



The Mail Car

Newsletter of the St Lawrence Division – NMRA

Issue no. 40 – September 2006

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

From the Superintendent's Desk

By Peter Joyce

On May 27, 2006 the SLD held the last meet of the season in Merrickville and I will start off with a thank you to Andrew Chisholm who very kindly arranged for meeting space for the group, and a very special thanks to Stanley Conley for his leadership over the last four years. Stan did a yeoman job of organizing and presiding over our sometimes unruly and irreverent group. The meet was well attended on this fine day and capped off another successful year of events for the SLD. As usual we started off with announcements, including a wrap up of the NFR spring convention in Chatham and the results of the contests held there, and the introduction to the new NMRA Canada Web Master, none other than our own Andrew Chisholm.

The SLD Annual General Meeting was held with a short report on finances provided by the Paymaster, Gary Baillargeon. Suffice it to say that we are in the black and in the short term our future finances are on a firm foundation. The only serious item on the AGM agenda was the “retirement” of the superintendent, Stanley Conley, who had completed the maximum number of terms of office as provided for in the SLD Code of Operating Rules (two consecutive terms in any one position, three consecutive terms in any combination of positions). Peter Nesbitt assumed the role of Elections Officer and presented candidates for the positions available and called upon any others who wished to have their name placed on the ballot. No volunteers stepped forward and so the able candidates were acclaimed by the assembled members: Peter Joyce took on the role of Superintendent and Paul Bullock the role of Assistant Superintendent. They joined the other continuing executive members, Gary Baillargeon as Paymaster, Tom Badenoch as Clerk, and Andreas Mank as Dispatcher.

The boring necessary stuff completed, we moved on to much more interesting items, two great clinics. Grant Knowles put on a wonderful clinic about kits primarily made from plaster castings. Grant introduced us to a number of different examples and walked through the

different approaches and methods used to prepare, assemble, and finish this style of construction to achieve a variety of looks and final results, overall a great introduction to a versatile medium. The second clinic was related to construction in another medium. Andrew Chisholm and Robert Peck related their experience using standard steel studs to construct benchwork. Andrew was in the benchwork phase of constructing his layout, and he and Robert have a friend who had used this method before and was enthusiastic about the results. Robert, who is in the pre-benchwork phase decided that this would be a good time for an experiment! After completing Andrew’s benchwork in very short order, both are now very enthusiastic about this method. In the clinic, they guided us through the materials, tools and methods required to build benchwork. The very thorough presentation also included a live demonstration and many pictures of the just completed benchwork in Andrew’s basement, and I am sure that several seeds were planted.



Grant's Summer Project, a laser cut wood kit of a Settler's house is reviewed on page 5.

Photo: Grant Knowles

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Copy Deadlines

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

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

Continued from page 1

The display table was well occupied with a variety of interesting items detailed in the display table report later in the **Mail Car**. The meet wrapped up with a few door prizes: Gary Baillargeon took home a calendar from the 696 restoration group provided by Peter Joyce, Alex Binkley took home a pair of pliers and Gregory Gee won a cutting mat.

The afternoon activity consisted of an invitation to view Andrew Chisholm's benchwork, but as a result of the completeness of the clinic this seemed redundant to all, so most opted for a visit to one of the fine eating establishments in town and perhaps, a visit to Jeff's train shop! We will visit Andrew's in the future when more progress has been made.

Railfair 29 comes up October 14 and 15: hopefully we will have sufficient volunteers to make manning the switching layout a fun time for all. Remember, new blood is the lifeline of the NMRA and Railfair is our opportunity to recruit new members, especially the younger set.

Our new season kicks off with our regular September meeting on Saturday the 30th at the St Emanuel United Church on Smyth Road. Precise program details have yet to be finalized, but information will be posted on the SLD web site as they become available. Mark your calendars for our future meets the last Saturday in November, January, March and May.

Finally, let me apologize for the lack of content in this column and the incomplete details of our September meet. I have been caught more or less "flat footed": I suppose I have nowhere to go but up! I do look forward to serving the Division, and truly welcome your suggestions on the way ahead.

SLD 2006 Election Results

By Peter Nesbitt
Election Steward 2006

At the SLD meet held on May 27, 2006 I nominated the following persons for the various positions on the SLD executive.

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

Given the deafening silence following my call for nominations from the floor, the above individuals were duly acclaimed into the noted positions.

I'm convinced that the SLD is in good hands and these people will continue the fine job done by their predecessors. However, it is a partnership and we all have to do our part. If you have an idea for an event, please pass it on and if called upon to help, don't decline.

Display Report

By Grant Knowles

Once again we had a strong turn out at the May Display Table. And in keeping with tradition, the display theme did not prevent anyone from bringing out what pleased them.

CNR Combination Car

I suspect this is the final appearance of Stan's wonderful coach (BGR resin kit) as it is now full complete in its final colours and lettering. Stan entered this into the NFR Chatham Convention Judged Contest and earned 82 points. The car was featured on the front page of **Mail Car** issue 39 (May 2006).



Composite Gondola

Jim Baxter brought out an N scale Micro Trains composite gondola. Jim has equipped it with a Chooch scrap load and weathered up the trucks and couplers.

Custom Work by Bill

Bill Meredith brought out a series of models that he has been working on:

D&RGW K-27 #451 Piston Valve in Sn3.

This project started back in 2003 and has involved the completed stripping and rebuilding of a PBL model in order to correct many performance issues and to replicate a specific prototype at a point in time. Bill fabricated most of the details (machining, etching, etc) followed by a multi stage cleaning and painting (intermixed with "bake" sessions in the oven) process. If you haven't had the opportunity yet, have Bill outline the painting process as it is really impressive. The model has yet to receive its motor, DCC sound receiver, real glass etc.

