



The Mail Car

Newsletter of the St Lawrence Division – NMRA

Issue no. 49 – May 2008

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

From the Superintendent's Desk

By Peter Joyce

Well, there's been a lot of water under the bridge (apologies to those in Alouette Division) since the last issue of the Mail Car. Our March meeting in Kingston went off well; a separate report on it appears on page 6 in this issue.

The February Kit Buster's meeting went very well; attendance still was not as high as we would like it to be, so we will be having a discussion on the future at our May meeting. Speaking of the May meeting, it will be held on May 31st at Exporail in Saint-Constant. If there is a need for car pooling, we will establish a meeting place at the OC Transpo "Park & Ride" in Vars (Hwy 417, exit 88, south side). To get to Exporail by 9:30 am we will have to clear the parking lot before 7:30 am, so we would plan on meeting there at 7:20 am. There is a full program at Exporail: our meeting will start at 9:30 am and go until 11:00 am – major items are the election, discussion on the future of Kit Buster's (I have some ideas) and the display – hopefully the latter will include those items that were entered at the convention even if they didn't win best in show!

Starting at 11:00 am we will view the model train room, see the new movie, ride the streetcar, and the miniature railway. Lunch will be from noon to 1:30 pm, off site as the canteen etc is not open. From 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm we have a guided tour and will view the Neville Car.

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The Bytown Bobber

By Grant Knowles
2008 NFR Convention Chairman

The Bytown Bobber - The Success Continues!

By the time you read this article, you would have already heard what a great success the Bytown Bobber convention was! We had over 140 folks from across the Region join in on the numerous activities that were offered.

The Friday Kit Buster's session drew many local and out of town participants and became the central gathering point for the early arrivals.

Progress was made on many projects along with guidance (and free opinions) provided on others!

Chris Lyon's Back Drop Painting Workshop was also very educational. My visit half way through the clinic indicated not only were the participants responding well to Chris's instructions but were also very creative on how they "saw" Mother Nature!

Greg Montague ran the Registration for the convention and processed everyone very promptly when they arrived, handing out registration kits that included (amongst other things) the Convention

Guide, Bytown Bobber Crest, a copy of CN Lines, the BRSS BranchLine and the infamous OC Transpo Trolley tape.

I believe Greg was a little surprised on the number of creative problems the Registrants presented him with though he rose to the challenge and addressed them all in style.

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Bob Farquhar's scratch build Bobber won a special award at this years NFR convention.

Photo: Grant Knowles

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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 "From the Superintendent's Desk"

At 2:30 pm we will leave Exporail, either to come home or to go hobby shopping. Entry to Exporail is \$10.00, so we will not charge ourselves the usual \$5.00. Anyone with a current CRHA membership card will have the entry fee waived.

The Bytown Bobber was a resounding success, thanks in no small measure to Grant Knowles and his crew of blue vested helpers. Again, the convention is reported on in detail elsewhere in this issue.

LASTLY – I NEED TO KNOW HOW MANY ARE PLANNING TO GO TO EXPORAIL ON MAY 31ST. I ALSO NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU IF YOU NEED A RIDE!!



We will hold our May meeting at EXPORAIL in Saint-Constant, starting at 9:30 am.

I need to know how many are coming. So:

- Do you expect to attend?
- Will you be driving, or do you need a ride? We can establish a meeting place in the east end for car pooling purposes. There is an OC Transpo "Park & Ride" on the south side of Hwy 417 at Vars – exit 88 – that is easily accessible for everyone. We would meet at about 7:20, departing at 7:30 to get us to Saint Constant by 9:30.
- Will you be hitting the hobby shops before returning to Ottawa?

Please let me know by Email: galeandpeter.joyce@sympatico.ca or phone 613-841-1950 ASAP.

Just about everyone was in attendance when the first round of clinics started at 6:30 pm on Friday evening. An informal slide show took place after the four rounds of clinics were finished by 10:30 pm. In this case, a clinic room is set up with a slide projector to allow members to share their photograph collection with fellow colleagues.

The clinics resumed again early Saturday morning. Most clinics were one hour in length and were repeated twice thus allowing everyone an opportunity to see their favourites. In a few cases, presentations required a double session due to the extensive amount of information the clinician had to deliver.

