that event was an outstanding success. Zoom is so easy that even our Superintendent

has figured out how it's done. If he can do it, so can you.

We strongly suggest you set things up and test your system ahead of time. Talk to a friend or type "How to use Zoom" into your search engine. There are numerous videos and written instructions that explain the simple process. Set it up now – and use the Zoom test functions to make sure your audio and video work, if applicable. Yes – you can join in without video if you don't have a computer camera or don't feel comfortable showing everyone how messy your train room has become during covid-19.

If you're going to join the AGM by telephone, dial one of the "Canada" numbers on Nov 12th at 6:55pm and follow the instructions. It's very easy. (The necessary meeting number and password are shown below and will be sent again in November.)

If you have any Zoom related problems and need a bit of assistance, please send an email to Victor at victor@sugarwood.info. He has kindly offered to help anyone who needs it – which is very generous of him. You can also email me (jamartin@jdmartin.ca) or call me at 604-594-9719 if you'd like to talk to someone with a sympathetic ear and no technical expertise whatsoever.

This is what you will receive by email in early November:

Seventh Division is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Seventh Division AGM

Time: Nov 12, 2020 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86980637287?pwd=YXFBNUU5a2N0TDRIeEVhTThLQ3Z2UT09>

Meeting ID: 869 8063 7287

Passcode: 7thD-AGM

One tap mobile

+17789072071,,86980637287#,,,,,0#,,41656122# Canada

+12042727920,,86980637287#,,,,,0#,,41656122# Canada

Dial by your location

+1 778 907 2071 Canada

+1 204 272 7920 Canada

+1 438 809 7799 Canada

+1 587 328 1099 Canada

+1 647 374 4685 Canada

+1 647 558 0588 Canada

Meeting ID: 869 8063 7287

Passcode: 41656122

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86980637287?pwd=YXFBNUU5a2N0TDRIeEVhTThLQ3Z2UT09>



Virtual RMMBC a Success!

By Rob England

Back in February the Railway Modellers Meet of BC (RMMBC) Committee was working through the normal organisational work preparing for the meet in May. There was no mention of COVID-19 at the February 3rd organisational meeting.

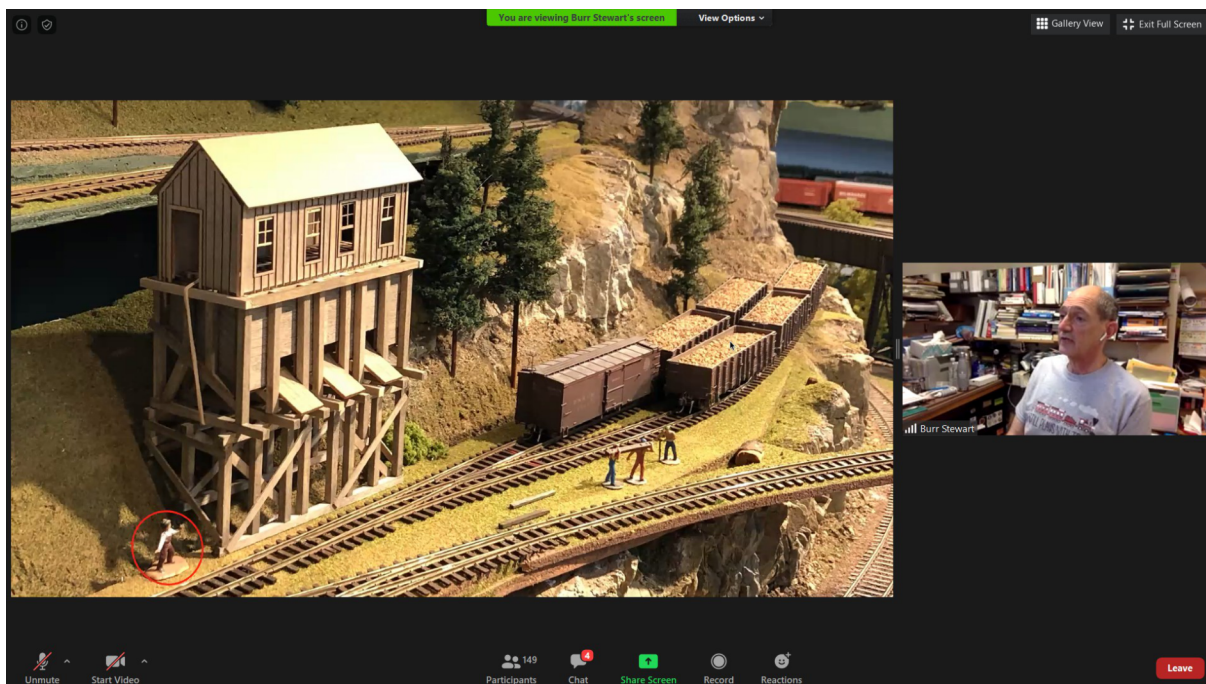
By the end of March the world had changed and the RMMBC Committee realized they had a serious problem. The COVID-19 pandemic was gathering steam and SFU was starting to talk about not allowing the meet to use their facilities. It was becoming very clear that a face-to-face meet would not be possible.

