

Highball!

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION 6TH DIVISION PNR

March 2026



Ruphe and Tumbelle No. 26 leads a short freight train through the community of Tumbelle on Rick Reimer's On30 masterpiece. Rick has combined superdetailing with scenic artistry to amaze visitors around every turn of this compact layout. (Rob Badmington photo)

Officers of the 6th Division

Elected Officers

Superintendent: Ed Molenkamp
Phone: 780-886-8116
Email: 6divsuper@pnr.nmra.org

Assistant Superintendent: Rick Astle
Phone: 403-507-3314
Email: 6divasstsuper@pnr.nmra.org

Appointed Officers

Secretary: Doug Johnson
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Treasurer: Rick Walker
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A.P. Vice-Chair: Dennis Dreher, MMR
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Convention Coordinator:
volunteer today!

Layout Design / Operations: Cal Sexsmith
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Webmaster: Peter Ulvestad
Email: webmaster@pnr.nmra.org

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

Spring greetings to all of you in the Division

This is an election year for the positions of Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent. Ron Coburn and Doug Hunter are both on the nominating committee.

The Show Season has started again. We had a booth at the Saskatoon Show last month. It was very well received with lots of interest in the "Heartland Express" Convention to be held in Fort Saskatchewan in June. Please see the Convention Report later in this issue for more details.

Looking forward to SUPERTRAIN in Calgary later this spring. Make sure you stop by my booth to say hi and show your support for the Division.

Also, there is an upcoming Swap Meet in Edmonton. You never know what kind of treasures you might find that you have been searching for.

Please stay tuned for more updates on various events by email and the Highball!

Assistant Superintendent's Report – Rick Astle

I continue with events in Didsbury and Olds although the recent loss of my wife and a cancer diagnosis has occupied the bulk of my time since the beginning of January. With estate and treatment plans now well in hand I hope to get back into the swing of things this spring.

Remember your division officers and volunteers are here for NMRA and 6th Division members in particular. I want to help you in any way I can. Please reach out; I

don't know what you need or want without some form of dialogue.

Remember we are NMRA and we can make it better by being there to help each other or even one budding model railroader. Looking forward to the division meet Heartland Express June 5-7 in Fort Saskatchewan

See you at the next stop, Rick
6divasstsuper@pnr.nmra.org

From the Editor – Rob Badmington

This issue of Highball! is a little late in coming out as I wanted to wait to include as much information as possible about our upcoming 6th Division Spring Meet, the Heartland Express.

For me personally, this is a very busy time of the year as I lead the SUPERTRAIN Committee through the final few weeks of preparations before the big show. This year will

be a record breaker in terms of the number of exhibits (120) and space (75,000 square feet). I hope to see you at the show.

As always, I am very grateful for the many reports, articles, and photos that are sent to me for each issue. Please send contributions for upcoming issues anytime.

Looking forward to a very busy model railroad spring!

Heartland Express 2026 Spring Meet – Ed Molenkamp & Thomas Speedie, Co-Chairs

The “Heartland Express” Convention is scheduled for June 5-7, 2026 in Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta. The Yellowhead Rail Club and the 6th Division are running this Convention. The host hotel has committed to a \$99/night rate. There will be a Meet and Greet Social on the Friday night at the Alberta Railway Museum. A full slate of clinics and layout tours are on the itinerary, and we are working on a prototype tour as well.

If you would like to present a clinic at the meet, please contact Clinic Coordinator Brian Stokes at bstokesndp@gmail.com.

The guest speaker will be Jarry Willner and he will be speaking on his 35+ years of working in elevators in the Saskatchewan area. The Heartland Express website <http://www.Heartlandexpressmra.ca> is now live with more specific information added regularly so watch for updates.

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

No report this issue. .

Area Reports

Moose Jaw - Thunder Creek Model Railway Club – Al Howard

The Thunder Creek Model Railway Club continues to plan and prepare for our Annual Show. Our 2026 show will be held Nov 7 and 8, 2026 at the Moose Jaw Exhibition Convention Centre. Being a change from our usual time and venue; this has required a more thorough degree of planning than in the past. We are most grateful to the Prairie Rail Workshop (Saskatoon) and Rocky Ridge Model Railroad Club (Martensville SK) for their support and guidance, as we plan through some unfamiliar territory. We expect to have invitations for registration circulated before June.

