



BULLETIN BOARD

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ABOVE: This nicely finished CN automobile box car was built from a resin kit by Marc Simpson. Marc will be presenting a clinic describing his techniques for working with resin kits as part of the upcoming 7th Division Annual General Meeting to be held November 18th on Zoom. See page 4 for more information on the clinic, and page 3 for more information on the AGM.

Photo by Marc Simpson

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From the Editor's Desk

I hope that you are getting back into railway modelling now that the summer is over and the rains have started. One thing that has always tweaked my curiosity is the 7th Division membership roster. Access to the roster is tightly controlled. However, this issue we have an article that spills a few beans, although nothing personal. Have a look on page 6.

We also have a couple of articles by Marc Simpson: one about the upcoming RMMBC show coming up in May, and the other about a great sounding clinic he will be presenting for the AGM later this month.

You will notice that this issue is somewhat shorter than usual. This is because I didn't receive enough material to get up to the usual size! You can help with this. Why not write a Bulletin Board article to give your fellow modellers a look at your layout or latest modelling project? Or perhaps you have tried a new modelling product or piece of equipment or technique. Or maybe you went on a great railfanning trip recently. There are no doubt a ton of other things you could tell us about. Give it a try! If you are considering this or if you would like some help contact me at r.England@computer.org. I will do my best to help you make it happen.

In the meantime, enjoy the issue!



Superintendent's Message

By John Martin, 7th Division Superintendent

Please tune in to our virtual AGM on Thursday November 18th. It kicks off at 7 pm with a clinic presentation by highly accomplished modeller Marc Simpson (see page 4 for a description of the clinic) before getting down to business at 8pm. You'll get an invitation by email a few days ahead. If you don't have a computer, you can still participate by phone. If you don't have a phone, I envy you.

-oOOOOo-

Randy Nussli has suggested to us that we're doing things all wrong. I think he's right!

Instead of beating the bushes for reluctant volunteers, we should be expounding on the benefits of being part of our leadership group. The most enjoyable aspect is the comradery. In my time on the executive, I've met some extremely fine people and formed some genuine friendships. As we get a wee bit older, long-time friends sometimes fall by the wayside – by moving away or by getting less interested in things. It's hard to make new friends in later life, but it's easy within the 7th Division. We have a great group of people with a shared interest and almost everyone is welcoming and willing to get to know you.

As well as new friendships, you get to be involved in directing our organization. You can make suggestions and choices that will influence what we do and how we provide services for our members. It's actually kind of exciting in its own way.

Right now, we're looking for a few people who would like to help out just a little – while making some new friends and getting involved in managing our affairs. The time commitment is minimal – honestly. The demands are small, but the rewards are large. Call me (604-594-9719) or email me (jamartin@jdmartin.ca) and we can discuss bringing just a little more fun and excitement into your life.

-oOOOOo-

Standing Committee Appointment

Scott Calvert has been appointed to the Standing Committee as 7th Division "Layout Directory Coordinator".

For many years, Scott has maintained a list of layouts within the 7th Division. The list is used to plan operating sessions and layout tours during the Railway Modellers' Meet of BC and for other similar events. It's a very valuable resource for our group. (Because many layout owners have privacy concerns, the list is not accessible through our website.) Thanks Scott, for your efforts.

While we're on the subject of the Standing Committee, you can see a list of the folks who keep your organization running at <https://7divpnr.ca/node/543>.

Your own name would look good there too – just sayin'.

John Martin

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the 7th Division will be held on

Thursday 18 November 2021 at 8 PM.

Location – your house. The meeting will be “virtual”, using the Zoom platform.

An excellent clinic presentation by Marc Simpson will begin at 7 PM.

Your Board of Directors has decided a virtual meeting will best serve the interests of our members.

You will receive a Zoom invitation by email in early November.

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

We hope you'll join us. Clinic at 7 PM – AGM at 8 PM.

Wanted – Slightly Reclusive Anti-Social Hermit

by John Martin, 7th Division Superintendent

Are you feeling somewhat anxious about contact with other human beings? Are you a stay-at-home railroad modeller with some information technology skills but little interest in spending time in crowded places with others?

We need one or two people to help with planning and presenting “Zoom” clinics to our members three or four times a year. We don't need you to host a clinic (although we can always use new clinic presenters) – we just want help with the mechanics of getting the clinics out to the viewers.

The job can probably be done exclusively from home so, if you're comfortable with computers and technology, we've got a low-key job that would be perfect for you. You don't need to be a computer engineering graduate. All we want is someone to manage a session and keep it running – training will be provided, along with a chance to remotely say hello to a few friendly faces. Please chip in a few hours of your time – the virtual clinics can't happen without a little support from people like you. Get in touch with Victor Gilbert or John Martin (see last page for contact info).



AGM Clinic: Getting What You Want with Resin Kits

Text and photos by Marc Simpson

I will be presenting this clinic via Zoom on Thursday November 18 at 7:00 PM just before the upcoming 7th Division AGM. The clinic will discuss the rewards, trials and tribulations of building resin kits to get a more prototypical freight car, passenger car and locomotive fleet. While Ready-To-Run (RTR) is great for more common prototypes, getting that unique “signature” car that only your prototype had will likely require you to delve into the resin world to acquire.

