



The Mail Car

Newsletter of the St Lawrence Division – NMRA

Issue no. 50 – September 2008

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

From the Superintendent's Desk

By Peter Joyce

On behalf of all members of the SLD let me express my thanks and appreciation to those executive members who retired in May: Tom Badenoch and Gary Baillargeon. Andreas Mank has taken over as Clerk and is remaining as Mail Car Editor; Greg Montague has joined as Paymaster; and Andrew Chisholm has become our Dispatcher. Paul Bullock and Grant Knowles have remained in their positions as Assistant Superintendent and Inspector respectively, and I remain as Superintendent.

I also would be remiss if I did not thank Grant Knowles and his Bytown Bobber Committee once again for the excellent Convention last April. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

Continued on Page 2

Kit Busters Workshop Laser Kits 101

By Grant Knowles

Over the past few years, there has been a swelling quietly brewing in the SLD community that has now reached the point where action is required. Sort of like an itch that needs scratching.

Talk has been taking place at the SLD Meets, during layout tours, at the train shows, in the beer halls (believe it or not) and even at the Bytown Bobber convention. Members were crying for more “how to” and “hands on” events!

So to show you we have been listening, the SLD Executive has chosen to take action!

At the May SLD meet (in Delson), we tabled the concept of guiding the membership through the building of a “project” together. Now as some of

Continued on Page 4



In May, the SLD met at Exporail in Delson, QC. Among the artifacts on display is this Canadian Pacific Inspection Car. Many of the boys wanted to drive back to Ottawa in this beauty!

Photo: Mike Hamer

St. Lawrence Division

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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

I hope everyone has had a productive summer! With the rainy weather, it's been easier to spend time at the modeling bench than in past years.

The Executive met in August, and we have developed a program for 2008/2009 that we believe members will find both interesting and educational. Our September meet will be in Merrickville; November, January and March in Ottawa; and May (tentatively) in Smith Falls. Watch the Mail Car for Clinic and Display topics, and Layout visits.

Last year's "Kitbusters" program has been revised and improved: this year we will be focussing on "Laser Kits 101". Sessions are planned for October, November or January, February and late March/early April. This will allow participants to enter their completed model in the Appearance Contest (or Judged Contest!) at the NFR Convention scheduled for Woodstock from April 17 to 19. More details are provided elsewhere.

Railfair is being held on October 18 and 19, and Paul will have a sign-up sheet at the September meet. The more volunteers we have the easier the load.

Lastly, in September and November, we will be raffling an Athearn SD 40 in CP colours, ready for DCC, with the draw being held at the end of the November meet. Tickets will be \$1.00 each.

So, until September 27 – or at OVAR on September 9 – work at completing that summer project, and Happy Modelling!

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 2007/2008 season. Starting with the November **Mail Car**, only those that have renewed their subscription for the 2008/2009 season will continue to receive the publication by mail.

The Mail Car can be downloaded from the SLD webpage at

http://www3.sympatico.ca/gd.knowles/sld/sld_index.htm

An e-mail notification is sent to the membership on the day of the posting of the latest issue. Please ensure that you notify the Clerk when your contact information changes.

One benefit of downloading **The Mail Car** from the SLD webpage is that you will receive **The Mail Car** in colour. Printed copies can only be provided in black and white.

Display Table

By Grant Knowles

We took the May SLD meet on the road and paid a long overdue visit to the Exporail Railroad Museum in Delson, Quebec. You could not have found a more fitting location for the meet and the museum was gracious enough to allow us to use the Cafeteria for our gathering and display table.

Despite the rainy start to the day and the two hour drive there, we had a great selection of models on display. I usually make a focused effort on photographing each and every model on display both for the web site and for this write up. Upon checking out my photos after returning, it appears my best intentions were side tracked and I only had one picture of the display! So here is the summary of the models minus the photos (I do have a good collection of photos of the museum displays though!).

Many of the models displayed also appeared in the Bytown Bobber Judged and Appearance contests.

First up, Stan Conley brought out his scratch built HO scale 'Bobber'. The only "purchased" parts on this model were the wheel sets and couplers.

Paul Anderson had string of RoadRailers on display. Despite the delicate appearance of the models, Paul claims they perform very well on his railroad. These were all kit built models.



Grant Knowles had his HO₃ scratch built rail bus on display. This model is based on the Hall-Scott design that was popular in the 1920's when railroads were seeking most cost effect means on providing passenger service and low volume lines. The model runs very well and sees active service on his Colorado & Southern railroad.

Sometimes I think Mike Hamer has shares in the laser kit structure companies based on the number of kits he has built in the last 12 months! Mike used the Bar Mills "1-Kit" to build an extension to the Shipyard Brewery model he had

built 6 months earlier. This extension will allow 2 railroad cars to be positioned at the industry during operating sessions. For more details, see the report on page 5.

