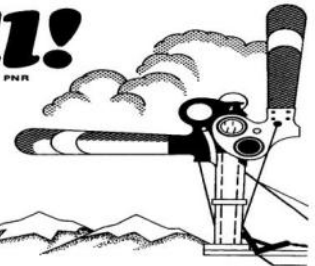




Highball!

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION 6TH DIVISION PNR



Alberta Saskatchewan and Northwest Territories

2013 #2



Inside

- Changes to the Division boundaries
- Flood aftermath
- Operating the Ffarquhar Branch
- Scene Composition



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On the cover: White Pass & Yukon steam rotary plow #1 in Skagway Alaska with caboose, late May 2013. Originally built in 1899 by the Cook Locomotive and Machinery Co, of Patterson, New Jersey.

Photo by Don Newlin

From the Van

Ron Gillies



Yes, Highball is late. Very late. Two different sets of events have caused issue #2 to arrive far later than planned.

The first set of problems were self-inflicted as a series of issues in my business and personal life took over most of my waking moments. I was run ragged writing policies, training staff and most recently resurrecting the core components of our 30

device network and server collection at work.

A second and more significant reason was the lack of content. Summer is not a good time to try and track people down for content. When you add to the mix the catastrophe in southwest Alberta, a major train show in a new location and various other issues, content was hard to locate.

This is not new in modeling circles. Larger publications such as CN Lines are delayed for lack of content. Fellow editors in the PNR have also experienced the challenge and have been discussing the occasional trade of content as a way of meeting the challenge.

Help has also come from one of the more thoughtful writers on

the current modeling scene. Lance Mindheim happily gave permission to reprint one of his elegantly simple entries on the critical role of scenic compression.

Take a few minutes to think about a photo you could send or a brief description of a project you have completed. Contributions can start you on your way to an AP certificate (see Doug Wingfield for details). Please, send content!

Finally a small note. The cover caption for the last issued referred to the "42 m high iron and concrete truss bridge" at Clover Bar. Please don't fault Rick Walker as he just provided the photo! Both my sources provided the same info and I have passed on observations received to the sources!

6th Division Highball!

Editor Ron Gillies

Area Reporters

Edmonton	Mark Johnson
Camrose	Norm Prestage
Calgary	Rob Badmington
Lethbridge	Tony Lee
Medicine Hat	Open
Saskatoon	Open
Moose Jaw	Stirling Millar
Regina	Wayne Wessner
NWT	Open
LDSIG/OPSIG	Cal Sexsmith

Printer Mark Johnson
Mailing The EMRA work crew

The Manifest

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Highball! Deadline

Copy deadline for Highball!: February 15 2014 for the Winter 2014 (#1) issue. You should normally receive Highball! within two weeks of the copy deadline.

Superintendent's Report

It has been a while since our last Highball for many reasons. We all get busy in our lives and many things can tend to get in the way of accomplishing all the tasks we take on. Work commitments, family, building a new home also tend to get in the way. Personally I will chalk in up to the wonderful #13! 2013 has not been a great year and I hope 2014 will be better.

In July of this year, Mother Nature wrecked havoc and many of us were affected by the floods. The devastation to homes, businesses and to many good model railroads was shocking.

Being in the construction business and being involved first hand with the destruction, was to say the

least, unbelievable. Personally we had several projects directly affected and it was quite a mess. Many of the projects cannot be just cleaned up, they need full restoration.

We often read about disasters in other places and other countries, but to have something happen in your own back yard that makes world news was staggering.

It's 6 months later and many are still trying to recover, rebuild and relocate. It affected so many people and left so many in desperate situations, it has been difficult.

In terms of the Highball and Division news, much will be covered in this issue. One of the most im-



portant things for the Highball to be successful is content. For the most part, we have great contributors to Highball, but we always need more. I am sure there is much to share out there and we would love to hear about it.

Please, from my to family to yours, have a happy and safe holiday season.

Mike

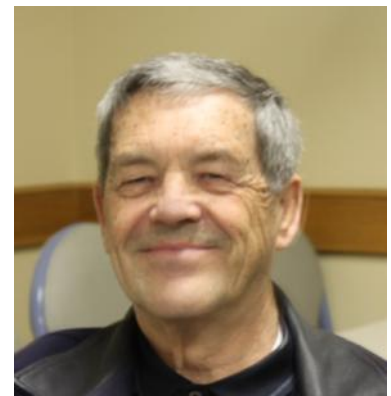
Achievement Program Report

Welcome to winter. Our first snow of the season arrived in Lethbridge a week before Halloween. With the onset of winter I hope all of you have your modelling projects lined up. Perhaps there is even a Merit Award or two in your future.

Personally I may even start scenery although for the last year I have been doing structures for my upper town of Yeats. In the past 12 months I have finished a Campbell Kit - the Popo Agie Canning Company, a stock pen for two cattle car spots, a tank car loading platform and a Tichy hand car shed. Next up should be some zip texturing, colour, trees and ballast for that area.

The next 6th Division Spring Meet should be announced shortly and we look forward to assessing models at the meet or in your home if it is too large to bring to the meet.

When considering entering a model in the Achievement Program a craftsman kit with its myriad of parts is considered scratch building rather than kit building. This is because most of the wood pieces have to be measured and cut the same as if you had bought the raw stripwood. Just make sure you include the instructions with your AP entry so the assessment group can determine how much work was involved to build the kit.



