



The Mail Car

Issue no. 45 – September 2007

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

From the Superintendent's Desk

By Peter Joyce

It's been a relatively quiet summer, one that has passed too quickly. Fall is almost upon us, and with it comes a busy year for the Division. April 2008 is not that far away, and the Bytown Bobber crew soon will be back at track speed preparing for what promises to be a great NFR Convention.

Our 2007-2008 year will commence on Saturday September 29. We had hoped to visit the Cumberland Live Steamers, but they only meet on Sundays. So, our first meeting will be held at Emmanuel United Church, our regular locale. Bring your summer project(s) for our display table. We hope to have a Report from the 2007 Narrow Gauge

Convention held in Portland Oregon. Additionally we are invited, with or without families in tow, to bring a picnic lunch and visit the Cumberland Club and perhaps get some train riding in on Sunday September 30th.

Our meetings will continue at Emmanuel United Church on the last Saturday of November, January, and March. Our meeting on May 31, we hope, will be held in St.-Constant/Delson QC at Exporail, the Canadian Railway Museum.

Our popular Kit Buster Saturdays will be held again this season, on Saturday October 27th, January 12th and February 23rd.

We hope to get more members to come out to work on their projects or to get help with some sticky modeling situations. Members are very good at giving advice – as is attested to by our results at past conventions.

Railfair 2007 comes up the weekend of October 13 and 14. We will have a sign-up sheet at our meeting; we need volunteers to man our booth (with our switching module) for the two days.

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The Bytown Bobber

By Grant Knowles
2008 NFR Convention Chairman

I trust everyone had an enjoyable summer and that despite the exceptional weather, you were able to have some time for trains. Though the 2008 NFR Convention Committee has been hanging low this summer, it is worthy to update you on our progress.

The convention will take place on the weekend of April 25 – 27, 2008. Once again we will be at the Chimo hotel as they provided the most competitive bid based on our requirements. It also works into our favour that we have dealt successfully with them in past and that they are in a central location.

The traditional NFR Convention format will be honoured in that there will be clinics, layout tours, model contest, prototype tours, raffle, AGM and the banquet. We do have a few other gems to add to the mix to make the whole event even more exciting and we will be sharing these with you as we move forward.

One of our key objectives is to demonstrate to the NFR membership that model railroading is alive and strong here in eastern Ontario. The mere fact that we have people falling over themselves to help out confirms this. So we are introducing a few new events to the convention that will give them a taste of the great things we do here.

For example, the Kitbusters Workshop will be held during the day on Friday to which we are inviting convention attendees (and yourselves) to come early and join in. As Alex Binkley is our Kitbusters Workshop guru, he will be organizing this event, so please give him your support. You never know, you may need this work session to finish that model for the contest!

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Copy Deadlines

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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 "From the Superintendent's Desk"

We really need to support the upcoming Bytown Bobber NFR Convention. It is almost 100% certain that NMRA Canada will be announcing a six month trial membership for about \$10.00, so get your friends to sign up and come to the convention – it should cost about \$40.00 for the convention, and \$40.00 for the Saturday night dinner. We hope to have a special appearance category for “Bobbers”, so start now to build your caboose!

I continue my quest for an SLD crest or logo: to inspire you, see what has been developed for the Bytown Bobber.

That's it for now. See you on September 29th.

Kitbuster's Workshop

By Alex Binkley

The SLD will hold three kitbusters sessions during the coming season as well as special Friday version for the Bytown Bobber convention.

The scheduled dates are Saturday Oct. 27, Jan. 12 and Feb. 23. Once again we have the use of the basement suite at Emmanuel United Church on Smyth Road courtesy of Bill Meek.

We will follow the usual format of working away on whatever kits fancy or frustrate us and provide advice and encouragement to each other. Remember to bring a work light, cutting matt, tools and of course the project. In the past, there have usually been eight to 10 members at the sessions and they agree it is a productive time.

If anyone would like to conduct a soldering clinic or provide coaching on making cast resin parts, the organizer at least would welcome the assistance.

The convention kitbusters session is aimed at those who can come for the day Friday. It would follow the same format as our Saturday sessions and any SLD member who can attend would be welcome.

