

Highball!

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION 6TH DIVISION PNR

May 2024



The Monashee Pacific Railway as modelled by the Edmonton Model Railroad Association, is set in September 1959, and is jointly owned by CN and CP. In the scene above, the Expediter is led by three CN GP9s across a deep mountain canyon, carrying fresh fruit and produce to markets across Canada and the US. (photo by Rob Badmington)

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Superintendent's Report – Ed Molenkamp, Supt. 6th Division, President NMRA Canada

Hello everyone,

Good to talk to you again.

The membership is holding quite steady with our highest membership that we have seen. This has been helped along by 100% clubs.

The benefits being the insurance. If you need any info drop me a line.

I have heard that we have as many as 20 6th Division members heading to Surrey for the Regional. This should

be a great time. That being said, if you need any ride sharing info please contact me.

We have an exciting issue of the Highball here containing more information regarding Dino Tracks 2024. There is a preliminary schedule in this issue which is subject to change.

We are also looking into the possibility of layout tours before and after the convention.

The website will be getting regular updates.

From the Editor – Rob Badmington

Once again, this issue is filled with stories and pictures of a wide range of events that have taken place across the 6th Division in recent weeks. A big thank you to all those who contributed.

I am looking forward to attending the Surrey Excursion PNR Regional Convention. I know of at least four of us from Calgary who will be presenting clinics at the convention. Last I heard, over 170 people have registered to attend.

Many details of our own Spring Meet, Dino Tracks, to be held in Drumheller in June are included in this issue. The website <https://dinoctracks2024.ca/> is now open, where you can find all the latest details, as well as to register. As always, the opportunity to meet with old friends and make some new ones is one of the best reasons to attend.

Hope to see you there!

2024 Election Time in 6th Division – Peter Ulvestad

It's time again to look for nominations to fill the Divisions Superintendent and Assistant superintendent positions. These positions are for 2 years starting September 1, 2024. We require nominations for these 2 positions by **May 31** so that voting can take place and have the positions filled prior to their commencement date. Nominations can be sent to me or Dennis Dreher.

The Superintendent represents the over 200 NMRA members in the division (don't let that number scare you off volunteering). A guide book is available at <http://pnr.nmra.org/policies/> that may help answer questions of what this position entails or you could phone Ed to get his take on it after so many years in the position.

Do you know someone who would be a great candidate for one of these positions? Have you approached this person with the idea of a nomination? You may find the person receptive but unsure of their ability to do the job. Your confidence in that person may be all that is needed to unlock a talent the division didn't know about.

The NMRA and in particular the 6th Division owes its success to all of its members in whatever capacity, from home layout builders to convention organizers and division officers. We will continue to flourish with those who are willing and able to step up to the plate.

Achievement Program Report - Doug Burton MMR, 6th Division, PNR AP Chair

It has been quite a busy time for AP in the last few months for the PNR and the 6th Div. We are just racking up the certificates with many members entering the program.

In May we will be honoring about 10 certificates, so think about what you have completed as part of your layout as you may already have completed the necessary requirements to apply.

I was recently in Regina for their show and completed assessments for two cars, awarded two Golden Spikes and have Electrical, Civil, Scenery, Structures and Dispatcher certificates to complete assessments on. There was just not enough time during the show to look at them. I was also able to spend some time with some members discussing what is needed for some certificates. I also heard we will be getting another 100% club in Regina.

My assistant AP Manager Dennis Dreher has been beating a lot of bushes since taking the position, thanks for all your efforts.

I am looking for an assistant for Calgary and Saskatchewan also. This would be your chance to get points for the Volunteer certificate.

We have co-sponsored the Clinics at the EMRA, the Northern Alberta Railway Modellers Meet in Edmonton and we are looking to do the same in Calgary. This gives

the opportunity to receive points towards the Volunteer and Author certificates if you put on a clinic or I can create a Volunteer position under AP for these events. Prototype meets also give us an opportunity to meet modellers that are not in the AP program yet or maybe not even NMRA members.

