



The Mail Car

Newsletter of the St Lawrence Division – NMRA

Issue no. 38 – March 2006

St. Lawrence Division web site: www3.sympatico.ca/gd.knowles/sld/sld_index.htm

From the Superintendent's Desk

By Stanley Conley

Since the last Mail Car, the SLD held a workshop/get together on Saturday January 14 to work on and assist anyone who is having trouble with a kit. We had 12 participants attend this 9:30 to 3:30 event and there was enough enthusiasm to plan for a similar event, which will be held March 4, 2006 as it was the only date that did not conflict with a holiday, train event or meet before we reach what we hope will be fine spring weather and all crawl out of our basements again. This unfortunately means that the event will be over before you read this message but hopefully you will have heard or read about it on the web site and joined us.

Our January meet was held on Saturday the 28th, at St. Emanuel United church on Smyth Road in Ottawa. We had two clinics during the morning: a double barrelled presentation from local railway historian Colin Churcher, no stranger to the SLD and always informative and entertaining. Part one was a

visit to various bridges in the Ottawa area over the past 100 plus years by way of a selection of historic photos and their stories. Part two was a photographic visit to Deeks, the site of railway construction magnate Harry MacLean's ballast quarry and shop facility east of Merrickville on the CP main line. This location is not well known as it is off the generally travelled routes; away from casual inspection, but it was the home to a large and varied collection of steam locomotives, rail based construction equipment and the rail based equipment required to support extensive railway construction in the field. I presented a slide show of winter railfanning trips to Springfield Massachusetts covering locations in New York, Vermont, New Hampshire and Massachusetts. We had a good showing at the display table and a great social hour with the group. In the afternoon we had a single layout on tour, Bill Scobie's Sn3 Rio Grande Southern Colorado empire.



A sizeable group came together for the first Kitbusters workshop on January 14th at St. Emanuel United Church. The workshop was repeated on March 4th at the same location. Some of the projects being worked on are shown in the display report.

Photo: Stanley Conley

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Copy Deadlines
May Issue - April 15
September Issue - August 15
November Issue - October 15
January Issue - December 15
March Issue - February 15

Special thanks to Beate Herzig for proof-reading and general nit-picking

Continued from page 1

During the meet Peter Nesbitt was announced as the election steward as required under the Code of Operating rules. The elections will be held as part of the annual general meeting during the May meet. The position of Superintendent is being vacated as the incumbent has reached the maximum length of time under the Code of Operating rules.

The weekend of March 18-19, 2006 is the date for the Kingston train show and as usual we are seeking volunteers to wave the flag for the SLD, the NMRA in general and just help introduce the public to many of the facets of model railroading. The show has moved this year to the Ambassador Hotel and the space is smaller, as a result we will not have as much space as usual but have been allocated 16 ft of table space (two tables) so we can accommodate four modellers at a time. If you are interested in helping out please contact me, and we will work out a schedule for the two days. For anyone who has not participated in the past, this is an opportunity to work on a model, relatively undisturbed for the better part of a day. In return all you have to do is interact with the public, often about your current project, occasionally about the SLD or NMRA. You also get to stretch your legs and visit the rest of the show! All I ask is that you make a reasonable commitment to arrive before the show starts and not beat everyone else out of the parking lot, we are guests of the show, and part of the 'entertainment'.

Our next meet will be March 25, 2006 to be held at St. Emanuel United Church on Smyth Road in Ottawa. As I write, we have two presentations arranged for, Bill Meredith has volunteered to take us on a photographic tour of Colorado 'and other interesting places and things'. Jeff Hill is preparing a presentation on his experiences with computer aided layout design which we assume have been positive as he translates his current digital design into reality. I am seeking layout tours for the afternoon, but I am sure we will have another enjoyable get together. This is also an opportunity to show off your work before you take it off to Chatham and the NFR spring convention.

The NFR spring convention *Chatham Express 2006* is being held April 28-30, 2006 in Chatham and hopefully by the time you read this information will be up on the NFR web site at www.nfr-nmra.org, including registration forms. If you would like a form contact me or see me at the meet as I have copies. They have a slate of clinics, layout tours, a couple of "extra fair" prototype/model tours and the usual model contests and banquet. As always the best reason to go is to renew acquaintances and make new ones with individuals who share the same interest in model trains as yourself.