Our club sent 9 members along with a 52 ft operational display to the 2026 All Aboard Train Show in Saskatoon, Feb 15 & 16. Our display drew considerable favourable interest from both the public and modellers alike.



The Thunder Creek Model Railroad Club's 52 ft. operational display at the All Aboard Train Show, Feb 15, 2026.

Our club continues to operate every Friday & Saturday in unit 125 at the Town and Country Mall located at 1235 Main Street North in Moose Jaw. We have an operating HO display plus a static N Scale display as well as several other items of interest. Operating sessions are open to the public at no charge.

Regina – Echo Valley Railroad Guild – Doug Johnson

Club members have been active so far in 2026. Members of the Free-Mo group attended the Saskatoon All Aboard show in February and they were very pleased to receive the Best of Show award. The show was in an excellent venue, was well attended and appeared to be very successful.

Unfortunately, because of a conflict in dates, the club has cancelled the annual Regina Railfest show this year. In its place, club members will be setting up the Free-Mo layout in the Victoria Square mall in Regina from April 12 to April 26. We were in the mall for two weeks in November 2025, and due to popular demand the mall is pleased to host us there again.

Olds - Didsbury - Carstairs - Rick Astle

The Mountain View Model Railroad Club has had a very quiet fall and winter with the Didsbury Museum closed to the public on weekends due to a boiler failure.

The museum has a new boiler which is now installed and operational. We are returning to our regular schedule as of February 14, 2026.

The web site has been updated with new schedule. Please visit www.mvmrc.ca to check our schedule and watch for the updated pages in the near future.

I can be contacted by email at ve6rla@gmail.com or by phone at 403.507.3314 daily.

Saskatoon – Roger deWeerd

Greetings from Prairie Rail Workshop. We have been very busy supporting the All Aboard Train Show held on February 14 and 15; a huge thank you to all those who participated in the show contributing to its success. We had 25 new participants this year including vendors, manufacturers and displays. Hall D at Prairieland Park was full. Approximately 3800 people come through the doors to see the layouts and products on display. Participants came from all over Western Canada to be part of our show. Mark your calendars as the All Aboard Train Show will be February 6 and 7, 2027.

Mervin Rempel shared some photos he took at the All Aboard show.

building N Scale T Trak modules. If you find yourself in Saskatoon come visit us at our club house 103 3rd Ave N downtown, Thursday from 6 to 9 PM and Sunday from 1 to 5 PM. Come in and visit the members and view the N Scale and HO scale layouts plus see the T Trak modules.



A steam engine and 4 passenger cars are on a private family On30 layout out of Saskatoon.

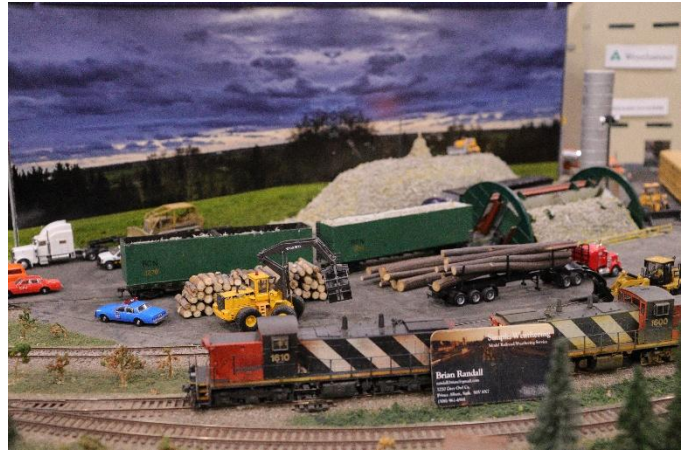
Work is continuing on the new N Scale modules for the N Scale layout. We are also growing in the T Trak as we have some members doing an HO Scale T Trak and others



One of the T-Trak modules from the T-Trak group in Saskatoon.



A layout out of Martensville Sask has a large yard with a Kentucky Fried Chicken store nearby.



A pair of GMD-1 is on a layout out of Prince Albert with the paper mill module.

Edmonton – Peter Ulvestad

Mainline Model Railroaders Fellowship (MMRF)

Plans are underway for the 2026 Greater Edmonton Train Show to be held on October 3rd and 4th of 2026 (note the change of date) at the Expo Centre. The MMRF Spring Swap Meet will be held on April 4, 2026.

