



# The Mail Car

Newsletter of the St Lawrence Division – NMRA

Issue no. 64 – May 2011

St. Lawrence Division web site: [www3.sympatico.ca/gd.knowles/sld/sld\\_index.htm](http://www3.sympatico.ca/gd.knowles/sld/sld_index.htm)

## *Superintendent's Report*

By Ron Newby

Another season has come and gone and what an exciting and busy season it was too. Funny thing is what I thought was normal by my standards for what we do in a season is quite a lot compared to other divisions. Let me explain, we meet at least once a month (including the Kitbusters clinics) while there are quite a lot of divisions that meet only a couple times a year. I believe we are as successful as we are because we have a very active membership and one who helps out whatever the task, so pat yourself on the back, you deserve it.

Continued on Page 2

## *The 2011 Railfair Raffle Layout*

By Grant Knowles

This year's Raffle Layout build is well underway and by the time this article reaches you, we will have the track laid and wired plus the land contours in place. But I get ahead of myself. Let us visit the activities from the past month.

Construction of the bench work was undertaken at the April SLD Kit Busters session. Here six diligent individuals learned about the various approaches to bench work design and why we settled on the approach for the Raffle Layout. After the lecture was over, everyone

Continued on Page 4



James van Blitterswyk showed this snow shed model which was started from a Hunterline Kit.  
Photo: Andreas Mank



# St. Lawrence Division

## Executive Officers

**Superintendent:** Ron Newby  
Phone (613) 841-4165  
Email: oapsry@magma.ca

**Assistant Superintendent:**  
James VanBlitterswyk  
Phone (613) 342-4155  
Email: jvanblitterswyk@magma.ca

**Paymaster:** Greg Montague  
Phone (613) 596-6641  
Email: gm.montague@rogers.com

**Clerk:** Gary Baillargeon  
Phone: (613) 774-2380  
Email: petworth.ems@cyberus.ca

**Dispatcher:** Peter Nesbitt  
Phone (613) 592-0110  
Email: Nesbitt@magma.ca

## Appointed Positions

**Inspector:** Grant Knowles  
Phone (613) 825-5438  
Email: gd.knowles@sympatico.ca

### The Mail Car

**Editor:** Andreas Mank  
Phone: (613) 591-9088  
Email: amank@magma.ca

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

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

#### 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

Speaking of patting yourself on the back, I cannot believe the response we are getting from the MR101 project. Not only are divisions within our regions asking about it, so are other divisions in the country, so word is getting around. Rumour has it that there will be a short article about it in the August "Division Report" in the NMRA.org magazine and we are also preparing an article about it in a future issue of the NMRA.org magazine, going to spread the word about this little known but highly successful program.

Speaking about said highly successful program, a huge amount of credit goes to Grant and his crew for organizing and running this ongoing program. I believe the secret to its success was the ability to recognize the need, present it in a well organized manner and make it interesting for the participants. The proof of the success of the program can be seen in the new people getting in the hobby who have (and will) attended the work sessions for the CHEO layout. We have even gotten a few new members through the program. To me, that alone has shown me the success of the program.

Although none of this would have been possible without the support of the membership. It never continues to amaze me what a talented group of modellers we are and how we are so willing to share our knowledge. Whenever something needs to get done, members are always willing to step in. For this I salute you.

We are looking for ideas for next season (we are always looking for ideas) for clinics and places to meet. If there is a clinic idea or area of the division you would like to meet at, please let me know and we will see what we can do to make it happen.

Our last meeting will take place in Smith Falls. We will hold our business meeting in the morning at the St. Francis Masonic Lodge (46 Russell Street West) and enjoy two clinics. The theme for the display table is "Work Trains"

Due to safety concerns at the Railway Museum we will not be able to have a barbecue as originally planned, so for lunch it is everyone for himself. In the afternoon, we will get a tour of the Smith Falls Railway Museum. I hope to see you all there.

May your train stay on the track and you never run out of rail.

# *Impressions from the Kingston Train Show*

Photos by Michael Rozeboom



got down to business, received some instructions and proceeded to assemble the materials into two 2ft x 7ft modules. The modules were a basic box frame comprised of 1x4 pine topped with a 2" thick piece of blue Styrofoam. This assembly rests on 2x2 legs that bring the track surface to a 43" height.

In the afternoon we drew out Andreas' track plan onto the Styrofoam and laid out the pieces of track. Everything went according to plan and to everyone's surprise (and delight) the track pieces did go together as per the plan! Hats off to Andreas. After pinning the track in place, we called it quits for the day.

A 1/4" thick piece of masonite was attached to the rear of each module to act as the back drop. Chris L has volunteered to bring these to life in near future with a few well placed brush strokes.

John & Debbie Stewart have graciously volunteered their basement to host the rest of the work sessions – thanks John and Debbie. At our first basement session, we assembled the modules together (back-to-back) and proceeded to glue the track in place with Liquid Nails. A small bead of glue was applied down the center line of the track followed by a pass with the spatula to level out the glue to a very thin layer. The track was then placed over the glue while lining up to the lines we had previously drawn and held in place with dress pins. The glue was sticky enough that we did not need to add any weights. We also cut out the Styrofoam for the Coal Dock and river. The back drop also received a generous coat of sky blue paint.

Over the next couple of work sessions we expect to build the land contours, wire the track, paint the backdrop and figure out where all the building go. Thanks to Mike Hamers' magic touch, we have received numerous structure donations, many of which are craftsman quality! Due to the high density of complex track work on the industrial side, most of those structures will require kit bashing hence the importance to determine location and foot pattern as soon as possible. The models will then be distributed to members for assembly. Not all structures will be from kits, we will need two railroad bridges scratch built along with a roadway bridge and the coal dock.

