



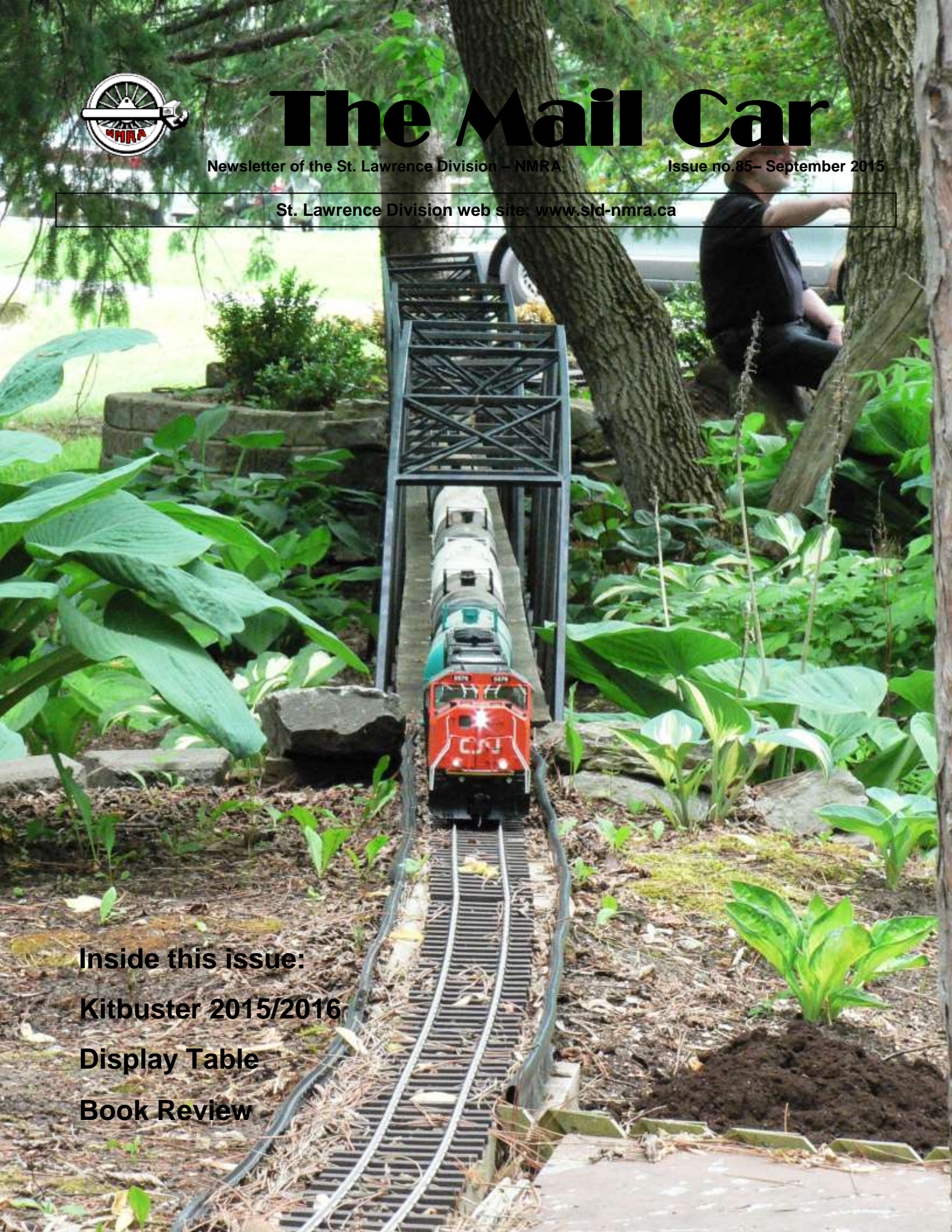
The Mail Car

Newsletter of the St. Lawrence Division – NMRA

Issue no.85– September 2015

St. Lawrence Division web site: www.sld-nmra.ca

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St. Lawrence Division

Executive Officers

Superintendent: Peter Gray
Phone (613) 875-1335
Email: peterg13@gmail.com

Assistant Superintendent:
Chris Lyon
Phone (613) 837-8522
Email: cnlyon@sympatico.ca

Paymaster: Debbie Stewart
Phone (613) 761-1774
Email:
windermere.630@rogers.com

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

Dispatcher: Gregory Gee
Phone (613) 843-8911
Email: gee.gregory@gmail.com

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

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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

Superintendent's Report

By Peter Gray

Hello SLD,

I hope everyone is ready for another great train season.