Further questions, suggestions or advice to
alex.binkley@sympatico.ca or 613-749-7633

Note on postal delivery of the **Mail Car**

The **Mail Car** will be delivered by Canada Post to any member that signs up for postal delivery and pays a \$5 subscription fee to cover the cost of printing and mailing. This will be the last issue delivered to anyone that was signed up for the 2006/2007 season. Starting with the November **Mail Car**, only those that have renewed their subscription for the 2007/2008 season will continue to receive the publication by mail.

You can renew your subscription in person at the SLD meeting or by contacting the paymaster and clerk.

Just in case you didn't know, the Convention Executive members are as follows:

Grant Knowles	Chairman
Tom Badenoch	Vice Chairman / Raffle
Greg Montague	Registrar
Gary Baillargeon	Treasurer
Stan Conley	Communications
Peter Joyce	Infrastructure
Peter Nesbitt	Past Chairman
John Mitchell	Clinics
Mike Hamer	Layout Tours
Paul Anderson	Prototype Tours

John M. already has an extensive list of committed Clinicians. If you have a clinic you would like to present and haven't yet been contacted by John, please track him down quickly as we're running low on available time slots. The clinic topics will be wide and varied to ensure there is something for everyone. Obviously we are going to focus on the local RR scene but will be including Canadian RR topics and others should they prove interesting.

Mike H has also been walking the pavement collecting a list of layouts that will be open for the convention. The list is now long enough that no one can see all the layouts over the course of the weekend! Once again, if you'd like to participate and haven't been contacted by Mike, please hunt him down. Remember, the layout doesn't have to be finished though it should be operational and have something of special interest.

I don't want to remove focus from the rest of the committee as they too have been very busy with their activities so we are in a good status for the convention. By the time you read this, Stan will have launched the new web site for the convention – www.bytownbobber.org – to which we will be providing new material on a regular basis. Be sure to check out the site.

We anticipate the registration fee for the convention will remain in line with the past few years despite inflation. We are also working with NMRA Canada to establish a special price for non NMRA members as we want to reach out to all model railroaders, not just the NMRA membership.

The 2001 Capital Express still remains the most successful NFR convention in recent years. It is our objective to make the Bytown Bobber even more successful!

Please do not hesitate to contact me or any of my executive should you have any questions, comments or concerns.

NMRA Dates

SLD Meetings		NFR Spring Convention	
September 29, 2007	Emmanuel United Church 691 Smyth Road, Ottawa		Bytown Bobber April 25 - 27, 2008 Chimo Hotel, Ottawa
			SLD Workshops
November 24, 2007	Emmanuel United Church 691 Smyth Road, Ottawa		October 27, 2007
January 26, 2008	Emmanuel United Church 691 Smyth Road, Ottawa		January 12, 2008
March 29, 2008	Emmanuel United Church 691 Smyth Road, Ottawa		February 23, 2008
May 31, 2008	TBA		April 25, 2008 In conjunction with the NFR Convention at the Chimo Hotel

Display Table

By Grant Knowles

Once again the SLD Membership came out in full force with a diverse collection of models on the Display Table.

David Steer once again showed us why Garratt designed steam locomotives are so fascinating. Dave had recently purchased a New South Wales Government Railways Class AD60 4-8-4 + 4-8-4 Garratt Locomotive. This was made by Eureka Models of Australia. The plastic model comes equipped with DCC and sound. Very impressive model and Dave states it runs very smoothly.

Picture: Grant Knowles



Grant Knowles delivered a clinic about the Colorado & Southern Como Roundhouse at the May meet. The predecessor of the C&S was the Denver South Park and Pacific Railroad. Bill Meredith brought out a Sn3 model of #15, a DSP&P Mason Bogie. The Como Roundhouse was originally built in 1885 to accommodate these small engines. This brass model was made by Berlin Locomotive works and is straight out the box complete with the multi colour paint scheme and pin stripping (as per the prototype).

Picture: Grant Knowles



Bill also brought out two later era (1930) C&S engines, a 2-6-0 and a 2-8-0. Bill had picked up these brass Overland Sn3 locomotives for a “song” with the intent to strip them down and to back date them. But the previous owner had done such a wonderful job finishing them, that Bill lost heart in the project.

