

Highball!

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION 6TH DIVISION PNR

May 2016



Fast Moving Lionel trains are always popular attractions with kids at train shows. The SP cab-forward has a line-up of young fans at SUPERTRAIN in Calgary. (photo by Rob Badmington)

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

It has been a busy spring with Train Shows and Events. Peter and I attended SUPERTRAIN, Moose Jaw Train Show, Lethbridge Open House and Saskatoon Train Show. All of these events were very well attended by the public and members. We are looking forward to the Regional Convention in Salmon Arm June 15-19.

The 6th Division is currently looking for a host for the 6th Division Meet to be held in 2017. Please contact Rob Badmington if interested.

Summer is just around the corner and with it comes railfanning and looking forward to the 6th Division Meet and the Great Edmonton Train Show.

There is a registration form available in this Highball! for the Muskeg Mixed (6th Division Meet) to be held in Edmonton/ Sherwood Park from September 15-18. The Muskeg Mixed is to be held in conjunction with the Great Edmonton Train Show.

From the Editor – Rob Badmington

This issue of Highball! contains a variety of news, 6th Division business, and promotional material for the upcoming PNR Regional in Salmon Arm and our own Meet in Edmonton in September.

A request for Nominations for the positions of Division Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent is in this issue on page 8. Thank you to Doug Johnson for chairing the Nominating Committee.

As always, I am very appreciative of the efforts of those that sent reports, photos, and information. It should be noted that if you are interested in participating in the Achievement Program,

articles and photos published in Highball! can be used toward the requirements for the Model Railroad Author certificate. For more information on this, please consult the NMRA website www.nmra.org/education/achievement-program or contact our own AP Chairman Doug Wingfield.

I plan to put the next issue of Highball! together in August with full program details on the Muskeg Mixed Meet. Please send me your reports, articles, and photos for that issue by August 17, so that it can be published and mailed in plenty of time before the meet.

PNR Regional Convention Report– David Walker

Selkirk Express 2016 Update April 24, 2016

The convention and public train show are very close so we hope you have made your plans to attend the event starting June 15, 2016.

There is still room on the **“No Tracks! No Trains! Just Fun and Games Mystery Tour.”**

The tour is designed especially for the ladies attending the event with their spouses. Join the group for an all day excursion visiting some of the beautiful and fascinating locales in the Shuswap and North Okanagan Valleys. Check out the website for more details and other activities being provided for the ladies attending the event.

The other tours to Summerland and Revelstoke are quickly approaching capacity so should that happen a wait list may be started. On the Summerland tour we have added a stop at the Central Okanagan Railway Company in Peachland BC. If space still remains you may be able to sign up when you pick up your registration package on a first come basis.

A room has been set aside to display the contest entries, the other AP structures and equipment submitted for judging and RPM entries. For all contest, AP items and the RPM entries please fill out the Contest Entry Form #901 available on the NMRA web site under Education/Contests/Forms to register.

The block of rooms at the Prestige Inn is fully booked and information on other accommodation sites is available on the web site.



Salmon Arm, British Columbia
June 15th – 19th, 2016

Our quest speaker at the banquet on Saturday night will be Tom Price from Calgary and the topic is **“Race for the Boundary”**. Tom is well known for his **“127 Years of Mayhem”** presentations focused many on CPR mishaps over the past 125+ years.

Check the web site for the clinics being offered and the schedule of the clinics.

The Public Show set for the Shaw Centre located at 2600 10th Ave NE Salmon Arm, BC with show times set for Saturday June 18 - 9:30 am to 5:00 pm and Sunday June 19 – 9:30 am to 4:00 pm with Layout and Vendor set up Friday June 17, 9:00 am to approximately 10:00 pm. As we get closer to the event and more confirmations of vendors and layouts are received they will be listed under the public show on the web site.

Visit the website at www.SelkirkExpress2016.ca. Looking forward to seeing everyone in June.

Achievement Program Report – Doug Wingfield, MMR #484, 6th Division, PNR AP Chair

Not long now until the PNR Regional Convention in Salmon Arm!! I am looking forward to it as we have a relatively large delegation from Lethbridge that plan to attend with our N Scale portable layout. I wonder how many from 6th Division will attend. It would be nice if we could get together

as a group for some discussion on our future as a Division.

For those of you planning to enter the contest and/or AP assessment in Salmon Arm I would suggest you go to the NMRA website and print the contest entry forms and have them filled out before you go to the convention. There never

seems to be enough time at the meet to do stuff like that. Also bear in mind that you do not have to enter a contest to have your model assessed for the Achievement Program. Just complete the paperwork and state on it that you do not want it entered in the contest - only AP assessment.