Among all the many changes we implemented at this year's convention was to move the NFR Annual General meeting to Saturday morning. The re-scheduling of the AGM along with offering Door Prizes produced the results we were looking for as over 65 people attended the session and provided input on Neville's question regarding revenue opportunities for the NFR. In the past, the AGM had problems drawing enough people to achieve a quorum! So this change has obviously received full endorsement of the membership.

Saturday afternoon provided the attendees with the opportunity to tour 19 local layouts as well as participate in the Prototype Tour. Both events proved to be very popular and were enjoyed by all.

The Model Contest took place Friday and Saturday. This time the Judged Contest attracted 20 models while the Appearance Contest drew well over 40 models. Local members had a strong showing in the Judged Contest with a number of first prizes issued along with a Best In Show for David Steer. In the Appearance Contest, Mike Hamer took over the Freelance Structure category with all of his buildings destined for his layout extension. Bob Farquhar took home the award for the "Best Bobber" - a special award for this convention.



Chris Lyon is introducing a number of modellers to the art of backdrop painting in a Friday afternoon extra fare clinic.

Photo: Grant Knowles



Registration Desk Activity

Photo: Grant Knowles



The AGM was well attended

Photo: Andreas Mank



Dave Steer was awarded Best n Show for this well known model of an On2 Garrett of the South African Railways.

Photo: Grant Knowles

The infamous NFR Raffle returned in full force this year due to the diligent efforts by Tom Badenoch in soliciting donations from the various manufactures, hobby shops and individuals. There were nearly 100 lots up for grab on anything from books, to trees to tools - an excellent cross section.

As a special treat, we had Angus Palmer orchestrate the Silent Auction for us. Angus ran this akin to what has been done in the past for OVAR. As with the Raffle, this event was well received with over 100 lots up for bidding with some really high quality goodies presented. Nearly everything sold and the event contributed \$200 to the SLD coffers. Thanks to Tom and Angus for a very well run events.



The Raffle had a little bit for everyone.

Photo: Grant Knowles

The Chimo Hotel hosted the Bytown Bobber Saturday evening with the presentation of an excellent meal and environment. Events started off with a really cute skit performed by the Palmer - Hamer duet. This set the mood for the evening as Angus Palmer, as the MC, led us through the evening agenda. Ian Wilson was the guest speaker for the evening and provided an interesting review of railroading incidents that had humorous overtones. John Moseley, the new NFR Contest Chairman, presented the awards for the Model Contests. What many of you may not realize was that Peter Nesbitt, John and Grant Knowles were busy putting the model presentation together right up to 6:30 pm when the banquet started - talk about "just in time"!

Sunday morning saw two more clinic cycles before the layout tours started at 11:00 am. The layout tours were the final event of the convention.

Based on the long faces I saw on Sunday, I can only assume that the attendees were very tired from participating in all of the events and were disappointed it would soon come to an end until next year. There had not been a formal announcement of where next year's convention will be though I am aware there are a number of "irons in the fire" right now.

Bytown Bobber attendees were also asked to fill out a survey that was directed to providing feedback on the convention. About half the survey's came back with some really good info provided which will aid the NFR in planning future conventions. A similar survey will appear in the June Flimsy to which I request you all complete it, whether you attended a convention or not.

Remember to check out our Convention Web page as we will be posting pictures and material from the convention. - www.bytownbobber.org

My heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all those who were involved with the convention, from the organizers to the volunteers and participants. With out you, the convention would not have been the success it was. Once again, Ottawa has shown the Region how to put on a convention!

Grant Knowles
2008 NFR Convention Chairman

Kit Buster's Workshop

By Alex Binkley

The Bytown Bobber organizing committee added a new feature to the standard fare of an NFR convention—a day long Kit Buster's workshop on the Friday.

Only a few out-of-towners took advantage of the session but they all liked it a lot. During the day, five or six visitors spent at least few hours in the room where the workshop was located along with SLD stalwarts Peter Joyce, Peter Nesbitt, Mike Hamer and Alex Binkley.