Announcement

The annual general meeting of the St. Lawrence Division of the NMRA will be held in conjunction with the division meet on May 27, 2006 at 9:30 am at an as yet to be determined location.

As part of the annual general meeting, elections will be held for all division officers. All NMRA members living within the boundaries of the SLD are eligible to vote in person at the Annual General Meeting or by proxy.

A separate election announcement can be found on page 5 of the **Mail Car**.

Display Report

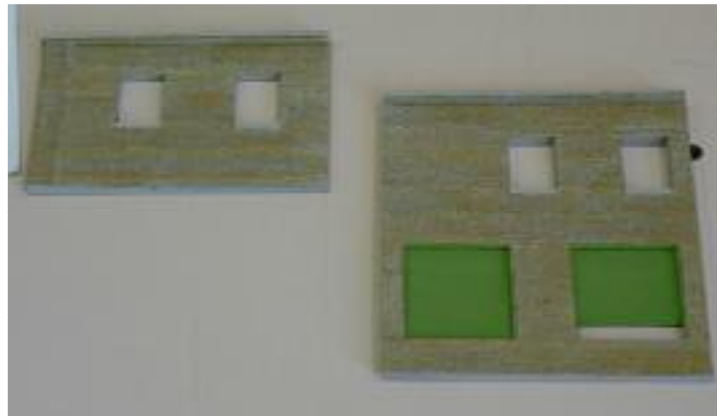
Compiled by Grant Knowles



Suburban House

Stan brought out a Suburban House built from a Branchline Kit. This is a laser kit that went together as per the instructions and includes a detailed interior.

Stan also showed us the BGR Resin Kit he started at the SLD Kit Buster's Workshop earlier in the month. The kit came complete with an interior and under body details. Stan had to rely on other sources of info to verify exactly how the details came together as the instructions were a little light in this area. The car is now ready for the paint shop.



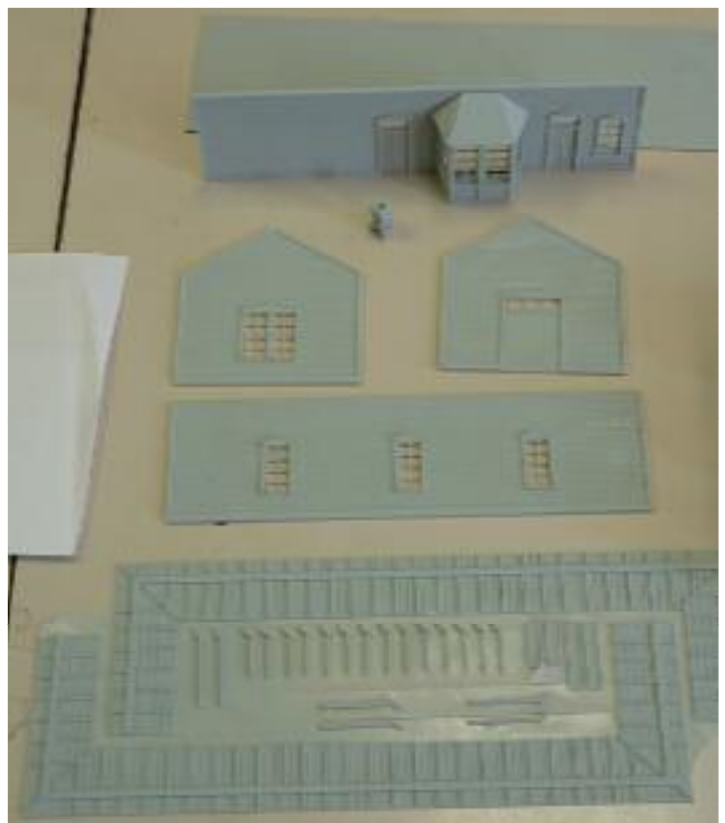
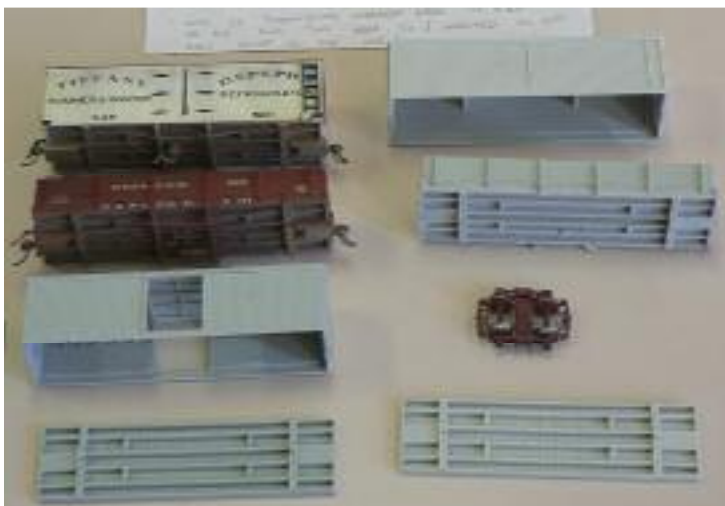
Brick Warehouse