Ron Newby has chosen to work in one of the satellite scales with his O scale Creedence Saloon. This is a scratch built structure that features a "wing" that is under construction. I love this style of early western false front buildings.

Peter Joyce also has a number of Montreal and Southern County O scale trolley cars on display. Unfortunately I did not find a display card with the details so I suggest Peter bring them out again to the September meet so we can take a second look.

Thanks to all who brought out their projects and favourite models. The next meet is just around the corner so now is your chance to find something for the September Display Table!



you may recall, we have done similar projects like this in past seasons with both structures and rolling stock. The focus of those sessions was more on completing the model than on learning and practising the skills along the way. Thus this time around, we will focus on acquiring the skills and confidence to tackle these types of projects on your own. Learn how you too can build an outstanding model!

To maximize the benefits in this approach, everyone will need to be building the same model independent of scale. Thus as we talk about such things as assembly techniques, and what to do next, everyone will be able to follow along and relate it to the parts they have in front of them. We did a search of the market place to locate possible project items and a list of these were presented at the May meet. General consensus was that we should settle on a project that was not railroad specific, would be at home in all eras and can be utilized by the members on their layouts. Oh, and the kit must be available in the popular scales: N, HO, S & O.

In the end, it looks like the Silver Plume Bakery made by Banta meets all of these requirements and is reasonably priced. I did call Bill Banta up this week to discuss the project, kit availability and if he could offer us preferred pricing.

I'm pleased to say that Bill was quite enthusiastic to hear about our project, has the kits in stock and will drop the price for us (subject to the number of kits we order). So we are good to go on this front. This kit has the appropriate features that will allow us to practice the methods and skills we wish to cover along with offering some great opportunities for kit bashing and scratch building!

Now we will not make it mandatory that you can only participate if you build the same model. You are welcome to bring along your own project but you may not be able to obtain the full advantage of the exercise as we will not be covering your specific model and how it could be assembled.

This project will see us working through the whole construction process together as we learn about various kit building methods and apply these ourselves on our kits. The general approach we will take will see specific clinics being presented at the SLD meet followed by a working session at the next KitBusters workshop where we get to apply what we know. The Clinician will also be present at the workshop to refresh our memories on the topic and to provide 'Hands On' assistance.

Not only will we address the basic assembly of the kit but will also delve into what you can do to enhance / personalize the model and perhaps even try our hand at scratch building some extra details! Depending on how this series of events go, we may take this one step further and create a diorama for the model, etc.

Now let's get down to the details. We need to order our kits before the end of August in order that we have them on hand for the September Meet.

The list prices for the kits are:

N \$32.95
HO \$54.95
S \$68.95
O \$89.95

In addition to this we need to account for the Cdn – US dollar conversion, shipping costs, duty and GST. I have contacted Banta who has graciously offered us a discount based on the number of kits we order. Until the kits arrive at my door step, I will not know the exact cost though be rest assured I will keep the costs down as much as possible.



Silver Plume Bakery by Banta Models

If you would like to participate in this wonderful project, please send me an email as soon as possible indicating your interest and commitment to cover the associated costs for the kit. Send it to gd.knowles@sympatico.ca. In your email, include your name, email address, phone number and desired scale of the model.

Please note that in addition to the cost of the kit, you will also be required to provide you own building supplies (glue, paint, additional detail parts (optional), etc) which may add another \$20 or

so to the total project cost. E.g. the final cost to assemble the HO scale kit may be in the \$75 range.

The next step will involve me ordering the kits from the supplier. This will represent an appreciable financial investment so I will require an advance deposit from you to help defer the initial costs. I would appreciate the deposit to be \$50.00 for all scales except the N scale which will be \$30. When the kits have arrived and the final costs sorted out, I will come asking for the balance. Please snail mail your cheque to:

Grant Knowles
57 Eisenhower Crescent
Nepean, ON K2J 3Z8

Please make the cheque out to Grant Knowles and send as soon as possible as I will be placing the orders the first week of September.

If all goes according to plan, I expect to have the kits on hand to distribute at the September SLD Meet. We will also have clinics lined up for then and will start the construction process in earnest at the October KitBusters workshop.

We talk more about the whole process and schedule at the September meeting.

I look forward to hear from you.

Bar Mills "1-Kit"

By Mike Hamer

You may recall seeing the Bar Mills Shipyard Brewery structure I had brought out to an earlier meeting. It is a background flat...a structure perfectly suited to my needs for my future shelf layout. After completing this building, I felt the brewery needed more than a truck loading area. I wanted to create a more substantial dock scene which would be serviced by a rail spur holding two cars to make operations more interesting.

My good friend Rob Kazakoff directed me to the Bar Mills "1-Kit" which is very similar to the DPM modular wall sections with the only difference being that the modulars are made out of clapboard wooden siding and the pieces in the pack are much larger in size.