I am available on email at any time for advice or encouragement to get the job done. Looking forward to seeing many of you at Salmon Arm.

Area Reports

Edmonton – Mark Johnson

Operational endurance test - EMRA style! The Edmonton Model Railroad Association's Operations Coordinator (and your 6th Division Assistant Superintendent) Peter Ulvestad, sent out a note inviting operations-oriented modellers in Alberta and beyond to a full-day, 8-hour Timetable & Train Order session. It was half full in under an hour, and up to a waiting list in a week or so. The guests came from Medicine Hat in the south, Spirit River in the North, and Saskatoon in the east. We ran a full 'scale' 24 hours, and kept everybody busy and entertained throughout. If you'd like to be on the list for future OOPS (Open Operating Sessions), send a note to Peter, ulvestad@telus.net.

Speaking of operations, Northern Rails will be hosted in the Edmonton area this September 23-25. We have visitors coming from across the Pacific Northwest and the prairies. There's already a waiting list for attendance, but if you would like to open your layout to host an operating session - it's not too late! Contact Cal Sexsmith, calvinsexsmith@sasktel.net

Layouts on the move! This is why they're portable!

The award-winning LaBaJa modular layout has moved to in space at the south end of the Sherwood Park Mall.

The Edmonton N-Scalers layouts are on display and have also been joined by the Yellowhead Rail group.

Check their schedule at <http://www.trainweb.org/esmre/schedule.html> to see which layouts are operating and when. If you haven't seen these layouts, you're missing out - make some time to go for a visit.

We have over 200 members in the 6th Division! Production and distribution of the paper copy of the Highball! is our largest expense. 112 copies are printed, stuffed, stamped, and labelled by Spike (the collective name for EMRA members).

If you are receiving a paper copy, and would like to help the Division save some money, please send your email address to me, Mark.Johnson@InfoHarvest.ca. All issues are always online for everyone at <http://pnr.nmra.org/6div/highball/>

Note that all the photos are in colour in the online version!

Even if you'd like to keep getting the paper copy, we'd like to be sure that we have your current email address anyway. Please let me know if you did NOT get the email announcement for this Highball!

Calgary Model Trainmen – Dale Sproule

The Calgary Model Trainmen's Club continues to be active even though we lost our home layout of 25 years last June (2015) and what we could save went into storage. Monthly business meetings have continued while we search for a new home. We found one! We have now secured space inside a building owned by The Rehabilitation

Society of Calgary located at #7-11 Street N.E. (near the Zoo). We will have our own separated entrance to 700 square feet with an option to expand another 300 square feet and will sign a 3 year agreement very soon then move in over the summer. We will transfer our "layout" from storage into our new home and probably host an

open House in September with a view to downsizing our goods and then become a modular group.

Meanwhile, six of seven CMT members who purchased FOS kits from CMRS last fall participated in the Spring CMRS mini meet theme. Besides getting back the original purchase cost of \$25 from CMRS, CMT promoted this wonderful idea by giving another \$10 gift card from Trains and Such in Calgary to members who showed their completed kit at a club Show and Tell session. Most were in a diorama setting, others were just completed kits.

Calgary – Rob Badmington

Since my last report, we have had a very busy spring. The Prototype Modellers Meet was well attended and an interesting variety models in various stages of completion were on display. The following day, CMT's annual Flea Market filled a large banquet room at the Glenmore Inn and many modellers were observed swapping money for bargains. This was followed by the CMRS Spring Mini-meet. The display room was contained dozens of models, including over 25 versions of the FOS Scale Models yard office kit, most of which were kit-bashed or modified in some way, with great imagination. Roger Walker MMR arranged for six clinics at the mini-meet so

CMT again participated in SUPERTRAIN 2016 with our club modules and received favourable feedback from the public.

The Calgary Model Trainmen's Club conducted elections at our April Business meeting and new BOD officers are planning the club future.

Several CMT members will be attending the PNR meet in Salmon Arm. CMT members are already looking forward to attending "Muskeg Mixed" in Edmonton In September.

over the weekend, we were treated to a total of 11 clinics to take in.

SUPERTRAIN 2016 was another great success with 12,700 guests attending. As this was the second year in the Genesis Centre, we were able to make many improvements from what was learned last year, including free shuttle buses from a nearby LRT parking lot. Even so, there were some traffic jams outside, but generally everything flowed well. We got some great media coverage which helped greatly to publicize the show. Ironically, the weather impacted the overall attendance which was down slightly from last year – it was too nice!

