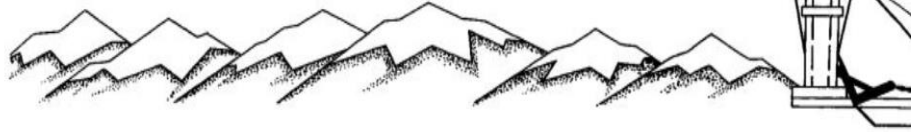


Highball!

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION 6TH DIVISION PNR

May 2018



Scenery in The Crowsnest Pass is Spectacular!

An eastbound empty sulphur train is passing through the town of Bellevue. In the distance, a small part of the Frank Slide can be seen. Plenty of mainline action will be witnessed by attendees of The Crow 2018, our upcoming 6th Division Spring Meet. (photo by Gord Smith)

6th Division Officers

Superintendent

Ed Molenkamp 6divsuper@pnr.nmra.org

Phone: 780-455-1479

Assistant Superintendent

Peter Ulvestad ulvestad@telus.net

Phone: 780-410-0788

Secretary

Doug Johnson djca@accesscomm.ca

Treasurer

Rick Walker walkr@telusplanet.net

Achievement Program

Doug Wingfield, MMR dwfield@telus.net

Convention Coordinator

Doug Burton dwburton1234@gmail.com

Highball! Editor

Rob Badmington highball@pnr.nmra.org

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

Hello everyone. I hope Spring is treating you all well. The division has been quite busy already this Spring with a ton of events and shows.

The shows that I attended were well attended even with the snow storm that preceded the Moose Jaw show. It was good to see nobody getting hurt after some scary road conditions.

Now we come upon the Spring meet in the Crowsnest Pass in a month's time. I have been asked about the locations of some of the events. The Crowsnest is a municipality of 5 small towns Bellevue, Hillcrest, Frank, Blairmore, and Coleman.

We will be having all of the events scattered throughout 4 of these towns but as they are basically on top of each other driving will be minimal.

The regional convention in Portland is just next week and I will be attending for the Board Meeting and enjoying Portland once again.

Speaking of Regionals, I had mentioned in earlier Highballs the 6th Division is responsible for 2019.

Planning is already underway for the Regional which will be called Kootenay Express 2019 in Cranbrook BC.

Yes, BC. This was done for a variety of reasons including the fantastic museum in Cranbrook and the scenery alone is worth it not to mention all the railfanning and a chance to get together with our friends from the 7th Division.

We are getting a lot of help from the 7th Division in this as it is in their territory. The website will be up soon for that meet as well so stay tuned.

Division-wise we are continuing to see more members joining which is encouraging. Part of this is because we have better insurance for Canadian clubs who decide to go 100% NMRA-membership.

We now have \$2 million available for liability which is required in most venues. If any club is interested please call me and I will be glad to come explain it.

From the Editor – Rob Badmington

As I started putting together this issue of Highball!, soliciting some photos of trains in the Crowsnest Pass (thanks, Gord), and going over the activities planned for the upcoming Spring Meet, I began to get excited about event. I have missed the last couple of meets, so it will be good to get together with our members for some fun times. It looks like Ed and his committee have found some interesting things to explore in the

area. The Crowsnest Pass is one of my favourite places to visit.

I am also looking forward to attending the NMRA National Convention in Kansas City this August. I have been to Kansas City a few times and can say that there are few other places that compare with the railfanning opportunities there. The sheer volume of rail traffic is immense and there are numerous scenic and publically accessible

spots to take pictures from. Of course, a National is model railroading on steroids, with way too much going on to do everything. I always like attending clinics and learning new things, as well as visiting a few home layouts and taking in the National Train Show. Maybe the best part is meeting new people and possibly making friends with people who have common interests.

If you happened to notice Jim Scott of Calgary listed among deceased members in the most recent PNR *Switchlist*, be assured the rumours of his death are greatly exaggerated. I spoke to Jim a couple of days ago and he is still happily on the green side of the grass. Blame a computer error for the mistake.

6th Division Nominations Committee Report – Doug Johnson, Secretary

As chair of the nominating committee, I report that the deadline for nominations for the positions of Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent has now passed. Two nominations have been received – Ed Molenkamp for Superintendent and Peter Ulvestad for Assistant Superintendent. Since no other nominations have been received, Ed and Peter have now been named to these positions for two-year terms beginning September 1, 2018. Details on the responsibilities of these positions are available in the PNR Superintendent's Guidebook which is located at pnr.nmra.org/policies.

Achievement Program Report - Doug Wingfield, MMR #484, 6th Division, PNR

AP Chair

Congratulations go out this month to Doug Burton of Camrose who has qualified for his Scenery Certificate. All of the electronic paperwork has been submitted for this category to NMRA.

