

BULLETIN BOARD

Volume 18 Issue 5

Sep/Oct 2004



The Official Publication of the 7th Division, Pacific Northwest Region, National Model Railroad Association (Canada)

CPR # 2816 "EMPRESS" IS BACK IN SERVICE.

by Roy Kelleway, photos by the author

CPR's #2816, a 4-6-4 Class H1b Hudson steam locomotive, built by Montreal Locomotive Works in 1930, was sold to private interests in December 1963, and purchased back from the "Steamtown USA Museum", in Scranton, Pennsylvania, by the Canadian Pacific Railway, in 1998.

The locomotive underwent a top-to-bottom 30-month overhaul, starting in March, 1999, at the BCR North Vancouver shop. This was the shop that maintained the Royal Hudson, #2860, and the #3716 steam locomotives, that once operated tourist trains from North Vancouver to Squamish, and return.

The CPR #2816 overhaul was completed in August 2001 and three days of test runs were done, from Port Coquitlam, BC, east to Mission, BC and return. The CPR Police arranged with Local Maple Ridge, Abbotsford, and other model railroad clubs to provide volunteers to act as auxiliary CP Police crossing guards to keep the curious onlookers and photographers off of the tracks. Dick Sutcliffe, with the Dewdney Alouette Model Railway Club in Maple Ridge, coordinated the volunteers. After the test runs were completed and final assembly was done, the CPR #2816 steamed east to be based at Calgary, Alberta. For the next two years it made many passenger tours to Vancouver, Banff, and other locations in Alberta. Fares were rumored to be around \$7000 for a weeks tour!

In the fall of 2003, the #2816 developed bearing problems on the main drivers, and it was returned to the BCR North Vancouver shop to replace these bearings. As the BCR had closed down this shop, the CPR leased the shop and hired Al Broadfoot to do the bearing repairs.

Al had done the original overhaul on the #2816. When the repairs were completed in early April 2004, three days of testing were done on April 16th, 17th, and 18th from the CPR Port Coquitlam yard to Mission and return.

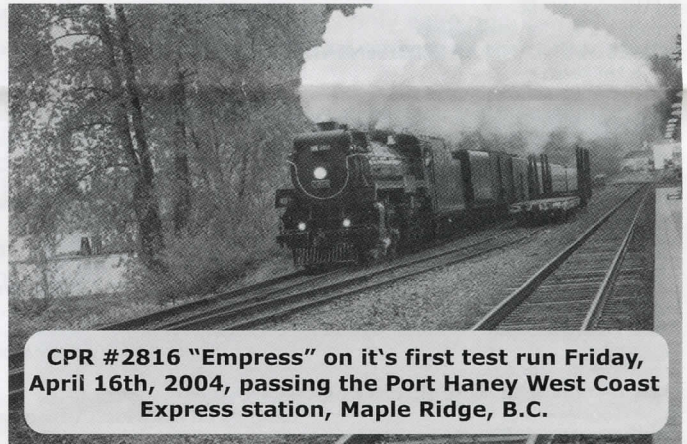
Ian Libby, Inspector, Canadian Pacific Railway Police Service, again contacted Dick Sutcliffe to ask for volunteers to help out at railroad crossings and at the West Coast Express stations along the route. Two test runs were done each day with CPR employees and families and friends given tickets to ride in the passenger coaches. Working in these test runs with the existing freight traffic was a Rail Traffic Controller's nightmare! This was one time that the passenger train did not run on time!

On Saturday April 17th as the #2816 "Empress" was returning from Mission it was stopped at Silverdale by a "gang of train robbers"! These "Billy Minor gang train robbers" got on the train and got off when the train stopped at the Port Haney West Coast Express Station, next to the "Billy Minor Pub"! One detail was overlooked. I overheard one of the "Bank robbers" ask, "How do I get back to Silverdale to my horse?" The reply was, "I guess that you'll have to call a taxi"!