We plan to host the workshops on a nominally bi-weekly schedule over the summer to ensure we have the layout finished in time for Railfair! If you are interested in participating in any part or all of the build, just drop me a line if you have not already. I will continue to issue emails prior to the workshops to keep you abreast of our progress and outline the next work shops agenda in case you would like to partake in it. Additional information can be found on the SLD web site:

[http://www3.sympatico.ca/gd.knowles/sld/raffle\\_layout\\_2011/raffle\\_layout\\_2011.htm](http://www3.sympatico.ca/gd.knowles/sld/raffle_layout_2011/raffle_layout_2011.htm)

along with the Railroad Line Forum at:

[http://www.railroad-line.com/forum/topic.asp?TOPIC\\_ID=33053](http://www.railroad-line.com/forum/topic.asp?TOPIC_ID=33053)

Despite the numerous generous donations, we are in the need of the following:

- Motive power in the form of a SW1200, Geep, GP35, etc.
- Caboose
- Wood pile trestle kit, (or the materials to build one),
- Vehicles, people, road signs (cross bucks)
- Bushes, ground foam (various earth and grass colours).
- Scrap yard junk pile (casting).
- Fencing – wood, chain link, etc

Contact me if you can help out in any of these areas.

On a closing note, one of the key benefits of building the Raffle Layout is that it gives us the opportunity to share our knowledge in the hobby with our fellow members and to provide the opportunity to practice what we have learned. Yes, completing the layout is a key objective, but the journey is also very important.



Grant sharing his knowledge of railroad bench designs and things to watch out for.  
Photo by Mike Hamer.



It takes team work to assemble the frame as demonstrated by Paul, Debbie and Stan.  
Photo by Mike Hamer.



Ed and Paul are busy locating the track components on the Styrofoam surface according to Andreas plan.  
Photo by Mike Hamer.



Paul (L), David (C) and Steve (R) are at work placing the final tracks in place. It's amazing how much track a little 4'x7' layout can consume! The module on the left will be the "industrial" area while that on the right will be the "rural" scene. Well at least that is our plan!  
Photo by Mike Hamer.

## NMRA Dates

SLD Meetings		SLD Workshops	
May 28, 2011	St. Francis Masonic Lodge 46 Russell Street West Smith Falls, Ontario		
September 24, 2011	TBD		

## ***Display Table***

**By Andreas Mank**

Bruce Leckie stayed with the display table theme of “Open Loads”. The flat car load was created from pieces from the junk pile and some toy train scrap parts.



Stan Conley build the Ed Fulaz corner store kit as part of the SLD plaster kit project. He added a back door access from embossed paper.



Peter Nesbitt brought out the latest acquisition of the Bonnechere and Braeside Railroad, a gondola acquired from the D&RGW. It was quickly re-lettered and pressed into coal service. The On3 kit is sold by the San Juan Car Company.

Lorne Munroe cast some sidewalks in plaster for Fred Adams.

James van Blitterswyk built a snowshed from a Hunterline kit. A picture is shown on the front page of this edition of the **Mail Car**. To support this project, James assembled a chop saw from a discount mini saw, a wood base and some aluminum channel. The total cost for the saw was \$29.00

Bill Meredith not only presented a clinic on steam locomotive quartering, but also brought out a number of items in his chosen S-scale. To begin, there is D&RGW T-12 No. 169, a 4-6-0 steam engine. The model started as a Jan Rows special which never ran due to the hideous mechanism. Bill equipped it with new running gear, resulting in a smooth running model. As a result, the model had to be stripped and re-painted. He also equipped it with DCC.

Furthermore, he also showed a few projects based on excess parts from Overland brass runs, such as a rotary snow plow and a Shay. Apart from the tools related to his clinic, he also showed some plaster and resin cast buildings he has been assembling for Bill Scobie. He noted that the corrugated siding is more trouble than it is worth.

Chris Lyon showed a home-made wood grain scribe, consisting of 7 old X-acto blades jammed into a piece of Aluminum channel. Chris also build the Springfield depot from an American Model Builder laser cut kit for the 2011 CHEO Raffle layout. This kit is just one of many that were donated by modellers around the world. Mike Hamer was very successful in soliciting donations arrived from Australia, Africa, both coasts of North America and Canada and showed less than half of the kits on the display table.



Peter Gray displayed two heavily weathered and tagged HO-scale freight cars and a caboose. The graffiti came from Blair Line Decals, enhanced with paint markers to give the decal more pop. The cars were weathered using oils. Hopefully, Peter will soon be able to give a clinic on his techniques.

Peter Joyce brought out his work in progress on scratch building Montreal and Southern Counties car No. 623 from styrene and wood.

Michael Rozeboom showed off his latest acquisition from the Kingston train show, a brass model of the 2-10-4 T1c Selkirk. The model needs some repairs and Michael is asking for some help with the soldering jobs required.

As always, more pictures of the models can be found on the SLD web page at:

[http://members.fortunecity.com/gknowles/meets/mar\\_11/mar\\_11.htm](http://members.fortunecity.com/gknowles/meets/mar_11/mar_11.htm)



# Next Division Meet

St Lawrence Division – NMRA

**When:**

**Saturday, May 28, 2011**

**Where:**

St. Francis Masonic Lodge  
46 Russell Street West  
Smith Falls, Ontario

Doors open at 9:30 am -- Admission \$5.00

**What's on:**

**Morning:**

**Division Business**

**Clinic**

- The NAR – a case study in layout design from the prototype  
*Andreas Mank*
- Maine Narrow Gauge  
*Ron Newby*

**Display**

- Work Trains

**Door Prizes**

- You never know what to expect!

**Afternoon:**

- Smith Falls Railroad Museum