What I am starting to see is members coming up to me and suggesting other members that have not been assessed. I would like to challenge **all members who have earned certificates** or Merit Awards to give me at least one name of someone we should be looking at by the end of the year. So if you know of any members that have layouts that do not have certificates for Electrical, Scenery or Civil, send me an email and we will get in contact with them. If they have done all that work why not get recognition for it. Paper looks good on any wall.

If you know of someone who is just starting to build show modules please offer help by encouraging them to incorporate what they need to get a Golden Spike for those modules.

I have also met so many new people that I am struggling with names so don't be surprised if it takes me a few minutes to figure out who you are and where we left off.

In this report I would like to go through Motive Power and kill 2 birds with one stone. **My notes are in red.**

Motive Power

First, let's define what is meant by "Motive Power": it is any type of steam, diesel, or electric locomotive, traction unit, maintenance vehicle, or other type of self-propelled vehicle that runs on rails. This includes everything from speeders to streetcars to Big Boys. It does not include things that are powered models of unpowered vehicles (like hand cars) or unpowered models of powered prototypes (like dummy locomotives). **Straight forward enough**

Contact your [Regional AP Manager](#) if you have a question about which category a particular model would fall into.

To qualify for the Master Builder - Motive Power certificate:

- 1) Build three scale models of railroad motive power, **one** of which must be scratchbuilt. Motive Power is defined

Number:	4145
Class:	GR17y
Model:	GP-9* *GMD special order lightweight version for branchline service.
Frame:	Built up from brass sheet and soldered. Athearn switcher truck frame mounts. Weight added.
Motor:	Machima with brass flywheels.
Drive:	Athearn motor couplings, trucks and gears.
Wheels:	40" polished nickel silver.
Fuel tank:	Athearn GP-7 cut down and weighted.
Body:	Athearn GP-7. Grabs, louvers, lift rings, fans, side skirts, Class lights, modified or removed. Fan openings filled with styrene.
Cooling fans:	Precision scale 48"
Handrails:	Brass 1/16 square and round rod. Shaped and soldered.
Roof pipe:	Brass rod.
Grab irons:	Details West.
Lift rings:	Details West.
Tail MU Stand:	Part self-drawn and 3Dprinted.
Sun visors:	Part self-drawn and 3Dprinted.
MU hoses:	Details Associates.
Couplers:	Kaydee #5.
Miniatures by Eric:	Bell, Horn, Antenna, Spark arrestors, Coupler pilots, Drop steps, Short mu stands, Brake wheel and stand, Headlights, Switcher side frames.

as a locomotive or a self-propelled vehicle. The other 2 can be super detailed. These super detailed models is where it gets a little sticky. A few grab irons will not cut it. You have to have done enough work to get some points under scratch building. Motive Power and Prototype Model are the only 2 categories where the paperwork has to be forwarded on. This is an example of what has to be done to a super detailed locomotive

I said I was going to kill 2 birds. So if you are going to build a bridge let's say, you have to show how much work you put in with other parts if the bridge is not completely scratch built.

I suppose you could pass with no points under scratch built but the rest of the categories would have to be exceptionally good to acquire enough points to pass.

The rest of this category is easy enough to understand.

To qualify as scratchbuilt, the motive power must contain the following scratchbuilt items as applicable:

Steam Locomotives: frame, boiler, cab, tender frame and body, either valve gear or main and side driving rods.

Other Motive Power: body, frame, cab, power truck side frame, pantograph or trolley poles where appropriate.

All models must be capable of self-propulsion on track of the same gauge as the model. Power trains for all models may be commercial motors and gears.

All models must be [super detailed](#) either with scratchbuilt parts or with commercial parts as defined in the [Definitions Section](#).

- The following parts are specifically excluded from the scratch built requirement.

