

# Highball!

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION 6TH DIVISION PNR

Winter 2008



Mark and Ed at the National Trains Show in Anaheim, California

ing for a bid for the 2010 Division Meet and a bid for the Regional Meet in 2011 to be held in our Division. The Edmonton GETS Show was fairly well attended although the warm weather was a bit of a deterrent for some.

We are also still looking for an assistant superintendent. If interested please call Ed Molenkamp (780-886-8116).

I wish to thank Grant and the reporters for their dedication to the Highball. May you have a wonderful Christmas and I hope that the “model railroad Santa” is good to you all!!

Ed Molenkamp, 6<sup>th</sup> Div Superintendent

## Superintendent's Report

Hello everyone. I hope you all had a good summer of model railroading.

We joined up in Chilliwack with other 6<sup>th</sup> Division members and had a good time at the Regional Meet. One of the highlights for us was Barry Sanford's slideshow at the banquet and of course the Othello Tunnels. A large crew also headed south for the Division Meet in Lethbridge. The hosts put on a great show! We were especially impressed with the home layout tours and the Galt Tour. Edmonton has the 2009 Divisional Meet so get your registrations in early to take advantage of more chances to win prizes. Please continue to check the website so you are aware of the great things that are being planned. We are still look-

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### Operations Special Interest Group Report

The Operations Special Interest Group (OpSig) held its first Operations Weekend in the Sixth Division in Edmonton November 15 & 16. An informal discussion forum on operations, led by Mark Johnson and Cal Sexsmith, was held Saturday morning. Following the forum participants operated on the Edmonton Model Railroad Association's Monashee Pacific and on home layouts belonging to Mark Johnson, Gary Hamilton and Brian Stokes. This weekend was planned as the first in a series to be held across the division. If you are interested in participating in future sessions please contact Cal Sexsmith or Mark Johnson. If you are interested in the OpSig please visit their web site at [www.opsig.org](http://www.opsig.org).

Submitted by Cal Sexsmith

From the Editors Desk:

Welcome to my third Highball. A big thank you to all the area reporters for their contributions to Highball. Your service to the hobby is greatly appreciated.

While the major Canadian cities in the division are represented by area reporters I am still seeking an area reporter from Montana. If you live in the portion of Montana within the 6th division I'd really like to hear from you. I know that there is an active model railroad community in Billings and area. Please send me an email if you can keep me abreast of the goings on in Montana.



I've had a bit of a challenge settling into the editors chair and trying to get some regularity to Highball. For the coming year my plan is to get one out seasonally. I anticipate Highballs for Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter in 2009 with a publishing schedule following the seasonal calendar. As it takes considerable time to print, stuff into envelopes and mail the paper version Highball will be available online in full colour a week or two before your print version.

Grant Halkyard



Bill Sentes at the Regina Model Railroad Show

## Saskatoon Report

The Prairie Rail Workshop is currently rebuilding its HO scale modular layout. They plan to have it done in time for the Saskatoon Train Show. The club is currently meeting in the Hudson Bay Transport Warehouse. The N scale layout is in storage awaiting completion of the HO layout.

The 2009 Saskatoon Train Show (all Aboard 2009) will be March 7 & 8 at the Western Development Museum. For more information on the Train Show, and the Prairie Rail Workshop in general, please see the web page at [www.prairierailworkshop.org](http://www.prairierailworkshop.org).

As the Prairie Rail Workshop gears up for the coming season, the Saskatchewan Railroad Historical Association (SRHA), owners and operators of the Saskatchewan Railway Museum, slows down for the winter. The Museum is closed until May, but the SRHA will be having its AGM in late January and will be participating in a number of shows and other events during the off season. Further information on the SRHA can be found at [www.saskrailmuseum.org](http://www.saskrailmuseum.org).

Submitted by Cal Sexsmith

## Edmonton Area Report

The summer started off with a great trip to the PNR Regional meet in Chilliwack in June, and picked up speed at the National in Anaheim, and wrapped up at the Division meet in Lethbridge at the end of August. Phew!

Edmonton was well represented at all of these gatherings, with 7 EMRA members in L e t h b r i d g e , all of whom had a terrific time. Thanks to the Lethbridge gang for living up to their high reputation for enjoyable meets!

