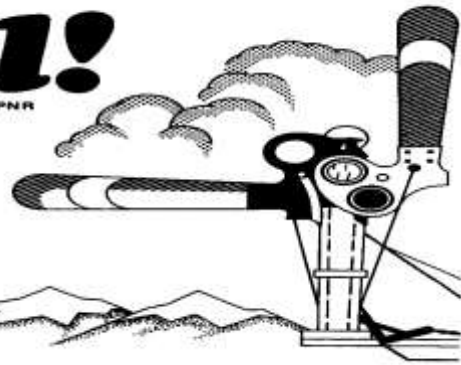


Highball!

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION 6TH DIVISION PNR

Spring 2009



Year in and year out Calgary's Supertrain draws big crowds

long way to keeping this publication going, as well as some new educational programs being planned. I wish to publicly thank the "Railrodeo Committee" for this.

Looking forward to going to Supertrain in the next couple of weeks and meeting up with old friends. To all our area reporters, "Keep up the good work!"

I would like to thank Rob Badmington for taking over as convention Coordinator. I hope to see you all in Edmonton for the Northern Lights Convention. Have a great summer- if it ever arrives!

Ed Molenkamp

Superintendent's Report

Hello Everyone. I hope you are all STILL enjoying winter.

The upcoming Regional Convention is moving along quite well. The Edmonton boys have a lot of events planned and registrations are coming in quite nicely. I have made trips (with different crews) to the Saskatoon and Moose Jaw train shows and to a Calgary Mini Meet to speak to division members as well as answer any questions regarding the Regional Meet. Having not been to the Saskatoon and Moose Jaw shows before, I thought they were very well organized and well attended.

We now have a firm bid from Camrose, Alberta for the Divisional Meet in 2010. Moose Jaw is expressing an interest in a convention as well.

In Lethbridge we received a generous donation from the "Railrodeo Committee". This donation will go a

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From the Editors Desk:

Welcome to the latest edition of Highball. Unfortunately, the last Highball ended up as being only available online. I anticipate that you each will receive a hardcopy of this edition particularly so that each of you will have a registration form for the 2009 PNR regional convention to be held in Edmonton during September.

I encourage each of you to give serious consideration to attending this years convention in Edmonton. Not only is Edmonton a great railroad town, it is a wonderful destination for the whole family. I am sure that Ed and the Northern Lights crew are working hard to make sure that you have a terrific experience in Alberta's capital city. In addition to the Northern Lights convention attendees will have the opportunity to attend the Great Edmonton Train Show (GETS). This annual event brings together the best of Northern Alberta's model railroad community and is an anticipated annual event.

There continues to be a need for additional Highball reporters and contributors. Articles and photo submissions are greatly appreciated and much needed to continue to produce the Highball for the PNR sixth division.



A scene from the Regina G' Rainers portable layout.

Grant Halkyard



Saskatoon Report

No Report

Regina Report

Well, I am pleased to report that the Regina model Railroad Club is no longer homeless. We've entered into an agreement to rent a craft room at the local senior citizens centre for regular meetings on Monday nights at 7:00 PM.

Members didn't let the new found meeting room go to waste. We are busily constructing a new modular layout based on FreeMo standards. These standards appear to be a good option for us in that we are unable to leave the layout up between meetings. An adjacent storage room is the layouts home between meetings.

In addition to a new home the RMRC is currently in the process of becoming an 100% NMRA club. All club members are now NMRA members and the paperwork needs to be processed. We determined that being 100% was a better alternative to carrying a separate liability insurance policy which cost as much or more than subsidizing each club member's NMRA membership.

Grant Halkyard

Edmonton Area Report

A large group of Edmonton modellers is preparing to head south for Supertrain in Calgary in April. Train shows are a great venue for finding bargains as well as renewing friendships. We hope to see you there.

The MMRF swap meet will be held on Saturday, May 2 this year, returning to the renovated Kingsway Lions' Seniors Recreation Centre. Check the web site at <http://www.mmrf.ab.ca> for full details.

Planning is underway for the two large September activities in Edmonton: the annual Greater Edmonton Model Train Show (GETS) and the first ever PNR Regional Convention to be held in Edmonton - Northern Lights 2009.

We scheduled the Convention on the same weekend as GETS to let modellers take in both activities - there is only one day of overlap, so there's plenty of time to see everything! Because of the train show at GETS, displays at the convention will focus on contests and Achievement Program (AP) entries. More information on both events on their websites: <http://www.mmrf.ab.ca> and <http://www.northernlights2009.ca>

Speaking of AP, this is a great time to bring out those models you've been working on, and show off the 6th Division's modelling talents to the entire Region. It's also a great time to enter in the Regional model contests while still close to home.

Home layout tours are the highlights for me at any convention. I've also enjoyed having my layout open for several Divisional meets. Great ideas are exchanged both ways. Also, it's a great motivation to get those pending projects completed. All of which is a roundabout way of asking modellers in the Edmonton Area to consider opening their layouts for the PNR Convention tours. This year, tours are self-guided, which means no large groups of people descending your basement stairs all at once, and the option for you to have flexible hours. I know you're interested, so please get in touch with the convention team through the registrar: registrar@northernlights2009.ca We'd love to see your name on the tour list!