Don't forget, if you have any questions on the Achievement Program please do not hesitate to contact me at the email address below.

Doug Wingfield, MMR #484
6th Division, PNR AP Chair
email: dwfield@telus.net

Area Reports

Calgary

It already seems like a long time ago since we enjoyed two great model railroad weekends here in Calgary.

The first was in The Chinook, the 6th Div Spring Meet, in March combined with a Prototype Modellers Meet, the CMT Flea Market, and CMRS Mini-meet.

The Chinook was considered a success with 43 people registered, from as far away as Saskatoon, Medicine Hat, Lethbridge, Lloydminster, Edmonton, as well as Calgary. The clinics, layout tours, and prototype tour of Calgary Transit's Anderson Road facility were well received.

We held the Division's AGM at the Centennial Legion on Saturday evening with a slide show following, courtesy of The Brotherhood. The format and low cost seemed to be popular with attendees. The Proto Meet featured four clinics and attracted another 30 modelers. The Flea Market and Mini-meet were also well attended, with more clinics and presentations.

Calgary lost another well-known model railroader in March. Norm Haines passed

away suddenly at the age of 73 on March 24th. Anyone who ever attended a South Bank Short Lines' Boomer Auction will remember Norm's booming voice and hearty laugh as he performed as head auctioneer. Norm was also editor-publisher of Highball! In the mid 80's.



Roger Walker, Master Model Railroader #506

The third weekend in April saw a record crowd attend SUPER-TRAIN 2013, with 13,599 guests welcomed for the two day train show. An estimated 400 others participated as volunteers and exhibitors. Everything ran smoothly for the 43 layouts and exhibits and the 60 commercial entries.

Athearn announced their new CN GP40 models and Rapido was showing off pre-production samples of the GMD-1. Some very fine modeling was on display and the judges had a difficult time selecting the award winners. At the Saturday Gala, a great meal was followed by an entertaining talk by Laurie Kitchen on 50 Years of Riding Trains. Another highlight of the evening was the

presentation to Roger Walker of his Master Model Railroader certification. Congratulations for a well-deserved accomplishment!

June brought record rainfall and severe flooding to Calgary and Southern Alberta. We know of many modellers in Calgary and High River who lost their layouts and entire train collections to the water and mud.

Members of South Bank helped fellow member Ross McLeod salvage some of his equipment which was picked out of the mud that filled his basement. It felt so wrong to dunk HO locomotives in a bucket of water and to take a garden hose and old toothbrush to scrub out the silt,

(Continued on page 6)

but surprisingly, once cleaned, dried, and relubricated, some of them now run again. Dave Audley and John Wrinch performed miracles at the workbench as even DCC locos were rescued.

Calgary Model Trainmen's building was completely surrounded by floodwaters but escaped damage by literally inches. The full size railroads had their problems too, as CP had 40 different washouts in Southern Alberta and lost their main line bridge across the Bow River at Alyth Yard to an undermined bridge pier.



The Bonnybrook rail bridge on June 29th a few days after a train derailed on it when flooding undermined the pier in the river. The bridge has since been dismantled.
- Rob Badmington



A tub full of HO engines and cars rescued from a High River basement. Surprisingly, some of these models are back in running condition.

- Rob Badmington

It eventually dried out through the summer and Heritage Park hosted Railway Days in September. Quite a number of model railroads were on display in vari-

ous building at the park.

October brought the 34th annual Boomer Auction, followed the next day by the CMRS mini-

meet and AGM. Roger Walker MMR lined up an interesting array of clinics and the Show and Tell room was full of well-built models. CMT is celebrating their 75th Anniversary with a party on November 16th.

Planning is well underway for SUPERTRAIN 2014 to be held on April 12-13 at the Subway Soccer Centre. The City has taken over management of the facility and construction of the new annex has begun, but it is expected that effects on the show will be minimal. Already a number of new layouts and commercial exhibitors have expressed their intentions to be part of the show.

As mentioned elsewhere in this issue, Calgary is preparing to

(Continued on page 7)

host another Spring Meet in March. We hope you will be able to come.

Here's hoping Santa will fill your stocking with lots of trains!

Rob Badmington
Calgary Area Reporter

Camrose

Current membership remains at about 15. We have moved (AGAIN), this time to another storefront in mid-mall. it's a bit smaller, but at least we're still in the public eye at the Duggan Mall. Generally, Thursday nights are work nights, and Saturday mornings are for public display. We try very hard to run trains every weekend! Some of us even try to operate a bit when possible :-)

In early September we held our annual summer BBQ, this year at the home of Ron Hillis. We were pleased to have visitors from Edmonton and Calgary join us. We are often invited to operate on Norman Skretting's layout and he just happened to be running a session the day of the BBQ! Suspicious timing?

For the 13th consecutive year, we displayed at GETS this past weekend. We met a few potential recruits. I must say we appreciated the venue very much, though we have static issues to work through before next year! The banquet was also enjoyable,



Millennium Place in Sherwood Park, the new home of the Great Edmonton Train Show
- Joost van Ens

as always, though there were only 6 of us from BRRM this year.

We're hoping to run some clinics in-house for some of the 'fledgling' modellers among us, and also look forward to our annual Christmas social at the Camrose Railway Station Museum. We're proud to continue our unofficial affiliation with the Canadian Northern Society.