With that kind of pace set up through the summer, the fall had to keep pace! No problem t h e r e !

The Great Edmonton Train Show (GETS) was held in September at the Mayfield Trade Centre, and the usual incredible displays and irresistible vendors made for a great time for all who attended. The EMRA layout in Fort Edmonton opened during the exhibitor banquet on Saturday night, and we arranged for the steam engine and streetcars to be available

as well. It's a special treat to watch the 2-6-2's fire-box flickering in the dark - that hardly ever happens during the late evenings in t h e s u m m e r .

The 6th Division was out in force during the La Mesa club operating session at the San Diego Model Railroad Museum on the Saturday following the NMRA National in Anaheim. We were so impressed with the prototypical operation there, that Cal Sexsmith and I started organization of an Ops weekend in Edmonton. North Lines 2008 was held on November 15 and 16, with a forum on operation, followed by four operating sessions on the EMRA layout and three EMRA members' home layouts. From all reports, everyone had a great time, and we're looking forward to more ops-intensive gatherings in the f u t u r e .

Finally, you'll see elsewhere in the Highball some of the promotional material for Northern Lights 2009, the PNR Regional convention, to be held in Edmonton on September 17-19, 2009. This is the first Regional for Edmonton, and we're planning to host a convention to remember. If you'd like to be part of the organization, we're still looking for volunteers, especially home layouts in the Edmonton area. We're also preparing a page of railroad highlights to visit enroute to and from the convention, so if you have a favourite attraction in Alberta, please let me know. This is a good chance to see the Division well-represented in the Achievement Program and Contests - time to get started on that special model.

Visit <http://www.northernlights2009.ca> for up-to-the minute news. And register early to be eligible for extra chances in the early bird draw.

Mark Johnson, [Mark.Johnson@InfoHarvest.ca](mailto:Mark.Johnson@InfoHarvest.ca)

## Calgary Area Report

The shorter days and cool nights means that model railroading is back in full swing. The modeling season started off on Labour Day Weekend with several of us traveling to Lethbridge for the 6th Div Fall Meet. While the overall turnout was small, those of us who attended had a great time. Later in

September many Calgarians ventured up to Edmonton for the Great Edmonton Train Show. Many were part of groups displaying their modular layouts in the show, and others were there to look for some bargains at the dealer tables. The following weekend, Heritage Park held Railway Days, with lots of railroad-related displays and activities. Several groups set up the layouts in one of the big show tents. In mid-October the annual Boomer Auction was presented by the South Bank Short Lines. As always, this popular event served up plenty of bargains dealt out by auctioneer Norm Haines. The next day the Calgary Model Railway Society held its Fall Mini-meet and AGM at the Glenmore Inn. On November 7th, the CMRS held its first of two Slide Nights for the season. The second one will go on Feb 13th.

Calgary is home to quite a few active model railroad clubs. The great granddaddy of them all is Calgary Model Trainmen which got its start in 1934, and is still going strong. CMT is the only HO group with a permanent clubhouse and layout. Although their club building is on land owned by the Calgary Stampede and which is slated for eventual Stampede Park expansion, the CMT has decided to focus even more energy on advancing their HO scale Chinook Western Railway to full operating status. They meet every Wednesday evening and welcome visitors.

Calgary Free-mo is a very active group which takes great joy in assembling the biggest modular layouts possible whenever given the chance. Free-mo participates in an annual gathering in Big Valley, Alberta where the goal seems to be to fill up an entire hockey arena with connected modules. Free-mo is only half-joking about eventually assimilating everyone into their group. They like to say that resistance is futile.

Planning is well underway for SUPERTRAIN 2009 which will take place on April 18 & 19 at the Calgary Soccer Centre. There are lots of improvements on the way, including more displays, vendors, and clinics. Keep your eye on the website, [www.supertrain.ca](http://www.supertrain.ca) for news and developments.

It was great to see the 6th Division well

represented at the NMRA National Convention in Anaheim this part July. All of us who went took part in Layout Design SIG and Operating SIG layout tours and operating sessions. We were treated to visits to layouts from San Diego to Santa Barbara. I have included a few of my pictures.