First off, my apologies for the confusion regarding the date of September meeting. Due to unusual circumstances we had to move away from the last weekend of the month. I also had some confusion as we also had to change locations.

That being said we hope to see you all there. So everyone is not surprised we also will be going to Kingston for our March meet as opposed to traveling in May.

It is not so much that we are trying to grow our membership rather we are trying to reach more modelers and help them enjoy the hobby more. Not only have we had good success in Kingston, but also along the St. Lawrence and Cornwall area. I hope to make our visits to these areas more regular.

Others will detail the convention and themes for this year. I will say that my focus is fully on the SLD as I have resigned as Contest Chair.

I hope to have grow visibility this year by attending more shows, even with the very unfortunate loss of OTE, and growing our presence outside of Ottawa.

That is all for now,

See you all soon

Cover:

The afternoon layout tour at the May 2015 meet included Doug Matheson's garden railroad. A modern 6 axle CN diesel is crossing a three span truss bridge with a petroleum unit train. The layout runs through most of the side yard on Doug's property and is designed for prototypical operation.

Photo: Andreas Mank

Classified:

For sale or trade because they take up too much room.

- 17 pieces of 1/2 inch by 1/8 inch basswood of various lengths up to 10 feet long
- 13 pieces of 1 1/4 inch by 1/8 inch pieces of plywood about 8 feet long.

alex.binkley@sympatico.ca

2015/16 SLD KitBuster Project - Building A Wooden Freight Car

by Grant Knowles

As a narrow gauge modeller I often find myself assembling rolling stock kits for my railroad as there is very limited RTR stuff pertaining to my specific railroad in HOn3 (fortunately I also enjoy building rolling stock). The nature of these kits varies from injection molded styrene to some really nice laser cut wooden models. Recently I found myself assembling a Labelle HOn3 wooden car kit, which technology wise, is much like the Campbell structure kits - old technology but are a lot of fun to build and made a very respectable model - even by today's standards.



This got me thinking, what sort of wooden rolling stock kits exist in HO standard gauge considering the recent evolution (revolution) to foreign made ready to run plastic cars? As with structures the introduction of laser cut kits has been taking place but in this case, at a very low level and largely focused on the smaller market niches such as narrow gauge. There really is not anything in the standard gauge realm. Once again the general trend of the hobby has been to the instant gratification of highly detailed mass produced RTR plastic models.

Top: Labelle Kit Contents: Through this season's KitBuster program, we'll show you how to take this confusing box of parts

Bottom: Labelle CS Boxcar: and build an award winning car like this!

Fortunately you can still find wooden RR kits on the market though the technology is more from the last century but that is actually a blessing in disguise as it aligns well with what we are embarking upon. Would it not be fun and educational to build one of these older style kits?



At the May SLD Meet I presented this idea in the context of a club guided activity where participants would build these models together with the benefit of some oversight from other members much like we

did with the laser cut structure kits, etc. The clubs enthusiastic response to this idea was very reassuring so we decided to follow through with the proposal where the theme for this year's KitBuster Project will be "Building a Wooden Railroad Car Kit".

The format we will be following is based on what has worked well in the past - clinics on key topics delivered at the meets over the course of the project interspersed with work session at our KitBuster meets. The project will commence at the September meet where the first clinic will be presented, kits handed out (for those who participated in the bulk purchase) and homework instructions delivered. Yes there will be homework this time around! Though building the kits will be relatively straight forward, it will take some time and a number of steps will require waiting for glue to dry before undertaking the next step thus more conducive to do at home than in a KitBuster session.

Recognizing not everyone has a wooden kit sitting on their shelves and to help jump start the project we orchestrated a bulk purchase of kits over the summer for those who requested assistance in sourcing materials. The main vendors we were looking at included Juneco, Labelle and one I was not aware of - George Taylor of which Juneco & Taylor specialize in Canadian prototypes. Each manufacturer follows the same architecture for their kits so all will make great candidates for the project.

Do not worry participation in the bulk was not a prerequisite to participating in the project. In fact the program is open to everyone if you are a SLD member, then we would love to have you on board. All you need to have is a wooden railroad car kit and your enthusiasm!

All the kits come with manufactures instructions, some are very good, others gloss over key topics so we will keep a close eye on this and will augment where necessary. During the course of the project, we will be producing supporting material in the form of instructions, tips & tricks, web links and whatever else we need to help us along. This information will be posted on our webpage so it will be accessible to all at any time of the day or week.

Though kits are well engineered and made with the best of materials, we may discover there is room for improvements by upgrading parts or even adding more parts to improve the realism of the finished car. We will be looking for these opportunities during the course of the project.