Peter from Sudbury did not bring a kit to build but he was soon put to work learning the joys of working in a proper sized scale – S.

There were lots of spectators and other drive-by gawkers who wanted to see what was going on. But like all good modellers, the locals and the visitors teased the watchers while they toiled away on their kits, borrowed drilled bits and asked plenty of questions, just like is supposed to happen at Kit Buster's. They agreed it was a good idea and probably should get added to future conventions. There was even a run to Hobby House for needed supplies.

Kit Buster's also gave Pete Joyce to show his unflappable problem solving skills. With an amusing regularity, men in blue vests strode into the room with a crisis needing a solution. Sometime the Colonel actually had to leave the room to accomplish the required deed, sometimes he did it right from his chair.

The Kingston Train Show

By Grant Knowles



Once again the SLD participated in the Kingston train show the weekend of March 15 - 16. The organizers had set aside three long tables for us that more than amply accommodated the SLD Module and a number of folks building models. This is the first year we had taken the module to this show and it was very popular. The pedestrian traffic was great as ever as we had a large number of enthusiastic attendees demonstrate their switching skills on the module. We handed out a large number of "certificates" as well as flyers for the Bytown Bobber Convention.

A special thanks to those who assisted in manning our booth this year: Paul Anderson, David Steer, Don Leger, Peter Nesbitt, Alex Binkley (and anyone else I may have overlooked).

The Kingston Train Show remains to be a popular event attacking some interesting layouts and great specials from the dealers.



Letter to the editor

By Alex Binkley

To SLD members:

During the trip back from our meeting in Kingston and visiting the train show, Chris Lyon, Bob Hobbs, Jim McSherry and I discussed what kind of presentations we'd like to see at future SLD meetings. We enjoyed the presentations by Jim McSherry on his bridge and by Bob Farquhar on basic soldering.

In essence we'd like to see more presentations or workshops like those. Below are some of the topics we came up. If anyone has others for the list, please send them to me. Of course, it's easy to make suggestions, turning them into presentations is another matter. But if Jim and Bob can contribute the way they did, surely we all can or suggest people who could.

The other possibility is for members to do as Brian Earl has in the past with airbrushing and conduct hands on clinics at home. There is a wealth of talent in this group and we could learn a lot from each other. We are sending around this note in hopes of encouraging discussion and presentations.

Ideas for clinics (not in order of importance)

- kit bashing plastic structures
- using squadron or other putties to get rid of seams etc
- how to use digital camera in model and prototype photography
- how to make videos of action on layouts
- layout lighting to maximize photo potential
- rolling stock maintenance for trouble free, reliable operation
- how to maintain locos including lubrication check
- how to recognize different types of locos
- how to install decoders
- how to use a NMRA gauge to check track and switches
- painting, masking and lettering of locomotives and cars
- painting model railway scenery
- proper dry transfer applications
- making resin copies and masters
- how to do LED lighting
- how to make infra red detection work
- advanced soldering
- using cellu clay to create land forms
- Wet on Wet scenery techniques.
- scenery workshops where people show techniques and others can try
- making water and ponds/swamps
- distressing gondolas.

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NMRA Dates

SLD Meetings			
May 31, 2008	Exporail 110 Rue St Pierre Saint-Constant Quebec	September 27, 2008	Tbd
		November 29, 2008	Tbd
		January 31, 2009	Tbd
		March 28, 2009	Tbd
		May 30, 2009	Tbd

Details of the May 2008 Election of Officers for the St. Lawrence Division

By Stanley Conley, Election Steward

In May, at the annual general meeting an election of officers is required for the Division. The following extract from the current St. Lawrence Division (SLD) Code of Operating Rules covers the description of the executive officers, the terms of office and their areas of responsibility. In particular please note that in order to prevent the abuse of volunteer good will and the potential abuse of office there are strict limits on terms of office, and several of our current executive have reached their term limits.