Rob Badmington



## Regina Area Report

The Regina Model Railroad Show has once again come and gone. Held in mid October the RMRS is a highlight on the Regina model railroading calendar. This year several hundred enthusiastic attendees were treated to several fine portable layouts and many fine vendors. In addition to many fine displays the show also raises money for worthwhile charities. Over \$800 was donated to local woman's shelters and over \$500 was donated to Cochrane High School students for their grad celebrations.

The Regina Model Railroad Club continues to seek a new home. The Echo Valley Model Railroad Guild is also busy operating their club layout located in a local Regina school.

Grant Halkyard

## Craftsman Structure Show Review, November 13-15, 2008:

Dale Sproule

The first Craftsman Structure Show in 2007 was organized by Boston area manufacturers/traders Doug Foscale, Scotty Mason and Jimmy Deignan. I did not attend the 2007 show but vowed that if the show were to ever occur again then I would go. The show did occur this year, so I went armed with a new digital camera, just for the occasion. Some 600 pictures later, I can report that I had a great time, probably the best of the bigger shows I've attended.

Jim Pilson from Gull Lake and myself flew to Boston on November 11 through Montreal, rode a Boston airport shuttle bus to where we boarded the MBTA (Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority) commuter train, riding this South to Mansfield station, then into an almost waiting taxi taking us to our Hotel, to be met with Apple Cider and cookies, what a nice idea! All this took under 2 hours, what a great start! The trip from Airport-Hotel cost us about \$25 each instead of the estimated 1 hour and \$120 cab ride (although we would have split the taxi costs), and we even had our first train ride of the meet!

Wednesday morning (as planned) Jeff Southwood, who flew in to Providence from Calgary, picked us up at the Convention Hotel and drove us to Peabody MA to view the fabulous Franklin & South Manchester, the world famous HO scale layout built and owned by George Sellios, manufacturer of Fine Scale Miniatures kits in the famous yellow box. Just forty people were allowed viewing time in 1 of 4 time slots picked weeks before the meet. For 1-1/2 hours (10:30-noon) I knew I must have died and went to model railroad heaven, the experience was beyond belief and description. I just managed to scrape the surface in terms of taking in as much as we could in the time allotted. I recognized so many areas from photos I've seen, the effect was weird of stepping up to an area that I've never been to before and knowing what was there in advance! George does not allow photography (and for good reason) at his open houses throughout the year, so

books, videotapes, DVD's and internet photos are my only solid reminder of a wonderful time spent at the FS&M. Naturally, as a good businessman, George just happened to be selling his latest kit release and an autographed kit of "Butchers Way" happened to fall into my pocket. For me, this visit alone was the absolute best! (can go back.....please Gina, can I). We spent the rest of the afternoon North of Boston in Gloucester and Rockport MA (Geoff models the Boston & Maine in this area), rooting around piers, fishing boats, tiny coastal stores, businesses like a lobster unloading facility, enjoying clam chowder soup then travelling to "My Dad's Trains", a shop located in the remote woods not far from our hotel. Anyone remember Arno Rinck from Hungry Horse ?.....this is the same type of operation. Registration commenced Wednesday evening along with 3 clinics from 6pm -10pm. Last year organizer expected 150 paid registrants, this years registration was 309. Canadian registrants (unknown number) were from B.C., Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, and Quebec, a person from New Zealand, another from the UK, the rest from some 20 US states.

Thursday-Saturday: CSS08 commenced at 8am with the first clinic of each day, trade show also opened and ran 8 am-5pm, Thursday-Saturday with a 1 hour lunch break. Thirty-three different manufacturers occupied a pretty good sized ball room. The manufacturers hall was simply amazing with all sorts of stuff not available locally in Alberta ranging from detail parts, DVD's, castings, discontinued and current craftsman kits. Most of the current releases had a completed sample built up in a diorama setting, quite effective as a selling tool. After all, these businesses make their living selling these kits and parts. Show organizers invited who they wanted to come to their show: these are high end kit structure manufacturers. Most seemed to be from the Boston area. Last year estimates had \$125,000 spent in that room with the average vendor taking home \$5,000. Well, that was a 2 day show, this time was a 3 day show with 20 more registrants. In fact, final results show that an average attendee spent \$500. All vendors wanted consumer feedback, even at dinner, good or bad in an effort to put out a quality product while being careful not to tell the competition. The CSS08 site is still up and running, for you to review the manufac-

turers list, a who's who of the craftsman kit manufacturers. It's interesting reading, just go to CSS08 (just the way you read it here).