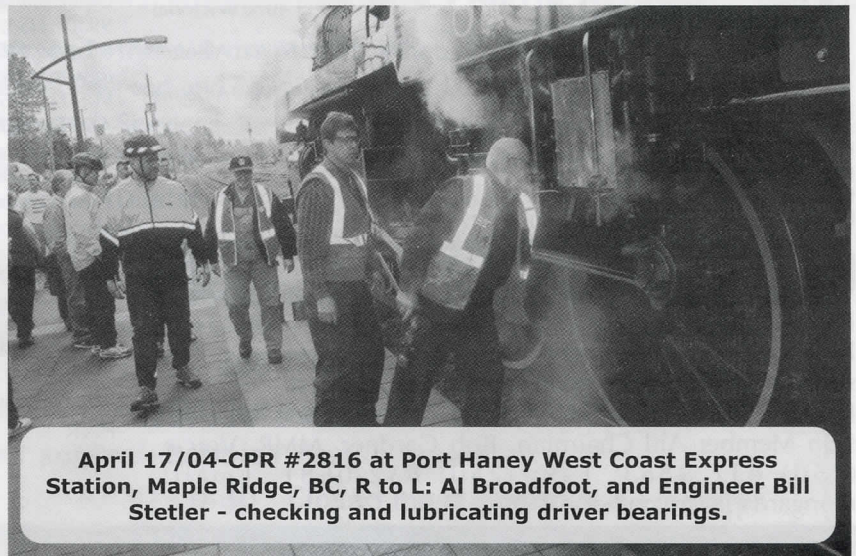
With the testing of the #2816 successfully completed the "Empress" was scheduled to depart for Calgary on April 22, 2004.

As a thank you to all of the CP police volunteers, Ian Libby arranged for the volunteers to ride the "Empress"

Continued on Page 7



CPR #2816 "Empress" on it's first test run Friday, April 16th, 2004, passing the Port Haney West Coast Express station, Maple Ridge, B.C.



April 17/04-CPR #2816 at Port Haney West Coast Express Station, Maple Ridge, BC, R to L: Al Broadfoot, and Engineer Bill Stetler - checking and lubricating driver bearings.

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7th DIVISION STANDING COMMITTEE

Executive

SUPERINTENDENT

Scott Calvert (604) 939 1849 (Coquitlam)

Email: scottcalvert@shaw.ca

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

BULLETIN BOARD PRINTING & DISTRIBUTION

Gary Hazell (250) 835 8628 (Tappen)

Email: comhaven@shuswap.net

SECRETARY

John Green (604) 322 8990 (Vancouver)

Email: greenjohn1@aol.com

TREASURER

Mike Barone (250) 367 6134 (Fruitvale)

Email: mike_barone@telus.net

DIRECTOR AT LARGE

Brian Clogg (604) 588 2194 (Surrey)

Email: bccllogg@direct.ca

Appointed Positions

PUBLICITY COORDINATOR & PAST SUPERINTENDENT

Dick Sutcliffe (604) 467 4301 (Maple Ridge)

Email: ras1@uniserve.com

7th DIVISION AP CHAIRMAN

Ed Warren, MMR (250) 752 4857 (Qualicum Beach)

Email: e.a.warren@telus.net

LOWER MAINLAND AP REPRESENTATIVE

Dave Nickerson (604) 929 8057 (North Vancouver)

Email: d-nickerson@telus.net

VIDEO LIBRARIAN & VANCOUVER ISLAND AP REPRESENTATIVE

Don Forsyth (250) 338 4497 (Courtenay)

Email: D.Forsyth@telus.net

BULLETIN BOARD EDITOR

Russ Watson (250) 992-3452 (Quesnel)

Email: russwatson@telus.net

MEMBER AID CHAIRMAN &

BULLETIN BOARD PRINTING & DISTRIBUTION

Bob Gardner, MMR (250) 832 9883 (Salmon Arm)

Email: rvongard@jetstream.net

ROSS HERIOT GOLDEN SPIKE AWARD COORDINATOR

Hugh Clarke (250) 545 3900 (Vernon)

Email: hughclarke@shaw.ca

JACK WORK MEMORIAL TROPHY COORDINATOR

René Gourley (604) 904 8404 (North Vancouver)

Email: rene@proto87.org

WEB MASTER

John Zuk (604) 984 3232 (North Vancouver)

Email: jazuk@telus.net

Lower Mainland & Fraser Valley Subdivision

Darren Brkich (604) 533 1570 (Langley)

Email: darren_brkich@shaw.ca

Roy Kelleway

(604) 463 4682 (Maple Ridge)

RC_KELLEWAY@telus.net

John Moore

(604) 463 7745 (Maple Ridge)

Email: jegmo@telus.net

Lori & Larry Sebelley

(604) 858 5717 (Chilliwack)