-Norm Prestage

Edmonton

The Edmonton Model Railroad Association (EMRA) hosted an expanded version of their quar-

terly Open Operating Session on Saturday, May 11. The session ran all day, with a short break for lunch provided by EMRA.

The extra time was appreciated by the visitors, who had longer to get used to the layout, and were able to run the entire 24-hour schedule. Over 20 EMRA members and guests participated in the marathon session, some from Camrose, Slave Lake, and Calgary (via Toronto!).

The MMRF hosted a meet and greet Barbecue at North Cooking Lake, and over 20 modellers and families enjoyed burgers and hot

(Continued on page 8)

dogs courtesy of MMRF, several trains courtesy of CN, and sunny weather, courtesy of Mother Nature. A great time was had by all.

The Yellowhead Rail Club, <http://yellowheadrailclub.ca>, has relocated to the Fort Mall in Fort Saskatchewan, where the current layout setup is approximately 45 feet long and 12 feet wide. They operate every Saturday, and bring the layout to the train shows in Calgary and Edmonton.

The Edmonton Train Collectors, a group of Lionel enthusiasts, has also set up a display at Fort Mall, so there's something for everyone!

The Mainline Model Railroaders Fellowship (MMRF, (<http://www.mmrf.ab.ca>) held the Great Edmonton Train Show on September 21 & 22 at Millennium Place in Sherwood Park. The modern facility has easy access and great lighting, providing a great experience for displays and visitors alike.

Even though GETS was in a new location, nearly 2,500 visitors toured more than two soccer fields full of operating displays and vendor booths.

New layouts this year included clubs from Prince Albert, Saskatchewan and Rossland, British Columbia.

The 2014 show has been



Bow Valley Model Railroad Association's modular layout was one of a number of layouts surrounded by fascinated adults and young people -Joost van Ens

booked into the same facility, and everyone is expecting attendance to grow, as word of the new location spreads.

- Mark Johnson

Lethbridge

With winter approaching the Southern Alberta Model Railway Club is back in full swing. A very successful open house was held in late October with approximately 350 visitors on Saturday and Sunday.

Our new members are now getting familiar with our DCC system on both the HO and N scale layouts.

Work is progressing on superdetailing various parts of the layouts and running how-to clinics on scenery, switch building, scratch building street lights and

various others will be given as well as finishing an earlier clinic on DCC.

Also some areas of the original layout are getting an upgrade of the scenery that was done 35 years ago. We are also considering going to an operating signalling system on the mainline. Our building is receiving a new exterior finish from the City of Lethbridge in the near future, however things move slowly at City Hall.

The club is contemplating bringing their expanded N scale portable up to Super Train in April 2014 as we have been invited for a second year in a row. That is about it for now from Southern Alberta.

Tony Lee

(Continued on page 9)

Regina

We have had a number of activities that allowed us the opportunity to run the layout but not work on it.

The photo club did their annual visit and obtained some great photo's. It was like some of them were kids in a candy store.

A local cub troop enjoyed a running night and another evening was a open tour to family and friends. Its that chance for our significant others to see where and why we rush away from home every Tuesday night. We were also open one night to the public in conjunction with Regina's annual street festival.

One more big showing. All the students from the school we are located in will tour the layout. so many little hands to watch out for. Hope many of you find a train convention to attend, a train to ride or a visit to a new hobby shop to acquire some new treasures for your collection.

Finally our fall Model Train Show will return this year. Dates and venue to be announced soon. We will keep you posted.

- Wayne Wessner

Convention Coordinator

One of the most important activities available to members of the NMRA is the annual Divisional Meet. Members are given the opportunity to travel to other parts of the Division to meet other members, visit new layouts, take in a few clinics, and generally have fun. It is also the time and place when we hold our Annual General Meeting.

Since 1965, the 6th Div has held over 50 meets in at least a dozen different communities in Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Montana. As Convention Coordinator, my job is to try to find groups who are willing to host an annual Meet and assist as required with the arrangements needed to run a successful event. There was a time when multiple cities would submit bids and we would have the luxury of choosing where we would meet in future years. More recently it has been increasingly difficult to find members who are willing to host the next meet in their city.

In March of 2013, we held the most recent meet in Calgary and coordinated our NMRA activities with a Prototype Modellers Meet, Calgary Model Trainmen's annual Flea Market, and the Calgary Model Railway Society's Spring Mini-Meet. Judging by the feedback, the meet was enjoyed by those that attended and the relatively low cost was appreciated. Many commented that they would have come to Calgary for the other events anyway so it was easy to add our Divisional Meet to their itinerary.

Given that no other cities have come forward to indicate they are willing to host the 6th Div Meet in 2014, the guys in Calgary have agreed to host another joint Model Railroad Weekend.

Many details still need to be worked out, but please plan to be in Calgary for March 7 to 9, 2014 for our Spring Meet, Railway Prototype Modellers Meet, CMT Flea Market, and CMRS Mini-Meet.

We will have some great layouts to visit, many clinics to learn new things at, models to display and discuss, and plenty of opportunities to see old friends and meet new ones. I hope you will be able to join us.

Finally, now would be a good time to think about hosting the next meet in your town. Please contact me if you would like further information about hosting a meet.

