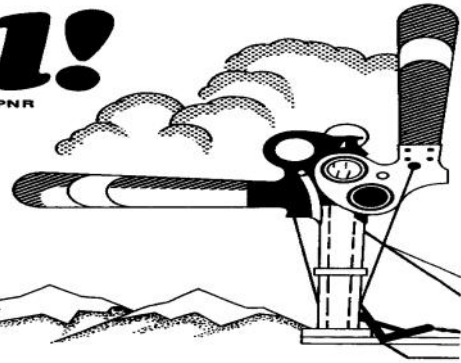


Highball!

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION 6TH DIVISION PNR

June 2008



Superintendent's Report

Hello everyone. Here we are with our 2nd issue of the Highball since the startup. I would like to thank Grant for his commitment to the magazine. Things in the Division are going along pretty well at this time. Membership continues to grow. As you all know we have conventions planned for the upcoming years. We shall begin with Lethbridge in 2008. The Regional is planned for Edmonton in September 2009. I am looking forward to both of these events. Let's support both of these Meets because as usual we will have a great time. It is good to get together as fellow model railroaders because we can learn so much from each other.

We are accepting bids for the Divisional meet in 2010 and 2011. Please let Tony Lee or I know if you are interested. Areas that we have not visited in awhile are Red Deer, Moose Jaw or perhaps Regina. Hint Hint

Speaking of Meets there is a big crew from Edmonton and Calgary heading down to The Regional in Chilliwack in June 2008. I hope to see others from

our Division down there as well. Some of the activities recently attended were rather interesting. Supertrain put on a great show in Calgary but someone forgot to check with the weatherman. It was a wild ride home for us Edmontonians that Sunday afternoon and from discussions with others they all got home safe but with very sore knuckles. I am looking forward to the Gets show in Edmonton this fall.

We are in the planning stages for some other events this year. Fabyan Bridge is one idea. I am also throwing some ideas around for a visit to the South and at our BOD meeting in Lethbridge I would like

us to vote in an Assistant Superintendent for Saskatchewan. Then Saskatchewan could plan events in their area and have a contact a little closer.

In the next issue of the Highball I will post some awards and recognize some special members and their achievements. Some members were not recognized publicly during the gap when we had no Highball.

To our area reporters, I thank you for your input. I realize it is hard to find the time to let us know what is going on in your area. We also have a second reporter from Edmonton that will start with the next issue, his name is Robin Lowrie and he hopes to discuss passenger modeling in the past and present.

Have a relaxing summer filled with modeling and many holidays and we hope to see you all in Lethbridge.

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6th Division Elections

Mark Johnson

Nominating Committee Chairman

The new Regulations of the NMRA National organization regarding Divisions have been modified to require at least 2 officers elected by the membership (Article VII, section 4B <http://www.nmra.org/national/nmra/nmraregulations2008-1-27.html#art8>). So far, we have only elected the Superintendent, but it looks like we will have to add another elected position to our Bylaws. This will be discussed at the Pacific Northwest Region Board of Directors meeting in June this year, and Ed Molenkamp and I will be able to report more on this topic in future issues of Highball! and at the 6th Division Annual General Meeting in Lethbridge this fall.

In the meantime, if there is anyone interested in helping out with the operation of the Division leadership, please let me know.

From the Editors Desk:

Welcome to my second Highball. I hope you all enjoyed the first edition I prepared and I hope you find this one of value.

Unfortunately, I did not receive much response to my request for people who would forgo a paper version to receive the e-version instead. There would be significant cost savings if the vast majority of members would agree to no longer receive the paper version. The last issue cost a little over \$2.00 per member. While this may not seem like a lot the division does not receive much by way of funding. This is in addition to the fact that you could save your editor and his lovely wife considerable time and effort in printing, folding, and mailing paper copies of the newsletter. This would of course give you truly more time working on the pike.