Picture: Grant Knowles

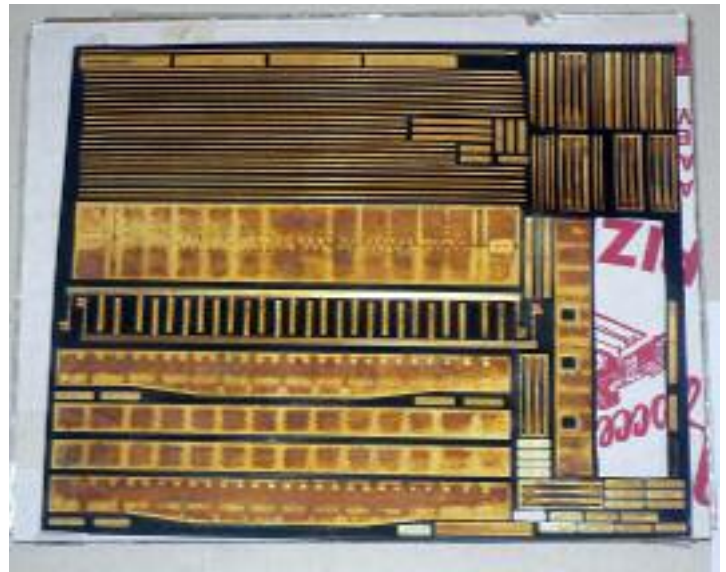


Grant Knowles had a C&S HO scale water tank on display. This is a Builders In Scale kit that he started at the last Kitbusters Work Shop. In fact, what you see here is what he managed to complete at the work shop – the base frame and the core of the tank. The BIS kit is largely a collection of strip wood, white metal castings and an excellent set of instructions.

Picture: Andreas Mank

The third model that Bill Meredith had on display was a set of brass etchings of the B&O 0-63 Gondola. These will be used to make the master of the HO scale car which in turn will become the master for the resin kits that will appear under Bill's Protowest Models name.

Picture: Andreas Mank



Ron Newby had an outstanding laser kit on display. The HO scale Clearwater Valley Mercantile Store was produced by Rusty Stumps (limited edition only 25 were made) and was assembled as per the kit instructions. Ron had made the building appear well aged with extensive weathering.

Picture: Grant Knowles

Michel Boucher was fortunate enough to have Stan Conley as a willing builder of a John Rendall Feed Mill kit. Those of you who are not familiar with the John Rendall kits, they are essentially a box full strip wood with moderate quality instructions. Stan also scratch built the grain handling equipment that was added to the building.

Picture: Andreas Mank



The SLD Module has contracted out the construction of the "oil dealer" facilities to Pierre Burgoyne. Pierre displayed his work to date. The two black plastic oil tanks are from a British model kit while the oil loading dock was scratch built by Pierre. Here's hoping the contractor will have the installation completed in time for Railfair.

Picture: Grant Knowles

S scale is alive and well in the Binkley household. Alex had yet another building completed for this railroad, this one being a concrete slab building (resin kit) that will be part of a bio-refinery. The building is awaiting final exterior details and weathering.

Alex also brought out a couple of S scale bulk head flat cars. One was adapted from an Amity Stan Kit, the other is an early centre beam car inspired by articles in CRM & RMC.

Picture: Grant Knowles



Tom Gray brought out an Athearn Crane that he replaced the pulleys on.

Picture: Andreas Mank



And to round out the scales, Peter Joyce displayed his latest “in progress” O scale project – a LaBelle M&SC 600 series car which he is modifying.

Picture: Andreas Mank



Photos of these models can be found on the SLD May Meet web page at: http://members.fortunecity.com/gknowles/meets/may_07/may_07.htm

Thanks to everyone who brought out something for the Display Table. The theme for the September meet is “Your Summer Project” but we all know that is just a suggestion as we all bring out what ever tickles our fancy at the time!

Layout Tour

By Andreas Mank



Jeff Trew opened his large, basement filling HO scale layout for the SLD crowd.

The entrance is dominated by a city scene, which includes numerous industries and a small yard.

The trackside view emphasises the feeling of big city railroading.

But the layout is large enough to also feature rural scenery, such as this river canyon scene, which is currently under re-construction.



Those of us who returned via Kemptville had a chance to visit Andrew Chisholm's layout. Andrew models in HO scale as well, but his ambitions are more modest. The layout is still in construction, but the trains already smoothly glide over the mainline.



Next Division Meet

St Lawrence Division – NMRA

When:

Saturday, September 29, 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

- Summer Projects

Door Prizes

- You never know what to expect!

Afternoon:

- Layout Tours