Rob Badmington
6th Division Convention Coordinator

6th Division Financial Report

	<u>Sep '12 - Aug 13</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>
Income			
6th Division PNR AGM-Meet Rev	655.00	0.00	655.00
Interest	8.28		
PNR Membership Rebate	636.54	900.00	(263.46)
Total Income	1,299.82	900.00	399.82
Expense			
6th Division Expenses			
General Expenses	0.00	100.00	(100.00)
Total 6th Division Expenses	0.00	100.00	(100.00)
6th Division PNR AGM-Meet Exp			
Bank Charges	36.20	50.00	(13.80)
Education	0.00	250.00	(250.00)
Event Seed Money	0.00	500.00	(500.00)
Highball!	890.97	1,000.00	(109.03)
Total Expense	1,227.17	1,900.00	(672.83)
Net Income	72.65	(1,000.00)	1,072.65



Treasurer Rick Walker provided his year end financial report as of August 31, 2013

NMRA News

At the 2013 PNR Board meeting a number of actions were taken:

- Boundaries for the 5th and 6th Division were adjusted with all of Montana moved into the 5th Division. These results in the 6th Division still being one of the largest in the NMRA, as it now consists of Alberta, Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories.
- The 2014 Regional Convention will be held in the 4th Division PSX2014, the PNR Regional Convention will be held June 18 - 21 in Tacoma, WA www.pnr2014.com
- Peter Mueller is now the editor of the Region newsletter *The Switchlist*

And on the National level:

- Orlando, Florida has been selected by the NMRA Board of Directors as the site of the NMRA 2017 National Convention and Train Show
- The NMRA has reincorporated in Missouri with one of the key purposes being the ability to conduct business by electronic means. Look for frequent and current information from the National level
- The NMRA website (www.nmra.org) will be undergoing a complete overhaul with a professional web firm guided by an NMRA committee starting the task of making the site more relevant.

Ffarquhar Branch

Cal Sexsmith

This article is not at all the one I intended on writing. Originally I was going to discuss paper clip layouts; maybe I'll save that one for next time. While researching the original article I came across a reference to the Ffarquhar Branch of the North Western Region of British Rail where it was described as a classic paper clip design.

The Ffarquhar Branch was a 4x6 OO scale layout built by the late Reverend Wilbert Awdry. The layout was designed to show what could be done in a small space and the Reverend Awdry travelled with the layout in his Bedford van to train shows across Britain. For those of you who don't know, Reverend Awdry was the author of the Thomas the Tank Engine books and Thomas regularly operated on the Branch.

I was able to find an article written by Reverend Awdry in the December 1959 issue of *Railway Modeller* at www.pegnsean.net/~railwayseries/rm-1959-12.htm. Please go to this link to read the original article.

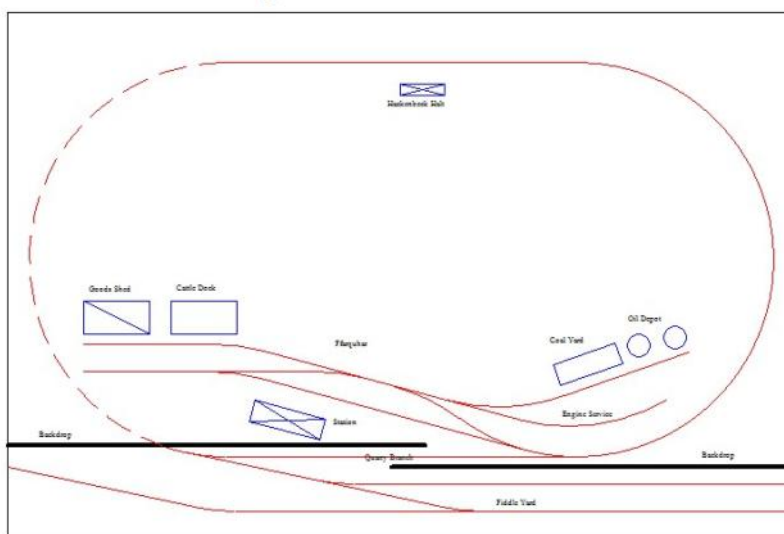
I drew a reasonable facsimile of the original trackplan and have included it for your information. As you can see the layout is simply an oval with the small yard at Ffarquhar located inside the oval and a small fiddle yard located outside of the oval. At a show the operator would sit facing the fiddle yard and the public would face Hackenbeck Halt.

The main reason for the existence of the branch and the village of Ffarquhar is a quarry which is just out of site down the track marked quarry branch. An empty stone train would leave the fiddle yard travelling counter-clockwise and upon entering Ffarquhar would disappear down the quarry branch. Once in the fiddle yard the op-

erator could then exchange the empties for loads in the fiddle yard and after a suitable period of time the engine would pull the loaded cars and head back the other way. While waiting for the cars to be "loaded" the engine could wait in the engine service area.

General freight traffic would also be handled. In this case freight

Figure 1
Ffarquhar Branch



erator would exchange the empty cars for loads, move the engine to the other end of the train, and the loaded train would emerge from the quarry branch in the counter-clockwise direction. During a show empty and loaded stone trains could make several circuits before being rearranged. For variety the empty train could enter the Ffarquhar yard, run-around its train, and shove the empties down the quarry branch. The operator

would be made up in the fiddle yard and would travel clockwise to Ffarquhar. Upon arriving the cars would be distributed to the appropriate industries and others picked up. Limited passenger service could also be accommodated.