Clinic wise, (this is where you would have found me), clinicians such as Dave Revelia, Brian Nolan, and manufacturers such as Bob Frary (Blue Ribbon Models), Brett Gallant (Sierra West), Bob Van Gelder (South River Modelworks), Scott Mason, Tony Koester (Model Railroader Magazine), Doug & Anna Maria Foscale (Fos Scale Limited) presented 24 separate topics, some being Modeling Water, Painting Little People and How To Turn Your Hobby Into A Business. Almost all were repeated once again during the show in 2 clinic rooms running at the same time. Clinics started at 8am with a 1 hour lunch break, 2 hours for dinner, and the last one winding down around 10pm daily. The amount of information coming out of CSS08 is amazing. A Question and Answer session followed each clinic. With some careful strategic planning, I managed to attend all but one clinic and didn't even nod off as has been suggested in the past.

Contests: Six contest categories were voted on by the CSS08 attendees: Best Structure, Best Diorama Square Foot, The Contest Peanut Butter Lid Contest, Best Photo of a Model, Best Photo of a Prototype. There was probably no more than 6 entries in each category, surprisingly low numbers considering all those people attending. In fairness though, last year's contest had been much larger as it reflected several year's accumulated work on the part of the contestants. Quality of modeling in the 6<sup>th</sup> Division would give those guys an even race, so keep up the good work guys!

A public open house was available Saturday and a really neat item that many may not be aware of is the Scotty Mason Podcast. This podcast is available on your computer, a new one each month where Scotty Mason, Doug Foscale and Jimmy Deignan discuss a whole lot of really neat modeling items: upcoming craftsman kits, (methods of new and different modeling techniques on occasion), kit reviews, show information, guest interviews and more, much more in 1 to 1-1/2 hours reach month. These items do not pertain to the CSS show, content is just model railroading related. The latest podcast was recorded with a live audience Saturday

afternoon during the show. You'll find the latest edition at [www.ModelRailroadPodcast.com](http://www.ModelRailroadPodcast.com). Our show will probably be called edition #20, edition #19 was recorded before the show. It's really quite entertaining, something to listen to as you do some model building. The show concluded Saturday evening with an Awards Dinner, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Craftsman Structure Hall of Fame Introduction Ceremonies

Some final observations: Jim, Geoff and I had a wonderful time, met great folks that I can put a face to when I hear about their product, Bob Mitchell was hilarious, electronics did not seem as prevalent as I thought might be the case (except for my FOS kit "WKLO Radio" which will have a flashing beacon at the top of the radio tower), and most of all, lasers have taken over in the world of kit manufacturing. So many of these new kits are cut with industrial gas lasers. For those who want to try a laser cut craftsman kit, try a really nice FOS Scale craftsman kit called "Dannen Feeds" for \$9 and enter it into the upcoming PNR meet in Edmonton next September.



CSS09 has been announced for November 12-14, 2009 and will likely be held again in Mansfield MA, which is somewhat the epicentre of the Craftsman Model manufacturers. I don't know all the details, but you can probably keep going to [www.craftsmanstructureshow.com](http://www.craftsmanstructureshow.com) where next year's show is already posted. Geoff plans to attend for the third time, testament to the show's very high quality and value. Organizers recognize that if they want the same folks to return, the program year after year (and they were probably referring to the clinics), these need to be changed since some have presented their material for the second year. If you are planning to attend, contact the organizers and request that the FSM layout be open for your viewing, an experience you will not regret. *Mark CSS09 on your calendars!*



## Northern Lights 2009

Like Haley's Comet, it's something that only happens once in awhile. PNR Regional Conventions come to your home Division only once every 7 years. The next one comes to the 6<sup>th</sup> Division in less than 10 months.

It's not too early to start thinking about attending the 2009 PNR Regional Convention, to be held September 17 to 19, 2009, in Edmonton Alberta. Northern Lights 2009 promises to be one of the best in recent memory.