Mark Johnson, Mark.Johnson@InfoHarvest.ca

Calgary Area Report

Another busy model railroading season is in

full swing in Calgary, with lots of organized activities to report on. In mid-February the Calgary Model Railway Society hosted another successful Slide Night with over a dozen individuals showing their photos and movies to a large crowd. Things have changed a lot in a few years from the days of carousels and stack-loaders full of Kodachromes, to mostly digital images and even high-resolution digital movies. In any case, our favourite topic - railroading near and far - continues to be well-documented.

March brings the annual Calgary Model Trainmen's Flea Market. This is always a popular event with all of the tables booked well before the event, and bargain hunters from near and far lined up to get a crack at the best deals as soon as the doors open. The Flea Market is combined with the CMRS Spring

Mini-meet at the Glenmore Inn. The mini-meet's line-up of clinics featured a joint presentation by Dale Sproule and Geoff Southwood on building craftsman structures kits and included photos of some of the highlights of last November's Craftsman Structures Show that Dale reported on in the last Highball.

April is the month for SUPERTRAIN. This year's show is bigger and better than ever. For the first time, a number of major manufacturers are coming to the show including Rapido Trains, InterMountain Railway Company, BGR Group, Sylvan Scale Models, Hobbycraft - TrueLine Trains, and Rail Scale Miniatures. This is your chance to talk one-on-one with the people that make the models you buy in your friendly local hobby shop. And speaking of hobby shops, all the regulars are back, along with some new vendors. One of the stated

goals of SUPERTRAIN is to encourage more people to get into our great hobby, so to support that mission, most of the live demonstrations presented by South Bank Short Lines are aimed at beginners. Another very popular attraction with the public is the ride-on trains operated by the Alberta Model Engineers of Airdrie. The tracks are set up indoors on the upper level mezzanine of the Calgary Soccer Centre, with free rides provided to all. A donation jar adds considerably to the amount of cash and food that SUPERTRAIN generates for the Calgary Food Bank every year.


The 6th Division is well represented at SUPERTRAIN, starting with the NMRA booth featuring your Division Superintendent and Secretary, along with layouts and displays from all directions.

Rob Badmington

CANADA'S LARGEST MODEL TRAIN SHOW

THE CALGARY MODEL RAILWAY SOCIETY PRESENTS

SUPERTRAIN



OVER 60,000 SQ. FT. OF LAYOUTS, DISPLAYS, DEALERS, CLINICS, THOMAS, LIONEL, PLAY AREA AND MORE!

WHEN AND WHERE

SATURDAY & SUNDAY APRIL 18 - 19, 2009 9:00AM-5:00PM	CALGARY SOCCER CENTRE 7000-48 STREET SE CALGARY, ALBERTA
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UNDER 6 - FREE • YOUTH (6-12) - \$5.00 • SINGLE - \$10.00
(\$1.00 OFF ADMISSION WITH A NONPERISHABLE FOOD DONATION TO THE CALGARY FOOD BANK)

WWW.SUPERTRAIN.CA

NMRA National Contest Improvements

Let me introduce myself. I have been the National Contest Chairman for several years now and I and my staff have been working hard to improve that activity and make it more appealing to attendees. In Anaheim we added two events: the People's Choice Awards, a direct entry, minimal paperwork pop vote contest and the Model Showcase, a non-competitive, display-only event (complete or in process models are okay) again with little paperwork. For Hartford we are premiering three new activities: a Kit Built Contest to run in parallel with the regular Scratch Built contest (with a parallel array of place awards); an event we are calling "An Afternoon of Meet the Modeller, Photographer, & Crafter" in which entrants in the Showcase and all the contests are encouraged to come to the contest room and be with their entries to explain, discuss, and generally show-off their works. Now entrants may stay with their entries at any time the contest room is open (except for Wednesday when we are judging) but we are trying to focus this on Tuesday to get the most people to attend. The third new event is a Thursday morning score review period for the judged contest (Kit and Scratch) during which contestants may discuss and ask questions of the judges and staff. (The awards will take place on Thursday afternoon.)

Now to why I am writing to all of you, I know from last year that the principal problem I have with these improvements is GETTING THE WORD OUT quite simply because I have limited ability to do that. Last year I wrote an article in Scale Rails and of course put them on the contest web page. However, the article was included in the Bulletin section, and I wonder how many people especially those that may have been turned by the contest and have never tried it. Now I'm not here to criticize its placement. It is organization business and was thus properly placed. However, that still does not again GET THE WORD OUT as well as I need to, so this year I am taking a more comprehensive approach. Another article has been written and submitted to SRs along with a series of promotion ads like the one at the right. These comprise neat little graphics that note the contest improvements.