Email: sebelley@shaw.ca

Interior Subdivision

Brian Freemantle (250) 564 2225 (Prince George)

Email: bfreemantle@shaw.ca

Ken Haun

(250) 632 6334 (Kitimat)

Email: kenhaun@telus.net

Vancouver Island Subdivision

Ted Alexis (250) 595 4070 (Victoria)

Email: m_talexis@shaw.ca

Rick Lord

(250) 724 4205 (Port Alberni)

Email: rblord@telus.net

Ken Rutherford

(250) 724 4698 (Port Alberni)

Email: kj.rutherford@shaw.ca

NMRA-PNR Trustee: Roger H. Ferris, EdD. (206) 283 0637

Email: railfun@juno.com

PNR President: Wil Seaver (208) 983-1772

Email: wilmerb@valint.net OR pnrprez@hq.nmra.org

QUESTIONS?????

Please feel free to contact any of the above members if you have questions, comments, suggestions or concerns. The strength of any organization is with it's members!

DIRECT YOUR MODELLING QUESTIONS to our 7th Division Member Aid Chairman, Bob Gardner, MMR, Voice: (250) 832 9883, Fax: (250) 832-0681, Email: rvongard@jetstream.net

The **National Model Railroad Association (Canada)** is a separately incorporated section of the National Model Railroad Association Inc. headquarters 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.

NMRA/PNR RENEWAL

To renew your NMRA and PNR/7th Division membership, send \$73 CDN to Steve Prevette, PNR Office Manager, 4214 Hilltop Dr., Pasco WA 99301 USA, Email: <prevette@owt.com>. MasterCard, VISA, American Express, Diner's Club and Discover charge cards accepted. Make your cheque payable to PNR/NMRA.

7th DIVISION VIDEO LIBRARY

Please phone, write, or Email to request the tapes you would like to borrow and they will be mailed to you prepaid. After use, you are required to mail them back 'Proof of Delivery with \$100 insurance.' **Please keep your return postage receipt for tracing purposes in case the tapes are lost in the mail.** Check your membership expiry date on your Bulletin Board mailing label. If it has expired, please renew it now using the instructions above before requesting to borrow tapes. The library address is:

7th Division Video Library, c/o Don Forsyth, 2022 Cedar Crescent, Courtenay, BC V9N 3B6, phone (250) 338 4497

Email: D.Forsyth@telus.net

A full list of tapes is published in the March and September issues of the *BULLETIN BOARD*

The *BULLETIN BOARD* is published six times per year as follows:

Submission Deadline	Mailing Date	Month
November 15th	December 15th	Jan/Feb
January 15th	February 15th	Mar/Apr
March 15th	April 15th	May/Jun
May 15th	June 15th	Jul/Aug
July 15th	August 15th	Sep/Oct
September 15th	October 15th	Nov/Dec

The *BULLETIN BOARD* is distributed to all Seventh Division members in good standing. Editorial opinions and those stated in articles do not necessarily reflect those of the Seventh Division Standing Committee.

CONTRIBUTIONS of Letters, Articles, Event News, Plans, Photographs and Art are encouraged and welcomed and may be sent to the *BULLETIN BOARD* Editor: Russ Watson 1297 Yorston Ave Quesnel BC V2J 3B6 (250) 992-3452 (Voice) (250) 992-3453 (FAX) Email: russwatson@telus.net

Please use Email whenever possible. The Editor uses a Macintosh computer which is capable of translating a wide variety of file types including most PC files.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS directed to the Division should be forwarded to the Superintendent: Scott Calvert 1869 Walnut Crescent Coquitlam BC V3J 7T2 Email: scottcalvert@shaw.ca

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS and **ADDRESS CHANGES** must be sent to the PNR Office Manager: Steve Prevette, PNR Office Manager, 4214 Hilltop Dr., Pasco WA 99301 USA, Email: <prevette@owt.com>

All other **MEMBERSHIP INQUIRIES** including **NEW MEMBERSHIPS** must be forwarded to the Membership Coordinator: Gary Hazell RR #1 S-4 C-6 Tappen, BC VOE 2X0 (250) 835 8628, FAX (250) 835-8521, Email: comhaven@shuswap.net

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, Pike Ads = \$1.50

Artwork should be supplied in the appropriate size. There may be an additional charge to complete artwork that is not camera ready. Please mail your artwork and remittance, payable to the "7th Division PNR/NMRA," to the Editor's address listed above.