The solution they came up with, after a good deal of discussion and testing possible solutions, was a virtual RMMBC provided using ZOOM and providing a set of six clinics and a Meet the Modeller session over four days. The goal was to try to come as close to an in-person meet as possible, with live clinics, attendee registration (no charge), an appropriate degree of attendee interaction with the clinic presenters, and a Meet the Modeller session based loosely on the popular Meet the Modeller event at the in-person RMMBC. This approach differs from the majority of similar virtual events being put on in the hobby.

Clinic presenters chosen from those lined up for the RMMBC were approached and, once they agreed to participate in the virtual meet, were briefed on what they had to be aware of in a live on-line presentation. The meet publicity had to be totally redone (publicity for a face-to-face meet was still being sent out at the beginning of March, for example). Moderators were trained to run the ZOOM sessions and deal with possible security issues (none reared its head, as it happened). Practice sessions were run. A new registration system was set up. Many small but essential points were dealt with.

By Thursday May 21st the meet was ready to go live. The first two clinicians, Trevor Marshall and Bill Decker, were standing by, with a third presenter ready to jump in if needed. Over 380 people had registered to attend and a good proportion of them connected in for the first two clinics.

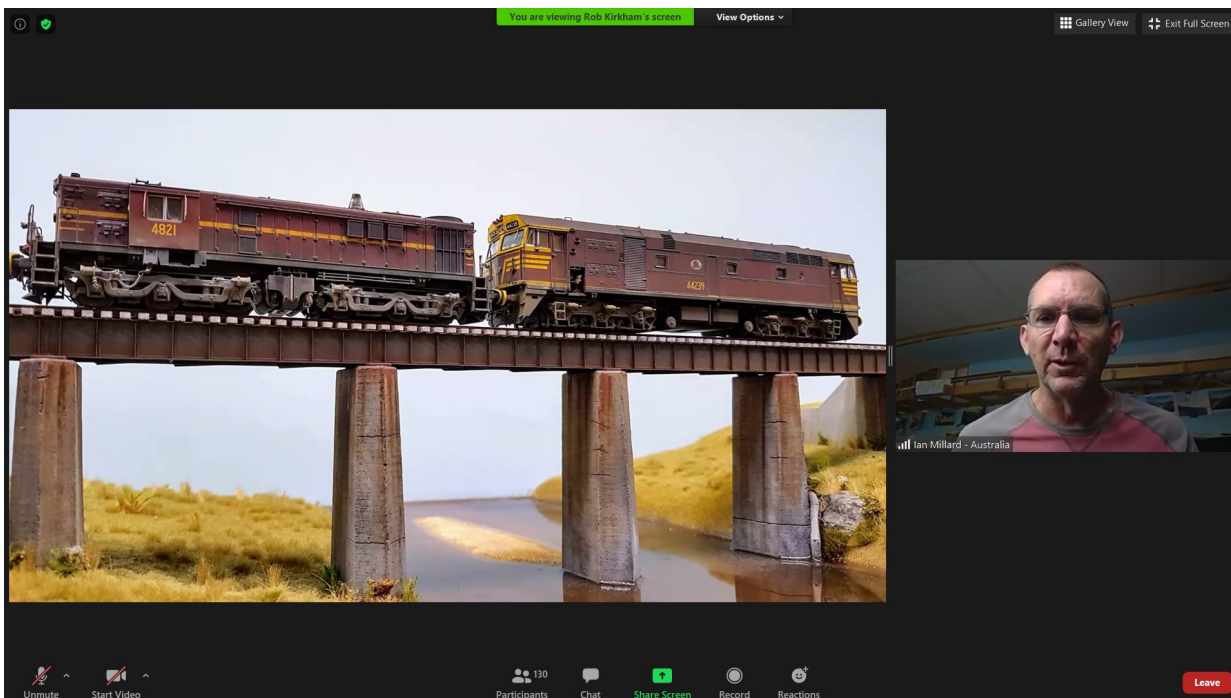
The evening went very well. A post event committee meeting identified a few things that could be done better next time, but they were quite minor.



