



The Mail Car

Issue no. 43 – March 2007

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

From the Superintendent's Desk

By Peter Joyce

Following a quiet time over Christmas, several members of the SLD gathered at Emmanuel United Church on January 13th for our second kitbuster workshop. It was a great day, much work was accomplished, and attendees went home smiling. One of the high level tasks was the insertion of a girder bridge on the SLD module. Norm Levert did most of the work, while Grant Knowles

recorded the event for posterity. The task was accomplished in a little over 3 hours.

On Saturday, January 27th we held our regular bi-monthly meeting, also at Emmanuel United Church. Attendance was good, notwithstanding that several members had opted for the Springfield Show. As usual,



The Ball Signal identifies the general locale as New England, the location is Wells River. Dave Primeau is modelling the CP's Vermont line and its connections in his basement and opened his layout to the group during the last meeting.

Photo: Andreas Mank

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The Mail Car is published five times a year by the St. Lawrence Division – NMRA.

Opinions expressed are those of the editor (Dispatcher) or the individual authors and are not necessarily those of the St. Lawrence Division–NMRA

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

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there were a number of informal clinics held around the model display table before the formal meeting start.

We confirmed we were prepared to represent the NFR at the Kingston Model Railroad Show on March 17 and 18 (not everyone is going to the convention); Gary Baillargeon is our Point of Contact.

Norm Levert provided a very interesting talk on locomotive types on the French Chemin du Nord, information he discovered while he was doing research for background on his home layout – another Chemin du Nord, but this time based in northern Quebec and Ontario. He also provided a construction report on the insertion of the bridge on the SLD module, supported by a good number of photos taken by Grant. Members were duly impressed, even when Norm pointed out some construction irregularities! Thankfully, the new bridge was declared fit for service.

Two layouts were visited in the afternoon; our thanks go out to Chris Lyon and David Primeau for hosting the SLD.

A number of members will be attending the Convention in Rochester, while others will be manning the NMRA booth at the Kingston ON model railroad show, being held the same weekend.

Our third Kitbuster workshop was held as scheduled on Saturday February 24th. Nine enthusiastic members spent the day modelling in HO, S and O scales: at times concentration levels were so high you could hear a pin drop, while often the camaraderie resulted in gales of laughter echoing through the room. Obviously, this type of activity is thoroughly enjoyed by those present, and the SLD Executive hopes to increase attendance in the future.

Our next regular bi-monthly meeting will be held Saturday, March 31st, at which time we hope to be able to show off a number of prize winning models!

How good is your railroad lingo?

By Robert Farquhar

A brakeman was on the witness stand in a case involving damages resulting from a freight wreck. He was asked by counsel to just tell in his own words what happened when the rear end collision occurred. The head brakeman then proceeded: "Well, you see, the hoghead was on the ground greasing the pig; the tallowpot was on top breaking up diamonds; the Captain was in the doghouse sorting tissue; the rear shack was putting a keeley on a red hub, and I was up ahead bending a rail."

TRANSLATION:

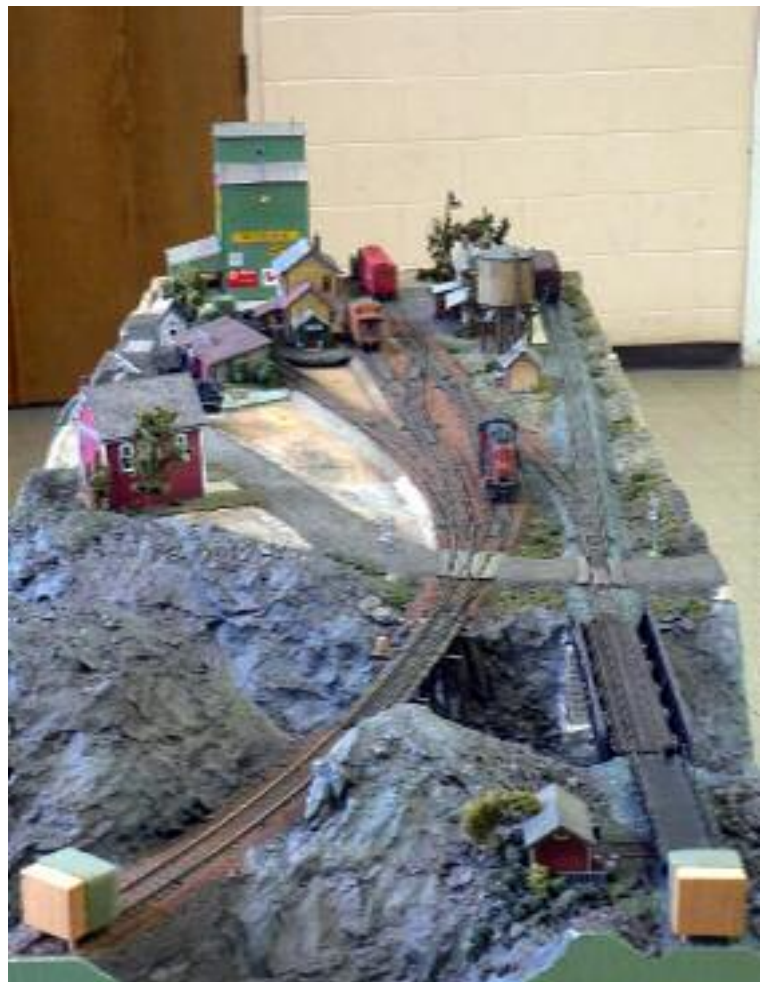
"The engineer was lubing the loco bearings; the fireman was on the tender breaking up coal; the conductor was in the caboose/van dealing with train orders, manifests and betting slips on a sure thing in the third race; the rear brakeman was dealing with a hotbox, and I was up ahead throwing a switch."