As noted earlier, we will commence the project at the September meet and will progress over the coming months with the objective to have our finished projects on display at the Algonquin Turn Convention (2016 NFR Regional Convention) in May. Here is the basic build sequence at a high level (I reserve to adjust as required):

1. assemble body core
2. prepare underframe
3. apply sides & roof
4. install grab irons
5. install brake rigging
6. paint/decal/weather
7. display!

Further information regarding the project will be presented at the September meet along with our first clinic!

We look forward to your participation.

Ottawa Train Expo

By Fred Adams

OTTAWA TRAIN EXPO unfortunately is announcing the cancellation of “**ROCKLAND EXPRESS**” which was scheduled for the Clarence–Rockland Arena on April 30 and May 1st, 2016.

To find a facility large enough, and within budgetary means to host a show the size of “**ROCKLAND EXPRESS**” is getting more and more difficult. Faced with cost increases well above the inflation rate, the rental of a facility and the associated show rentals are proving to be unaffordable. This is further compounded by a declining pool of available able bodied and enthusiastic volunteers in the community.

With deep consideration, the directors of **OTTAWA TRAIN EXPO** have decided to cancel any future operations of this not-for-profit corporation. Final cash residuals will be donated to Roger’s House, as is stated in the Constitution of Ottawa Train Expo.

Over the years, **OTTAWA TRAIN EXPO** directors sought to find a balance between providing the greatest and most affordable event for all participants (patrons, vendors and exhibitors), the best possible show venue and giving back to the community by providing Roger’s House with an annual donation. The forecast for the coming year does not look favorable.

We apologize for any inconvenience this cancelation causes with plans you have made for participation in the 2016 edition.

We would like to thank everyone for the support we have received in the past editions and are proud to have donated over \$ 10,000 to Roger’s House, an eight-bed pediatric residential hospice that welcomes families with children / youth who are living with a life limiting illness that results in increased pain and symptoms and a progressive decline of health.

From the first show in 2011 at Carleton University, we were the largest model railroad show in Eastern Canada, and the second largest in the whole country. Those of you who attended or participated over the years can be proud that you were part of it.

Thank you to all we have met along the way, and thank you for the great friendships made.

OTTAWA TRAIN EXPO wishes to thank Giant Tiger, Bell Media, Rapido Trains and all others who generously assisted with the production of the shows.

Thank you from the Executive of Ottawa Train Expo.

This space could be filled with your contribution!

The editor is always looking for your input to fill the pages of **The Mail Car** and make it more interesting for **You**, the reader.