I think this brief overview shows how even a very small layout can be operated in a prototypical manner. Perhaps next time I will discuss other variations on the paper clip theme.

Realism 101– Scene Composition

Lance Mindheim

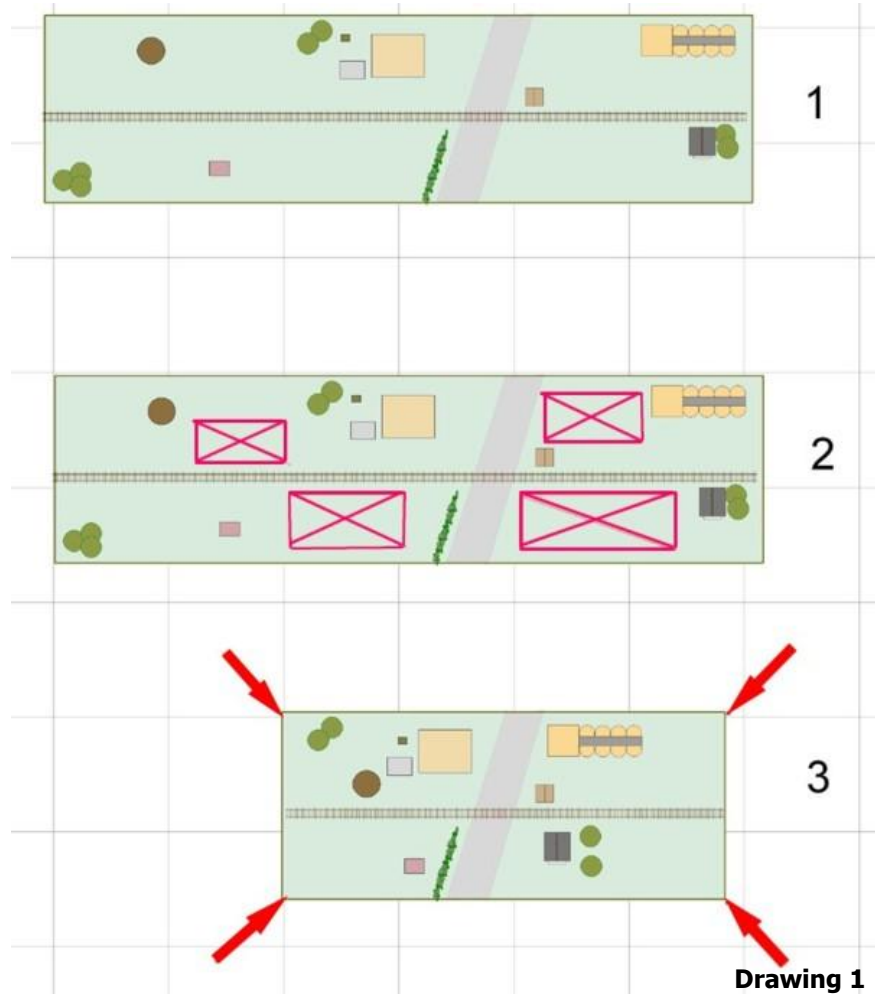
Of all of the factors that contribute to realism, at the top of the list is scene composition. Scene composition refers to the size, shape, location and distance between elements we put on our layouts. It also refers to which elements we chose to place in a scene.

Have you ever been riveted by a cleanly executed architectural model? Even if the model is all white or gray you are drawn in because it is perfectly composed. Such models drive home the impact of getting it right. If you don't get it right, it can be hard to compensate regardless of how well you perform the rest of your efforts.

Element Spacing - Crop, don't compress

At the top of the list is the spacing we place between elements. This is where modelers typically put themselves behind the eight ball right out of the box. Given our limited space, obviously there will have to be some compression.

However, if you take compression too far and place your elements too close together, your scene suffers. Such overly compressed scenes are probably the single largest error model railroaders make.



There are so many interesting things to include on our layouts it's only natural to try to include as many as possible.

It takes self discipline and a leap of faith but, if you can accept the fact that you can't have it all, incorporate fewer elements, and space them further apart you'll be amply rewarded. A few things done well are much more powerful than a lot of things done not so well.

Drawing 1 above is a typical ag-

ricultural scene found throughout the country. Diagram 1 shows the scene drawn to scale. Note the ample space between elements. Given our real world of limited modeling room, the natural tendency is to eliminate the open spaces between elements (diagram 2).

The typical model railroad mindset is to preserve and incorporate all elements at any visual cost necessary. Unfortunately these open spaces are what de-

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

fined the scene and we've just eliminated them. With the open spaces eliminated, the modeler then compresses everything into the space available. The results is a typical, overly compressed, model railroad scene and not a "model of a railroad". (diagram 3)