Edmonton Model Railroad Association

2026 marks the EMRA's 80th Anniversary. Plans are being made for a small celebration at the Fort Edmonton freight shed around mid-August. If you are a former member or know of a former member who might like to participate, please email info@emra.club.



The EMRA website is being completely reworked. The public page is now active at <http://www.emra.club/> but we do expect more minor updates to it. The members page rework is still underway.

Design for the layout expansion continues. The footprint and rough mainline has been decided. There were 2 sets of markings on the floor (black and red) outlining 2 possible footprints with some mock-ups to help members visualize the space, red one ultimately being chosen. The chosen footprint will allow most if not all of the expansion to be built before being tied into the existing layout. The next

step is to finalize the track design and determining the material needed so we can start accumulating and ordering stuff that may have long lead times. Other current projects include redoing the Vernon hillside (one section left to complete) and structure construction for Tadanac Yard.(Trail).



January 13th, members gather around several mock-ups discussing design prior to voting on the footprint.

Lethbridge – Ken Rogers

The Southern Alberta Model Railway Club has their Spring Open House coming up March 21 and 22 from 1100 to 1600 both days, located in Gyro Park in Lethbridge at 1420 10a Ave. S. Our semi-annual general meeting was held March 10.



Other club news includes recent work with lots of involvement from our youth members on the yard area in the newer Port wing of our HO scale layout. The photos show ballast, scenery, and structure work completed in the last few months. HO scale layout supervisor Bob Wallace has developed a monthly schedule that rotates weekly focus among formal operations, open running, and work party nights. For the remainder of this spring, we are looking forward to several monthly electronics mini-clinics offered by club

member Dale Gloer. N scale supervisor Simon Apperloo has been working on developing a new theme proposal and track plan to potentially replace or update our current N scale layout and our N scalers are keen to start work on that project.



Calgary – Dale Sproule

The Calgary Model Trainmen's Club again offered our annual Christmas run, a chance to have visitors see the CMT layout merge with FREE-MO modules for 8 days between December 21, 2025-January 3, 2026.

CMT held our 2nd annual "SHOW AND TELL" evening where members were encouraged to bring something they are working on. We all profess to be proud of what we are working on so why not show others? This year nine members brought items, up from 6 in the first year. Some members are making their own decals, another brought a Calgary C-Train made from LEGO and it was motorized too! Seems that 3D printing is all the rage and there was no shortage of offerings shown.

The Calgary Model Railway Society (CMRS) is always busy. They held their semi-annual mini meet in September with clinics and the AGM. CMRS had their

own show and tell at the Fall Mini meet, photos can be found at: <https://www.calgarymodelrailway.ca/>.

CMRS hosted its annual photo night in November. CMRS then held their annual home layout tour in February. This year there were 12 layouts, 5 on Saturday, 7 on Sunday. There was a nice mixture of N scale, HO, On30 and two O scale layouts. The range of layouts is widespread from Okotoks to North Calgary. Cameras were clicking away, questions were being asked of layout hosts, and first time visitors marvelled at the detail of our hobby. A quick view of visitor books showed an average of 30 visitors per layout as of 2 pm each day. Some layouts showed an obvious change from the last time the layout was on tour, one layout is being dismantled, the owner moving to Montreal so there is a lesson here, visit the layout while you can.

Atlas Mine –Malcolm Anderson

The photos show the Atlas coal mine near Drumheller AB. Nicely preserved and open summers for public tours. Doug Johnson and I toured it during the great 2024 6th Div meet. I decided on modeling it in HO scale circa late 1930's so I chose natural cherry wood to give the unpainted structure a nice sun-baked patina. A large complex, I reduced it a bit to fit on a reasonably sized free-mo module. The photos show the as-yet incomplete model. It will be shown on our award winning free-mo layout at our upcoming show next month at Victoria Square Mall.

Nothing like a short deadline to motivate one into action! (photos by Doug Johnson)



Willow Creek Harbour Branch – Modelling by Doug Johnson and Duane Cookson

Doug sent three photos of the new Willow Creek Harbour Branch of his HOn3 Alice Arm Railway.



Car Forwarding - Part 1 – Cal Sexsmith

INTRODUCTION

Car forwarding is any scheme used to direct the movement of freight cars during an operating session. Depending on the operating plan, car forwarding may also be used for passenger cars.

Car forwarding can be divided into two main types: waybills and switch lists. Sometimes an operating scheme will use both, as does the prototype. In modelling waybills and switch lists can be generated either manually or by computer.