I have asked that they be run in the front section of SRs and included in the May, June and July issues. Hopefully the combination will get to more people and raise awareness. This is where you guys come in. I am asking you, the regions to run these ads, which are attached, in your newsletters, on your websites and in whatever other manner you may be able to get them out there including simply spreading wording by email and word of mouth. You know over the years there has been a lot of criticism regarding the contest, too much of this, too little of that, etc. etc. Well folks, we're working hard to make it better, so please help us out!!!

Now my last item, and this one is aimed primarily at the region contest chairman, as part of the contest improvements I am working with Paul Richardson, National AP Chairman to improve the judging, both to improve and expand the judging guidelines as well as provide better training for judges. While we have laid some of the groundwork, we would like to engage your help as region chairman to identify, discuss and suggest solutions to some of these issues, and you will be hearing from me in the coming months on that topic, so thanks in advance for your participation.

Many, many thanks in advance for your help,



Northern Lights 2009

PNR Regional Convention, Edmonton

Sept 17-19, 2009

It's just over five months til modellers from all over the Pacific Northwest Region descend on Edmonton for more than three full days of model railroading fun. Many have already taken advantage of the early-bird registration enticements - a discount of \$10 for registering before June 1, and entries into a special draw for pre-registrants. In case you missed it, first prize in the early-bird draw is a pair of Inter-mountain sound equipped FP9's in the classic CN Super Continental paint scheme, worth well over \$350. There are plenty of other prizes as well. If you register in April, you will receive 6 entries into the draw.

There are plenty of ways to register for the convention. You can register on-line at www.northernlights2009.ca or print out the form from the website and mail it in. A copy of the form is also included with this issue. If you will be attending SUPERTRAIN in Calgary on April 18 & 19, visit the NMRA - 6th Div booth and see Co-Chairmen Ed Molenkamp and Mark Johnson. They will be happy to register you right there.

As of mid-March there are 13 clinics lined up with more to come. These clinics are a great way to learn some model building techniques and find out more about the prototype. Keep checking the clinics page on the website for the latest additions.

Don't forget about all the model and photo contests you can enter at Northern Lights 2009. Now is the time to be working on your entries. Also bring your models for the Achievement Program judging. This fine program helps you to become a better modeler as well as recognizing those who contribute to the

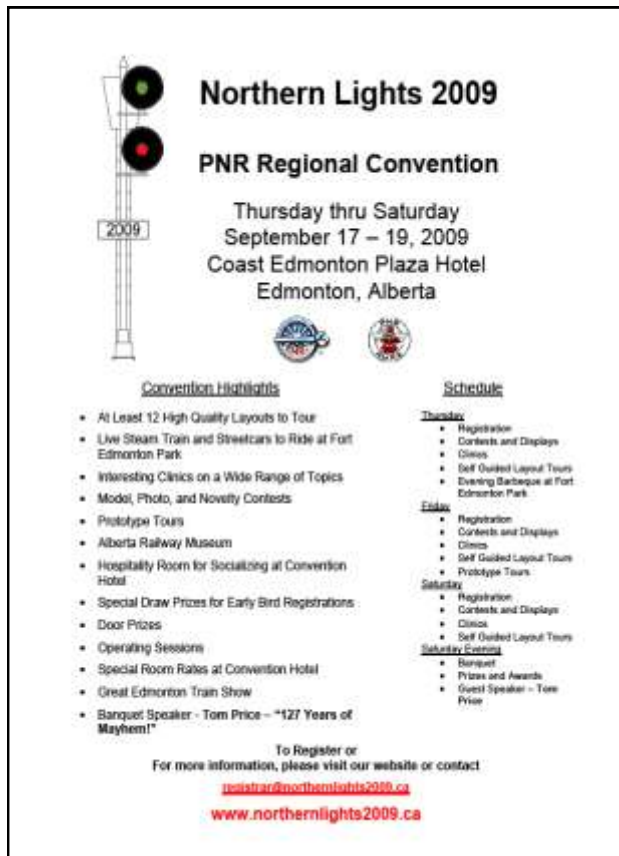
hobby as volunteers, officials, and authors.

The Great Edmonton Train Show (GETS) is lined up for the weekend of Sept 19 & 20, so the model railroading fun doesn't end with Northern Lights. GETS is one of the biggest train shows in the PNR with plenty of great layouts and displays along with lots of dealers offering all sorts of bargains.

There is a lot more to see and do than space here allows me to describe. Be sure to check the website frequently. If you have attended a Regional or National Convention before, you know what fun awaits you. If you haven't, why not come to Edmonton in September and find out for yourself. You won't be disappointed!

Rob Badmington

Publicity Director



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:
register@northernlights2009.ca
www.northernlights2009.ca

	Northern Lights 2009 PNR Regional Convention Edmonton, AB September 17-19, 2009 www.northernlights2009.ca	
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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 June 1, 2009) (includes clinics, layout tours, contests, auction, operating session)		\$109	
(after June 1, 2009)		\$119	
Non-NMRA member add		\$10	
Spouse/Youth (under 18)		\$50	
Thursday BBQ		\$15	
Saturday Banquet & Speaker		\$35	
Total:			

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
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