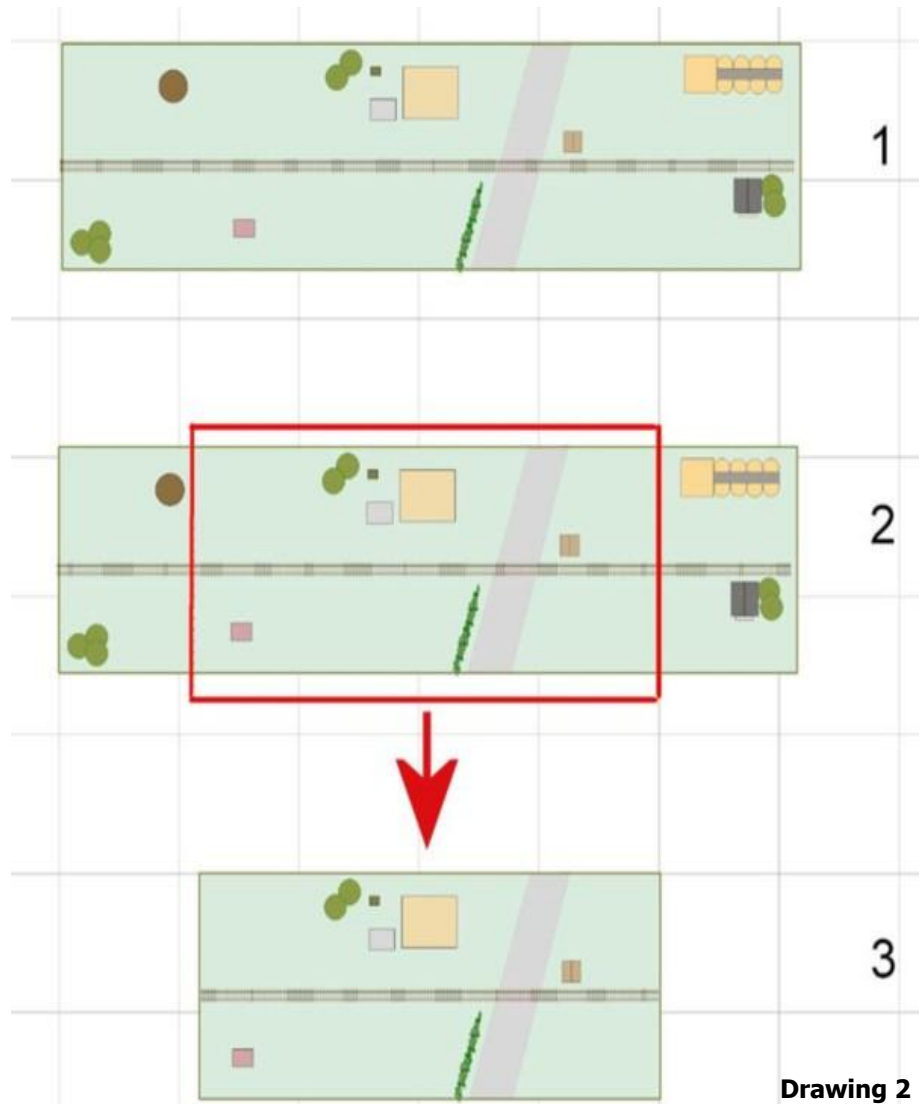
If in fact realism is the key, if you do indeed want to have the real world in your basement, difficult choices need to be made.

Cool stuff needs to be scratched from the docket. Realism is achieved by cropping away items you don't have room for and maintaining space between those that do remain.

Crop, don't compress. You can't have it all, it's just a fact of modeling life. However, if you don't try to 'have it all', you'll ultimately be richly rewarded with doing justice to the items you do decide to incorporate. (Drawing 2)

Element Selection - Document, don't judge

Another aspect of scene composition centers around the elements we chose to place in our scenes. Are you a 'cherry picker' or a journalist? Do you pick and chose which elements to include based upon how in-



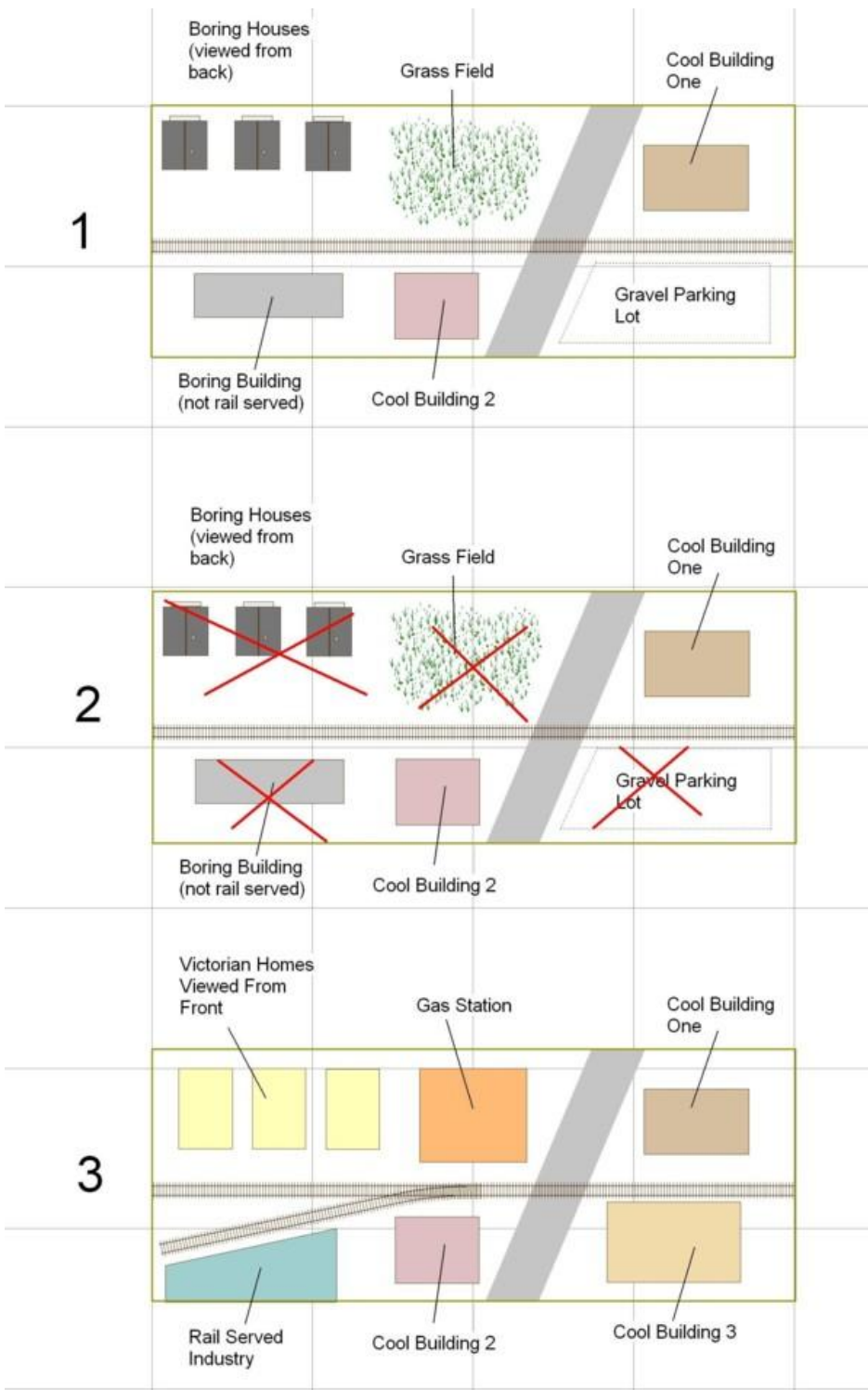
teresting you think they are or do you document what is actually there without judgment? If realism is your goal, simply copying what is actually there is the ticket. It's also much easier.