In addition I would love to receive your photos. I love photographs because they are easy to edit for grammar and spelling. Please email in those prize photos you have taken and I will make effort to have you published within the pages of the Highball. I think there may be even the possibility of some achievement program points for such effort.

By the way, it is once again convention season. I hope many of you attended the regional convention in Chilliwack earlier in June. Perhaps many of you have plans to attend the national convention in Anaheim, CA from July 13 to 19, 2008. My family and I will be heading down there for a few days around that time and maybe I'll bump into some of you.

You may want to put the sixth division meet of your calendar for August 29 to 31, 2008 for Galt 8 in 2008. Hosted by our modeling group in Lethbridge you are bound to have a good time and see some fine models. A registration form is on the back page of this newsletter.

Grant Halkyard



LETHBRIDGE AREA REPORT

This has been a busy winter for club members as we are preparing to host the 6th Division Meet, August 29 - 31, 2008.

Our scenery on the prairie peninsula of the club layout is getting a major revamp as parts of it never really worked.

Various home layouts have had some major work on them this past winter as well to get ready for our convention.

The club hosted 3 open houses over the fall, winter and spring with varying degrees of success. It seems like the more inclement the weather, the better attendance we have. The last open house was in early May with good weather and attendance was down by 50%. We will probably go for having open houses twice a year instead of three times and do it in late October and March.

A registration form is part of this Highball with a saving of \$10.00 if you register before June 30th, 2008.

Hope to see everyone in Lethbridge on the Labour Day weekend.

Tony Lee

Edmonton Area Report

The Mainline Model Railroaders Fellowship (MMRF) swap meet was held on April 26 at the Northgate Lion's Senior Citizens Recreation Centre. This is a great location that was selected for the first time last year, and worked well again this year. There is lots of room, and a cafeteria in the same building. It was a wonderful Saturday, no blizzards in sight. As well as a great source of bargains, the swap meet is a great place to meet modelling friends - several journeyed from out of town, including Calgarians looking for good weather, I suppose. I came away with a large bag of great buys, and it looked like there were smiles on the faces of many of the buyers and the sellers.

The MMRF is in the preliminary stages of planning the Great Edmonton Train Show (GETS) for September 20 and 21 this fall at the Mayfield Trade Centre (the usual venue). They are looking for some new faces to join the leadership of the group, to be sure that GETS can continue. This would be a great place to volunteer, to meet lots of

modelers from Edmonton and around the area, as well as the thousands of potential modelers who attend to find out about our wonderful hobby.

The Edmonton Model Railroad Association (EMRA - at Fort Edmonton) is into the summer display season, with visitors from around the world dropping into the freight shed. The EMRA has two volunteers on duty, so it's often possible to bring interested people into the layout room for a close-up tour. There are lots of very positive comments in the guest book. The annual Scout campout weekend at the first of May includes a visit to the layout as an event for the Scouts - close to 100 scouts from across northern Alberta drop in for a tour each year.

The EMRA may also appear in a book on model building - as a contrary example! A professor of stage design has written a book on building models of set designs to help in staging plays. He included a chapter on other kinds of modelling, and came to the EMRA for a picture to use as an example.

Last, but not least, plans are coming together for the PNR Regional Convention to be held in Edmonton in September, 2009. The "Northern Lights 2009" committee is forming from members of several clubs, and individual modellers, and is looking for local layouts and clinics from across the Region. This will be a great opportunity to meet your fellow modellers from the West side of the Rockies, and partake in a great three days of fun!

Watch the website at <http://www.northernlights2009.ca> for up-to-the minute information.

Mark Johnson, Mark.Johnson@InfoHarvest.ca

Regina Area Reports

The Echo Valley Guild has completed their Spring open house for the Cathedral Arts Festival. We had four trains running without and problems. This neighbourhood festival gives us this yearly push to have trains running. There were around 200 people through the train room without any accidents. We have completely rechecked our DCC wiring system and hats off to the "Wiring Crew" for making things run smoothly.

Contd. on page 4.....