His Scenery Certificate was done using the new 'remote assessment' method whereby no one visited his layout to do the assessment. Doug submitted photos of his layout and provided a thorough description of what he did and how he did it. I ran all of the information past a qualified assessor and we agreed on a mark which was within two points of each other. Everything was then sent electronically to Jack Hamilton, PNR AP Chair and he approved the work and sent it to NMRA Head Office for their approval. No paperwork changed hands.

There is another modeler in Regina who is doing the same thing for a Structure he built for a Merit Award. We have not completed the assessment as yet but will announce results in my next column.

The size of our Division is no longer an obstacle to providing service to members who want to participate in the Achievement Program. The hard work is always done by the modeler and he

only has to create photographs and written details of the project for submission to the AP Chair of the Division.

I hope this new system will encourage others to participate in AP.

Unfortunately I will not be attending the Crow meet as I will be in Vancouver with family. There will be AP assessment available at the meet so do not hesitate in bringing something you created over the winter months. Just give us a little advance notice so we can prepare our assessors to set aside time to do the assessment.

I have indicated to Ed Molenkamp that I will be 'retiring' from the 6th Division AP Chair position effective upon the appointment of a new Chair. I have enjoyed doing this job for 15 years now and feel it is time for someone else to inject new blood into the position. The NMRA Achievement Program is alive and well and we as a Division can be proud of what we have accomplished in the hobby. Over the years we have had 6 Master Model Railroaders in the 6th Division of which 3 are still active.

I thank all those that participated and supported me and the Division in the Achievement Program.

Convention Coordinator Report – Doug Burton



THE CROW 2018

June 22-24, 2018 in Crowsnest Pass, AB

We are less than a month away from The Crow 2018 and things are shaping up nicely. The website www.thecrow2018.ca was updated again today and all clinics have their descriptions posted on the web.

Our main presentation will be from Riversdale Resources regarding a new coal mine being developed from a former coal mine closed some 75 years ago. The presenter will have drawings of the new alignment, the 4 track yard to be built on four holes of the Crowsnest Golf Course which have been moved further up the mountain. The

mine will send the coal some 10km down a conveyor system from the mountain right over top of the golf course in a new "dustless system". Sounds very interesting.

We also have two prototype tours which are included in the registration.

We added another feature to the meet with a 'show-and-tell' aspect. This is becoming popular lately at meets and conventions and is an interesting way of meeting other modellers.

We will also have AP Judging available as two of our clinicians are MMR's.

Registrations are doing well and we look forward to seeing you out there!

Ed will send any further updates by an email blast and on the website.

Area Reports

Edmonton - Mark Johnson

It's hard to believe my last column started with a comment on the "seemingly endless days of cold," now that the thermometer is nearing +30!

The Mainline Model Railroaders Fellowship (MMRF, <http://mmrf.ab.ca>) annual Spring Swap Meet was held in March, and there was a good turnout for the first couple of hours.

I know the items on the EMRA's tables sold well. I'm sure everyone bought enough equipment for current projects, and a good start on this fall's sale items - it's fun to watch some items come back on different tables for several meets.

The Fall Swap Meet is already scheduled for October 20, same place, same time.

The annual model railroader's Meet and Greet BBQ will be held on June 15 -see the coming events list for more information. This goes rain or shine!

The Edmonton Model Railroad Association (EMRA) is in the final stages of planning an expansion on the north end of the freight shed at

Fort Edmonton Park. The significant components of the new space will include an expanded version of the north end yard, a space for railroad artefacts and their interpretation, and workshop/clinic space in the basement. Stay tuned for progress reports.

The EMRA hosted a day-long filming session by a Telus group, who has produced a "slow TV" (a phenomenon - Google it for a definition) tour of the Monashee Pacific - 99 minutes of views of the Monashee Pacific - it never felt so big! Have a look at <https://youtu.be/u4c940bCqt0> - I've also put the link on the www.EMRA.club/tours page.

Northern Rails, the biennial operating weekend, is being held in Edmonton, Camrose, and Calgary this September. There is still room for layout owners who would like to participate.

The EMRA's Monashee Pacific will be unavailable due to construction, so we need all the operating positions we can find. Please contact Peter Ulvestad at ulvestad@telus.net.

Calgary - Rob Badmington

Winter finally let up just in time for SUPERTRAIN 2018 in mid-April. Even so, snow fell in Calgary a couple of days before the show, and piles of dirty snow remained in corners of the parking lot, taking up valuable space. Even so, attendance was up by over 500 to 11,430 adults and children. Layouts and exhibits came from far and wide, including the Mt. Rainer N scale layout from Washington state, and the Crowsnest Tramway from Belleville, ON. We also had commercial exhibitors from all over Canada and the US. The interest in trains of all types and sizes is still there

with the public, so hopefully some of those kids will take up the hobby and keep things going.

