

Highball!

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION 6TH DIVISION PNR

December 2014



On the cover: There's nothing like live steam in bright sunshine to inspire railway modellers. At Calgary's Heritage Park Railway Days, 0-6-0 CP 2023 curves past the grain elevator and turntable on Sept 28, 2014. Lots of model railroad layouts were also on display in various buildings around the Park.

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Superintendent's Report - Ed Molenkamp, Superintendent 6th Division

Hello Everyone

I hope you have all had a good summer/fall.

I would first of all like to thank Ron Gillies for being the energy and editor for our Highball newsletter for more than four years. Thank you Ron for your dedication! Rob Badmington has now taken over as editor.

We also have a new assistant superintendent, Peter Ulvestad. He is known to most of you as a life member of the NMRA. He helps to coordinate OPSIG events in Edmonton and is very involved with JMRI. All other officials have one year left to serve on their terms.

It was a busy fall in the Division with Train Shows and Open Houses which were well attended. As superintendent I hope to pay a visit to all corners of the Division within the next year. With all the shows and events planned it should not be difficult to meet with many members.

I was able to attend the Regional in June 2014 where a fantastic show was put on! It was great to see some old faces again and meet some new ones.

We have elected a new PNR President, Michael Highsmith and a new Vice President, Don Locke. Thank you to these men for agreeing to hold these positions.

I am looking forward to attending the 50th Anniversary of the 6th Division at the meet on May 8-10 in Saskatoon.

To all reporters, a big thank you for keeping us up to date on what is happening in your areas and I encourage you to make the editor's job easy by sending in your reports early and often.

Peter Ulvestad and I have a major goal of increasing the membership and to speak with as many members as we can so please don't hesitate to email or call.

From the Editor – Rob Badmington

We have already endured two serious deep freezes, Christmas is a couple of weeks away, and Calgary just won the Grey Cup, so it must be Model Railroad Season. Welcome to my first shot at editing Highball! since 1992 when Rick Walker and I co-edited the newsletter while

living in cities 3,700 kilometres apart. I offered to take over the task from Ron Gillies when it became obvious that he was struggling to get Highball! out regularly. Finding content can be challenging, and the work of putting it together is time-consuming, especially when you also

have a full time job. Lucky for me, being retired gives me a lot more free time to put into model railroading, so this is just one more aspect of the hobby I enjoy. Ron did a really great job with Highball! so he is a tough act to follow, but I'll do my best. If nothing else, I will get four issues per year out to our 6th Division members.

I have been a model railroader since childhood and have been active in organized model railroading since I joined the Edmonton Model Railroad Association in my teens. The first convention I attended was the PNR Regional in Calgary in 1971 which hooked me on these wonderful get-togethers. In the past forty-plus years I have attended dozens of meets and conventions, and have made friends from all over the continent. Highball! is a primary means of promoting our 6th Division meets and PNR Regional Conventions, so expect to see lots of that sort of stuff here.

There is also an amazing amount of model railroad activity going on within the 6th Division and my goal is for Highball! to let you know what's coming up and to report on the fun people are having with this hobby. I know there are plenty of people who are happy with their trains all by themselves, but I find it a lot more enjoyable to share model railroading with others. That is a big reason for joining the NMRA in the first place.

I would like to thank all the people who answered my call for reports on the activities in their areas. Articles, photos, reports, and promo materials are always welcome! We will also publish special requests in the Bits & Pieces section. The next issue will be out in February. In the meantime have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Rob

Convention Report – Rob Badmington

As the last page of this Highball! proclaims, our next Spring Meet will be in Saskatoon on the weekend of May 8 – 10, 2015. The meet will be co-sponsored by the Prairie Rail Workshop and the Saskatchewan Railroad Historical Association. A convention hotel is still being arranged but the majority of the activities will take place at the Saskatchewan Railway Museum. For those interested in contests they will have the following categories: Locomotives, Rolling Stock, Structures, and Dioramas. If there are enough entries in a given category they will split into sub categories (i.e. Steam and Diesel Locomotives). Keep an eye on the 6th Division webpage for updates, and we expect to have many more details in the next issue of Highball!