Regina Area Reports Continued ...

Buildings and trees are ongoing at the club. There are a few members who are trying their hand at scratch building and kit bashing. It takes more time than we thought. Trees are planted a lot faster than they can be made.

Have a Great Summer !

Ron Coburn

Regina Model Railroad Club

It is with great sadness that I report that the Regina Model Railroad Club is now homeless. After untold many years at our location on First Ave. North adjacent to the CN railyard RMRC has vacated our home at the request of our landlord the Regina Elks Club.

Club members have been searching for a new home but have yet to locate any place for the club to meet and build a permanent layout. The club has packed away all its belongings in a small storage shed in hopes of resurrecting it some day.

The club will not meet over the summer and we will resume meeting in the fall in some manner.

Grant Halkyard

Calgary Area Report

There are always a lot of model railroad activities going on in our area, many of them sponsored by the Calgary Model Railway Society. The biggest event of the year is Supertrain, Canada's largest annual model train show. In 2008 the show was moved to the Calgary Soccer Centre, and on a new date, the third weekend in April. While the venue proved to be very popular, the weather was more like January than Spring. Several very nice layouts and exhibits made the journey over the mountains from BC expecting to find an easier drive, but they were unpleasantly surprised by a real blizzard. We certainly expect better weather for Supertrain 2009.

Other Calgary events held since last summer were Fall and Spring Slide Nights, Layout Tours, two mini-meets, and a chartered excursion behind CPR's Empress 2816. The South Bank Shortlines group also held another of their popular Boomer Auctions last October, and Calgary Model Trainmen conducted their Flea Market in

March. There are quite a few different model railroad groups in Calgary and area, including the very active Rocky Mountain Garden Railroaders, and the Alberta Model Engineering Society which operates Iron Horse Park in Airdrie.

There is much more to talk about in future editions of Highball. In the meantime, I hope to see many of you at the 6th Division Meet in Lethbridge at the end of August.

Rob Badmington

A message from your PNR Webmaster:

Since the implementation of the NMRA Long Range Plan, there is no longer a separate dues payment required to be a member of Regions or Divisions - we're all members of the organization where we live. While this has increased the number of members, it has reduced the funds available for Regional and Divisional mailings and publications. The PNR Board of Directors has decided that all members in the Region will receive one paper copy of the regional publication - the Switchlist, specifically, the election issue which also provides information for the Region's annual convention (did I mention Northern Lights 2009 in Edmonton?). An electronic copy of this and the other three Switchlist issues each year will be provided for everyone on the Region's website at <http://pnr.nmra.org/switchlist>. A notice of each issue will be emailed to all PNR members who have provided the NMRA Headquarters with an email address. We also post an electronic copy of Highball! on the Divisional web site (<http://pnr.nmra.org/6div>), although we are still mailing paper copies to all members in the Division.

Emails were sent to everyone on the list announcing the June Switchlist on May 30 and 31, so if you were expecting a notice and did not receive one, please send me your preferred email address, and I will send that on to the PNR, NMRA Canada, and NMRA Headquarters. Send your email to: Mark.Johnson@InfoHarvest.ca

Please notice that a subscription is available for paper copies of all four issues of the Switchlist each year, on the membership form on the NMRA Canada website (<http://www.nmracanada.ca>) for our Canadian members and the NMRA website (<http://www.nmra.org>) for US members.

Mark

2008 Craftsman Structure Show, November 13—15, 2008

Amazing what happens when you go hunting around the internet. I first came across information about the 1st Craftsman Structure Show last year too late to attend but promised myself I would attend the next CSS show if it were offered. I now am registered and have a room booked at the Convention Hotel but I need a bed-buddy. I feel that few HIGHBALL readers know about this show and it's a good one too. The show is heavily clinic orientated so for you hard-core high-end kit modelers - this show is for you.

