



The Mail Car

Newsletter of the St Lawrence Division – NMRA

Issue no. 44 – May 2007

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

From the Superintendent's Desk

By Peter Joyce

The March meeting, held at Emmanuel United Church, was well attended. The NFR Convention in Rochester was a success, with much credit given to the organizers who put together the event with very little notice, and even less experience. The SLD presence at the Kingston model railroad show was welcomed, and as typically occurs the participants spent much of the two days interacting with the general public at the expense of serious modelling.

At Rochester the NFR Executive made a plea for some Division to come forward with an offer to host the 2008 convention. After consultation at the banquet table, the SLD rallied to the flag and volunteered to do so. As no other Division came forward, our offer was accepted with certain conditions that at the time of writing this Report were accepted and so the SLD will host the 2008 Convention – the “Bytown Bobber” - from April 25 to 27, 2008. The Chimo Hotel has been selected

as the convention site and a formal contract will be signed soon. Grant Knowles is the chairman for the event and will keep members abreast of plans as they are formulated. Meetings have been held, committee members have been appointed (I believe Grant is still looking for a raffle organizer) and I'm certain members will be well satisfied with the program the Committee is developing.

Two of our members also fared very well in the NFR Model Contest in Rochester:

Don Leger took first place in the Prototype Diesel and third in the Prototype Freight categories in the Appearance contest.

Grant Knowles won awards in the Judged contest. He took the Chairman's Award for Selwonk & Co Shipping firm (Kit Built Structure), and Best In Show (highest score in the contest) for the C&S Como Roundhouse complex.



The C&S Como Roundhouse complex won awards for best Narrow Gauge Model and Best In Show at the NFR convention in Rochester. Grant will present a clinic at the next SLD meet on May 26 on his research into and modelling of this facility.

Photo: Don Leger

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Copy Deadlines

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

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

Continued from page 1

A very successful kit basher Saturday was held on April 21st: While attendance was small, enthusiasm was high and those present agreed that these sessions should continue next year: thanks to Alex Binkley for organizing this year's workshops. It may be that a workshop is included in the Convention next year: if so it will be held on Friday the 25th at the hotel.

We still are searching for a suitable SLD logo. A design showing a suspension bridge (over the water from Ontario to New York) has met with less than universal acceptance by the executive, so would members put their minds in gear and suggest something else, PLEASE!

Our May meet will be held in Merrickville on Saturday May 26th at the Holy Trinity Anglican Church. Grant will speak on "Como Roundhouse". Tom Gray, a friend of Andrew Chisholm, will speak on "Detailing Freight Cars". Jeff Trew and Andrew Chisholm will have their layouts open in the afternoon.



The SLD booth was busy for two days during the Kingston Rail-O-Rama show.

Photos: Beate Herzig

SLD Makes A Serious Commitment

By Grant Knowles

2008 NFR Convention Chairman

Back in March, the NFR announced they did not have a sponsor for the 2008 NFR Convention and was soliciting submissions. The group from Ottawa who attended the Rochester Convention made a snap decision – something we don't normally do, so the beer must have been flowing freely at the time – and tendered our intentions at the banquet! To our delight, the NFR Executive accepted our offer provided we respond by the end of April with some additional information to ensure we were serious about the offer.

Since then we have formed a Convention Committee and held a series of planning sessions. It certainly helps having the experience of the 2001 convention under our belts and a number of “experienced” members on the team. Your Convention team is:

Chairman: Grant Knowles
Assistant Chairman: Tom Badenoch
Registrar: Greg Montague
Treasurer: Gary Baillargeon
Communications: Stan Conley
Infrastructure: Peter Joyce
Clinics: John Mitchell
Layout Tours : Mike Hamer
Prototype Tours: Paul Anderson
Raffle: Seat is open.

As you will notice, the Raffle Seat remains open. If you are interested in participating in the convention, please contact me directly as it does take a large number of people to make this happen and the more we have on board, the less strenuous it is for everyone. For those who may not be familiar with the Raffle, it's rather very simple. At each convention, we put up for raffle a number of donations that we have received from various vendors and manufactures. Tickets are really cheap and at the end of the night you may walk home with one or more prizes for a minor investment. Prizes in past included plastic kits, building materials and tools along with expensive rolling stock etc. The role of the Raffle Coordinator is to solicit donations and coordinate and staff the actual event on the weekend. Andreas filled this role back in 2001 and found it to be a lot a fun. Also, there are a number or “regular” suppliers to this event so obtaining donations is very straight forward.

After much deliberation and navel gazing we have settled on a name for the convention: Bytown Bobber. We also have a logo under development and hope to share that with you at the next SLD meet. I have also made our “formal” submission to the NFR Executive (remember the additional info the NFR req'd?) and it appears we will be accepted by the time you read this.

The convention will be held Apr 25 – 27, 2008 and the Chimo hotel will once again be the center for the events.