It was reported in the last Highball! that Camrose was willing to host the 2016 Spring Meet, having originally offered to put on the 2015 meet. However, due to some membership

changes there, they have withdrawn their bid. The good news is that a group in Edmonton was originally planning for 2017 but are willing and able to move it up a year. A formal bid will be presented at the 6th Division AGM in Saskatoon.

I have heard of quite a few members of the 6th Division already making plans to attend the NMRA National Convention in Portland, Oregon, next August. Now would be a good time to take a look at their website www.nmra2015portland.org to begin making your own plans. Some of the most popular tours fill up long before the convention begins so if there is something you are particularly interested in, you are advised to sign up early. I know from personal experience that a National Convention will have more things to do than anyone could ever hope to take in, and Portland is a great model railroad city.

Treasurer's Report – Rick Walker

The final financial numbers from our fiscal year 2013-14 are shown below:

	<u>Sep '13 - Aug 14</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>
Income			
6th Division PNR AGM-Meet Rev	540.00	0.00	540.00
Interest	10.28	0.00	10.28
PNR Membership Rebate	574.74	900.00	(325.26)
Total Income	<u>1,125.02</u>	<u>900.00</u>	<u>225.02</u>
Expense			
6th Division PNR AGM-Meet Exp	462.48	0.00	462.48
Bank Charges	30.30	50.00	(19.70)
Education	0.00	250.00	(250.00)
Event Seed Money	0.00	500.00	(500.00)
General Expenses	0.00	100.00	(100.00)
Highball!	559.90	1,000.00	(440.10)
Total Expense	<u>1,052.68</u>	<u>1,900.00</u>	<u>(847.32)</u>
Net Income	<u><u>72.34</u></u>	<u><u>(1,000.00)</u></u>	<u><u>1,072.34</u></u>

Area Reports

Calgary – Rob Badmington

In April, another successful SUPERTRAIN show was staged. Despite some extremely challenging circumstances thrown at us by construction at the Soccer Centre, we were pleased to welcome 12,200 guests to our largest show yet. We had displays filling all four indoor soccer fields as well as the complete length of the upper mezzanine. Iron Horse Park from Airdrie took over 3500 people for rides on the other side of the concourse and we collected over \$4700 and 1220 pounds of food for the Calgary Food Bank. Layouts from Vancouver, Chilliwack, and Trail joined the regulars from Calgary, Edmonton, Lethbridge, and Moose Jaw. Several manufacturers came to the show for the first time to display their products to Canadian modellers.

We are very excited to announce that SUPERTRAIN is moving to a bright new facility

for 2015. We have signed an agreement to hold the show at the Genesis Centre in Northeast Calgary next April 18 & 19. The facility takes care of many of the shortcomings that we have had to deal with at the Soccer Centre in recent years. The display space available is much larger, over 70,000 square feet on one level, with four truck loading doors, elevators to the upper mezzanine viewing level, a state of the art sound system for audible announcements, and plenty of paved parking. The Genesis Centre is a five minute walk from the Saddletowne C-Train station, so for the first time in 7 years, we will have excellent public transportation to the show. The Genesis Centre is also right in the middle of a populous community, so we hope that we will be able to introduce Model Railroading to a whole new group of people who may not have come to SUPERTRAIN before. Please be sure to let everyone know about the new location, and

mark your calendars for the third weekend in April for Canada's biggest model train show.