- Motor
- Gears
- Drivers and wheels
- Couplers
- Light bulbs and electronics
- Trucks
- Paint, decals, etc.
- Bell
- Marker and classification lights
- Brake fittings
- Basic shapes of wood, plastic, metal, etc.

("Basic shapes are things that builders of the prototype would have used as raw materials. For example, an "I" beam would be a basic shape; a commercial door or window casting would not.)

- The term "scratch built" implies that the modeler has done all of the necessary layout and fabrication that produces the final dimensions, appearance, and operating qualities of the model.

This is a good statement of the intent and spirit of the 'scratch built' requirement. Notice that **it does not say that the use of a few commercial detail parts will disqualify the model as being "scratch built"**. In general, the same standard applies that is used in contest judging: "Completely Scratch built" means that 90% or more of the model by parts count was scratch built. (But you do need to scratch build the listed in requirement 1-A above.) Taking an existing model and modifying it to be a powered model is not considered "scratch building." Examples of this would be taking a

passenger car and converting it into a trolley, or a box car and converting it into a box-cab locomotive. These do not meet the definition or the spirit of the term "scratch built" given above.

2) Earn a Merit Award of at least 87.5 points with each of the three scale models of motive power either via an NMRA sponsored contest or AP Merit Award Evaluation.

3) You must submit a Statement of Qualification (SOQ, see below) which includes the following:

- An attachment giving a detailed description of each model, including:
 - Identification of all scratch built features
 - All commercial components used
 - Materials used in building the model
 - Copies of the plans you used to establish conformity are NOT required, but many people do submit them, and they are reviewed by the person evaluating the model for conformity.
- Verification of the Merit Awards (photocopies of the certificates)
- Photos of the model are helpful, but not required. **These really are required because I have to send them with your SOQ**

So if I have not confused you, that is good. If you are still unsure, send me a note. As they say about this category, the model doesn't have to be a 2-10-2. There are lots of much easier models to do like an EMD model 40, GE 40 ton, or some type of boxcab as examples. You may also find these easier to build in S or O scale. They do not have to pull a 40 car train but they do have to run under their own power and be able to navigate a switch. So, try not to overthink this category.

Area Reports

Regina – Echo Valley Railroad Guild – Doug Johnson

Recent months have seen a flurry of activity in Saskatchewan model railroad public shows. In addition to attending shows in Prince Albert in January and Saskatoon in February, the Echo Valley Free-Mo group was at the successful Moose Jaw show in March hosted by the Thunder Creek club. The Guild hosted Regina Railfest 2024 in April, the annual public show at the Caledonian Curling Club. The show was very successful, with layouts from Prince Albert, Saskatoon, Martensville, Swift Current, Melville, Moose Jaw, Winnipeg and Regina. The Guild's G scale group and Free-Mo group participated, and Free-Mo modellers from Calgary and Spokane were also present. Now the members can relax for awhile, enjoy the summer and prepare for fall shows at Winnipeg in September and Melville in October



Echo Valley Railroad Guild Free-mo Layout at Regina Railfest (photo by Rupert James)

Moose Jaw - Thunder Creek Model Railway Club – Al Howard

The Thunder Creek Model Railroad Club held its annual show March 23 and 24, 2024 at the Western Development Museum in Moose Jaw. Despite some last-minute cancellations due to icy road conditions to the north and west, we still had 30 exhibitors and vendors attend. Paid attendance was 1629, down slightly from our average. Overall, we consider the show to be a success although as usual we will be looking at ways we can improve it for next year. We want to take this opportunity to again thank the exhibitors and vendors who attended our show, and the Western Development Museum for providing the venue and services.



Photo 1: The People's Choice Award was again won by the Mexicali Grande layout



Photo 2: Thunder Creek Club layout at Regina Raillfest

We had 9 members attend the Regina Raillfest April 27 and 28, and we operated a 52 X 11 ft display. We want to thank the Echo Valley Club for hosting a most enjoyable event. While we had no official presence at the

SUPERTRAIN show in Calgary, several members attended as visitors.