There may have been some hesitation from organizers to even host their first show, but it ended up a huge success. One result from the 2007 show is a little 20 page photo book being advertised on the web for \$10 bucks, and let me tell you, its well worth it. It covers events and models from 2007 show including a show summary. "We expected 150 paid attendees but had 250. The contest room was filled, so were the clinics. Almost 200 people attended the Awards Dinner. The Dealer/Manufacturer Show was a huge success. By our estimation, \$125,000 was spent in that room with the average vendor taking home \$5,000".

"The Craftsman Structure Show was conceived as a way to bring manufacturers of craftsman structures together with builders and collectors. This show focused on the art of craftsman structure building with a attention on teaching the techniques required to create this form of three-dimensional art. Because we believe that the best teachers are the manufacturers themselves, we've asked them to present a series of clinics that discuss in detail the materials and methods that make up their products".

"We have also enlisted the talents of the best craftsman structure artists in the hobby to conduct hands-on clinics. These clinics will allow the participants to roll up their sleeves and learn by doing. Our clinic schedule is designed so that participants can attend all the clinics, thereby getting the most out of their show experience". Some notable names include Dave Revelia, Doug Foscale (owner of FOS scale models), Dick Elwell, Lou Sassi, Scott Mason, Bob Van Gelder, and Brian Nolan, just to mention a very few.

The 2008 Craftsman Structure Show is one longer and will feature a three-day manufacturer/dealer show. Attendees may purchase kits, supplies, scratchbuilding materials, detail parts, etc... at the show. All items for sale will relate to craftsman structure building. There will be no locomotives, rolling stock or white elephant tables at the show. All the manufacturers and dealers in attendance are there by invitation only.

"On the opening evening of the show, the manufacturers will conduct a panel discussion, giving the show attendees an opportunity to ask questions, get feedback, and get a feel for the state of craftsman structure manufacturing".

"The manufacturers will also present a retrospective of their art. Attendees will have an opportunity to view original pilot models of previous structures from many of the manufacturers. We will sponsor several structure contests open to all attendees. Contests will be voted on by CSS08 attendees. We will sponsor several structure contests open to all attendees. Contests will be voted on by the CSS08 attendees. There are presently 27 manufacturers set for the 2008 show, the list is still growing".

"Last year the event went over 2 day, this year the event has been extended to a full 3 days". This show is orientated toward the hard core modeler with 3 days of marathon clinics, the first starting at 8am, the last ending at 10pm. There is one more notable addition: the layout of George Selios (owner of Fine Scale Minatures) will be open to registrants for a full day. This is the world famous Franklin and Manchester Layout. While there is no cutoff for registrants, there will be a cut off for dinner tickets, so register early!

So I invite you to have a look at <http://www.craftsmanstructureshow.com>".

Finally, I have a room with 2 beds and I am looking for a bedroom buddy to share room costs. Contact me if you are interested, "sproules@telusplanet.net

Thanks, Dale Sproule

Galt #8 in 2008

6th Division NMRA PNR Meet

Lethbridge, Alberta

August 29 to 31, 2008

Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

City / Province / State _____

Postal / Zip Code _____ Phone _____

email Address _____

Full Registration not including banquet (up to June 30, 2008) \$45.00

Full Registration not including banquet (July 1 and after) \$55.00

Banquet only - Sunday evening for registrants and non registrants \$26.00

Bar-B-Q only - Saturday evening for registrants and non registrants \$17.00

Note: Bar-B-Q will be steaks, beans, 2 salads, dessert and pop or coffee

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|--------------|
| Full Registration (s) | _____ | X | _____ = \$ |
| Banquet (s) | _____ | X | \$26.00 = \$ |
| Bar-B-Q(s) | _____ | X | \$17.00 = \$ |
| | | Total | \$ _____ |

Make cheques payable to : Galt #8 in 2008

Mail to Harry Lubbers
1906 9A Street
Coaldale, Alberta, T1M 1B2

Phone 1-403-345-3690 (Evenings except Sunday)
1-403-223-3597 (Days - Monday to Friday)