It wasn't exactly *model* railroading, but a number of Calgary modellers were seen at Champion Park back in June, extending the track by over 60 feet southward. Even 85 pound rail is pretty heavy when you are lifting it without machines and spiking it down like they did a hundred years ago. The new track extension is required to make space for CPR Mail Express car No.3622 which has now arrived at the park. The car has made the rounds of Alberta museums over several decades after retirement, having been at the Alberta Railway Museum in Edmonton, and the High River Museum until it went back to CP at Ogden last year. In case you don't know, Champion Park is a privately owned property adjacent to Highway 2 near Okotoks that is home to a nice collection of rolling stock, signals, and railway buildings including namesake Champion station.

South Bank Short Lines Boomer Auction in October was again well attended by sellers and buyers alike. Modellers from Calgary area, Edmonton, Lethbridge, and Medicine Hat filled the hall to bid on some great merchandise.

Calgary Model Trainmen - Dale Sproule

CMT hosted our twice a year Public Open House on Saturday, November 15, 2014. Before we open our doors for each Open House, we advertise our event and place several banners outside the clubhouse hoping to perhaps attract folks driving by. We feel it important for members to also display some of our projects we are working on at home too and this creates added interest. Our traditional hours are 10 am to 4 pm and right at 10 this year CMT members dressed with club shirts (with a tight crease) met the first of 60+ visitors for the day consisting of singles right up to families with mini-Engineers. We invite visitors to have a coffee and donut, purchase a fund-raising 75th Anniversary Car (50' Boxcar or Hopper - we can ship out as many of these Accurail kits as you

want, contact CMT), or maybe a club mug and try some operation using our wireless Digitrax. Some visitors have learned from previous Open Houses that they can bring their own motive power for operation on the layout. We try to explain the operation of the club, some scenery techniques and always issue an invitation to become a club member. We always have membership forms ready to be filled out. Many returning visitors remark that they see positive changes at the club. The last visitor left at right at 4 pm so it was quite a full day for members.

Our next and last open house in our present location (612-12 Avenue S.E.) will be Saturday, April 25, one week following SUPERTRAIN., Hours will be 10 am – 4 pm and again we will have coffee and donuts, club cars and mugs for sale. There is free street parking so please plan to attend.

Unfortunately we are losing our home at the end of August, 2015. CMT does not fit into the expansion plans of the Calgary Stampede who have been excellent landlords over the years. We are looking for a new home location, an unused basement of some building in Calgary would be ideal -we pay rent and utilities and are registered as a non-profit group within the Alberta Societies Act. Our present building measures 25' x 100' but we easily downsize.

CALGARY MODEL TRAINMEN'S CLUB
SPRING 2015 OPEN HOUSE
619-12 AVENUE S.E.

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 10 am - 4 pm
FREE STREET PARKING

JOIN US FOR COFFEE AND DONUTS

WE ARE CALGARY'S OLDEST AND MOST
ESTABLISHED HO/Hon3 GAUGE MODEL RAILROAD
CLUB, FOUNDED IN 1938

WE USE DIGITRAX DCC

WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS

OUR HOME LAYOUT CLUB HOUSE MEASURES 25' X 100'
WE WILL BE DISMANTLING OUR LAYOUT AND MOVING
AFTER THIS EVENT.
PLEASE HELP US FIND A NEW LOCATION.

(Anniversary cars still for sale)
www.calgarymodeltrainmen.com

Edmonton - Mark Johnson

In September, MMRF held the annual Greater Edmonton model Train Show (GETS) at Millennium Place in Sherwood Park for the second year. This is a bright and airy place, with better parking than the previous location, and the attendance increased over last year as people become familiar with the new site. Many bargains were to be had from the vendors (ask me how I know), and there were great displays as well.

The MMRF held its first fall Swap Meet in November, and, despite the first heavy snowfall of the year, a great turnout of buyers and sellers made it through the drifts to make the event a success.

The EMRA has been hosting quarterly open operating sessions on its Monashee Pacific layout in Fort Edmonton Park, providing interested modellers with a chance to run under TT&TO (TimeTable and Train Order) operation. The club also hosted a full-day operating session during Northern Rails 2014, a biennial invitational operating weekend. Attendees appreciated the chance to learn about the layout and have extra time to apply the knowledge to the operations. Over 20 people were entertained for the full day.