We’ll cover the basics of what to use to build, paint and weather resin kits. These are often the same as what is used in other areas of the hobby with some tweaks. We’ll cover the traditional resin kits as well as the current resin “kits” coming out of 3D resin printing.

Seeing a flat cast resin kit can be daunting the first time but with some practice and “tricks of the trade” you’ll soon be filling out your model railway fleet with unique resin cars.



TOP OF PAGE: A very nicely weathered CN single-sheathed box car made from a resin kit.

LEFT: This shows work in progress during the kitbashing of a GE 70T locomotive to get the proper filter arrangement on the long hood. This is easier with a resin flat kit than trying to kitbash a Bachmann shell.

RIGHT: This CN potash car has Sylvan/CRMPG/Yarmouth NSC3 ends with a diagonal panel roof and other modifications. This car is unlikely to come out RTR.



Railway Modellers' Meet of BC 2022

by Marc Simpson, RMMBC Promotion

The Railway Modellers' Meet of BC (RMMBC) committee has the planning well underway for RMMBC 2022. We are looking forward to our first in-person meet in two years. The 2022 meet will include everything that attendees have come to expect from the meet: clinics and presentations, layout tours, model and photo displays, and Meet the Modeller, along with the return of the always popular in-person operating sessions. We'll also have a great keynote speaker to inspire you and get the meet off to a great start.

We are also planning to have an online program as part of the meet. The previous online program has proven to be very popular for those who are unable to attend the in-person meet. The online program will be a unique set of clinics and presentations to augment the in-person portion of the meet.

Our website (www.railwaymodellersmeetofbc.ca) has photos, presentations and lots more from past meets. As things progress we'll be posting more details on the website so check back often to see what is coming for 2022. Also check our Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts for more information.

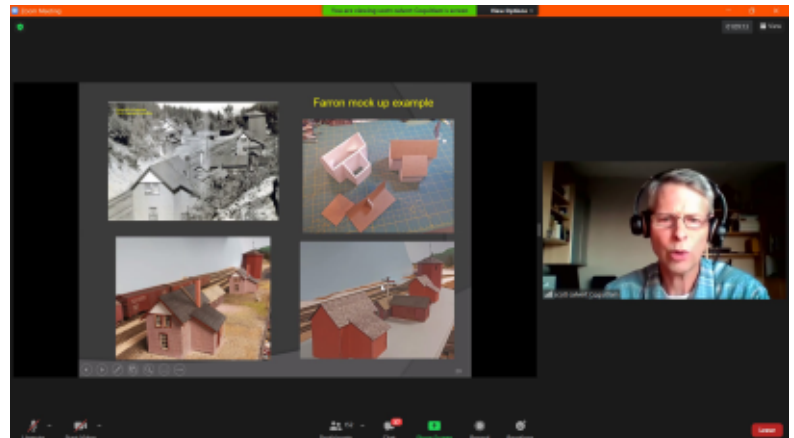
Stay tuned for more information on all the exciting developments for RMMBC 2022 in the coming months. We'll see you at the meet!



LEFT: We are planning for an in-person meet using the excellent facilities at SFU. Here we see Lance Mindheim presenting his clinic "Putting the Horse Before the Cart" at the 2019 RMMBC.

Photo by Marc Simpson

RIGHT: We are expecting to provide some portion of the meet online to address the needs of modellers unable to attend in person. Here we see Scott Calvert presenting his clinic "Strategies Applied to Building a Large Layout – So Far!" on Zoom as part of the 2021 RMMBC.



Who, What and Where Are 7th Division Members?