Photo 3: The Modeler's Choice Award at the Moose Jaw Show was won by the Bow Valley Club of Calgary

Moose Jaw was also blessed with hosting the CPKC Royal Hudson, No. 2816, which stopped for a set of events on April 28. It departed in the morning of April 29 for Minot N.D. on its way to Mexico City.



Photo 4. CPKC No. 2816 shortly after arriving in Moose Jaw, April 28, 2024

The club meets every Tuesday evening at the Town & Country Mall in Moose Jaw. We are currently focusing on finalizing three new modules and we continue to find ways to improve our existing display. We operate our display at the Town & Country Mall every Friday and Saturday. Please contact webmaster1@tcmrc.org for more information on meeting times and logistics. Visitors are welcome!

Airdrie / Iron Horse Park – Greg Orme

Iron Horse Park will be opening for the 2024 Run Season on the 19 of this month. We are looking forward to another great season.

We held our 2024 Bunny Run on Saturday March 30th. It was our second annual Bunny Run at the park. The weather was cold and windy but still some 260 visitors showed up and 152 lbs. of food were collected with an estimated value of \$538. Ticket sales plus cash donations totaled \$475. The total value for the Food Bank amounted to \$1,013. Sincere thanks to all who participated in this worthwhile event.

Life Time Member Award

On Saturday 30th March, Alan Pile was made an AMES Life Member in recognition for his many years of service to our club. Alan was born in Kent, England and came to Canada at a young age with his parents. He joined AMES in 1998 after driving past the site during its early development days and became “hooked” as an engineer on our locomotives, especially AC4400 and CP 9508 where he was often featured in promotional photographs. His many achievements included terms as club President and Vice-President, AMES Interface with the City of Airdrie, grounds maintenance, and numerous volunteer stints as a Casino General Manager. In all his club activities, Alan always made safety his main priority.



AMES President Richard Banes presents Alan Pile with his Life Time Member Plaque



Time flies – SUPERTRAIN is over and Iron Horse Park’s 2024 Run-Day Season is fast approaching on Sunday May 19th. A big thank you to all the volunteers who are helping to get the park ready for opening.

SUPERTRAIN was held on Saturday and Sunday, April 20 AND 21, in the Calgary Genesis Centre with over 10,500 people attending this year’s event. Our

participation in the show was a great success with hundreds of people visiting our static display and participating in our free portable train track setup. Judging by the number of brochures handed out and guests using the portable track, a lot more people now know about Iron Horse Park and will come to visit us on open days. SUPERTRAIN is an excellent place to showcase AMES activities and Iron Horse Park.

As I have said in previous reports, there is never an end to the work required to keep things interesting and the trains running throughout the summer months at Iron Horse Park. So if you find yourself with some extra time on your hands, we are always looking for new members or volunteers to help out. If you would like to get involved we would be happy if you would consider joining us. Information is available on our Web site [Iron Horse Park - Public Pages](#).

Till next time Happy Railroading....

Saskatoon – Roger deWeerd

Here is an update from Prairie Rail Workshop in Saskatoon. It has been a busy winter season for us with shows Prince Albert in January, our own All Aboard Train Show in February, Moose Jaw in March, Calgary and Regina in April. Now our HO layout is setup in our clubhouse again and we are going to do some maintenance and upgrades to it. The N scale is set up and operating with work being done on the steel mill and other modules.

Our All Aboard Train Show went well this year, attendance was similar to last year approximately 4500 people came through. New this year for us was the venue, we moved from the Western Development Museum to Prairie Land Exhibition Grounds, the space was great with lots of room to expand and the load in and out was easy for all the participants. We are there again in 2025 for our 40th anniversary All Aboard Train

Show. We are starting on the planning for that now. We hope to see many of you there.