Airdrie - Greg Orme

If you didn't get to SUPERTRAIN this year you missed another great show. My hats off to everyone who had anything to do with the event, you did another great job and that bus shuttle made a big difference in the parking problems of years past. I'm not sure what the final attendance count was but at our display located on the upper mezzanine AMES/IHP provided train rides for over 5000 young and older kids over the two days. As always our static display located on the lower level drew a great number of those interested in live steam operation with a number of locomotives and stationary engines on display.



Ray Gibbs of Alberta Model Engineers Society shows off some his live steam models at SUPERTRAIN. (Photo by Greg Orme)

We are now in the countdown mode with less than one week to go as I write this report of our opening day for the Iron Horse Park 2016 season which is 11:00k to 16:00k Sunday May 22. Our season runs every Sunday after the May long straight through the summer up to the Thanksgiving long weekend. This year for our opening day all our proceeds from ridership and any donations we receive will be given to the Canadian Red Cross for the relief effort of the residents of Fort Mac.



With the milder weather that we experienced over the winter we were able to continue working on our track expansion and we are hoping to have the first leg of the new track open by mid-season. We also completed some track realignment on the main line and started some in the Airdrie yard. The realignment in the yard is to accommodate longer trains and reduce some minor bottlenecks and with a little luck and some hard work we should have it fully operational by July.

Everyone on the Airdrie and Nose Creek Railway is looking forward to another great year at Iron Horse Park and we all hope to see you at the park this summer.

Matt Porter operates one of Iron Horse Park's ride-on trains at SUPERTRAIN in April. Over 5,000 people took a ride on this short but busy stretch of track.

(Photo by Greg Orme)

Moose Jaw - Doug Johnson

The weekend of March 19-20 saw the Thunder Creek Model Railroad Club from Moose Jaw Sask. host their annual Model Train Show, held at the Western Development Museum and attended by 2200 people.

The weekend included 27 displays of operating model railroads, including various scales from N to G. There were several people selling railroad related items (both new and used), as well as static displays of railroad memorabilia.

There was a door prize awarded each day to one lucky attendee and the vote for People's Choice Award went to Larry Dickinson, owner of the Mexicali Grande Railroad in O scale.

Saturday evening there was a gathering of over 100 for a great meal, refreshments and a few stories, and some auction items that were donated by many of the participants and the Thunder Creek Club.



A scene on Larry's Mexicali Grande. (Photo by Ed Molenkamp)

As a result of the tremendous support shown by those attending the show, the Thunder Creek Club made a donation of new portable tables for the Museum to assist them with the many budget challenges they face.

Thanks to all that supported this great event and mark your calendars to attend the 2017 event on the weekend of March 25-26.

Lethbridge - Tony Lee

Finally we have been able to retain our contractor for our building expansion in Gyro Park and apply for a building permit. By the time you read this our expansion should be underway.

Now the task comes of boxing up all our equipment, models, etc. so the renovations in part of the existing building can begin. We also have to separate the existing HO layout from the renovations and new construction.

After the portable N scale layout returns from Salmon Arm in June it will be put away in storage until after construction is completed in late fall.

The HO layout will be operational throughout the construction period although there may be some restrictions due to having to store things from the existing meeting, workroom areas.

Look forward to seeing everyone in Salmon Arm, sounds like a great meet.



A small portion of the Southern Alberta Model Railroad Club's layout in their soon-to-be-expanded building in Gyro Park. (Photo by Peter Ulvestad)

6th Division Nominations Requested

The bylaws of the 6th Division indicate that the terms of the **Superintendent** and **Assistant Superintendent** are for a two year period ending on August 31 of every even-numbered year. These positions are voted on by members of the 6th division, based on nominations received by the nominating committee.

This notice is a request for nominations for the positions of Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent for the two year period from September 1, 2016 to August 31, 2018. Nominations, prepared in accordance with the bylaws of the 6th Division, should be submitted to any member of the Nominating Committee. Nominations must be received on or before **June 15, 2016**.

Details regarding the responsibilities of these positions can be found in the PNR Superintendent's Guidebook which is located at <http://pnr.nmra.org/policies/>.

Please contact any member of the Nominating Committee if you have any questions or comments.

Doug Johnson, Nominating Committee Chair, djca@accesscomm.ca

Rupert James, Member, Nominating Committee, pfon@myaccess.ca

Len Komarnisky, Member, Nominating Committee, lenkom@shaw.ca



Some of the imaginative ways the FOS Scale Yard Office kits were modified were shown at the CMRS Spring Mini-meet in March. Geoff Southwood's on the left; B.J. Ersson's on the right. (Photos by Richard Johnson)

Upcoming 2016 Events in the 6th Division (and a few in the 7th Division)

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

Jun 15-19, Salmon Arm, BC

PNR Regional Convention - Selkirk Express 2016. There will be bus trips to the Kettle Valley Steam Railway and to the Revelstoke Railway Museum. Layout tours, clinics, contests, a public show and Free-Mo meet.