ABOVE: Burr Stewart presenting his clinic "Improvising with unconventional materials and methods to good effect" on the second night of the meet.

On May 28th two additional clinicians, Burr Steward and Mark Dance, presented their clinics to a slightly bigger audience. This also went very well.

The third Thursday, June 2nd, was the Meet the Modeller night. This was something quite different from the clinic presentations and also very different from what other virtual meets were attempting. Meet attendees were asked to provide some photos of model projects they had worked on and to be prepared to be briefly interviewed by a host (Rob Kirkham) about their project, what interested them about it, and how they went about it. Over twenty modellers volunteered and participated. This went very well, with no significant hiccups and a lot of interesting information shared.



ABOVE: Ian Millard, a meet participant connecting in from Australia, talks about how he modelled two Australian locomotives in the Meet the Modeller session of Virtual RMMBC. He had done a highly impressive job of detailing and weathering the two.

The fourth and final Thursday, June 9th, had two more clinicians, Matt Robson and Peter Steinmetz. These clinics were slightly different from the earlier ones, with one focussed on prototype information (the Southern Railway of BC) and the other on demonstrating a weathering technique. Both clinics were enthusiastically received. The total meet registration by the last day was just over 550 participants.

Contacted at the end of August and asked for his comments, Rene Gourley, the RMMBC Committee Chair, said that the people involved in putting on the meet can be justly proud of putting on a very high quality event with few issues. It was, he stated, a "fantastic success".

At the moment we don't know if we will be able to put on a face-to-face RMMBC next year or if we will need to do another virtual event. In either case we have shown that we can successfully do either.



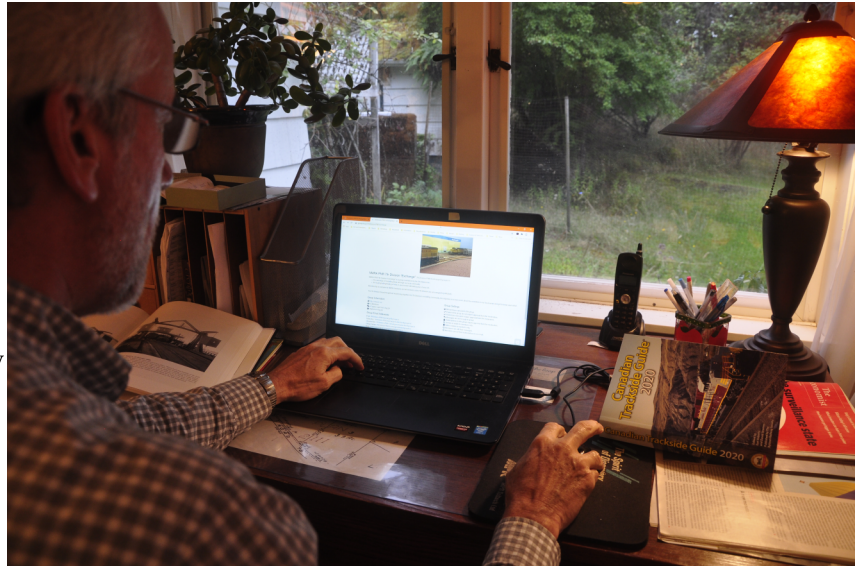
The Exchange – The 7th Division's New Online Meeting Place

By John Martin

Sharing Our Modelling

We are all “enduring” varying degrees of social isolation. The Exchange is a place where we can share photos and/or comments about whatever modelling projects we have on the go. It’s a great way to stay in touch with your friends in the 7th Division and to show us what you’ve been doing with all this unexpected time at home – and we hope it will engage and motivate you and your fellow modellers too.