Other upcoming events for us over the next few months, we are looking to provide clinics at our clubhouse on various model railroading, general modelling and prototype railroading topics. Watch our FaceBook page and website for details. Also coming up is our fall swap meet in October again watch our FaceBook page for details. Mark your calendars for the All Aboard Train Show Feb 15 and 16, 2025, and plan on attending.

The Saskatchewan Railway Museum will be having its annual Railway Heritage Day on Monday August 5. There will be caboose rides, mini live steam train, food truck and more. We are also planning to run the live steam mini train on July 1. (per Cal Sexsmith)

Edmonton – Peter Ulvestad

The MMRF Spring Swap Meet was well attended on April 6, 2024 at the Central Lions Seniors Recreation Centre. The Northern Alberta Railway Modellers Meet was held at the same location in the afternoon.

The Edmonton Model Railroad Association (EMRA) regularly host group tours. While these groups are normally Cubs and Scouts, in February we hosted a group of seniors from Emmanuel Home. The group was given a tour and then had an opportunity to run some trains. Work on the expansion is complete and we are currently refinishing the old lounge on the south side including A/C. With the opening of Fort Edmonton on the Victoria Day long weekend, we hope to again have viewing window on the north side as well as continued viewing on the south. May 4th was another OOpS, while mostly local attendees, we did have a couple gentlemen drive up from Calgary for this operating session.

All modellers have been invited to attend the MMRF's annual summer barbecue, the "Train Spotting BBQ". It's on **Friday, June 28**, running from 4 PM to 10 PM.

Again at the **Deville - North Cooking Lake Community Hall**, 21033 Wye Road (that's 20 km east of the Highway 21 & Wye Road intersection).

If the weather is poor (let's hope not), there is a lovely hall for shelter. Burgers, hotdogs and PG refreshments are provided free of cost so all you need to bring is

your lawn chair and camera. Your significant other and children are also welcome to attend.

The Mainline Model Railroaders Fellowship (MMRF) is the group that organizes the Greater Edmonton Train Show and the MMRF Swap meets.

<https://www.mmrf.ab.ca/>

The MMRF is always welcoming new members. If you would like to actively participating in GETS the Swap meets or other events, concern joining.



Al Matchett of Calgary is busy with a handful of paperwork as he switches a way freight on the Monashee Pacific during the May 4 OOpS. (photo by Rob Badmington)

Calgary – Dale Sproule

CMT continues to attract new members. We have probably 6-8 new members in the last 2 months, mostly younger but full of interest and a pleasure to have them around. We had our annual elections on May 1 and our President reported membership now exceeds 40 members, a sign of a healthy club in fact in some cases more than one person ran for a position on our executive. The highlight of the May meeting was our first ever “show-and-tell” idea that was promoted over the last 6 months. There were at least 8 members sharing their projects that are not necessarily railroad related to entice more members to bring their stuff. We saw items ranging from model railroad structures, electronics, large-scale Lego trains, scale military models, wargaming models, hand-painted graffiti and detailing of Canadian grain cars. It was a really fun session, and despite being a long meeting, it was a great opportunity to learn of all these talents and interests and get to see different sides of those who shared their projects. Members want this idea repeated so it may become an annual event, probably not more than once a year. Notice to other groups: here is something you could start inside your own organization.

2816: Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC) hosted an Open House on April 24 at their Ogden HQ Campus for the public to view the Empress steam engine before it departed with a train bound for Mexico two days later, celebrating the \$31 billion acquisition of Kansas City Southern. The train will make 11 stops across the CPKC network before ending up in Mexico City. The return trip takes a different route through Winnipeg, dates unknown. Reliable sources say that a crowd from Winnipeg drove

West for some Railfanning and report idiots on the roads. Naturally many want to take pictures of the train in motion but the seasoned railfans do not “chase” trains, they go ahead and pick a spot and wait for the train to pass instead of chasing the train so they do not get caught up with other dangerous drivers on the highway trying to get their “perfect shot”.