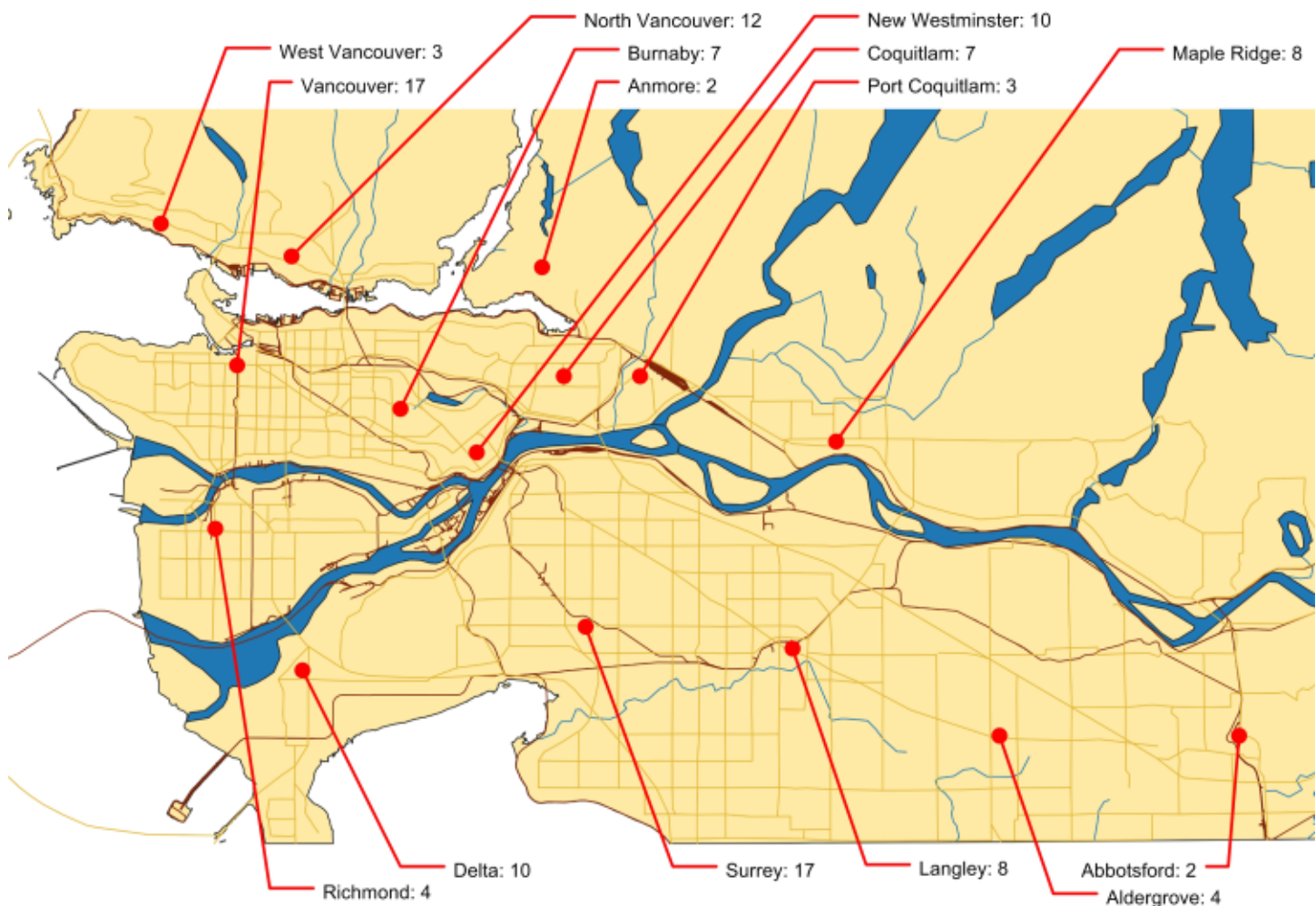
By Rob England

At one time an annual directory identifying all NMRA members and their contact details was one of the benefits of NMRA membership. Security concerns and changing privacy laws put an end to that many years ago. However, this information is still needed by the various regions and divisions within the NMRA. As a result the 7th Division keeps a roster of all its members based on information passed down to it from higher NMRA levels. Access to this information is tightly controlled, but one of the benefits of being Bulletin Board editor is that I get a copy (presumably to chase down division news and potential, or late, article writers). I can't use the information for my own purposes and I can't tell you anything that could expose personal information, but I can pass on summary and non-identifiable information.

As of the beginning of September, there were 289 7th Division members. This number has been declining slightly lately, probably at least in part to COVID-19, but is higher than it was the last time the count came to my attention many years ago.

About 40% of the members live in the Vancouver area (for the purposes of this article, considered to be Vancouver and suburbs as far east as Abbotsford). Unsurprisingly, the second largest number live in the Victoria area, which has about 10% of the membership. However, what really surprised me was that the third and fourth spots were held by Chilliwack and the Trail area, with 17 and 16 members respectively. I was also surprised how few members there are in the north and in some other areas. I remember not too many years ago reports in the Bulletin Board about activities in Terrace, Nelson and other places that have no members now.

BELOW: There are a total of 114 7th Division members who live in the Vancouver area. The map below shows the number of them living in each local area. No count is given for local areas, such as Mission or Pitt Meadows, without members.





ABOVE: This map shows where all the 289 7th Division members live. The Yukon is part of the 7th Division, but is not shown here since we currently have no members there. To keep the map relatively simple some of the members living fairly close together have been grouped into area counts.

The membership roster has a field for date of birth, but the field is blank for about half the members, possibly due to changing membership information collection. It is possible to see that we have one member who is 99 years old, and one member who is 21, but there are likely younger members out there.

One thing that the membership roster does not have is a field for gender. It is, however, possible to use first names to guess how many women are enjoying the hobby as 7th Division members. The presence of initials instead of first names and non-gender-specific names like Chris makes this a rough estimate, but it appears that there are between 15 and 20 female members. About two thirds of these live at the same address as a male-sounding member, and one third does not.

This is all very interesting stuff, but the one thing that I did not have a clue about before doing this article was where in heck Groundbirch is. Now I know!

Notices and Contacts

The Bulletin Board is the official publication of the 7th Division of the Pacific Northwest Region, National Model Railroad Association, Canada. 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.

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](#). 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](#).

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