The Calgary Model Railway Society has a number of events upcoming, including a bus trip to Lethbridge to tour some layouts in early June, a possible bus trip to Edmonton for GETS in September, and then the Fall Mini-meet and AGM on October 14th. South Bank Short Lines will host the 39th Annual Boomer Auction on October 13th. Everyone is welcome to participate in these events.

Calgary Model Trainmen – Dale Sproule

The Calgary Model Trainmen's Club bulk purchased 13 Tichy Handcar Sheds, Model 7011 last fall for participating members who put down \$10 each. Participants had 5 months to bring back their assembled model to the May 2018 business meeting. Of the initial 13 model taken away, five members brought back their model,

described their model and were refunded their initial \$10. These models now belong to the club and will be placed on our upcoming permanent layout, the other 8 members got a nice kit for \$10. CMT felt it important to encourage participation through kit building of a reasonable simple plastic kit.

Regina - Echo Valley Railroad Guild – Doug Johnson

Club members have been active in displaying their modular layouts in 2018, including the Saskatoon model railroad show in February and the Thunder Creek (Moose Jaw) show in March. The Saskatoon show included the club's expanded Free-mo layout, which has grown to over 85 linear feet over the past three years. Several members are planning to attend the Big Valley Free-mo meet in August.

The Guild hosted the second annual Regina Railfest at the Tartan Curling Club on May 5 and 6. Following on the successful 2017 event, the show featured 20,000 square feet of displays, layouts and vendors. There were over 15 layouts, including ones from Winnipeg, Regina, Moose Jaw, Swift Current, Saskatoon, Martensville, Prince Albert and Calgary. The Guild would like to extend a big thank you to all participants, especially those from out of town, for making the show a success. Attendance was up over 10% and many attendees said they were "blown away" by the number and quality of the layouts and

displays. The 2019 show has been tentatively set for May 4 and 5.

The NMRA booth was staffed by Peter Ulvestad, who drove down from Edmonton for the show, and Doug Johnson. Six new members were added as a result.



At Regina Railfest 2018, Peter Ulvestad at the NMRA table, talks up the benefits of NMRA membership to Ron Begalke from Martensville, SK. (photo by Doug Johnson)

Moose Jaw - Thunder Creek Model Railroad Club - Greg King

A busy winter and spring season had our members attending several shows. In February the club travelled to Saskatoon for the show sponsored by the Prairie Rail Workshop.

In March we hosted our annual Model Train Show, held at the Western Development Museum in Moose Jaw that was attended by just under 2000 people. The weekend included 35 displays including new and used dealers, informational displays such as CNRHA and NMRA, operating model railroads, including various scales from N to G as well as a large art display. There was a door prize awarded each day to one lucky attendee. Saturday evening there was a gathering of over 100 for a great meal, refreshments and a few tall tales, as well as an

auction with many items that were donated by the participants and the Thunder Creek Club. As a result of the tremendous support shown by those attending the show, the Thunder Creek club made a donation to assist with the many budget challenges faced by the Museum.

Thanks to all that supported this great event and watch our web site (www.tcmrc.org) for details on the 2019 event.

In April the club attended the Prince Albert hobby show and in May the Regina Railfest show.

All in all it was a busy season and all are looking forward to a bit of summer, hoping for some much needed rain.

Lethbridge - Paul Smith

It's been a busy late winter/early spring for the Southern Alberta Model Railway Club. We held our first open house for 2018 on March 17 and 18, followed by going to SUPERTRAIN in April with our N scale portable layout. We're looking forward to visits from Calgary area model rails on June 2 and attendees at Crow 2018 later in the month.

The club will be tackling more benchwork for our N scale layout expansion in the near future. Work continues on track and industrial placement on our HO scale layout. Things are starting to quieten down as we head into summer, but members are still meeting Tuesday nights starting at 1900 at our Gyro Park location. Visitors are always welcome.

Olds - Didsbury - Rick Astle

The Mountain View Model Railroad Club's show at the curling rink in Carstairs is Saturday May 26th 10:00am to 5:00pm and Sunday May 27th 10:00am to 4:00pm. Cost remains the same as Olds at \$5.00 per person with 5 and under free. There is lots of free parking beside the curling rink and park and there will be several signs directing traffic to the show. The club is excited by the line-up with several first time

exhibitors at this slightly larger show and some hands-on activities for kids of all ages. June 9th and 30th from 1:00 - 4:00pm will be the last club meetings at the Didsbury Museum for this modelling season. Alternate viewings and operation of the club layout can be arranged throughout the summer season and all year long by calling or emailing Rick Astle at 403 507 3314 or ve6rla@gmail.com or track me down at The Crow 2018.