NMRA WEB SITES

7th Division
PNR
NMRA

<http://www3.telus.net/rlink/7division/>

<http://www.infoharvest.ca/nmra/pnr/>

<http://www.nmra.org>

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT *by Scott Calvert*

Well the PSX National convention held in Seattle seemed to be a great success. I saw many 7th Div members down there during the week, and all appeared to be having a good time. There were several 7th Divers giving clinics and entering the contests. Congratulations to Mike Chandler for receiving the Best in Show award for his Berkshire locomotive, and to Dick Sutcliffe for first place in the traction category for his combination interurban car. The Division was well represented at the National Train show with modular layouts hosted by the Salmon Arm Group, Mainland Modeller Railroad Group, and both the HO and O scale layouts from Victoria. I believe the first and second place awards for layouts went to Salmon Arm and Victoria O scale layouts respectfully.

Our pre-convention OpSig operating sessions had about 30 OpSig members from literally all over the world come here for two days of operation and layout tours. Numerous local layouts were included in the sessions, which went off very well. About 130 convention delegates came to Vancouver on the Talgo train to tour many of our local layouts on organized bus tours. Unfortunately, the Amtrak train arrived late on the Sunday (gee – what a surprise !), However, our always prepared layout tour coordinator; John Green did a great job of dealing with the problem, and the overall organization of the tours went quite well.

I attended the PNR AGM in Seattle along with several of the other executive members, and many general members. President Wil Seaver reported that the PNR is generally in good shape. Wil has been re-elected as President and Len Soper for Vice President. We were advised that the NMRA Long Range Plan (LRP) was approved by about a 4 to 1 margin, and it will take effect on Sept 1st. The NMRA will be enacting a single dues system effective Sept 1st also. Jack Hamilton of Seattle will be assuming the PNR Trustee role from Roger Ferris until the LRP transition takes place. Due to the lack of a quorum, we were unable to convene a formal business meeting, so we will deal with some of the general PNR issues in an upcoming email meeting.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the upcoming meets in Victoria and Burnaby. These are both great shows and present a fun opportunity to get together with old friends. And of course, the spring meet will be in Quesnel next March. Check out the timetable elsewhere in this issue for more info.

I will be coordinating operating sessions at some Vancouver layouts on the evening of Friday November 12th in conjunction with the Trains 2004 meet and welcome anyone to contact me if they are interested in joining a session. The specific layouts have not yet been determined – other than mine.

EDITOR'S DESK *by Russ Watson*

We are very sorry to hear that Hugh and Anne Clarke tragically lost their 27 year old son Hamish in a motor vehicle accident on Silver Star Road just outside of Vernon on Tuesday, July 20th. On behalf of the 7th Division members we send our deepest sympathy to Hugh and his family.

Once again a National NMRA Convention has come and gone. Bob Gardner reports: "There were about 2200 delegates at the convention and some 15,000 of the public attended the National Train Show. The 'Victoria and Sydney Club won 2nd place for their O-Scale modular layout. There were some great clinics and many awesome layouts." Please read Gary Hazell's 'Press Release' on Page 5 to discover how well the Salmon Arm Model Railroaders did.

The annual NMRA fee adjustment has been set at \$73 CDN for a one-year renewal; see page 2 for renewal information.

I wasn't able to attend the Seattle convention, but I am planning to attend the Salmon Arm Corn Roast and the Burnaby Trains Meet. I won't make it to the Victoria Show, which has had a venue and date change. I still see it advertised in some places for Sep 12th - the correct date is **Sep 26th** - see the Timetable of Page 6 for info. I hope to see at least some of you at an event soon.

MEMBER AID *by Bob Gardner, MMR, Coordinator*

If you have any modelling questions or problems, please send them along and we'll do our best to help.

Here are a few tips, gleaned from an excellent clinic given by Leslie Eaton MMR at PSX 2004:

Animated Lighting

Blinking or flashing lights on your layout can be used for advertising signs, clearance lights on high buildings, camp-fires for hobos or scouts, traffic caution signals, and bee-hive burners, and provide eye-catching animation for minimal expense. Flashing light novelties can often be obtained as free advertising hand-outs—keep your eyes open. They can also be obtained from Pride Electronics and MTEC (check the Internet?) Three-light ear-rings are available at novelty stores or from Delux Innovations.