The moment we start having a beauty contest is the moment the scene starts looking like a typical model railroad. Model the mundane. Model what's there. There is also a hidden payoff here.

In many cases, elements that at first glance you had written off as boring, upon closer examination turn out to be understated gems

Diagram 1 (illustration 3) illustrates a typical rail side scene. Some buildings are interesting, some not so much. A ragged field and empty lot are front and center. The houses aren't particularly dramatic, probably one or two story white clapboard with their backs facing the right

(Continued on page 14)



Drawing 3

Lance Mindheim is owner of **The Shelf Layouts Company**, a custom model railroad building and design firm. Lance is also the author of four books on the design and operation of small layouts. This article reprinted with Lance's permission from his blog which can be found at <http://www.lancemindheim.com/blog.htm>

of way. There is a rail side structure that, horror of horrors, doesn't receive rail service. In other words it's a typical scene.

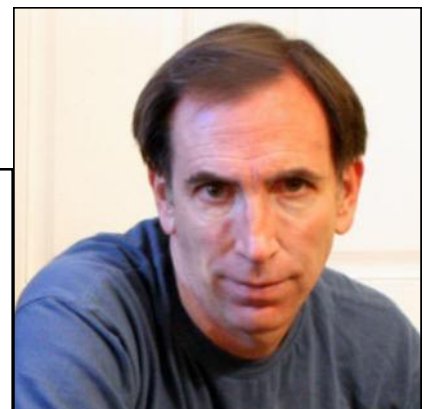
The modeling path is extremely simple. Just copy it, as it is, without judgment. Unfortunately, doing so make many modelers break out in hives.

Anything that approaches the mundane is eliminated. Empty space is considered wasted space (figure 2).

Boring elements and open space are eliminated. All industries must be served by rail. The Walthers catalog is pulled out and every nook and cranny is filled with caricatures.

The end result again is a model railroad and not a "model of a railroad".

Slow down, take a breath, take in your surroundings and train yourself to appreciate the ordinary, understated beauty that comprises the ACTUAL rail scene we love so much.



Modeller's Calendar

To add your activities to the PNR Switchlist Timetable or PNR web page, contact the Timetable Editor, Mark Johnson at (780) 436-2480 or timetable@pnr.nmra.org

Dec 14 (Sat), Spokane, WA

River City Modelers will hold an open house on their River City Western HO Scale layout from noon to 4 PM, 1130 E. Sprague Ave. Info:- River City Modelers, 509-535-3462 or email: RCMInfonow@gmail.com

Dec 21 - Jan 1, Tacoma, WA

18th Annual Model Train Festival at the Washington State History Museum, 1911 Pacific Avenue in Tacoma. 10 am to 5 pm every day except open until 1 pm on Christmas Eve and closed on Christmas Day. Multiple modular layouts in N, HO, O, and G, Kitsap Live Steamers exhibition, Playmobile display, Operation Lifesaver booth, train play areas for the little ones. Visit the largest permanent model train layout in WA state, built and operated by the Puget Sound Model Railroad Engineers (PSMRE) on the fifth floor. Enjoy the excellent history museum exhibits. Info:- www.washingtonhistory.org or call Mark Sylvester at 253-798-5891. Museum entrance fees are \$8 / 7 / 6 for adults, seniors, student or military, respectively. Children 5 and under are free.