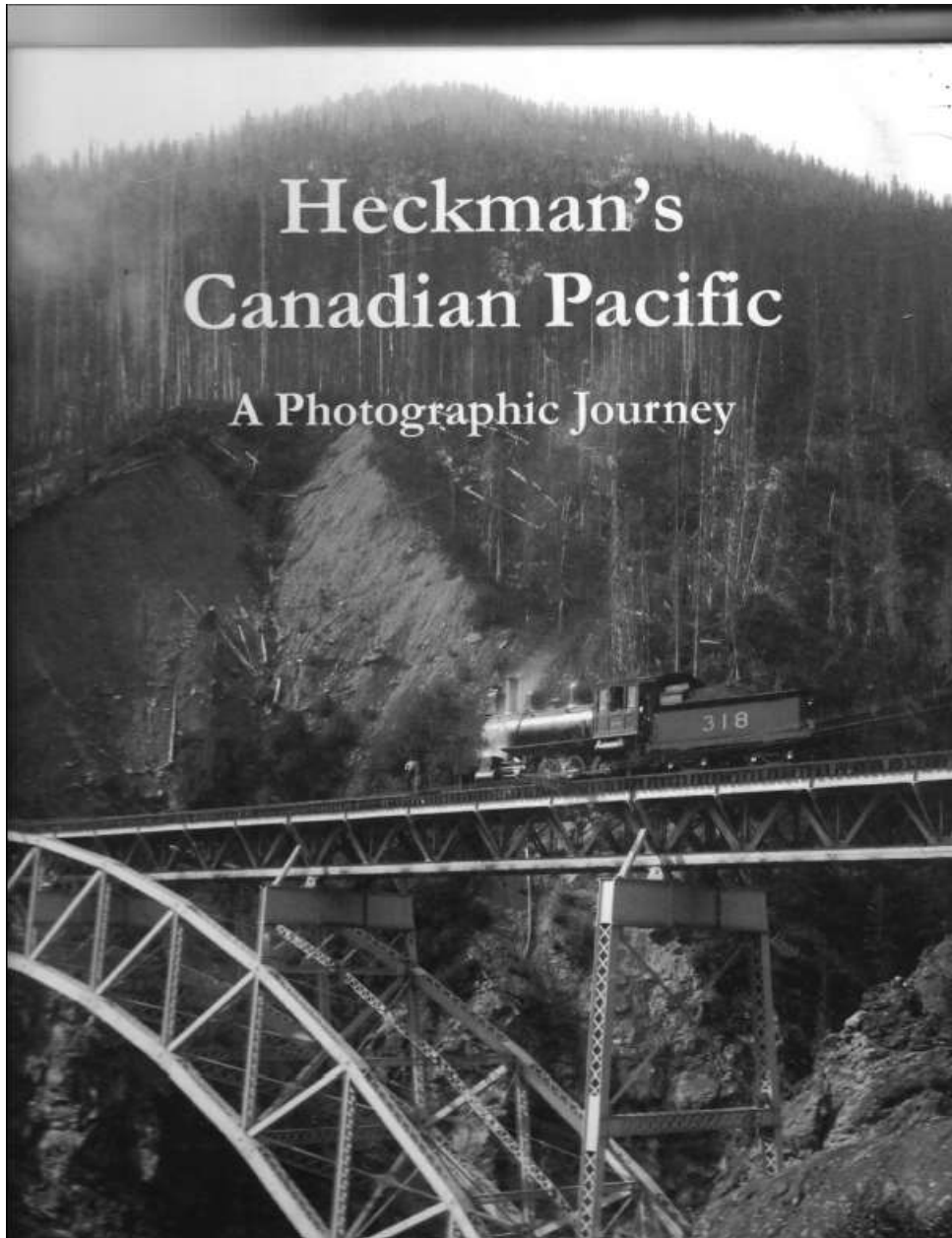
Please direct your contributions or suggestions for articles to the Editor (amank@magma.ca)

Thank You

Book review: Canadian Pacific Journey by Ralph Beaumont

By Doug Cushman

I really recommend that anyone with even a passing interest in the Canadian Pacific Railway consider purchasing this book. I am a big fan of the CNR transition era; so this endorsement is unusual for me. Ralph Beaumont has done an incredible job of editing this photographer's 4,000+ photos taken from 1898 to 1916 as an official photographer for the CPR's Bridge and Building Department. This is why he (Joseph Heckman) is relatively unknown as the photos were not taken for PR reasons. However, it is remarkable in that it portrays the ordinary rather than the unusual. This chap is right up there in the calibre of Nicholas Morant. There are 324 glossy pages in this hardcover book and almost every page has three photographs, with captions, location, and exact date and time.



The pictures are predominately of stations and bridges, although much of the surrounding structures are visible (such as water tanks and coal chutes). Of interest are places that were photographed at different dates and years from exactly the same location.

Although the general era is turn of the century, most of these structures survived to the end of steam and the bridges and some stations to the present day.

An added bonus, as was popular in those days, are people in the photos displaying the current dress code as well as wagons and handcars, etc.

This book is really a modeller's dream-come-true given the wealth of information, clarity of pictures, and above all, the cost: excellent value at \$59.95 CAN.

I purchased my copy at Hobby House.

Display Table report

By Grant Knowles

We had a new location for the May meet - the Carleton Place Arena where we demonstrated how to squeeze a large crowd of enthusiastic railroaders and their loot into a cosy space! This month's display theme was Contest Models from the NFR Convention.

We will first review the NFR contest entries then discuss the other display models.



Top: C&S bunk car, scratch built by Grant Knowles

Center: DSP&P stock car, a kit superdetailed by David Steer

Bottom: HO scale models and detail parts created by 3D printing and designed by Gilbert LaCroix

Photos: Andreas Mank



I was surprised and delighted my scratch built HOn3 C&S Cook & Bunk car did so well at the convention as I was only expecting to earn a Merit Award. In the end the model scored 111 points (out of a possible 125) earning the Best Scratch Built Model, The Best Narrow Gauge Model and the Best In Show. The model was built from styrene and various detailed parts and took six months (on & off) to complete as I encountered a number of setbacks during the construction. In the end I am very pleased to add this unique car to my roster.

David Steer also entered a narrow gauge car in the contest. In this case it was an On3 laser cut DSO&P Stock Car which he added a bazillion NWBs and other detail parts to. This model not only earned a Merit Award but also the Best Kit Built model.