A simple fire simulator can be made by connecting a 12-volt grain-of-wheat bulb via a phono-plug to the output jack of an old AM radio. Bridge across the output resistor with a small wire. The bulb monitors the modulation and flickers realistically. Warning – Never try to use an earphone in this jack or hearing damage can result! A common 110-volt/12-volt plug-in transformer can be used for lighting signs using grain-of-wheat bulbs.

Animated Christmas tree ornament turners or oscillators (up/down) are often available cheaply after Christmas and can be used for animation on your railroad. Use a 110-v/12-V transformer and three 220-ohm 2-watt resistors in parallel in line with the animator. Possible applications could be moving signs, sawmills, playground equipment, or.....?

How about trying some of these and letting me know how you make out?

7th Div Election Results

Submitted by Roy Kelleway, Returning Officer

Here are the results of the 7th Division PNR-NMRA Executive Ballot-2004 (2 year terms).

Ballots were counted July 18, 2004 by Roy Kelleway and Jim Rankin at Maple Ridge, B.C.

Number of ballots received	36
No write-in candidates	
Secretary: John Green , Vancouver, BC	35 votes
Treasurer: Mike Barone , Fruitvale, BC	34 votes
Director at Large: Brian Clogg , Surrey, BC	36 votes

Jack Routledge

submitted by Hugh Clarke

A great BC model railroader, Jack Routledge passed away on 11 February 2004 at 79 years. He was a much decorated survivor of 50 missions as a Lancaster tail gunner over Germany in WW II. He then rose to Chief Superintendent, Pacific Division, within the RCMP. Throughout all of these endeavors, he maintained his joy of model railroading. His railway was the Alberta Pacific, a freelanced, large double decked, fully sceniced affair. Many of you have heard and seen his steam era layout, powered by Onboard. Jack achieved many certificates in the Achievement Program and was always eager to share his skill. He told us on many occasions that it was the people in the hobby that made it such a fulfilling activity. To his artist wife Margaret, to his three kids, on behalf of the 7 Div and all model railroaders, I extend our sympathy. We have lost a good friend.

Ian MacMillan

submitted by Ted Alexis

Ian MacMillan of Victoria passed away suddenly on June 28th while on his morning bike ride. Ian was a founding member of the Victoria NTrak club back in 1987. Ian's work as a module builder and a well known scenery expert was first rate in our community. He was a great teacher and mentor for new members learning the hobby. Ian was the best technical advisor for wiring a home layout or the only one to wire the 'T' module with all its problems so that all three lines will work without a hitch. Ian also had a beautiful steam-era N scale home layout of the Similkameen Valley. The line started at Oroville Washington, continued up to Keremeos, BC, Headly, on to Princeton, then to Coalmont to pick-up coal and return. Ian's home layout was featured in 1996 in N-Scale magazine. Often all our members were invited about four at a time to run three trains on a time clock and were assigned scheduled car drop offs and pick-ups, which could take up to three hours in an evening to complete. These were the good times our club and many visitors to his home will remember. He will be sadly missed.

Trains 2004 Is On Track

by Dick Sutcliffe

The weekend of Nov. 12 to 15 will see the usual gathering of model railwayists at Cameron Recreation Center in Burnaby. Well, not just at the Rec Centre, the lower mainland might be a better description. The operations members will be hosting

operation sessions, some layouts will be open for self guided tours, others for the fantastic guided tours by bus. Two streams of clinics, contests, banquet, and the great Public Train Show, plus a possible prototype rail industry tour, will round out the meet. The volunteer committee has made a few minor policy changes. The charge for exhibitor and vendor name tags, tried last year will become policy. We have allocated a set amount of space for vendor tables and removed the limit on the number of tables a vendor may rent. Before sending in your application check to see if any space is still available. We suggest exhibitors get their application in right away, as we could run out of space here too. We will have the early registration pickup Friday evening at the rec centre, with equipment available for informal slide or video presentations. This is when the op sessions and self guided tours will take place. Register early for these! Saturday will have the clinics, contests and guided tours. Sunday, the Public Train Show followed by the banquet and awards. You will be electrified by the after banquet speaker.

The Monday Nov 15th prototype rail industry tour is Neptune Terminals at 9:30 am (Thanks to Al Lill).

We hope you all plan to overwhelm Craig with your contest entries. Remember to get the most out of any event you need to participate, so volunteer! Contact Mike.