The Empress 2816 is a 4-6-4 Hudson-type steam locomotive built in 1930.

SUPERTRAIN REPORT : It was noted in our May Business meeting that CMT had the most operators of any group manning our display. I counted 11 green shirts inside the display and 3 more circling for crowd control. A couple of personal observations: Former owner Hal Kinsey of Central Hobbies in Vancouver was in attendance helping the new owners of Intercity Trains and Hobbies from Langley, BC who bought out Hal in June 2023 and admitted that they have not been part of a big show before. They were impressed! There was even a vendor named Maple Leaf Trains from Israel in attendance. Wow!

Total public attendance over the two day show was of 10,573 including both adults and children. This is down from last year by about 1,000. Still, it was a very successful show with more than 100 different exhibits, layouts, and commercial entries.



We had our first prototype meet on April 6, 2024 in conjunction with the MMRF (Mainline Model Railroaders Fellowship) Spring Swap Meet in Edmonton. The meet was sponsored by The Train Exchange, Signalogic Systems, and the PNR 6th Div AP program.

We had 10 modellers bring items for the “Show and Tell” which included Merit award models all the way to models under construction as well as a large CN ship to HO scale farm equipment. See pictures below.

There were 3 clinics. All the clinics were received well. We had 24 register for the event.

I would like to thank Brian Stokes for chairing this event. He did an amazing job!

Doug Burton PNR Div 6 AP Chair

Photos from the Northern Alberta Railway Modellers Meet – Doug Burton



Photos from the Regina Railfest - photos by Greg King



The farmstead scene is by Jeff Betcher and the abandoned building is by Malcolm Anderson





Make tracks to Drumheller June 21-23 for the 6th Div Spring Meet! We will be spending the weekend in the Badlands, an area with railroading character and history as unique as the landscape around it. Drumheller is of course also a tourist hot spot, with lots for the family to see and do while you partake in the meet.

Registration is open online, or by filling out the form in this issue of Highball!. Visit the convention website at <https://dinotracks2024.ca/>. Follow the link, create an account, and register today.

Friday Social:

We kick off on Friday evening with registration and a drop-in social meet and greet.

Banquet and Guest Speaker:

The banquet on Saturday evening will feature guest speaker Les Kozma. Les has published four books and over 100 articles on railway history and is perhaps best known for his books on western Canadian railway stations. The banquet is just \$40 and once again we will have our ever-popular silent auction.

Clinics:

DinoTracks will feature a great lineup of clinics on Saturday and Sunday morning on a variety of topics, including:

- Jason Blanke on Drumheller's rails-to-trails initiative
- Paul Clegg "Railroad Engineering 101"
- Doug Burton, MMR "Building Models" and "Tools that I Use"
- Cal Sexsmith "Using Spread Sheets to design your model railroad and plan operations"
- Brian Stokes "Lessons learned from designing the Columbia & Western 2.0"
- Fred Headon, MMR "Grade Crossings I have known"
- Bob Lucas "Build Your Own Speedometer"
- Kevin Rudko (topic to be confirmed)

Public Show:

To help grow the hobby, DinoTracks is supporting a train show on both Saturday and Sunday with at least 5 layouts confirmed so far. The show has grown to take over all three meeting halls of the centre. Entry to the show is included with your DinoTracks registration.

Hotels:

June is a busy time in Drumheller and the start of tourist season. Book your hotel today to ensure you get a room.

Our host hotel for the weekend is the **Canalta Jurassic Hotel**. The room rate for DinoTracks is \$197.10 per night and includes a buffet breakfast and free wifi. Use code Dino tracks 24 for the discount.

Phone: 1-403-823-7700

We have three other hotel options in the area:

- Ramada Inn \$260.10 a night (use code Dino Tracks)
- The Quality Hotel \$155.00/single or \$175.00/two queen
- Travelodge \$135.00 per night includes breakfast

There are also many other options in town in the \$110-120 range and several campgrounds and RV parks. Book early though as this is tourist season and spaces fill up fast.