Waybills: In the prototype, a waybill is a legal document. The waybill will include the reporting marks, the shipper and origin, the consignee and destination, the routing, the commodity, the freight charges, and any special instructions. In model railroading waybills are simulated using car cards or tabs on cars.

Switch Lists: The conductor will make a switchlist from the information on the waybills for his train. Likewise, the yard master will make a switchlist for each track in his yard. Sometimes a station agent will make a switchlist for cars in his town. The switchlist will be used by the train crew to switch the train or the yard. During a train run or during a shift at a yard many switchlists may be written. In model railroading a switchlist may be created by a computer program or written manually either before or during a session.

EARLY CAR CARDS

Model railroaders generally simulate waybills using some form of car card. Frank Ellison developed one of the earliest car card systems in the 1940s. Initially he made a 3x5 index card for every car and described the car on the card. In addition to the car's reporting mark and type he also included car maintenance information. In order to use the cards as waybills, he listed two letter codes for each station on the top of the card and slid a tab to the car's destination code. This information got the car to the right town, but not to a specific spot. If there were multiple spots, he wrote the specific spot or industry name on a small piece of card stock and clipped it to the card with a paper clip. See Figure #1.

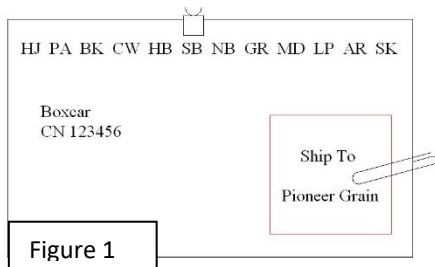


Figure 1

Gerald Dyer developed a system in the early 1950s that also used a 3x5 card with the car description across the top. A list of destinations for the car, in a logical order, was also listed on the card. A paper clip then signified where the car was to go next. A modification to this system that many still use, eliminates the paperclip and when a car is delivered to a destination a checkmark or "X" is written beside the destination and the car is then shipped to the next destination. If the cards are laminated and dry erase markers used, the checkmarks can be erased when the card is full. See Figure #2.

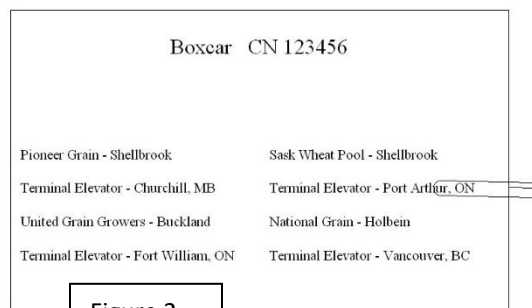


Figure 2

Francis Adams in the late 1950s developed a system that was shipper orientated, not car orientated. He made up shipper cards that included details of a specific shipment: what it was, where it was coming from, where it was going to, and routing. This is similar to the information found on a prototypical waybill. He would assign a car to a particular shipment by clipping a small piece

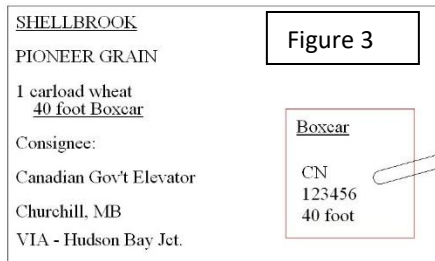


Figure 3

of cardstock with the car's reporting marks to the shipment card. See Figure #3.

Paul Larson, then editor of Model Railroader, liked the Adam's system and modified it by combining the Ellison car card with the Adam's shipment card by clipping the two cards together.

Ed Ravenscroft and John Allen both decided that the cars should carry the waybills in the form of thumb tacks or tabs on top of the cars that show the

destination generally as a colour for the town and an alpha-numeric code for the specific spot.

CAR CARDS AND WAYBILLS

The genesis of the now common car card and waybill system was developed by Don Peck and Doug Smith and written up in the December 1961 Model Railroader. Because Doug Smith wrote the article it is often called the Doug Smith system. Allen McLelland further refined this system, and it was the subject of an article by Steve King in the February 1978 Railroad Model Craftsman.

Peck & Smith investigated several existing card systems before developing their own. They disliked the intervention required by Yardmasters and Trainmasters in the Ellison system. They disliked the lock-step progression that cars followed in the Dyer system. They disliked systems that used dice, roulette wheels etc. They really disliked paper clips as they got caught on the paperwork.