Don't forget we are in the early stages of planning the events for the convention, so we are currently soliciting ideas, clinics and tour material, so don't be shy, share with us any ideas and thoughts you might have to make this the best convention ever!

NMRA Dates

SLD Meetings		NFR Spring Convention	
May 26, 2007	Holy Trinity Anglican Church 105 Church Street Merrickville		Bytown Bobber April 25 - 27, 2008 Ottawa
September 29, 2007	TBA		

Display Table

By Grant Knowles

Alex Binkley brought out a series of S scale railroad cars:

1. a scratch built wood flatcar,
2. a bulkhead flatcar adapted from an Amiby Star Kit,
3. a gondola that was inspired by an old Regal kit,
4. a green boxcar from a Quabby Craft kit,
5. a brown boxcar from an Old Train Stuff kit,
6. a Hopper car from American models with SDS decals, and
7. a Container car from S Scale America.



A CN FM HD-44 was brought in by Gary Baillargeon that he painted. Gary also brought out two GP40s made by Atlas with working ditch lights. One is lettered for Vermont and the other for Green Mountain.

Michael Rzebom found a series of metal RR buildings in his basement. If you can identify these, please contact Michael.

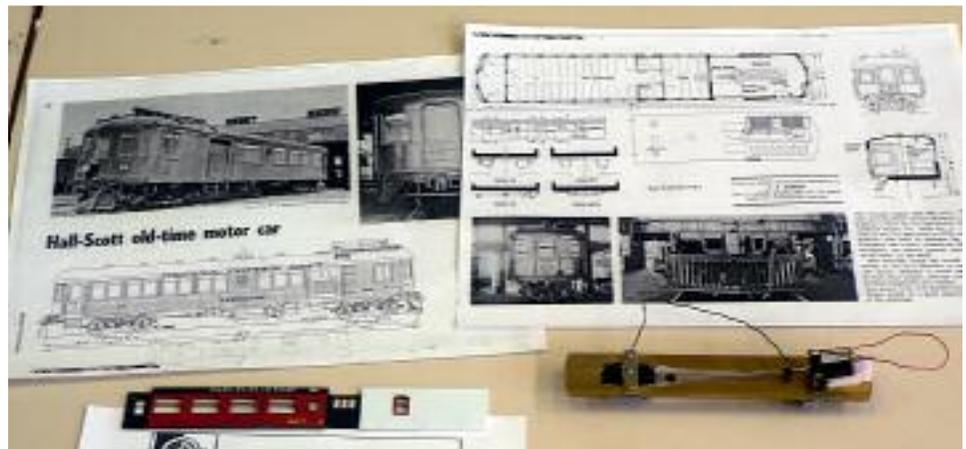


Bill Meredith once again displayed more of his kit design / production work. Bill had the pilot model of the D&RGW 1400 series caboose. He is making further refinements to the roof casting and etchings before it goes to production. Bill also had the production demo samples of the Greenville AAR 70 ton flat car.



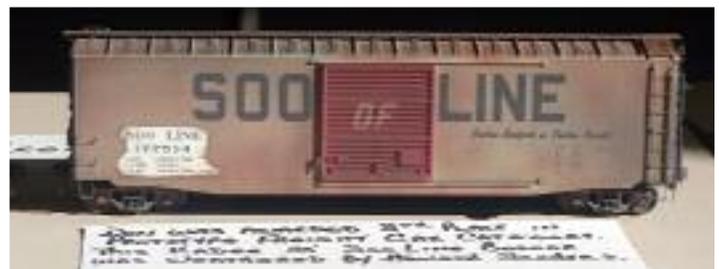
Pierre Burgoyne brought out some pictures of an Armed Forces train that passed through Smith Falls on March 30th. The load included: Chieftain tanks, AVRE bridge layer, TOW and armoured Personnel Carrier.

Grant brought out his completed Como Roundhouse diorama. This has been a "work in progress" for the past 4 years. Grant received two awards at the recent NFR Rochester convention for this – Best Narrow Gauge model and Best IN Show. Grant will elaborate on the whole story at the May meet. Grant also brought out an "in progress" view of the Scott Rail Bus he is building. The plan was to finish this in time for the NFR convention, but as you can see, there has been limited progress to date! Maybe next year!



A CP big Otis Drop Bottom was provided courtesy of Stan Conley. This is a Rensseler Railroad resin kit.