Prototype Tours:

We are confirming several prototype, self-guided tours for the meet and more details will be coming soon on the website. Planned tours include:

- Rosedale grain elevator
- Star Mine and suspension bridge
- Atlas Coal Mine National Historic Site
- Wayne, the Last Chance Saloon, and 11 Bridges

AP and displays:

AP assessments, advice, and feedback will be available as well as a “Celebration” display room where you can show off your favourite models, photos, or railway memorabilia.

Best of all of course will be the camaraderie of a weekend with your fellow 6th Division model railroaders and their families!

Details on tours, the schedule, and more will be announced in the coming weeks. Check back at dinotracks2024.ca and watch your inbox for more information coming soon.

Looking forward to seeing you in Drumheller!

Preliminary Schedule:

Friday:	Saturday:	Sunday:
5:00pm-9:00pm <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meet and Greet• Registration	8:00am-10:00 am <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Registration	9:00am-12:00pm <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clinics
	9:00am-12:00pm <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clinics	12:00-1:30pm <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lunch Break
	12:00-1:30pm <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lunch break	1:30pm-4:00 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public Show• Prototype Tours
	1:30-5:00pm <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prototype Tours	
	5:00-6:00pm <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cocktail Hour	
	6:00-9:00pm <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Banquet• Guest Speaker• Raffle	

For those that prefer to register the old-fashioned way, please print out and fill in the following form.

Mail to: **Lynn Molenkamp**
13852 110A Ave
Edmonton, AB
T5M 2M9

Make cheques payable to **Dino Tracks 2024**



DINO TRACKS 2024

Name:
Email:
NMRA #:

Registration (\$40.00/person):		\$
Banquet (\$45.00/Person):		\$
Do you have any dietary restrictions?		
Meet and Greet (\$0/Person):	please RSVP	

TOTAL:		\$
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Alberta Passenger Rail Study – Dave Halliday

Calgary -- The Alberta government announced April 29 that it plans to develop a 15-year passenger rail master plan for the province.

The plan could include a Crown corporation similar to Metrolinx in Ontario. The provincial rail network would include commuter rail for Calgary and Edmonton, rail links to the international airports and the mountain parks and rail connections among Alberta's cities.

The government has set aside \$9 million in its 2024 budget for a feasibility study of the rail network plan. The government is also looking for proposals for a company that could bring the vision to life.

"Alberta already has significant public mass transit systems in Calgary and Edmonton for the provincial passenger rail system to build upon," Premier Danielle Smith told the news conference announcing the plan at Heritage Park. "The Master Plan will be a vital tool to guide the province on the next steps in advancing passenger rail."

A major hurdle in building a passenger rail network is what roadbeds will be used. VIA Rail shares the rails with CN in western Canada, but VIA's trains often sit waiting on sidings while freight trains take priority.

"Any proposal to co-locate passenger service in freight corridors must demonstrate the ability to preserve the freight rail capacity required to move goods in support of the province's economy, today and tomorrow," said Marc Brazeau, president and CEO of the Railway Association of Canada. "Rail is the greenest mode of ground transportation for both people and goods."

Acquiring dedicated rights-of-way for passenger rail would guarantee the most efficient movement of passenger trains, but could be extremely expensive.

The Alberta government says the Master Plan will take into account future growth, planning for the growing provincial population and considering the use of hydrogen-powered trains to ensure a robust and effective passenger rail system to serve Albertans for years to come.

The Itch I Had To Scratch - Dennis Dreher

Alberta Midland Railroad has four new cars added to the fleet. All scratch built, the Express Milk # 12 car carries milk and cream daily to the creamery in Olds, then returning that afternoon with empty milk or cream cans to Camrose.