The backs of the siding pieces are laser scribed for a huge variation of window and door opening possibilities. For my purposes, I kept all the window sizes congruent. I photocopied the signs from the original kit to help the extension 'marry' nicely with the original structure. I chose a flat roof line...following the advice of a couple of my Friday Night Group friends. N-scale ballast was used on the roof. The loading dock was scratchbuilt and all details came from other sources.

The trickiest aspect of this project was matching the painted walls. Even though this extension was constructed six months after I had completed the brewery, I wanted the model to appear on the layout as if it was originally constructed with the larger loading facility. After all, a brewery has got to be a big customer on my future branchline.

Because I utilized various painting and weathering techniques on the original build (some priming, sanding between coats), I knew that it would not be easy to accomplish a similar feat six months later. After some trial and error, I believe I got the colours just right!

With four wall sections and tons of window and door possibilities, the "1-Kit" can help you create unique wooden structures for your layout...indeed, the creative possibilities are endless!



The St Lawrence Division Mail Car A Golden Anniversary Tribute

By Stanley Conley

49 issues, 361 pages, 23 contributors, 10 years, 3 editors, 1 newsletter, The St Lawrence Division Mail Car.

The Mail Car marks an anniversary with this, the fiftieth edition! Our little communiqué has reached a milestone and that requires a quick look back. The first edition was November 1998, a single sheet of paper introducing the world (or our locale anyway) to the reborn local division of the NMRA christened the St. Lawrence Division. It contained an article by Peter Nesbitt on the rebirth and the possible future of the division, an announcement of a contest to name the newsletter (then just called “Division News”), an invitation to visit us on the net and a list of executive members.

The third issue congratulated Joe Derraugh on winning the contest with the entry St. Lawrence Mail Car, although by issue five the masthead was shortened to **The Mail Car** which has remained unchanged through to today. By this time the basic format was well established, a message from the Superintendent bringing everyone up to date and announcing future meets and activities, a report on the display table and a last page next meet poster. The timing of **The Mail Car** was set so that it could be sent out to alert members of the next meet far enough in advance for planning purposes and the announcement usually had a map to the variable meet location, a formula that still serves us well in its current all electronic version.

Over the past 50 issues we have had three editors; Michael Pasch put out the first nine issues before handing it over to Stanley Conley for the next 26, our current editor Andreas Mank is marking his 15th edition. Over this period we have had 21 contributors to **The Mail Car** with reports, organizational items, NMRA related articles and general topic articles.

Here is a list of the contributors and the number of issues their material has appeared in, often authors will have made multiple contributions to the same issue.

Grant Knowles	39	Paul Anderson	2
Stanley Conley	30	Doug Cushman	2
Peter Nesbitt	30	Andrew Batchelor	1
Alex Binkley	22	Peter Cunningham	1
Peter Joyce	9	Vic Dohar	1
Andreas Mank	9	Normand Levert	1
Chris Butler	8	John Licharson	1
Bob Farquhar	5	Jim McSherry	1
Paul Bullock	4	Pete Moffett	1
Michael Pasch	4	Richard Roth	1
Bill Meridith	3		

By far the most prolific contributor has been Grant Knowles, who through a combination of official reports, Achievement Program explanatory articles, display table reports and such, has kept up a steady stream of material for **The Mail Car**.

Peter Nesbitt, Stanley Conley, and Peter Joyce have had an advantage of sorts, as Superintendents they were expected to make a regular contribution to **The Mail Car** in an effort to keep the members up to date on past, present and future events of interest to the Division and its members. Peter Nesbitt also supplied a significant number of articles with his *Modelling Tips from the Machine Shops of the Bonnechere & Braeside Railway Company*.

Alex Binkley penned a number of submissions including a large number of Display Table reports that helped keep everyone up to date on the efforts of their fellow members.

Grant Knowles, Alex Binkley, Andreas Mank, Chris Butler, Paul Bullock, Bob Farquar, Micheal Pasch, Bill Meridith, Paul Anderson, Doug Cushman, Andrew Batchelor, Peter Cunningham, Vic Dohar, Normand Levert, John Licharson, Pete Moffett, Richard Roth, and Jim McSherry have all provided articles for the Mail Car on a wide variety of subjects. Subjects covered range from railfanning trips to prototype research to kit reviews and model construction of course! Most memorable to me was a series of articles penned by Chris Butler on the St Lawrence Freight Forwarding Company structures as they appear on the SLD switching module. Chris started with a Campbell Scale Models 'DeWitt's Depository and Delivery' kit and by the end, had transformed it, and taken us along for the ride with a tutorial on fine craftsmanship. Chris managed to provide an inspiring and educational series of articles for us to read.