Kitbusters Workshops

By Andreas Mank

Since the last edition of the mail car, two Kitbusters workshops, the SLD's own incarnation of modelling with the Masters, have been held. The picture on the right shows the gathering on February 24.

At the previous gathering on January 13, the through plate girder bridge assembled by Normand Levert from a Central Valley kit was installed on the SLD switching module. The bridge nicely completes the front section of the module, as shown in the photos below.



Layout Tour

By Andreas Mank

The afternoon of the last meeting found us visiting two layouts, both HO scale. Dave Primeau and Chris Lyon had opened their basements for us.

Dave models the CP's Vermont line leading to the interchange with the B&M in Woodsville. His layout depicts the towns of Newport, St. Johnsbury, Barnet, Wells River and Woodsville and is set in the late steam to diesel transition era. Operations are supported by several staging yards for end and intermediate connections. Dave's layout runs with traditional DC block system, supported by a signal system that lets the engineer know that the blocks to the next town are his. Structures are a mixture of kits, kitbashes and scratchbuild set in a magnificent autumn scenery.

On the right, the service area of Newport is shown. The line in the top right hand corner disappears into a staging yard.

On the bottom, St. Johnsbury (left) and Woodsville (right) are separated by a spacious aisle.

The cover of this issue shows the junction at Wells River.



Chris Lyon is a fan of modern train operations with big diesels and long trains. His layout just started to acquire a scenic shell rounded out by his realistic backdrops, which Chris demonstrated during a clinic last year. Apart from a yard sized to handle long trains, there are numerous industrial sidings to keep operations interesting. The CN station build by Mike Hamer found a home on the mainline portion of the layout.



NMRA Dates

SLD Meetings		NFR Spring Convention	
March 31, 2007	Emmanuel United Church 691 Smyth Road, Ottawa		Flower City Flyer NEW DATE: March 17 - 19, 2007 RIT Inn & Conference Center 5257 West Henrietta Road Rochester, New York 14586
May 26, 2007	TBA		SLD Workshops April 21, 2007

Display Table

By Grant Knowles

Bill Meek brought out a Proto2000 Drop-End Gondola that he has been working on at the SLD Kit Busters workshop. The car features painted floor boards and scrap metal bales made from heavy aluminium foil.



A Train Master and PA1 were on display courtesy of Normand Levert. Both were lettered for his NORD line. Normand also displayed the "evolution" of wood chip cars that are used on his NORD RR. The innocent Pickle Car is equipped with a Kadee magnet that is used to "patrol" for stray ferrous metal debris on the right-of-way.

Grant had the largest model on display - a large scale trestle that he built out of recycled trestle bents and new cedar strips. This was glued together with Titebond II waterproof yellow glue and is destined to be installed on his outdoor layout this year.

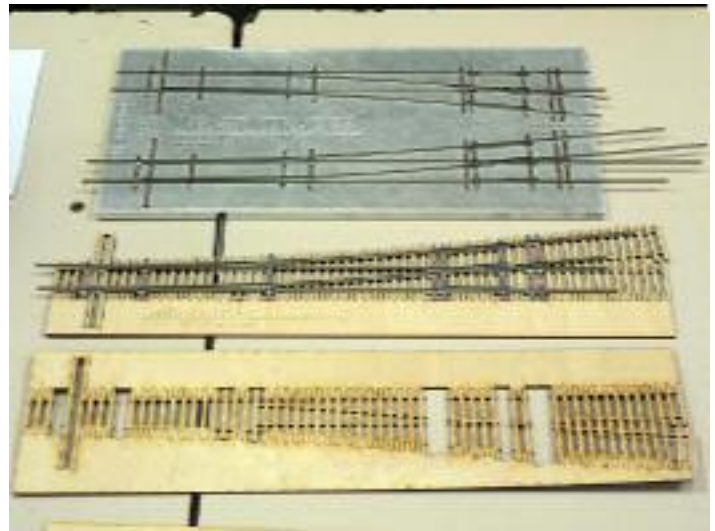


Bill Meredith's company has branched out into the HO standard gauge market under the name of Protowest Scale Models with a D&RGW caboose. The master was made from a combination of plastic and etched brass. Bill also had some Sn3 D&RG gondolas (narrow gauge) circa 1885 and 1920.

On a recent trip to Florida, Jim Baxter paid homage to three hobby shops picking up a CNR 2-6-0 by Model Power locomotive, 14 pieces of rolling stock and a deck bridge kit. Of course these were all in N scale, so it really didn't fill a suitcase!



Peter Joyce is scratch building M&SC Caboose #508 in O scale with parts from Q-Car, Kemptron, PSI, Walthers and styrene. I wonder if we will see this entered into the NFR Model contest in March?



A member brought out his recent purchase of Fast Tracks switch assembly jig. This machined aluminium jig is a priceless tool that greatly enhances one's ability to hand lay turnouts. The per unit cost of building turnouts is better than commercial units if you are building ten or more. Very slick.



And finally, Peter Nesbitt displayed his decoder tester. The heart of the set-up is a NCE decoder tester. Peter added a mounting plate, connectors and a speaker for convenient hook-up of different DCC decoders, including sound decoders.



Next Division Meet

St Lawrence Division – NMRA

When:

Saturday, March 31st, 2007

Where:

Emmanuel United Church

691 Smyth Road,

Ottawa

East of CHEO at Dauphin Road

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

What's on:

Morning:

Division Business

Clinic

- TBA

Display

- TBA

Door Prizes

- You never know what to expect!

Afternoon:

- Layout Tours