The Northern Rails event attracted a few new layouts this year, and it appears that even more local layout owners are considering introducing some level of formal operations on their own layouts.

Some of the mall-based clubs have re-established themselves in the Fort Mall in Fort Saskatchewan, so there are trains running there most weekends. Camrose is hosting a Swap Meet and Train Show this December, so model railroad activity is spreading out around Edmonton in all directions.

Lethbridge - Tony Lee

The Southern Alberta Model Railway Club is in for another busy modeling season. Our group has been asked to go to the local hobby show in Lethbridge in January and we have also been invited to Supertrain in April 2015.

Several clinics are underway this winter at the club including scenery, scratch building, switches and decoder installation. Work is progressing on scenery upgrades, and a card operating system is to be installed for the HO layout this winter/spring. We continue to attract new members with three new persons joining the club this fall. Progress is being made on the possibility of an expansion of our facilities in Gyro Park. We need to raise some additional funds after which we hope to be able to apply for a Community Capital Project Grant from the City of Lethbridge in the spring of 2015. If successful, work on a proposed addition would not start until 2016.

Hope everyone has a great Christmas and New Year.

Central Alberta

From the website of the Mountain View Model Railroad Club located in the museum in Didsbury, AB.(<http://www.mvmrc.ca>) The club was formed in 2009 and is presently building a layout which features a portion of the town facing the railway's right-of-way. The club sponsors the Olds Model Train, Hobby and Craft Show at Olds College in February. The group meets two Saturdays a month from 1 to 4 pm at the museum except when at train shows, and everyone is welcome.

Moose Jaw- Stirling Millar

The 2014 Thunder Creek Model Train Show was an extremely successful show. We had a major increase in the number of visitors. We are looking at building on the success of that show in 2015. The Thunder Creek Model Train Show runs Saturday, March 21 and Sunday, March 22

from 9am to 5pm. The show generally draws around 1000 people over the two days. It is held at the Moose Jaw Western Development Museum, History of Transportation. The Museum's collection includes a number of railway artifacts such as Canadian Pacific 4-6-2 locomotive 2364 and a 1913 combination car. The show is spread throughout the Museum's collection, with exhibits found in the Railroad Gallery, Car Gallery and Aircraft Gallery. If you are interested in participating in the Thunder Creek Train Show please contact Stirling Millar at stirling.millar@live.ca for more information or for a registration form.

Bits & Pieces

NAR Stock Car kits

Westerfield now has the HO Scale NAR Stock Car kits listed on their web site:

www.westerfieldmodels.com There are 9 variations making it possible to build every car in a fleet of 30 cars. The instructions show how to build the cars in both their cattle service days and also as MOW cars. Decals for both included. Trucks and couplers not included.

The product announcement can be seen on the web site. I think a lot of 6 Div. guys will be interested in these! Dave Audley

Photos wanted

I am seeking good digital photos of 54'-5" Canadian Pacific mechanical reefers, Silver (or Aluminum) in appearance, car number series was 286000. Please send to Dale Sproule, email: sroules@telusplanet.net

Upcoming Events in the PNR See the most recent additions at pnr.nmra.org

Dec 20 (Sat), Camrose, AB

Mini model train sale/swap meet, 9AM-2PM, at the Camrose Railway Station, Camrose Railway Park, on the corner of 44 St. and 47 Ave. Free admission! Info:- Ken Morrison, cabooseman@hotmail.com

2015

Jan 17-19, Seattle, WA

41st annual Pacific Science Center show - 200 2nd Ave N, Seattle, WA. 10 am - 6 pm. The 4th Division, PNR coordinates the model railroads, historical displays, and related activities for this show. This is an exhibition show. No swap-meet or vendor sales. Child-interest activities and participation opportunities are encouraged. Current fee, parking, and other facility information is at www.pacsci.org/visitorinfo/. Info:- www.4dpmr.org/PSCshow.htm