The Convention will be held at the downtown Coast Edmonton Plaza Hotel. The hotel is only half a block from Edmonton's Light Rapid Transit line through the city centre. Talk about having trains in your basement! All of the registration, clinics, contests, and meeting activities, as well as the Saturday Evening Banquet will be held right in the hotel. The convention will host a Hospitality Room to assist with our emphasis on a friendly social atmosphere.

The hotel is offering special room rates for our convention. Ask for the NMRA Regional Meet rates when booking your room. Please note that there are two Coast Hotels in downtown Edmonton. We will be at the one on 105<sup>th</sup> Street. More information about the hotel can be found at:

[www.coasthotels.com/hotels/canada/alberta/edmonton/coast\\_edmonton/overview](http://www.coasthotels.com/hotels/canada/alberta/edmonton/coast_edmonton/overview)

### Some Highlights of Northern Lights 2009

We will provide updates in future editions of Highball as more program additions are confirmed. Here are some of the highlights that are already lined up:

1. A reception for all attendees will be held at Fort Edmonton Park. [www.fortedmontonpark.ca/](http://www.fortedmontonpark.ca/) The Park by itself is a great attraction, with many historical buildings and artifacts showing the development of the City of Edmonton from a Hudson Bay Company fur trading fort in 1795 to a modern city of a million people. For modelers and rail enthusiasts, the Park features a fully operating steam engine and train which will be available exclusively for our guests. The Edmonton Radial Railway Society operates several streetcars at the Park, with rides and tours of the car barns. The Park is



Host Hotel: Coast Edmonton Plaza Hotel

also home to the Edmonton Model Railroad Association. [www.emraonline.ca](http://www.emraonline.ca) The EMRA built a 40 x 100 foot replica of a typical Canadian freight station, with the interior filled with a mushroom design double deck model railroad, the Monashee Pacific Railway. The layout features one of the most innovative track plans you will see anywhere. Operating sessions on the MPR for all skill levels will be available.

2. The after-dinner speaker at the Banquet will be Tom Price, a third generation Canadian Pacific railroader. Tom's career at the CPR has included many assignments in the Engineering department, including several years as Roadmaster in charge of the Laggan Sub, based in Banff. His territory encompassed the famed Spiral Tunnels and the Big Hill near Field BC. Tom's topic for the evening will be "127 Years of Mayhem!" Since before the Last Spike was driven at Craigellachie in 1885, all sorts of unwanted and unplanned events have interfered with the CPR's normal operations. Collisions, derailments, fires, floods, avalanches, washouts, blizzards, and more have challenged the Operating Department to keep trains moving. Tom's talk is dedicated to the thousands of railroaders who have faced accidents and Mother Nature since CPR was created. Tom will entertain and enlighten you as he weaves his stories around pictures and his experiences.

3. A prototype tour will take you to the Alberta Railway Museum. [www.railwaymuseum.ab.ca/](http://www.railwaymuseum.ab.ca/) The museum's collection is focused on Northern Alberta Railway and Canadian National and includes many significant locomotives and pieces of rolling stock, as well as structures, signals, and work equipment. CN 1392, a Ten-wheeler built in 1913, is operational, as are a number of diesels.

4. To encourage early registrations, a draw for significant prizes will be made from all pre-registrants. One of the prizes will be a sound-equipped locomotive. For every calendar month that you are pre-registered, a ticket will be entered in the draw. So if you send in your registration now, you will have almost a dozen chances to win, but if you wait until next July, you will have only three.

5. Edmonton is home to West Edmonton Mall, the world's largest shopping and entertainment

centre, and Alberta's number one tourist attraction. [www.wem.ca](http://www.wem.ca) All indoors at 5.3 million square feet, the Mall includes a water park and wave pool, NHL size ice rink, an amusement park, casino, 110 eating establishments, and over 800 stores and services. Set aside time before or after the convention to visit the "8<sup>th</sup> Wonder of the World."

If you are traveling to Edmonton from near or far, there are many, many interesting things to see and do along the way. In the next update, we will begin to suggest some places you might like to visit. If you like scenery, history, archeology, museums, animals, trains, excitement, or relaxation, you will have plenty to choose from.