Dec 28 (Sat), Spokane, WA

River City Modelers will hold an open house on their River City Western HO Scale layout from noon to 4 PM, 1130 E. Sprague Ave. Info:- River City Modelers, 509-535-3462 or email: RCMInfonow@gmail.com

2014

Jan 18-20, Seattle, WA

40th 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 24-26, 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

Feb 1 (Sat), Portland, OR

Spokane Portland & Seattle Railway Historical Society Railroad Swap Meet, Holiday Inn - Portland Airport Conference Center, 8439 NE Columbia Blvd., \$5 admission, under 12 free. Free parking. To obtain a table or other Info:- contact Jerry Pickell, 360-735-0516 or email: pickell5141@msn.com

Feb 15 (Sat), Edmonton, AB

The Edmonton Model Railroad Association (www.emraonline.ca) is holding an open operating session. If you are interested in operations and would like to join us in operating the Monashee Pacific Railway, please contact Peter atulvestad@telus.net. The session will begin at 1 pm at Fort Edmonton Park, last about 4 hours and will be followed by a no-host dinner at a local restaurant.

Feb 22 - Feb 23, Olds, AB

2014 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 22-23, Saskatoon, SK

All Aboard 2014, Western Development Museum 2610 Lorne Ave. Saturday 9-5:00, Sunday 9-4:30. Layouts, Vendors, Videos, and Consignment Tables. Info:- www.prairierailworkshop.com, allaboardtrainshow@gmail.com

Mar 1 (Sat), Elsie, OR

The 10th Annual Pacific Model Loggers' Congress- takes place at the Camp 18 Restaurant and Logging Museum, 42362 Highway 26, Elsie, Oregon. Join us for a special 10th anniversary event, hosted by Lon Wall and Jeff Johnston, that includes a full day of historic, technical and modeling clinics, a world-class model contest and superb camaraderie with other logging enthusiasts. Info:- www.pacificmodelloggerscongress.com, (503) 487-6833 or (541) 914-1152

March 7-9 (Fri-Sun), Calgary, AB. Model Railroad Weekend – 6th Division Spring Meet, Railway Prototype Modellers Meet, Calgary Model Trainmen's Flea Market, and CMRS Mini-Meet. Clinics, layout tours, model and photo displays, 6th Div Annual General Meeting, and possible prototype tour. Registration for entry to all events is only \$20 for NMRA members and \$30 for non-members. For more information, watch the 6th Division website at <http://pnr.nmra.org/6div/> or contact Rob Badmington by email at rob@badmington.ca

Mar 8 (Sat), Spokane Valley, WA

Evergreen Railroad Modelers Open House, 5 to 9 PM, 18213 East Appleway in the Greenacres Shopping Center, Spokane Valley. Info:- Jerry at 509-939-5845.

Mar 8-9, Spokane, WA

River City Modelers Open house. Saturday, 4 to 8 PM, Sunday, Noon to 4 PM, 1130 E. Sprague Ave. Info:- River City Modelers, 509-535-3462 or email: RCMInfonow@gmail.com

Mar 9 (Sun), Spokane, WA

SPOKANE TRAIN SHOW, Sponsored by the River City Modelers and the Inland NW Rail Museum will be held at the Spokane Fair & Expo Center, 404 N. Havana, Bldg. C & D, 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM. Admission \$6, 12 & under free. Over 175 tables of model railroad related items, all scales, railroad art, collectibles, artifacts and photos. We will have operating layouts in HO, N, O, & G scales. For more information or to inquire about table rentals contact: Shirley Sample, P.O. Box 314, Elk, WA 99009-0314, 509-991-2317 or 509-292-8332 (home) after 7 PM on weeknights or on weekends. Email: shirley@busnws.com

Mar 15 (Sat), Portland, OR

Willamette Model Railroad Club's 29th Annual Model Railroad Swap Meet at the Kliever Memorial Armory 10000 NE 33rd Dr. (between Columbia & Marine Drive), from 9:30am to 3pm. Admission: Adults \$5.00, under 12 free. Info:- Keith Kieres 503-723-7323, e-mail: wmrswapmeet@yahoo.com

Mar 16 (Sun), Burnaby, BC

Western Rails 2014. 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 12-13, Calgary, AB

SUPERTRAIN 2014 Canada's Biggest and Best Annual Model Train Show. 9 AM til 5 PM both days. Subway Soccer Centre, 7000 - 48 Street SE. Calgary FREE PARKING Adult - \$10, Youth (6-12) - \$5, under 6 - free. Over 60,000 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 27 (Sun), Nanaimo, BC

30th Annual Vancouver Island Spring Model Railroad Show Beban Park Rec Center, 2300 Bowen Rd. Open 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. Sales and Swap tables, Model Contest and Operating Layouts. Admission: \$10 per family, \$5 Adult, \$4 Senior, \$3 NMRA member. Info:- Ken Rutherford (250)724-4698 email kj.rutherford@shaw.ca or Rick Lord (250)724-4205

Jun 18-21, Tacoma, WA

PSX2014 PNR Annual Convention, La Quinta Inn 1425 E. 27th St.. Info:- www.PNR2014.com or contact Russ Segner, russseg@gmail.com, (425) 228-7327.

Upcoming National Conventions

2014: Cleveland, OH July 13-20
www.2014cleveland.org

2015: Portland, OR August 23-30
www.nmra2015portland.org/

2016: Indianapolis, IN July 3–10, 2016.

2017: Orlando, FL
nmra2017.sunshineregion.org