Well, the fleet is still growing with two more scratch built cars, the Block or Slab car and the Old Time Work Crane. These two cars are for MOW and have a unique purpose. Both are wood construction and have operating hinge doors. The challenge to build a set of hinges small and durable that worked and would pass as HO parts. Block car is used near the lumber mill and small pieces of wood cutoffs and blocks of wood are thrown in the car. With the door hinge opened a worker may unload the woods with ease. The Work crane, although small, is said it could lift a 2-ton steam locomotive because of its dual winch drum and double blocks system. It too has working tools hinge doors. The tool shed holds most tools the crane, jacks, cable, rope, lumber saw, axe just to name a few that it might need for an operation.





Last is the CN Gondola. It features a wood bottom and sides with real dents. This was achieved by heating up a thin copper sheet red hot and then let it cool down. The makes the copper soft and easy to scribe with a dull pencil mark tip. The side ribs were laser cut on a laser board.



That completes my scratch-built cars for now. Time to enjoy the operation part of my journey.

Upcoming Events in and near the 6th Division

See all the PNR events and our most recent additions at www.pnr.nmra.org

May 22-26, (Wed-Sun), Surrey, BC

2024 Surrey Excursion PNR Convention at the Sheraton Guildford Hotel. <http://pnr2024.7divpnr.ca/>

June 21-23, (Fri-Sun), Drumheller, AB

Dino Tracks 2024, the 6th Division Spring Meet. Clinics, prototype tour, banquet with guest speaker, and much more. Hotels, schedule, and further info at: <https://dinotracks2024.ca/>

Sept 14-15, (Sat-Sun), Sherwood Park, AB

2024 Greater Edmonton Model Train Show, Millennium Place, 2000 Premier Way in Sherwood Park. Two soccer fields of model railroading fun. Activities for the whole family including the LEGO Activity Centre Info: - www.mmrf.ab.ca email: trainshow@mmrf.ab.ca

August 5, (Mon), Saskatoon, SK

Saskatchewan Railway Museum will be having its annual **Railway Heritage Day**. There will be caboose rides, mini live steam train, food truck and more.

Sept 14-15, (Sat-Sun), Calgary, AB

Heritage Park's Railway Days. 10 am to 5 pm. The extraordinary rail collection takes centre stage for two days with demonstrations, hands-on activities, and exciting exhibits. Regular park admission prices.

Sept 27-29, (Fri-Sun), Edmonton, AB

Northern Rails 2024 - Operations Weekend - For further information please visit our website at <https://northernrails.ca> or contact us at info@northernrails.ca

Oct 6 (Sun), Edmonton, AB

Edmonton Model Railroad Association Open House, Fort Edmonton. 10:00am – 5:00pm

Oct 19 (Sat), Edmonton, AB

MMRF Fall Swap Meet: Central Lion's Senior Citizens Recreation Centre 11113 113 St. Open for vendors set-up at 10 AM, and for the public at 11 AM and running until 3 PM. Admission: Adults - \$5.00, Youth (age 6 - 16) - \$3.00. Vendor table reservations starting in September (likely). www.mmrf.ab.ca Info:- Ric Francoeur, swapmeet@mmrf.ca 780-458-1032

Oct 19, (Sat), Calgary, AB

43rd Annual Boomer Auction, Sponsored by South Bank Short Lines, (www.sbsltrains.ca) St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, 703 Heritage Dr. SW. Setup and viewing 08:30am, dining car opens 09:30 am, auction starts at 10:00am.

Oct 20, (Sun) Calgary, AB

CMRS Fall Mini Meet and AGM, Clinics, Show & Tell. More information at [The Calgary Model Railway Society](http://TheCalgaryModelRailwaySociety)

Feb 15-16, 2025 (Sat-Sun), Saskatoon SK

The Annual All Aboard Model Train Show will be held at The World Trade Centre at Prairieland Park, 803 Ruth Street E in Saskatoon. If you would like to participate or for any other information please email us at allaboardtrainshow@gmail.com .