In the meantime, please check our website at [www.northernlights2009.ca](http://www.northernlights2009.ca) for all the latest information.

### **Top Ten Reasons to Attend Northern Lights 2009**

1. See and ride behind at least two Live Steam Engines during Convention activities
2. Great program of Clinics and Layout Tours
3. A very entertaining after-dinner speaker at the Banquet
4. Participate in operating sessions on the HO scale Monashee Pacific Railway
5. Emphasis on an open social atmosphere where you can meet old friends and make new friends
6. Convention is linked with the Great Edmonton Train Show, one of the largest model train shows in the PNR
7. Ride North America's very first modern Light Rail Transit system
8. Lots of main line CN and CPR prototype rail action nearby
9. Visit North America's Largest Shopping Mall - West Edmonton Mall
10. See the real Northern Lights

Submitted by  
Rob Badmington, Publicity Chair  
Northern Lights 2009





# Northern Lights 2009

## PNR Regional Convention

Thursday thru Saturday  
September 17 – 19, 2009  
Coast Edmonton Plaza Hotel  
Edmonton, Alberta



### Convention Highlights

- At Least 12 High Quality Layouts to Tour
- Live Steam Train and Streetcars to Ride at Fort Edmonton Park
- Interesting Clinics on a Wide Range of Topics
- Model, Photo, and Novelty Contests
- Prototype Tours
- Alberta Railway Museum
- Hospitality Room for Socializing at Convention Hotel
- Special Draw Prizes for Early Bird Registrations
- Door Prizes
- Operating Sessions
- Special Room Rates at Convention Hotel
- Great Edmonton Train Show
- Banquet Speaker - Tom Price – “127 Years of Mayhem!”

### Schedule

#### Thursday

- Registration
- Contests and Displays
- Clinics
- Self Guided Layout Tours
- Evening Barbeque at Fort Edmonton Park

#### Friday

- Registration
- Contests and Displays
- Clinics
- Self Guided Layout Tours
- Prototype Tours

#### Saturday

- Registration
- Contests and Displays
- Clinics
- Self Guided Layout Tours

#### Saturday Evening

- Banquet
- Prizes and Awards
- Guest Speaker – Tom Price

To Register or  
For more information, please visit our website or contact

[registrar@northernlights2009.ca](mailto:registrar@northernlights2009.ca)

[www.northernlights2009.ca](http://www.northernlights2009.ca)

	<b>Northern Lights 2009</b> PNR Regional Convention Edmonton, AB September 17-19, 2009  <a href="http://www.northernlights2009.ca">www.northernlights2009.ca</a>	
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**Registrant Information: (one form per registrant, please)**

Name:			
Name for Badge			
NMRA#:			
Street Address:			
City:			
Province or State:		Postal/Zip Code:	
Phone (with area code):	( )		
Email:			
Preferred contact:	<input type="radio"/> Postal	<input type="radio"/> Email	

Item	QTY.	Each	Amount
Registration (before March 1, 2009) (includes clinics, layout tours, contests, auction, operating session)		\$109	
(after March 1, 2009)		\$119	
Non-NMRA member add		\$10	
Spouse/Youth (under 18)	1	\$50	
Thursday BBQ	1	\$15	
Saturday Banquet & Speaker	1	\$35	
<b>Total:</b>			

Please make cheques payable to "Northern Lights 2009"

**Mail to:**  
 Mark Johnson  
 Registrar, Northern Lights 2009  
 11428 - 77 Avenue  
 Edmonton, AB T6G 0L8

**More information:**  
[www.northernlights2009.ca](http://www.northernlights2009.ca)  
[registrar@northernlights2009.ca](mailto:registrar@northernlights2009.ca)  
 Mark Johnson, (780) 436-2480

  
**The Coast**  
**Edmonton Plaza Hotel**  
 Edmonton Downtown  
 10155 - 105 Street  
 Edmonton, AB T5J 1E2  
 780-423-4811

Special Convention Rates  
 Single/Double Occupancy

\$109 Comfort  
 \$129 Superior  
 \$149 Premium

For reservations call: 1-800-863-1144  
 Ask for the block named:  
 NMRA - Regional Meet