All current information, as well as application and registrations forms are available on our web site <<http://www.bctrains.org>>. The site also includes links to all the coordinators.

We'll see you there.

Continued on Page 5

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Trains 2004 committee.

"Opportunity"

"Trains 2004" is based on the concept of volunteers working together for the good of the hobby and the benefit of model railroaders. In order to make this convention successful and planned for all and to keep costs to a minimum, we require volunteers. Positions include: layout tour bus conductor, registration, ticket sales, supervising contests and displays, security at entrances and exits, setting up and dismantling of displays. For as little as two hours of your time between Nov. 12-14 you will qualify for a volunteer draw and, if you are an NMRA member, earn credits toward the NMRA Achievement Program. Additionally, noncommercial displayers may be eligible for an honorarium. To volunteer, please contact Mike Chandler by Email at: mikado1@telus.net or by phone at: 604 526-5078.

NEWS RELEASE - July 14, 2004

by Gary Hazell, photo by Mike Beltz

The Salmon Arm Model Railroaders have just returned from the National Model Railroad Assn. annual National Convention which was held in Seattle WA, July 4th to 11th. The Club entered their "Shuswap and Monashee" model railroad layout in the "Group Module" contest and was awarded the Best in Show, Modules. This award is given to the overall "Best" for both Individual Modules and Group Modules. The Club also received the IHC "Pizzazz" award for innovation and creativity. There were over 2,200 delegates from all over the world including Great Britain, Australia, Germany and Switzerland and all were very impressed and complimentary. The public portion of the convention and train show was held at Safeco Field Convention Centre on Fri. thru Sun. and saw over 15,000 attendees. The Public was very impressed, complimentary and interested in the Club's home, Salmon Arm and the Shuswap.

A number of the Salmon Arm Modelers have been working long hours over the past years bringing the layout to this level for competition. It also culminated in the completion of the new Sawmill Module that took over 4 years of work. The Sawmill Module was featured in the July issue of Railroad Model Craftsman.

The Club would like to thank the corporate sponsors; Salmon Arm Savings and Credit Union, Piccadilly Place Mall, Sun Country Cablevision and the Rotary Club of Salmon Arm for helping make this trip possible.

Note to Publishers and News media

If you would like to have a special interview or photo opportunity please contact Graham Redman 832-6119 or Gary Hazell 835-8628.



GOLDPAN EXPRESS 2005

QUESNEL, BC MARCH 25-27, 2005

**** HOTEL INFO ****

The Best Western Tower Inn has been selected as the convention hotel with 20 rooms set aside. Please mention when making reservations that you will be attending the Goldpan Express 2005 model railroad convention. Other hotels are available as listed below, and additional hotels are shown on the meet web site: <<http://www.cfquesnel.com>> (click the "Community Portal!" link at the bottom of the page and then "Goldpan Express 2005".) or by contacting Bill Bernath, 250 747 1878, email: <bbernath@telus.net>.

Best Western Tower Inn, 1 800 528 1234,

5 blocks from the meet - \$55 - \$65

Billy Barker Casino Hotel, 250 992 5523

2 blocks from the meet - \$55 - \$65

Ramada Limited, 250 992 5575

3 blocks from the meet, \$55 - \$65

Econo Lodge, 250 992 2187, across the street from the meet, \$49 - \$61

Please complete the registration form included with this issue of the Bulletin Board and mail it with your cheque to the registrar. The form is also available on the web site indicated above.

Meet activities are still being worked on, but once they are finalized we will include them on the web site. We hope you're planning to visit the Goldpan city next March, we look forward to seeing you!

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TIMETABLE

Visit www.infoharvest.ca/NMRA/PNR
for information on additional events.

AUG 28-29, FIELD BC. Friends of Yoho Annual Seminar on the Canadian Pacific's Big Hill. Info: - Karla Gaffney, (250) 343-6067 spirals@rockies.net.

SEP 10-12, SALMON ARM BC, Corn Roast & Campout. Salmon Arm Model Railroader's annual event. Pierre's Point Campground (10 kms West of Salmon Arm). Electric & Water plug-ins, Swimming, Campfires and Camaraderie, Railfanning on the CP Shuswap Sub, bring deck chairs, suntan Lotion, your own steaks and YOB, we supply the Corn & Butter. Reservations appreciated by contacting Graham Redman, (250) 832 6119 or Gary Hazell, (250) 835 8628, email: comhaven@shuswap.net.