Don Leger also attended the NFR Rochester Convention and came home with a couple of awards. Don was awarded 1st place in the Prototype Diesel Appearance category for his Kato GP35 that was in Quebec Gatineau colours. Don's Kadee 50ft SooLine Boxcar took 3rd place in the Prototype Freight Car Appearance contest. This car was weathered by Howard Scodras



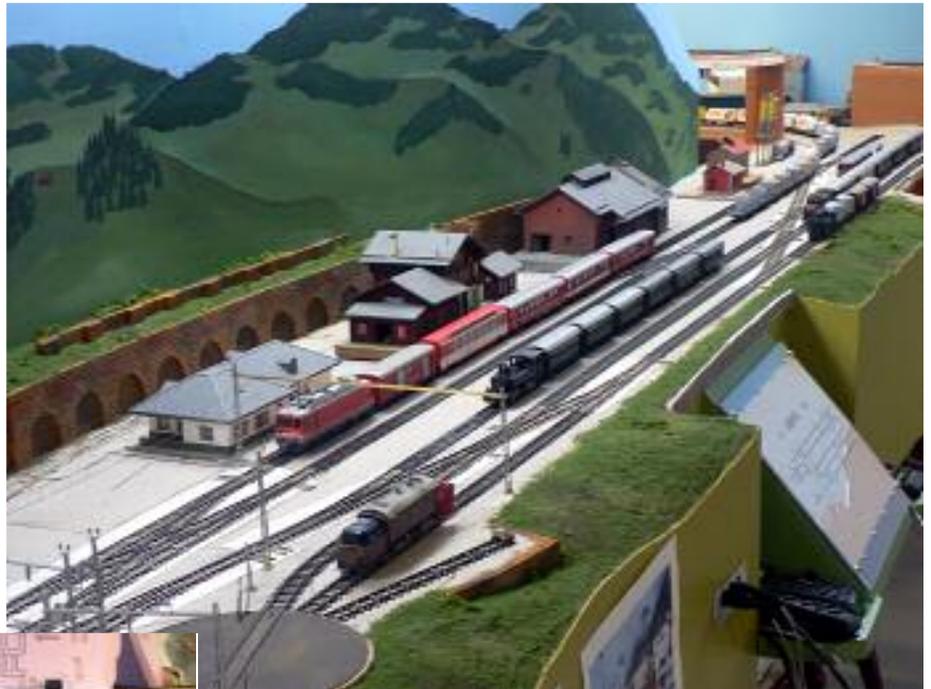
The highlight of the Display Table was Lorne Munro's scratch built Austin Sawmill. This scratch built model is based on the sawmill found at Kinmount. This water powered mill was located beside the (now abandoned) Victorian Rail Line and was originally built in 1874. Over the years it has been subject to a fire and a number of modifications. Out of service since mid '70's it is currently being restored. Lorne is in the progress of building this model and is planning to include an operating interior. Lorne, how would you like to do a future clinic on this very interesting model?

Layout Tour

By Andreas Mank

David Steer opened his basement for the SLD members at the last meeting. Dave has a variety of modelling interests in multiple scales.

During a trip to Switzerland, he got interested in the various private owner railroads in the Swiss mountains. The center piece of the layout is the station of Disentis, where the Furka Oberalp Bahn meets the Rhätische Bahn. Both railroads run on meter gauge, one of them electrified and the other steam powered with a cog rail to enable the run on higher grades.



The model features a run up a 6% grade supported by a working cog rail in the center of the track.

Dave's other interests include Colorado Narrow Gauge as evidenced by these pictures of his modelling efforts in On3.

Test tracks in various other scales and gauges complement his basement.



Kitbuster's Workshop

By Alex Binkley

The second season of SLD kitbusters workshops may not have attracted as many participants as in the first year but those who were able to come think they accomplished a lot.

Working on rolling stock seemed to be the usual project for the Saturday sessions that ran from 9 a.m. to mid afternoon in October, December, February and April with an average attendance ranging between eight and 12 members. However there was lots of variety in the activity including watching Normand Levert install a bridge on the SLD switching layout and Grant Knowles usually had a structure, never the same one, that he was building for his or someone else's layout. Among the projects this year were Pete Joyce's O scale caboose and trolley, Bill Meek's flat cars modified to carry steel billets and Stan Conley's potpourri of HO kits. Yours truly started on what might be a multi year endeavour to build 10 S scale resin kits of Canadian grain hoppers from Kaslo Shops.

Often the projects end up on the display table at the regular SLD meetings so you can see what we are doing during the sessions. The objective of the kitbusters workshops is to enable members to seek assistance with a project or share modeling tips with other members. Next spring we are planning to have a kitbusters workshop as the part of the NFR convention and we would like to encourage members to participate to make our visitors welcome.

Impressions from the NFR convention in Rochester

Here are some impressions from the layout tours at the NFR spring convention in Rochester:

Photos: Don Leger





Next Division Meet

St Lawrence Division – NMRA

When:

Saturday, May 26th, 2007

Where:

Holy Trinity Anglican Church
105 Church Street
Merrickville

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

What's on:

Morning:

Division Business

Clinic

- Grant Knowles:
Como Roundhouse
- Tom Gray:
Detailing Freight Cars

Display

- TBA

Door Prizes

- You never know what to expect!

Afternoon:

- Layout Tours:
Jeff Trew
Andrew Chisholm