We realize that some of you may already be active on personal blogs or various other on-line forums, but we thought we would bring together the 7th Division’s modelling community and close affiliates. Our objective is to learn more about the modellers in our local areas and get to know each other.



The site is open right now and ready for you to sign-up (see below). Join today, then come back on Grand Opening Day (September 15th) to buy or sell and to see what’s new.

7th Division PNR Exchange

This is a group maintained by the 7th Division for:

- (1) the exchange of modelling ideas amongst our local community; and
- (2) the buying/selling/trading of new or used model railroading gear of any sort.

Membership is restricted to NMRA members and everyone in the 7th Division is encouraged to participate. We would like you to use your real name and location (city) in your posts for the benefit of other modellers in your local area. That will allow us to get to know each other better. We have no problem with John Green listing himself as “GreenJohn” but names like “Mad Modeller” or “HO Hobbitt” are discouraged.

This is NOT a public group. Membership is restricted and it is only for our own community of like-minded modellers.

Joining

To join the group use one of the following methods:

- Send an email to: 7thDivision-PNR-Exchange+subscribe@groups.io
- with the subject “I would Like to join.”

OR

- Visit <https://groups.io> or www.groups.io
- Sign Up or Log In (upper right corner)
- Click “Find or create a group” – (top left)
- Type “7th Division” in the search box (upper right) and press ENTER
- Click On 7thDivision-PNR-Exchange – this will take you to the group’s home page
- Click the “Apply For Membership” button

After you have asked to join the group, the following things will happen:

- If you are not already a Groups.io member, you will receive an e-mail from Groups.io thanking you for your interest. At the end of that email is a confirmation “button” which you must “click” to accept Groups.io terms of service and confirm your e-mail address. You will then be taken to Groups.io’s login site where you will be asked to create a password and be able to access your Groups.io profile.
- You will receive another email from 7th Division-PNR-Exchange@groups.io requesting your Name, Location and NMRA Member Number.
- After you reply to the email (with the requested information), your application will be reviewed, and you will be accepted into the group.
- Provided you have confirmed your Groups.io account as noted above, you may read other postings right away. You can post yourself as soon as you are accepted into the group.
- If you did not setup a Groups.io Display Name in the “Identity” section (4th button down, left hand side) of the Groups.io profile page during the confirmation process above, expect this message from 7thDivision-PNR-Exchange@groups.io: “We have noticed that your Groups.io Display Name has not been set. When you get a chance please set it.”
- Acceptance is usually within 24 hours.

Posting

It’s easy. Click on New Topic and fire away. To share your current project, the subject line of your modelling posts should include: MODEL. Then, add whatever photos and text you’d like to share.

Gear Exchange

This is the place to find new homes for items that you are no longer using and to look for used model railroading items of any sort in our local community. The assumption is that most transactions will be concluded in person and will not require shipping, but this can be arranged by the seller and buyer.

The idea is no fees and simplicity. Think of it as an online swap-meet. Whether it is new in the box or just collecting dust, you may have what others are looking for.

We welcome all who are looking to buy, sell, or trade:

- locomotives, rolling stock, and accessories of any type, e.g. DCC gear
- finished or unfinished models/kits
- hard-to-find items
- train-related videos, books, printed material, and other media
- spare parts and junkers

We also welcome Retailers and Manufacturers offering deep-discounts, close-outs, or rare items.

Please follow these guidelines to post:

Your Subject Line should include a code:

FS: For Sale

WTB: Want To Buy

WTT or TR: Want To Trade

And include the scale of items: TT, N, HO, S, G, MISC (for items without a scale)

For example: FS HO or WTB TT or FS Misc

Provide your asking price in Canadian dollars - C\$.

Attach a photo of your item(s) or place one in the Photos Section with a link to your post.