Alex Binkley is busy building an S scale brick warehouse. This structure will become a low relief structure on his layout. Alex began this model at the SLD Kit Busters workshop. There was some discussion at the meet regarding how to paint the bricks and mortar lines.

S Scale Narrow Gauge

Bill Meredith brought out some of the latest creations his company is coming out with. First off is their first train station - Hancock / Romley stations found on the Denver, South Park and Pacific RR. This single story rectangular station sported a fancy bay window which Bill has cast as a single part - very slick.

Bill also displayed a 400 series gondola, 500 series reefer and a 600 series boxcar. All are destined to see service on Bill's DSP&P RR.



All Photos this page: Andreas Mank

Como Roundhouse

Grant Knowles brought out his HO_n3 Como Roundhouse to just remind us that some projects do take a few years to complete. Grant has been working on and off on this model over the past 2 (or is it 3?) years and is targeting to have this completed in time for the April NFR convention.

Note from the editor: The Como roundhouse first appeared in the pages of the **Mail Car** in May 2002, almost 4 years ago.

Photo: Stanley Conley



Atlas Moving and Storage

Paul Bullock brought his Geoffrion Express Agency (from a Walthers kit). The building is adorned by an illuminated and animated sign for the Atlas Moving and Storage Company. The sign is made by Miller Engineering and very easy to set up. Paul is using several of these signs to animate his layout.

Photo: Stanley Conley



Doodlebug M1

Peter Nesbitt showed the finished M1 (see the article in the January 2006 **Mail Car**). The M1 is equipped with a sound decoder and lots of light functions.

Photo: Andreas Mank



NMRA Dates

SLD Meetings		NFR Spring Convention	
March 25, 2006	Emmanuel United Church 691 Smyth Road, Ottawa	April 28 - 30, 2006 Chatham Ontario	
May 27, 2006	TBA		

Impressions from the RGS



Bill Scobie opened his RGS layout for a tour in conjunction with the last meet. Bill models in Sn3, maintains a high scenery to track ratio and uses a seldom seen depth to model key scenes. In combination with his use of real dirt, one feels immersed in the Colorado landscape.

Photos left side: Andreas Mank
Right side: Stanley Conley



SLD Election of Officers

Earlier this year, Stan, on behalf of the executive asked me to be the election steward for the upcoming election of division officers. The Annual General Meeting and the election will be held in conjunction with the May meet on May 27, 2006. See elsewhere in the Mail Car for the time and location.

In accordance with the division's code of operating rules, Stan must step down from the position of Superintendent. Stan has done a fine job as Super and the division has prospered under his leadership.

I will be nominating the following individuals:

Superintendent	Peter Joyce
Assistant Superintendent	Paul Bullock
Paymaster	Gary Baillargeon
Clerk	Tom Badenoch
Dispatcher	Andreas Mank

Members may make other nominations at the Annual General Meeting. While not required, they may make their intention to do so known to me in advance. An Officer must be a member of the SLD.

All NMRA members living within the boundaries of the SLD are eligible to vote in person at the Annual General Meeting or by proxy.

Peter Nesbitt
February 27, 2006



Next Division Meet

St Lawrence Division – NMRA

When:

Saturday, March 25th, 2005

Where:

Emmanuel United Church

691 Smyth Road,
Ottawa

East of CHEO at Dauphin Road

Doors open at 9:00am -- Admission \$5.00

What's on:

Morning:

Division Business

Clinic

- Bill Meredith
Colorado and other interesting places
- Jeff Hill
Digital layout design experiences

Display

- Narrow Gauge

Door Prizes

- You never know what to expect!

Afternoon:

- Layout Tours