As those who have done so, getting an article together for **The Mail Car** is not without some effort, but the rewards of presenting your story are abundant. Just like taking a picture of your model or layout can help you uncover flaws, writing about something can cause you to focus on all the detail of a subject and lead you to a better understanding of the kit and that will enhance your understanding of the prototype or model or process, all of which improved your modeling, and helps your audience with theirs.

As a past editor of **The Mail Car**, and the current editor of the NFR Flimsy, it really came as no surprise that the vast majority of the material presented in **The Mail Car** came from a relatively small source, that handful of members who willingly provide material on a regular basis, and a slightly larger group who contribute occasionally. The saying *many hands make light work* is very true of a newsletter, even small contributions on a regular or occasional basis makes it much easier on the editor. It takes much less time to layout a series of photos and captions than it does to create it out of thin air to fill that last page while the deadline looms! Please take it to heart and think about providing an article, volunteer to write up the Display Table, layout tour, workshop report or anything else you may think is missing from the newsletter.

That being said, and from the biased point of view of a past editor, I think our little newsletter has managed to generally be what it should be, a vehicle to keep members informed of the local Division events and activities, provide a home for sharing information, skills and fellowship. Onward to number 100 in September 2018!

NMRA Dates

SLD Meetings			NMRA - NFR Convention
September 27, 2008	Holy Trinity Anglican Church 105 Church Street Merrickville		April 17 – 19 Quality Inn & Suites Woodstock, ON
			SLD Workshops
			October 25, 2008
November 29, 2008	Emmanuel United Church		
January 31, 2009	Emmanuel United Church		
			February 28, 2009
March 28, 2009	Emmanuel United Church		
			April 25, 2009
May 30, 2009	TBD		

A Visit to Exporail

By Mike Hamer

The SLD May meeting was held at Exporail, a fabulous Railway Museum located on Montreal's south shore at Delson/St. Constant. The facility has been completely modernized offering visitors the opportunity to see a wide variety of railroad equipment in the comfort of an expansive indoor environment. With concrete walkways and areas of cobblestone in the streetcar section, visitors no longer kick up the dust onto the prized specimens as they did in years past when the facility had gravel walkways.



After a two hour drive from Ottawa, our SLD members met in a small cafeteria section of the facility where the business aspect of the meeting was held. Peter Joyce and Grant Knowles spoke to the group in front of an engaging backdrop of diesel and steam equipment including a rotary snowplow.

Then it was on to a tour of the large HO scale model railroad. Still under construction, the layout is well on its way to completion. Smaller scale fans were happy to find a completed N-scale layout behind glass in the same room. Various artifacts from the model railroad end of things were also on display in the room.

Every member to a man was totally enthralled with a preview showing of a

new IMAX film profiling famed CP 2816 hauling a passenger train through the Rockies. Indeed, the facility has a theatre with a large enough screen to allow the viewer to appreciate the IMAX technology.

A tour of the museum was next with a young and enthusiastic gentlemen speaking to the group. Many of the exhibits had stairs and decks built alongside for the viewing public to look into the windows of equipment and to enter some of the passenger cars and diesels, including an in-depth stop inside a mailcar.

Afterwards, we were let loose on our own to tour this amazing facility. Many of us took advantage of a trolley ride on the rails outdoors.

The rain did not dampen our enthusiasm as we toured the perimeter of the grounds. I could go on for many pages in praise of this engaging facility, but I will let the pictures speak for themselves!



For more information about this railway museum, visit their website at www.exporail.org



After lunch, many of the boys opted for a trolley ride around the grounds of the museum. No, the rain did not dampen the spirits of these three SLD members, from left to right, Greg Montague, Andrew Chisholm and Peter Nesbitt.

Ramps and decking around many of the exhibits allow visitors to garner a close-up view of their favourite rail specimens. Visitors can enter a number of the exhibits for internal views as well. This CN diesel, the 9400 is a real beauty in the olive green and yellow scheme. She is the sole surviving unit of this model in Canada. The FA-1 was, in 1949, the first streamlined diesel built in the Montreal Locomotive Works plant.



SLD member Mike Hamer recalled this boxcab fondly as it pulled the train he took daily from the suburbs of Montreal to the downtown area where he attended McGill University for three years. The daily trek took Mike and fellow passengers through the Mount Royal tunnel.



Montreal Tramways single-track streetcar #350, the Rocket, was the first electric car to operate in Montreal. Built in 1892 by Brownell, it is also one of the oldest complete streetcars in existence.





Next Division Meet

St Lawrence Division – NMRA

When:

Saturday, September 27, 2008

Where:

Holy Trinity Anglican Church
105 Church Street
Merrickville

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

What's on:

Morning:

Division Business

Kitbusters

- Program Review
- History of the prototype
- Distribute kits

Display

- Summer Projects

Door Prizes

- You never know what to expect!

Afternoon:

- Guided Tour
- Hobby Shop