The liked the detailed car information of the Ellison system and the detailed shipper information of the Adams system. They tried to develop a system using the best of these two systems.

A 3 x 5 index card is prepared for each car. Car type, reporting marks and other information is written on the left side of the card. Empty car handling information is written on the right side of the card. i.e. "EMPTY CAR RETURN TO YARD" or "WHEN EMPTY RETURN TO PGE AGENT PRINCE GEORGE BC". The empty car instructions are covered with a clear plastic pocket. See Figure #4.

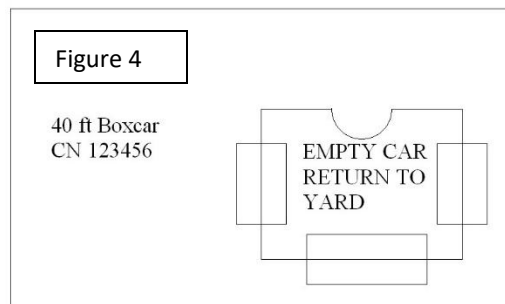


Figure 4

Small waybill cards are prepared for each industry spot. The cards are slightly narrower and slightly taller than the plastic pocket. One side of the card has shipper information, the other consignee information. See Figure #5.

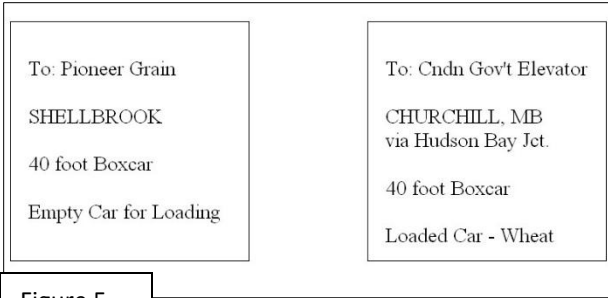


Figure 5

The waybill cards are matched with suitable car cards to form a waybill. Initially the side of the waybill with shipper information is displayed so the car can be moved to the shipper for loading. Once the car is loaded the waybill is flipped to show the consignee information showing so the car can be moved to the consignee. Once the car is unloaded it is

handled according to the empty car instructions or another suitable waybill card is inserted. See Figure #6.

The most significant change to car cards and waybills has been to replace the car card with an envelope that is cut down to expose the top of the waybill inserted into the envelope. Micro-Mark sells car envelopes and waybills. You can also make your own. I have used cut down key envelopes from a stationary store for the cars and 3x5 index cards for the waybills. Figure #7 shows the envelope and waybill separated and figure #8 shows the waybill inserted into the envelope.

Many modellers now have four destinations on each waybill with two on each side of the card so that only one of the four is visible at one time. It is also possible to have waybills with one, two or three destinations or to place multiple waybills in each envelope.

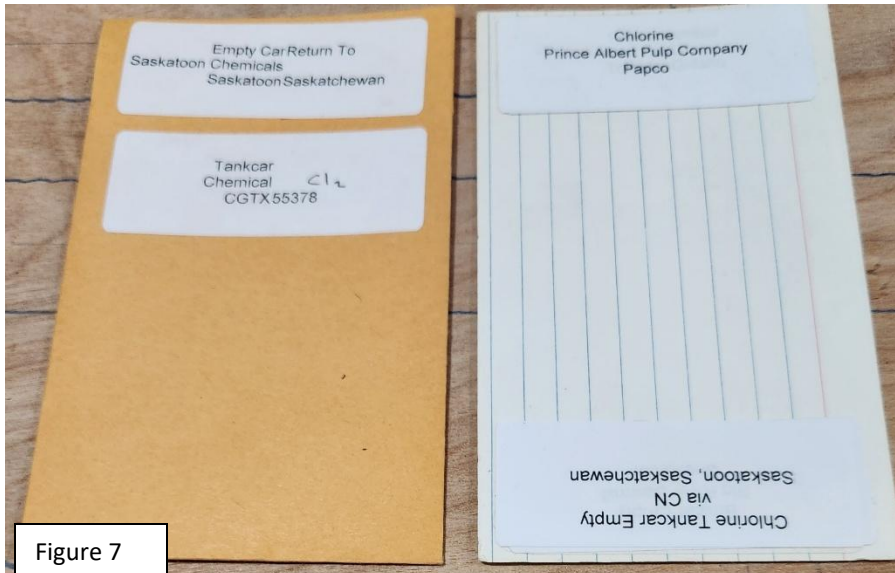
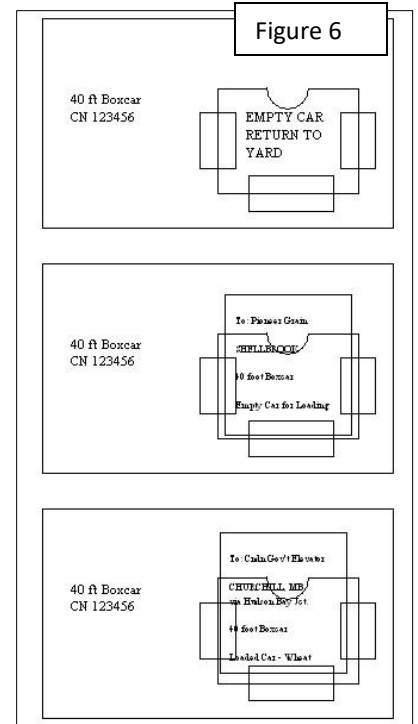