D&RGW T-12 #169 in Sn3.

As #451, this unit has undergone an extensive rebuild. The model was originally scratch built by Jan Rons and didn't run worth a hill of beans (to quote Bill). A new frame was built from Railmaster brass etchings with numerous other details added to the model. After the traditional 'Bill' paint finish the model received CDS and Cimarron lettering.

Brass Etchings - HO, S & O.

Bill designed these etchings for use in some upcoming Cimarron Works models. These parts will be combined with styrene components for form the casting masters for: a Greenville 53' HO flatcar, two styles of D&RGW 1400 series cabooses, D&RGW 7200 series GS gons and a D&RGW 6200 series narrow gauge flatcars. All but the 6200 series flatcar are being done for various historical societies.



S Scale Buildings

Alex Binkley is approaching the completion of his industrial building complex. This is an S scale resin kit that Alex has extensively modified to fit on his layout. All that is left is to do is to add the light fixtures.



Master for D&RGW MOW 010145 - Sn3

This master is nearing completion for casting later this summer. It is rumoured this car started life as a head end car and was unceremoniously converted to a Living and Water service car. Bill was fortunate enough to be able to photograph and measure the car as it resided behind the Durango round house in 2003.



DCC Signal Display

David Steer brought out a series of railroad items, the largest being his 7ft long DCC Signal Display Box (often referred to as the Snake Box). The box performed the role as the display surface for some of Dave's rolling stock. First up was a pair of CN FM units complete with a full DCC sound decoders. Dave also brought out a Bachman On30 2-8-0. These Bachman units are a beauty and run wonderfully right out of the box.

Bachman Climax

The final model on display is a Bachman Climax that Chris Butler brought out. Chris described the re-gauging from On30 to On3 was a cinch. Chris has also added further details to the model.

Thanks to everyone for bringing out their models. Remember this Display Table "theme" is only a suggestion of what to bring out. You are of course welcome to bring out anything railroad related!

NMRA Dates

SLD Meetings			NFR Spring Convention
September 30, 2006	Emmanuel United Church 691 Smyth Road, Ottawa		Flower City Flyer NEW DATE: April 27-29, 2007 RIT Inn & Conference Center 5257 West Henrietta Road Rochester, New York 14586
November 25, 2006	Emmanuel United Church 691 Smyth Road, Ottawa		
January 27, 2007	Emmanuel United Church 691 Smyth Road, Ottawa		
March 31, 2007	Emmanuel United Church 691 Smyth Road, Ottawa		
May 26, 2007	TBA		

The Settler's First Home

Review by: Grant Knowles

Laser Kit by: Temagami Station

Construction time: 2 hours (+ 1.5 hrs – see below).

This summer we took a short camping vacation around northern Ontario (the near north for us Ottawans) that included Sudbury, Timmins, Iroquois Falls and North Bay. Of course, on the way we had to stop and check out the renovated ONR Temagami Station. The renovation work is exceptional and well worth the visit. The station now houses a tourist shop and art gallery with plans to house a working HO scale layout of the area. They even have a web site that's worth checking out:

<http://www.museumsnorth.org/temagami/>.

While picking up a history book on the ONR, I couldn't help but notice a really neat laser kit of an HO scale Settler's House. This kit is made by Temagami Station (<http://www.temagamistation.com/>) who are actually located in the basement of the station! Though I didn't have an immediate need for a log cabin, the price was right (\$19.95) and I needed a quick summer project to stir up the modelling juices.

It is obvious from the elaborate packaging that they were targeting this kit towards the general public and the detailed instructions are tailored as such. All parts are fastened to a heavy green card that is in turn shrink wrap thus displaying all the pieces. Some of the pieces were even hot glued to the card! (not a great idea as these required careful removal in order to prevent any damage).



The step by step instructions are very good and included numerous illustrations. A little overkill for someone who has built a laser kit before but certainly ideal for the un-washed public.

High quality wood was used and the laser cutting and engraving was first rate. I followed the instructions and scribed the inside of the walls to replicate logs. My original intent was to make the roof removable but I changed my mind later on and glued the roof on. I spent a few extra minutes and wire brushed a wood grain texture in all the wood pieces. These were then stained with Floquil Driftwood followed by a dry brush of Teak stain (I was going to use maple but that had apparently dried up in the jar) and a wash of diluted Indian ink. The walls were then assembled as per the instructions and the floor glued in. The front porch was then added along with its roof and posts. A little trimming was required in order to fit these two panels into the slots on the front wall.

The window frames are laser cut from thin plastic and the clear window glass was made from a thick lexan type plastic. I air brushed the window frames a light brown (close match to the wall colour) then installed these and the glass as per the instructions. All are held in place with the peel-and-stick adhesive on the window frames.

Window shades were fabricated from card stock and installed to imply the building is in use. The two roof panels were then glued in place. These had a slight bow in them that I couldn't remove hence gluing them in place. The kit includes some nice laser cut "shingle" panels. If you use these, the shingling will only take a few minutes to install these self adhesive panels. I chose to use my own individual shingles as I felt the laser shingles were a bit too thick. Installing these 800 shingles was the longest part of the project (app. 1.5 hrs).

The kit also comes with a stone chimney that has been cut from a piece of masonite. Once again, though this is very well done, I felt a "real" stone chimney was in order. This I fabricated from a plaster stone casting I had in the scrap box

This kit is very well engineered with high quality parts. It makes a really good scale model and I certainly recommend that you give it a try.



Next Division Meet

St Lawrence Division – NMRA

When:

Saturday, September 30th, 2006

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

- TBA

Display

- Your Summer Project

Door Prizes

- You never know what to expect!

Afternoon:

- Layout Tours