Stan submitted his colour photograph of the Halton County Radial Railway shops that was taken during the May 2008 work session. This photo came in first for Prototype photos. Now for my sales pitch, I have been to the Halton RR (www.hcry.org) a couple of times now and funny enjoyed it. The artifacts are wonderful, the staff exceptionally friendly and best of all - you can ride the equipment. The museum is certainly worth a visit! And it is located close by - near Milton, Ontario.

Enough of the contest models, let us look at the rest of the display models.

Gilbert Lacroix brought out some nifty HO scale models that he built with a 3D printer.

First up is a mobile loading ramp based on a unit located in the OCR Walkley yard. Gilbert also has a pair of CN rail stops and a set of neatly detailed tie plates.



Debbie Stewart's No.1 gauge live steam locomotive continues to grab my attention. Debbie is in the process of building an Aster live steam kit of a German Railways BR52 Kriegslok locomotive. So far the tender is assembled along with the loco's running gear. I wonder if it will be in service this year?



Bob Farquhar has completed yet another fantastic model from a FOscale kit. Bob remarks that Dora's Delicatessen is the first FOscale kit that he has assembled that came with all the parts! The structure sports custom made signs in honour of a family friend.

As one that enjoys new technology in the hobby, Bob had picked up a hand held 3D printer to experiment with. We are all interested to see how this works out Bob.

Doug Pelkola graced us with his presence at the meet and had on display a number of kit structures he has been working on for his new CN railroad. Doug has assembly a number of Kanamodel kits of line side sheds, pump houses and coal bins all very nicely weathered.

Bruce Leckie brought out an On3 excursion car that he scratch built on a flat car kit. Bruce also had his completed scratch built Snow Plow car - an impressive piece of machinery.

Bill Meredith had more of his works on display. As you know, Bill does a lot of narrow gauge custom building of steam locomotives when he recently took receipt of two Sn3 C16 locomotives (in pieces) in Walmart bags. Bill then proceeded to assess the "damage" before embarking on the re-build program to model two specific engine numbers. 60 hours later, two patterned headlight castings, new drives and a scratch built boiler for 206, we have two exceptional models that will certainly be cherished by the owner. A careful review of these models will illustrate how the railways modified the rolling stock over the years as new appliances were installed (e.g. air brakes)

Top: Live Steam BR 52 Kriegslok in progress assembled from an Aster Kit by Debbie Stewart

Center: Dora's Delicatessen, assembled and detailed by Bob Farquhar from a FOscale kit.

Bottom: On3 snow plow scratch build by Bruce Leckie

Photos: Andreas Mank





Sn3 D&RGW consolidations rebuilt from piece parts by Bill Meredith.

Photo: Andreas Mank

and others repaired (note the miss-matched domes on 208) all replicated in detail by Bill. Bill had yet to install the lights and DCC/sound systems.

Bill also showed us a Sn3 2-8-0 frame that he assembled at this year's Kingston TrainExpo show. Bill followed a different assembly technique this time which produced a smoother running assembly.

To wrap up Bill's collection, he had a series of laser cut wood preproduction kits - two Sn3 versions of the D&RG 30 ft boxcar and O & S scale versions of the Colorado Midland 34ft boxcar. All neat stuff.

That does it for this month. Thank you to

everyone who brought out their pride and joy for us to examine. Additional photos are available on the May meet web page:

http://sld-nmra.ca/meets/may_15/may_15.htm.

TimeTable

Date	Meetings / Shows		SLD Workshops
September 19, 2015	Brockville Bethel Christian Reformed Church 117 Windsor Dr, Brockville, ON		
October 31, 2015			Emmanuel United Church 691 Smyth Road Ottawa
November 28, 2015	Emmanuel United Church		
January 23, 2016	Emmanuel United Church		Emmanuel United Church
February 27, 2016			Emmanuel United Church
March 11 & 12, 2016	Rail-O-Rama Ambassador Hotel Kingston		
March 26, 2016	Kingston		
May 6 to 8, 2016	Algonquin Turn NFR Convention Algonquin College Ottawa		
May 28, 2016	Emmanuel United Church		



Next Division Meet

St. Lawrence Division – NMRA

When:

Saturday, September 19, 2015

Where:

Bethel Christian Reformed Church
117 Windsor Drive,
Brockville, ON

Doors open at 9:30 am -- Admission \$7.00

What's on:

Morning:

Division Business

Clinics:

Alex Thumb

Operating a Layout

Flip Clock

Stan Conley

Freight Car Evolution

Grant Knowles

Kitbuster Program

Display:

Summer Projects

Afternoon:

Layout Tour