Figure 7

PROTOTYPICAL WAYBILLS

Tony Thompson has been an advocate for using waybills that resemble the prototype. He has written on this at length on his blog

<http://modelingthesp.blogspot.com> so I won't go into great detail in this article. In short, what he does is to make one or more waybills for each car using the same format as the prototype. Care needs to be taken that only one waybill for each car is active at any given time. He keeps the waybills in transparent sports card sleeves. In some cases he has two piece overlay waybills where a taller piece has the car reporting marks on top and a shorter piece with the destination and routing information is placed in front so that both the reporting marks and the destination information is visible.

NEXT TIME

In my next installment I will show how to operate using car cards and waybills.

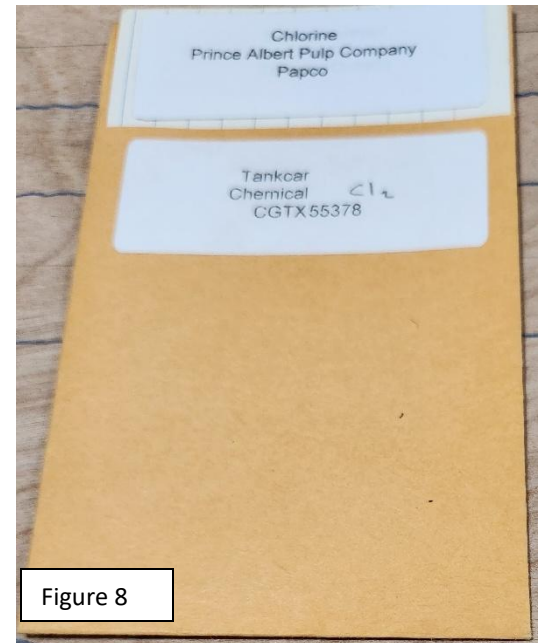


Figure 8



Alan Hough of Calgary has almost finished scratchbuilding a Burro Crane from brass in O scale. The model features dozens of hand-crafted parts and hundreds of simulated rivets. A few cables and a nice paint job will complete the project. (photo by Rob Badmington)



RMMBC 2026 Save the Dates

The 2026 Railway Modellers Meet of British Columbia

Online: Apr 30, May 14

In-Person: May 22-24

We invite all railway modellers to join us and extend a special invitation to our friends in Division 6. Your past participation has helped make RMMBC the success that it is.

RMMBC 26 will have your favourite activities and a few new surprises.

- A full program of **Model and Prototype Clinics**
- Two half-days of **Operating Sessions**
- An evening of **Layout Tours**
- **Model Displays and Table-Top Clinics** throughout
- **Discussion Groups** for getting to know your fellow modellers
- Come and meet some of BC's model railroad **Manufacturers**

Online Prologue Apr 30 and May 14 (Thursday Evenings)

Don't miss our series of virtual (Zoom) clinics. Free by donation.

Check out our new website and look for registration information

<https://railwaymodellersmeetofbc.ca/wp/>

Sign up for the RMMBC newsletter:

<https://railwaymodellersmeetofbc.ca/wp/sign-up-for-our-newsletter/>

MODEL TRAIN FLEA MARKET!

Brought to you by the

Calgary Model Trainmen

Plus

Calgary Model Railroad Society Mini-Meet & Clinics!