Post all replies to questions on the message board.

Conduct your business by private email.

Provide your location (city) in all such posts – so interested buyers can know if you are in their local area.

When an item sells, please DELETE ALL photos and POST a SOLD message under your original thread.

Do not post “or best offer” sales as that can lead to an auction-like bidding competition. The ethics of our group is that sales are to be conducted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Disclaimer

The Owner and Moderators of this Group, 7th Division PNR NMRA, will assume NO responsibility nor any liability for any transactions nor any claims made. YOU ARE ON YOUR OWN. All business is conducted at your own risk. Please be honest and work out any problems between yourselves. The Owner is not a mediator or guarantor.

Phone numbers should only be posted within off-list correspondence.

The 7th Division and the NMRA cannot and does not guarantee that every buyer or seller is honest and legitimate. You must be cautious throughout any transaction – from product description to payment to delivery. Beware of anyone who requests payment in advance or by Bitcoin or iTunes gift cards. If in doubt, talk to a friend with more experience or just walk away. We only admit verified members to the site but (sadly) there are con artists in the world. Protect yourself – we are not able to do it for you. If you don't want to accept personal responsibility, please don't use the site to buy/sell/swap.

BE HONEST! BE FAIR! TREAT OTHERS AS YOU WOULD WISH TO BE TREATED.

Details

The Exchange is moderated by a small group of 7th Division volunteers.

A “Management Group” consisting of our entire Standing Committee (see <http://7divpnr.ca/node/543>) will make major decisions about policy and operations.

Please contact the Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent if you have questions or suggestions.

Obituary

Harry Huizing 1945 - 2020

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Harry Huizing on March 10th as a result of an aggressive brain tumour diagnosed in December. He would have turned 75 in April.

Not only was Harry a kind, welcoming and obliging person, he was a most capable model railroader who loved the hobby. As a founding member of Coldslop Free-mo in 2004, he remained exceedingly dedicated and active.

To say he will be missed is a vast understatement for a wonderful man and friend has now left us.

He is survived by his loving wife, Doris, his two daughters, their families and his precious grandchildren.

Submitted by Coldslop Free-mo Society
Chilliwack, BC

Notices and Contacts

The Bulletin Board is the official publication of the 7th Division of the Pacific Northwest Region, National Model Railroad Association, Canada. It is distributed electronically to all members in good standing. In exceptional circumstances, such as Internet unavailability or medical conditions, the 7th Division may agree to distribute paper copies to affected members.

The Bulletin Board has five issues per year: January/February, March/April, May/June, September/October, and November/December. Each issue is published in the last week before 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.

Note that the views and opinions stated in the Bulletin Board do not necessarily reflect those of the NMRA or regions or divisions thereof.

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 (see below). 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 the following per issue rates: Full Page = \$48.00, Half Page = \$24.00, Quarter Page = \$12.00, Business Card = \$6.00. Artwork must be supplied in JPG or similar format and in the desired printed size. There may be an additional charge to complete artwork that is not ready to print. Please email your artwork to the editor. Remittance should be discussed and finalized with the division Treasurer.

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

Superintendent	John Martin	604-594-9719 (Delta)	jamartin@jdmartin.ca
Assistant Superintendent	Victor Gilbert	604-708-4161 (Vancouver)	victor@sugarwood.info
Secretary	Jim Guillaume	250-550-5106 (Coldstream)	yxsops@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Larry Sebelley	604-858-5717 (Chilliwack)	sebelley@shaw.ca
Director at Large	Ken Rutherford	250-724-4698 (Port Alberni)	kj.rutherford@shaw.ca
Membership Coordinator and Webmaster	Brian Clogg	604-588-2194 (Surrey)	bcclogg@shaw.ca
Bulletin Board Editor	Rob England	250-629-2006 (Pender Island)	r.england@computer.org
Achievement Program Coordinator	Mike Chandler, MMR	604-526-5078 (New Westminster)	mikado1@telus.net
Member Aid Coordinator	Mike Barone	250-367-6134 (Fruitvale)	fmikebarone@gmail.com
Publicity Coordinator	Dick Sutcliffe	604-467-4301 (Maple Ridge)	ras1@uniserve.com