Jan 24-25, Portland, OR

The Great Train Expo. Portland Expo Center. Large train and toy marketplaces, operating layouts and displays, workshops and demonstrations. Info:- www.greattrainexpo.com

Jan 29 - Feb 1, Eugene, OR

36th Annual Willamette Cascade Model Railroad Show at the Valley River Center with additional friends, N-scale, Lionel, G-scale railroads running and Operation Lifesaver Trailer with free educational materials, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Thurs., Fri., Sat. and Sun. 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Info:- Lee Temple, 541-954-4917 or ttandt@ram-mail.com

Feb 7 (Sat), Willamina, OR

Northwest Modelers Model Train Show & Swap Meet Manufacturers, Displays, Swap Meet & Show 9:30am-3pm West Valley Community Campus Hall at 266 SE Washington str, in Willamina, Oregon. Admission \$5.00 with \$1.00 off with can food item! Under 12 free! Free Parking! Tables 6'=\$15.00 8'=\$20.00 Vendor move in 7:15-9:30 Info:- pry626@juno.com or 503-606-0398

Feb 7-8, Olds, AB

2015 Olds Model Train, Hobby and Craft Show, sponsored by the Mountain View Model Railroad Club.

Frank Grisdale Gymnasium at Olds College, Sat 10-5 and Sun 10-4. Admission \$5.00 per person, children 5 and under are free. Info:- Rick Astle 403-556-8121 or email ve6rla@gmail.com; www.mvmrc.ca

Feb 14 (Sat), Portland, OR

Spokane Portland & Seattle Railway Historical Society Railroad Swap Meet, Holiday Inn - Portland Airport Conference Center, 8439 NE Columbia Blvd., 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM, \$5 admission, under 12 free. Info:- Jerry Pickell, ickell5141@msn.com or 360-735-0516.

Feb 19-21, Eugene, OR

WCMRRC Modular railroad layout featuring logging trains and logging displays at 77th Annual Oregon Logging Conference, Lane Events Center, 796 W. 13th, open to public on Friday only from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. operating HO layout and lots of full size logging equipment, trucks, loaders, portable mills, chain saw events. Info:- Lee Temple, 541-954-4917 or ttandt@ram-mail.com

Feb 28 - Mar 1, Monroe, WA

United NorthWest Model RR Club 24th Annual Model Train Show and Swap Meet, Evergreen State Fairgrounds. Saturday 10-5, Sunday 10-4. Hosted by the United NorthWest Model RR Club. 100% of admission goes to charity! Info:- www.unwclub.org/unwshow.html

Mar 7-8, Spokane, WA

Open Houses will be held at the River City Modelers Club, 1130 E. Sprague Ave., Spokane, WA on Saturday from 4 to 8 PM; and Sunday from Noon to 5 PM. The River City Western HO Scale Railroad is a 45 x 45 ft. double deck layout with over 19 scale miles of mainline track & several yards. The theme represents a modern bridge railroad with the mainlines, sidings, and yards representing terrain and industry from the Cascade Mountains through Central and Eastern Washington into the Idaho Panhandle. Stop by to see what has been done in the last few months.

Mar 8 (Sun), Spokane, WA

SPOKANE TRAIN SHOW Sponsored by the Inland Northwest Rail Museum and River City Modelers. SPOKANE County Fair & Expo Center, Ag C & D Buildings, 404 N. Havana St. 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM; \$6.00 ADMISSION - 12 & UNDER FREE. Over 100 vendors will have railroad art, artifacts, photos, videos and all scales of model trains for sale & several Railroad Historical Societies will be there with information. There will be at least 5 operating model layouts in various scales N, HO, S & G. Model RR Clinics will be offered throughout the day. FOR TABLE RENTAL OR GENERAL INFORMATION - CONTACT: SHIRLEY SAMPLE, P.O. Box 3065, Spokane, WA 99220; or call 509-991-2317 OR EMAIL: shirley@busnws.com.