Officers and their Duties

14. The officers of the SLD shall be superintendent, assistant superintendent, clerk, paymaster and dispatcher. The officers shall form the executive of the SLD. At its discretion, the executive may increase the number of officers or change their duties. Two offices may be held by the same person except that a person may not be both clerk and paymaster at the same time. An officer must be a member of the SLD.
15. Officers shall hold office for two years from the date of their election, or if appointed, until the next election, or until their successors are elected or appointed in their stead. Officers shall be subject to removal by simple majority vote at a general meeting of members. The maximum number of consecutive full terms that a person may be an officer is three and he may only hold the same office for two of them.
16. Officers shall be elected at the annual general meeting of members held in an even numbered year. The election portion of the meeting will be chaired by the election steward. If for any reason, an officer is unable to complete his term of office, the executive may appoint a replacement.
17. The superintendent shall be the chief executive officer of the SLD and chair all meets and meetings. He is also the division's representative to the NFR and the NMRA.

The assistant superintendent shall promote the NMRA and the SLD to others, arrange the program for meets, perform such other duties assigned to him by the superintendent, and in the absence or disability of the superintendent, perform the duties of the superintendent,

The clerk shall serve as the division's secretary performing the normal duties of such position including, maintaining the list of members and supporters issuing membership cards, keeping proper minutes of special and annual general meetings of members, ensuring such meetings are properly announced to members, keeping count of votes, and preparing proxies.

The paymaster is the division's treasurer and will perform the normal duties of such position, including the presentation of a financial statement at each annual general meeting of members.

The dispatcher will be responsible for preparing and distributing the Mail Car, as well as announcing meets and other events.

It should be noted that as a practical matter the Editor of the Mail Car is now appointed by the superintendent and does not have to be the same person as the Dispatcher, whose principle responsibilities are distribution of the Mail Car, and other announcements to the membership.

The following table details the history of officers for the division. The first five positions are elected by the membership. The Mail Car Editor and Inspector are appointed by the standing Superintendent and do not have the same term of office restrictions. Inspection of the table will show that Tom Badenoch, Gary Baillargeon, and Andreas Mank have reached the term limit for their standing office and therefore, these positions are required to have new officers elected. Each of these members could stand for election in another position if they desired.

	Fall 1998 to May 2000	June 2000 to May 2004	June 2002 to May 2004	June 2004 To May 2006	June 2006 To May 2008
Superintendent	Peter Nesbitt	Peter Nesbitt	Stanley Conley	Stanley Conley	Peter Joyce
Assistant Superintendent			Grant Knowles	Peter Joyce	Paul Bullock
Clerk	Richard Dickinson	Alex Binkley	Alex Binkley	Tom Badenoch	Tom Badenoch
Paymaster	John Mitchell	John Mitchell	Doug Cushman Gary Baillargeon (Jan 2004)	Gary Baillargeon	Gary Baillargeon
Dispatcher		Stanley Conley	David Steer	Andreas Mank	Andreas Mank
Mail Car Editor	Mike Pasch	Stanley Conley	Stanley Conley	Stanley Conley Andreas Mank (Sept 2005)	Andreas Mank
Inspector	Grant Knowles	Grant Knowles	Grant Knowles	Grant Knowles	Grant Knowles

The Division only works if there are active participants in the functioning of the Division and this means that we need an influx of new volunteers to help organize and guide the Division for the next two years.

As I write this on April 29, 2008, I have a roster of persons willing to stand for all but the Dispatchers position. Having stated that, several have indicated that they would prefer to pass on the reins to willing volunteers should any step forward.

Anyone willing and interested in volunteering for any of the positions should contact me before the May meet (particularly if you cannot attend in person), or make your intentions known during the election portion of the meeting.

Closer to the May meet, up to date information will be available on the division web site. In particular, in the event of multiple members vying for a position, information on proxy voting will be provided for members who cannot attend the meet.

My contact information is:
 Email: Stanley_conley@carleton.ca
 Phone: 613-523-8237



Next Division Meet

St Lawrence Division – NMRA

When:

Saturday, May 31, 2008

Where:

Exporail

110 Rue St-Pierre

Saint-Constant

Doors open at 9:30 am -- Admission \$10.00

What's on:

Morning:

Division Business

Election

Display

- Contest Models

Museum

- Streetcar Ride
- Miniature Train Ride
- Model Train Layout

Door Prizes

- You never know what to expect!

Afternoon:

- Guided Tour
- Neville Car
- Hobby Shop