Sunday May 3rd, 2026

9-Noon: Flea Market (open to all with admission)

For CMRS members: clinics at 10, 11 and after 1

Lunch at noon (CMRS memberships available at event)

At the Glenmore Inn & Convention Ctr

Admission:

CMRS members Free

Non-members \$5.00

Children 12-and-under are free!

Free parking

Buy your CMRS membership – only \$20 per year

VENDOR TABLES: \$25.00 each (8'x2') paid in advance by e-transfer

Half tables \$15 and extra tables available.

Room for over 40 tables!

To book Flea Market tables or for info, contact:

calgarymodeltrainmenclub@gmail.com

Upcoming Events in and near the 6th Division

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



April 4 (Sat), Edmonton, AB

[MMRF Spring Swap Meet - 2026](#)

Central Lions Seniors Recreation Centre, 11113 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta
11 AM - 2 PM. Free parking in rear.

More information to come at <https://www.mmrf.ab.ca>

April 25-26, 2026 (Sat-Sun), Calgary, AB



SUPERTRAIN

SUPERTRAIN 2026, Canada's Largest Model Train Show. 9 AM to 5 PM both days. Olympic Oval at the University of Calgary campus, Calgary. Adult (17+) - \$15.00; Youth (7-16) - \$5.00; Kids (6 and under) - Free. More than 70,000 sq. ft. of operating layouts, exhibits and displays, railroad artists, hobby shops, model manufacturers, demonstrations, 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

April 30, May 14 (on-line), May 22-24, 2026, (Fri-Sun), In Person - Burnaby, BC

Railway Modellers' Meet of British Columbia. At Simon Fraser University. The emphasis is primarily on "modelling" as the name implies, with many interesting clinics, layout tours, and operating sessions. Latest information at:

railwaymodellermmeetofbc.ca/

May 3, 2026 (Sun), Calgary, AB

CMT Flea Market . 9:00 am – noon & CMRS Spring Mini-meet with clinics 10:00 – 2:00 pm, at the Glenmore Inn.

To book Flea Market Tables or for more info contact calgarymodeltrainmenclub@gmail.com



June 5-7, 2026, Fort Saskatchewan, AB

6th Division Spring Meet, The Heartland Express, hosted by the Yellowhead Rail Club.

The Heartland Express will take place at the Lakeview Inn & Suites. For more information go to <http://www.Heartlandexpressnmra.ca>

September 19-20, (Sat-Sun), Calgary, AB

Heritage Park 40th Anniversary Railway Days. Watch <https://heritagepark.ca/events/railway-days/> for updates.



October 3-4, (Sat-Sun), Edmonton, AB

[2026 Greater Edmonton Model Train Show](#)

Edmonton Expo Centre, 7515 - 118 Avenue, Edmonton. 10 AM to 5 PM, both days
Operating Layouts, Dealer Booths

October 18, (Sat) Edmonton, AB



[Edmonton Model Railroad Associations Open House](#).

10 AM to 4 PM at Fort Edmonton Park's Freight Shed, 7000 143 St NW, Edmonton, AB.

A large selection of model railroad equipment will be for sale.



October 24 (Sat), Edmonton, AB

[MMRF Fall Swap Meet - 2026](#)

Central Lions Seniors Recreation Centre, 11113 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta
11 AM - 2 PM. Free parking in rear.

More information to come at <https://www.mmrf.ab.ca>

Nov 7-8, 2026, (Sat-Sun), Moose Jaw, SK

Thunder Creek Model Train Show, featuring a variety of displays from across the Prairies. Moose Jaw Exhibition Convention Centre. More details will follow.

More pictures from Calgary Model Railway Society's Layout Tours – photos by Rob Badmington



Rick Reimer's On30 Ruphe and Tumbelle Railway connects to the outside world with a short section of CPR standard gauge.

The Aspen Creamery provides some refrigerator car traffic for the railway.



Al Love's O scale layout features scenes from the Kettle Valley Railway in Southern BC. Steam is still king in 1952.



Grant Eastman's Southern Alberta Rail has its own YouTube channel [Southern Alberta Rail - YouTube](#). His N scale layout depicts the Crowsnest Pass area with very realistic scenery and operations. The channel also shares some of Grant's techniques for replicating thousands of aspen, birch, and evergreen trees.





A heavy SAR manifest train grinds its way through the Crowsnest Pass on Grant Eastman's N scale layout.