Info: www.SelkirkExpress2016.ca

Jun 18-19, Fort Steele, BC

Father's Day at the Fort Steele Railway! Throughout the day... special displays, BBQ, engine shed tours and entertainment. Steam train rides \$2 all weekend long. (Dads ride free on Sunday!) Info: - www.fortsteele.ca

Jun 18-19, Mossleigh, AB

Train Days at Aspen Crossing - an entire system of G scale model trains by the Rocky Mountain Garden Railroaders. Enjoy 1 hour in length train experience on the full size excursion train that hosted THE POLAR EXPRESS TM! Info: -

www.aspencrossing.com, 1-866-440-3500

Aug 11-14, Big Valley, AB

13th Annual Alberta Free-mo. An entire hockey rink filled with a modular layout! Event open to all Free-mo module owners across North America. Set up begins Thursday August 11th ; commence running on Friday and go until Sunday at 4:00PM. Public viewing is 10-4 on each day, and admission is free for viewing! Sponsored by: Calgary Free-mo, a 100% NMRA Group. Info:- www.calgaryfreemo.ca, info@calgaryfreemo.ca

Aug 14 (Sun), Wetaskiwin, AB

Alberta Central RAILWAY DAY. Pancake Breakfast Served from 10 a.m. to 11:30 p.m; Beaver Tails Served from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Model Train Exhibits and Collectors Show; Exhibits and Telegraph Service Demonstrations; Train Rides, Speeder Rides, Wagon Rides; Spike Pounding Demonstrations; All-Inclusive fare of \$8 per person aged 2 and older.

Info:- www.abcentralrailway.com 780-352-2257 acrm@xplornet.com

Sep 17-18, Sherwood Park, AB

2016 MMRF Great Edmonton Model Train Show, 10:00 to 5:00 each day. Millennium Place, 2000 Premier Way, Sherwood Park. Admission \$10.00, \$5 for youth 16 and under. Children 4 and under free. Two soccer fields of model railroading fun. Activities for the whole family including the LEGO Activity Centre. Many operating layouts and static displays. How-to clinics & demonstrations by the experts. Dealer booths. Info:- www.mmrf.ab.ca Email:

trainshow@mmrf.ab.ca

Sep 24-25, Calgary, AB

Railway Days at Heritage Park. 9:30am-5:00pm. Info:- www.heritagepark.ca/plan-your-visit/event-calendar/railway-days.html

Oct 15 (Sat), Calgary, AB

37th Annual Boomer Auction, Sponsored by South Bank Short Lines, St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, 703 Heritage Dr. SW. Setup and viewing 9:00am, auction starts at 10:30am. Note earlier start times. Info: - John Wrinch, (403) 281-5745, jawrinch@shaw.ca

Oct 16 (Sun), Calgary, AB

CMRS Fall Mini Meet and Annual General Meeting, Glenmore Inn. Clinics, Show & Tell

Oct 22 (Sat), Edmonton, AB

MMRF Fall Swap Meet: Central Lion's Senior Citizens Recreation Centre 11113 113 St. 9AM-Noon, Admission \$3.

Info:- Ric Francoeur, Ph. 780-458-1032 www.mmrf.ab.ca

Nov 5-6, Vancouver, BC

Vancouver Train Expo 2016 is the reinvigorated 34th annual train show. Info:- www.vancouvertrainexpo.ca



REGISTRATION FORM

Sixth Division – National Model Railroad Association – Pacific Northwest Region

MUSKEG MIXED

6th Division Annual Meet Edmonton, Alberta September 15 – 18, 2016

To held in conjunction with the **Great Edmonton Train Show**

at

Millennium Place, Sherwood Park

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ PROVINCE: _____

POSTAL CODE: _____ PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

EARLY REGISTRATION (Before July 31, 2016)\$40

NMRA Members

REGISTRATION (After July 31, 2016).....\$50

NMRA Members

SIX MONTH RAIL PASS to become member of 6th Division\$10

BARBEQUE TICKETS (Not included in registration).....\$5

Barbeque tickets must be purchased by July 31st. Registrants may purchase extra tickets for guests.

BANQUET TICKETS\$25

TOTAL ENCLOSED\$ _____

Please make cheques payable to "Muskeg Mixed" and mail to:

Pete Ulvestad, Registrar
15 Sandpiper Crt
Sherwood Park, AB
T8A 0C1