Airdrie / Iron Horse Park - Greg Orme

With a winter we soon don't want to repeat behind us we now move on to sunnier days. This past winter seemed to drag on forever and at times I didn't think we would ever get through it. We had more snow at the park this past year so much so that we had to cancel our yearly Family Day Frost Bite Run due to the amount of snow we had and just could not keep up with it to keep the tracks cleared.

We continued our winter Locomotive maintenance while still preparing for SUPERTRAIN. We were upstairs again this year with our train rides and I think it fair to say that the show went well, with us giving close to 4500 rides over the 2 day show. Although the ride only consisted of approximately 100 feet up and down, both the children and adults really seemed to enjoy it, so much so that many come back for 2 & 3 rides. I choose to call it a "Teaser Ride" with the idea they will come out to "Iron Horse Park" and take our much longer ride, which takes them over approximately 1.5 km. of mainline track on our Mountain Sub and another 1 km. on our Shuswap Sub. Some of our Cub Members had their Static Display downstairs in the main show area, said they had quite a lot of interest in their display, which is very good, when one knows the many hours that have gone into their various models. One of our members did say that it is a little disheartening that it seems to be only people of our generation (old timers) that really show the true interest.

With that said there is always room for more members at Iron Horse Park if you're so interested or maybe you might just want to come help us out a few days a year as a volunteer which ever works best for you, you're more than welcome. Until next time and hope to see you at the park!!





More photos of the railroad action in the Crowsnest Pass area. Despite appearances, this really is Canadian Pacific, not Union Pacific, although UP run-through power is very common. Hopefully in mid-June, we will not have to endure any snow, but it sure makes for a pretty picture.

(3 photos by Gord Smith)



Upcoming Events in the 6th Division

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

June 15 (Fri), Edmonton, AB

Model railroaders Meet and Greet BBQ and train watching, 4PM-10PM rain or shine at the Deville/North Cooking Lake Community Hall, located at 21033 Wye Road, North Cooking Lake. Info:- Ed@ 780-886-8116

June 16-17, 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! Info:- www.aspencrossing.com, 1-866-440-3500

June 22-24, Crowsnest Pass, AB

The Crow 2018, Sixth Division Spring Meet. Friday evening Meet & Greet, Prototype tours, Clinics, Layout tours. For more info, contact Ed Molenkamp, 6divsuper@pnr.nmra.org, phone: 780-455-1479

Aug 15-Aug 19, Big Valley, AB

15th 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 17th ; 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 19 (Sun), Wetaskiwin, AB

Alberta Central RAILWAY DAY. Pancake Breakfast Served from 10 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. with admission ticket Beaver Tails Served from 1 p.m. to 2:30 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. Watch for the grand opening of the Grain Elevator Info:- www.abcentralrailway.com 780-352-2257 acrm@xplornet.com

Sep 15-16, Sherwood Park, AB

2018 Great Edmonton Model Train Show, 10 AM - 5 PM, Millennium Place, 2000 Premier Way in Sherwood Park. Admission \$10, \$5 for youth 16 and under - children 4 and under FREE Layouts, displays, clinics, dealers and LEGO! Info:- www.mmrf.ab.ca. email: trainshow@mmrf.ab.ca

Sep 22-23, Calgary, AB

Railway Days at Heritage Park. 10:00am-5:00pm. Double-heading of Heritage Park's two steam locomotives. Info:- www.heritagepark.ca/plan-your-visit/event-calendar/railway-days.html

Oct 13 (Sat), Calgary, AB

39th 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. Info: - John Wrinch, (403) 281-5745, jawrinch@shaw.ca

Oct 14 (Sun), Calgary, AB

CMRS Fall Mini Meet and Annual General Meeting, Glenmore Inn. www.calgarymodelrailway.ca/mini-meets.html

Oct 20 (Sat), Edmonton, AB

MMRF Fall Swap Meet: Central Lion's Senior Citizens Recreation Centre 11113 113 St. 9AM-Noon, Admission \$3, vendor tables \$25 Info:- Ric Francoeur, swapmeet@mmrf.ab.ca, www.mmrf.ab.ca



Sixth Division



Registration Form

Sixth Division- National Model Railroad Association-Pacific Northwest Region



The Crow 2018



6th Division Annual Meet - The Crowsnest Pass, Alberta - June 22/23/24

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____

EMAIL: _____

Registration *****\$60.00 _____

9 month Rail Pass to become a member of the NMRA *****\$19.99 _____

Full membership to become a member of the NMRA *****\$30.00 _____

Total enclosed ***** _____

Please make cheque payable to The Crow 2018 and mail to: Dave Robinson

7011-93 Ave. NW

Edmonton, Alberta

T6B 0W7

Registration Fee above will include:

- Friday night: Meet and Greet –Pizza and Refreshments in the Park
- Saturday: Tour of Frank Slide, Tour of Bellevue Coal Mine, Clinics
- Sunday: Clinics, Catered Lunch (includes one drink), Layout tours in Lethbridge