SEP 12, (SUN), SURREY BC, CN Rail Open House. Thornton Yard Shops, 13477 116th Ave, Noon-4pm.

SEP 11-12, ALBANY OR, Albany Train Show, Linn County Fair & Expo Center, Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 10am-4pm. Info: - Donald Albright, (541) 928-1612, dwalbright@proaxis.com.

SEP 11-12, AUBURN WA, White River Valley Museum Operating Model Train Show, Les Grove Park, 918 H St. S.E. 10am-4pm. Info: - (253) 288-7433, www.wrvmuseum.org.

SEP 18-19, EDMONTON AB, 2004 Great Edmonton Train Show, Mayfield Inn Trade Centre, 16615 - 109th Ave. 10am-5pm. Info: - Jim Baker, (780) 430-7595, jimbaker@clarica.com, www.mmrf.ab.ca.

SEP 19, (SUN), MISSOULA MT, 25th Missoula Model Railroad Club Show and Swap Meet. Big Sky High School, South Ave. 10am-4pm. Info: Nick Pickolick 1701 Maurice, Missoula MT 59801, (406) 728-1136, pick@montana.com www.missoulamodelrail.org.

SEP 25, (SAT), VANCOUVER WA, Southwest Washington Model Railroaders Great Model Train Swap Meet, Moose Lodge, 9205 N.E. Fourth Plain Blvd. 9:30am-3:30pm. Info: - Richard Renihan 7308 N.E. 68th Ave. Vancouver WA 98661, (360) 892-3410, rirenihan@cs.com.

SEP 26 (SUN) VICTORIA, BC - Victoria Model Railway Show, Cedar Hill Recreation Centre, 3230 Cedar Hill Road, 10-4, hourly door prizes, pop vote contests, operating model railroads, sales & displays, Info: Ted Alexis (250) 595-4070, David Tomljenovich (250) 652-1894

OCT 2, (SAT), KAMLOOPS BC, Kamloops Railway Days. Info: - (250) 374-2141, info@kamrail.com, www.kamloopsheritageway.com.

OCT 3, (SUN), CALGARY AB, Calgary Model Railway Society, (CMRS), Fall Mini-Meet, Hospitality Inn Best Western, 135 Southland Drive SE. 8:30am-5pm. Info: - Jeff Burke, (403) 272-5546, www.calgarymodelrailway.org.

OCT 16-17, CHILLIWAK BC, Mount Cheam Lions Club Model Railway & Hobby Show, Heritage Park, 44140 Luckakuck Way. Sat. 10am-5pm. Sun 10am-4pm. Info: James Hill, (604) 824-1757. jcdmhill@dowco.com. DETAILS MAY CHANGE.

OCT 16, (SAT), CALGARY AB, 25th Annual Boomer Auction, Sponsored by South Bank Short Lines, St Andrews Presbyterian Church, 703 Heritage Dr. SW, 11am. Info: - Allan Peirce, 619

Woodsworth Rd. SE Calgary AB T2J 1M6, (403) 278-6786, peircea@telusplanet.net

OCT 16-17, EDMONTON AB, Edmonton Model Railroad Association Open House, at the Freight Shed, Fort Edmonton Park, 10am-5pm. Info: - www.InfoHarvest.ca/EMRA/.

NOV 12-15, BURNABY BC, TRAINS 2004, 22nd Annual 7th Div Fall Meet, Cameron Recreation Centre, 9523 Cameron St. Info: - Kathy Dixon, (Registrar), P.O. Box 52224, N. Vancouver BC V7J 3V5, Canada, (604) 987-4237, email: Trains-2004-meet-reg@telus.net, www.bctrains.org.

NOV 14, (SUN), BURNABY BC, TRAINS 2004, 22nd Annual Public Show, Cameron Recreation Centre, 9523 Cameron St. 9am-4pm. Info: - Bill Dixon, (Registrar), P.O. Box 52224, North Vancouver BC V7J 3V5, Canada (604) 987-4237, email: Trains-2004-show-reg@telus.net. www.bctrains.org

2005

MAR 25-27, 2005, QUESNEL BC, Goldpan Express 2005, 7th Division Interior Spring Meet, Quesnel Senior Centre, Modular Layouts, displays, contests, Layout Tours, Proto Tours, Info: email Bill Bernath <bbernath@quesnelbc.com>, or Russ Watson, (250) 992 3452, email: <russwatson@telus.net>

AUG 3-7, SPOKANE VALLEY WA, Historic Spokane 2005. PNR Convention Mirabeau Park Hotel, 1100 N Sullivan Rd. Info: - Jerry Quinn, signaljq@aol.com, Larry Blanchard, (Registrar), (509) 922-3841, lgb@foxinternet.net. .