Mar 14 (Sat), Portland, OR

Willamette Model Railroad Club Swap Meet at the Kliever Memorial Armory, 10000 NE 33rd Drive from 9:30am to 3:30pm. Admission is \$5.00, children under 12 free. Info:- Keith Kieres 503-723-7323, e-mail wmrswapmeet@yahoo.com

Mar 15 (Sun), Burnaby, BC

Western Rails 2015. Displays and models of all kinds - Operating model layouts, collectables, photos, time tables, keys, locks, lanterns, buttons, china, telegraph equipment and much much more. Cameron Recreation Complex, 9523 Cameron St. (behind Lougheed Town Centre) 9 am to 4 pm. Admittance: (cash only): Senior (60+) and Youth (6-15) \$3.00 Adult (16-59) \$5.00 Child (under 6) Free Family \$12.00 (Maximum 2 Adults, 3 Youth) Info:- westernrails@wcra.org 604-484-2791.

Apr 18-19, Calgary, AB

SUPERTRAIN 2015 Canada's Biggest and Best Annual Model Train Show is moving to a new venue. 9 AM to 5 PM both days. Genesis Centre, 7555 Falconridge Blvd. NE, Calgary. FREE PAVED PARKING or take the C-Train to Saddletowne Station. Adult - \$10, Youth (6-12) - \$5, under 6 - free. Over 70,000 sq. ft. of operating layouts, exhibits and displays, railroad artists, hobby shops, model manufacturers, demonstrations, clinics, museums and railroad historical associations, Lego and Thomas Play Area, garden railways, ride-on trains, and much more. Info:- www.supertrain.ca or email to info@supertrain.ca

Apr 18-19, Eugene, OR

27th Annual Willamette Cascade Model Railroad Club Swap Meet & Train Show, Lane Events Center, 796 W. 13th vendor set up on Friday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. show hours Sat. 10 am. to 5 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Early bird admission on Sat. only 9 a.m. \$10.00 per person, regular admission \$6.00, children 8 years and younger free if accompanied by an adult. Info:- Lee Temple, 541-954-4917 or ttandt@ram-mail.com

May 2-3, Rickreall, OR

Rickreall Grange Model Train Swap Meet & Show Sat/Sun 9am-3pm. Admission \$5, \$1 off on Saturday with can food items, FREE on Sunday with can food items. Under 12 free. Rickreall Grange Hall at 280 Main Street {Hwy 99W} Rickreall,Or. Operating HO Layout, Great Food, Free parking, Fun for All! Tables available. Info:- Tom 503-606-0398 pry626@onlinenw.com

Aug 23-29, Portland, OR

NMRA 2015 National Convention "Portland Daylight Express" Info:- www.nmra2015portland.org



This fascinating piece of trackwork existed in a back alley between 106 and 107 Streets in Edmonton, just south of 104 Avenue. The centre track was an industrial lead which curved out of CN's City Yard and stretched a couple of blocks south to serve various warehouses. This three way turnout is a stub switch, so the switch points moved laterally to line up with the selected track and pivoted from a spot near where the photographer stood. The switch stand had three notches to set the handle into, rather than the usual two. All CN and CP track in downtown Edmonton is now long gone.

The photo itself comes from the Weston Langford collection (www.westonlangford.com) and was taken on 31 August 1969. Here is a link to the image: www.westonlangford.com/images/photo/110265/

Sixth Division

National Model Railroad Association - Pacific Northwest Region

50th Anniversary

SPRING MEET

May 8th to 10th, 2015

SASKATOON

Hosted by the Prairie Rail Workshop and the Saskatchewan Railroad Historical Association

at

The Saskatchewan Railway Museum

Clinics

Contests

Layout Tours

Registration Social

Barbeque

For further information please contact Cal Sexsmith at calvinsexsmith@sasktel.net