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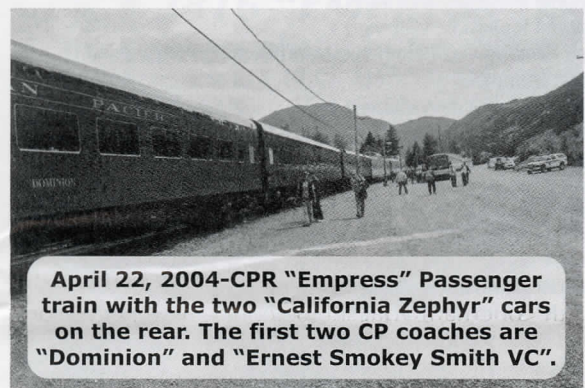
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"Empress" continued from cover from Port Coquitlam through the Fraser Canyon to North Bend, BC (across the Fraser River from Boston Bar). We departed Port Coquitlam at 9:00 A.M. and arrived at North Bend at approximately 2:00 P.M. A short maintenance stop was made at Mission by the WCE yard as the Rocky Mountaineer Railtours passenger train passed by, heading east. Another maintenance stop was made at Agassiz. Two ex CB "California Zephyr" dome cars were coupled on to the end of the "Empress", but due to private ownership and insurance complications no one was able to ride in these cars.

A box lunch was provided and the weather on April 22nd was beautiful and sunny! Everyone had a great time and at North Bend three tour busses were waiting to take everyone back to CPR's Port Coquitlam Yard. The only complication that day was the return trip in the tour bus. The air conditioning failed at 4:00 P.M. passing Abbotsford on Hwy #1 and at 176th Street in Surrey - the traffic was bumper to bumper all of the way across the Port Mann Bridge! The temperature was around 90 degrees F and Dick Sutcliffe opened the emergency hatches on the roof. Unfortunately this only gave minor relief!



April 22, 2004-CPR "Empress" Passenger train with the two "California Zephyr" cars on the rear. The first two CP coaches are "Dominion" and "Ernest Smokey Smith VC".



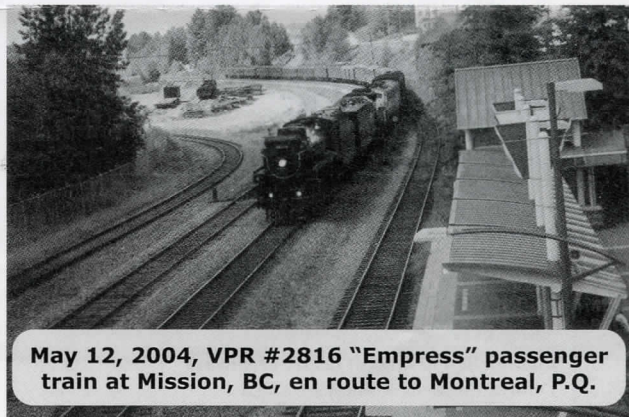
April 22, 2004-CPR #2816 "Empress" ready to load passengers at 8:30 AM, at CPR's Port Coquitlam yard.

The #2816 "Empress" made it's first official tour since the bearing replacement travelling from Calgary to Port Coquitlam and arriving on April

30th. Tickets for this tour were rumored to be between \$2000-\$7000!

On May 12th the CPR #2816 "Empress" departed (late) from downtown Vancouver to Montreal, PQ. Motive power on this run was CPR #2816 on the point followed by diesels CPR #3084, GMD GP-38-2, CPR #1401, GMD FP9A, and CPR #1900, GMD F9B. Following the locomotives were two boxcars, one diesel generator car, and eleven coaches.

Weeks before, tickets for this Cross Canada tour sold out in thirty minutes, at \$32,000 CDN, per passenger, or \$50,000 US per couple! (Can you imagine how many Overland locomotives that you could purchase for these bucks?). Who says passenger trains can't make any money!



May 12, 2004, VPR #2816 "Empress" passenger train at Mission, BC, en route to Montreal, P.Q.

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