



THE MAIL CAR

NEWSLETTER OF THE ST. LAWRENCE DIVISION - NMRA

ISSUE # 124 | SEPTEMBER 2023

sld-nmra.ca



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The Fall Modelling Season is Upon Us!

Cover Photo:

Bob Farquhar has completed a diorama made from an Inter-Action kit in HO scale. The level of detail even includes an engine block on a pallet. Since it is not rusted, they must have just gotten it.

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

Opinions expressed are those of the editor and/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

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Superintendent's Report

By Normand Levert

Our May meet coincided with the HOTRAK modular weekend. We had a splendid presentation by Zoom on the Halton County Radial Railway by Trevor Parkins-Sciberras. I stepped in with second clinic of railfanning Steam Town, East Broad Top, Horseshoe Curve and Strasburg Pennsylvania.

I am looking forward to seeing familiar and new railway modellers faces in September, and in the months following. We have clinicians lined up for all but one presentation, and are currently firming up presentation dates. I think there will be something to interest everyone.

Last SLD season's Arduino workshops were successful and Grant Knowles will continue shepherding the dedicated "Arduinists" as they pursue developing applications for their model railways. I hope to follow them, if from a distance. I also look forward to the many model railroading Arduino applications that may become available to SLD and NMRA members.

My summer modelling was different, I ended up working on different priorities than anticipated. This largely because *le chemin de fer Nord* will host visitors during the Capital Region Model Railway Tour (CRMRT) self-guided tour (www.capitaltrains.ca) on Saturday 21 October. I felt compelled to make progress on the scenery. CRMRT is not an SLD event, but many of our members are involved. About a dozen layouts will be open to members of the public who register to visit home layouts. This is an opportunity to showcase model railroading, promote the hobby and SLD. We will provide layout owners with SLD cards.

Which brings me to our planned project this year; scenery! We propose having small workshops which will let us learn multiple techniques for making various types of terrain and vegetation such as grasses, shrubs and trees. Participants could build small dioramas to display their results. We will cover methods to simulate water and other features. The scenery workshops will provide the participants opportunities to learn, and experiment with new (to them) techniques.

Scenery may not be your desire this year. No problem! All projects are welcome at our workshop sessions, where you can find fellow modellers with tips and tricks to help you. All NMRA members are welcome to join us.

2023 Capital Region Model Railway Tour

The Capital Region Model Railway tour (CRMRT) is back! Back in person that is, after three years of absence, cancelled in 2020, in virtual video tours in 2021 and 2022.

There will be about a dozen layouts open to visitors from 9 AM to 4 or 5 PM, depending on the host. The visitors vetted before they are given directions to layouts. A few of these layouts belong to members of members of St Lawrence Division. To manage all the visitors, each layout owner / host needs a crew to run trains, chat with visitors and answer their question and to welcome the visitors, ensuring they have the CRMRT credentials. It is an occasion for a pleasant day, to enjoy the wonderment of visiting youths and adults. It is also an opportunity to promote the hobby and St Lawrence Division to the visitors. We have hundreds of glossy NMRA Canada St Lawrence Division business cards to give away! Layout owners may come calling in September on SLD members to help them on Saturday 21 October.

The CRMRT layout crews will get a day of their own to visit other layouts at a later date.

Several boxes of Canadian railway magazines are available due to pressure to downsize and declutter.

Canadian Rail from last 1971 onwards, Branchline from 1985 onward and CN Lines from 1989 onward. Some individual issues seem to be missing and I will keep looking for them. They are arranged in order of publication.

Let me know if you are interested and a handoff will be arranged. If no one is, their eventual fate is in a blue box on garbage day in the coming months.

Alex Binkley alex.binkley@sympatico.ca

Discord interface showing the **NMRA Interchange** server and the **#2202-st-lawrence-division-sld** channel.

Left Sidebar (Server List):

- NMRA Interchange (selected)
- SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS
- PODCASTS/VLOG GROUPS
- PROTOTYPES
- NMRA PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM
- RAIL TOURISM
- BRITISH REGION (BR 3400)
- NIAGARA FRONTIER REGION (N...)
- niagara-frontier-region-...
- #2202-st-lawrence-divisi...** (selected)
- Niagara Frontier Region ...
- MY MODELING
- IN MEMORIA

Bottom Left (User Status):

- Lloyd (MH... Online)

Channel Header:

#2202-st-lawrence-division-sld

February 24, 2023

Message from Trainmaster (02/24/2023 4:22 PM):

The Mail Car is online now: <https://sld-nmra.ca/around-the-division/the-mail-car-newsletter/>

Image: A model train (Ottawa Central 4204) pulling an orange freight car across a bridge. The image is a cover for "THE MAIL CAR" newsletter, Issue #127, March 2023, from the St. Lawrence Division - NMRA.

Right Sidebar (Members):

- NMRA_MEMBER — 2
- Lloyd (MHO Junction)
- Normand - CF Nord Rly
- OFFLINE — 10
- Bill Kennedy Camerab...
- Castor River Railroad ...
- Michelle Kempema
- Mick Shea
- MRV / Malcom
- NMRASuper

Channel Description:

#2202-st-lawrence-division is where everything concerning our division will be posted.

Have you joined the NMRA Interchange? It's the newest tool to help you connect with other members, gain knowledge, and learn modelling techniques. The Interchange is hosted on the Discord application which is available for Windows, MacOS, Android and Apple devices. See the following instructions below to signing up.

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Joining the NMRA Interchange

Speed Muller
IT Manager, NMRA

Have you joined the Interchange yet? If not, follow these steps to get connected!

1. Go to nmra.org/nmra-interchange

2. It will ask you to log in to the NMRA website if you're not already logged in. If you are not registered with the NMRA website yet, now is the time to do it. Click the "Need a username? Register now" button, and get set up. Use the email address on file in the NMRA membership system. The system will email you a link to set your password.

3. Now you should be in the [NMRA Interchange](#) page. If not, click this link.

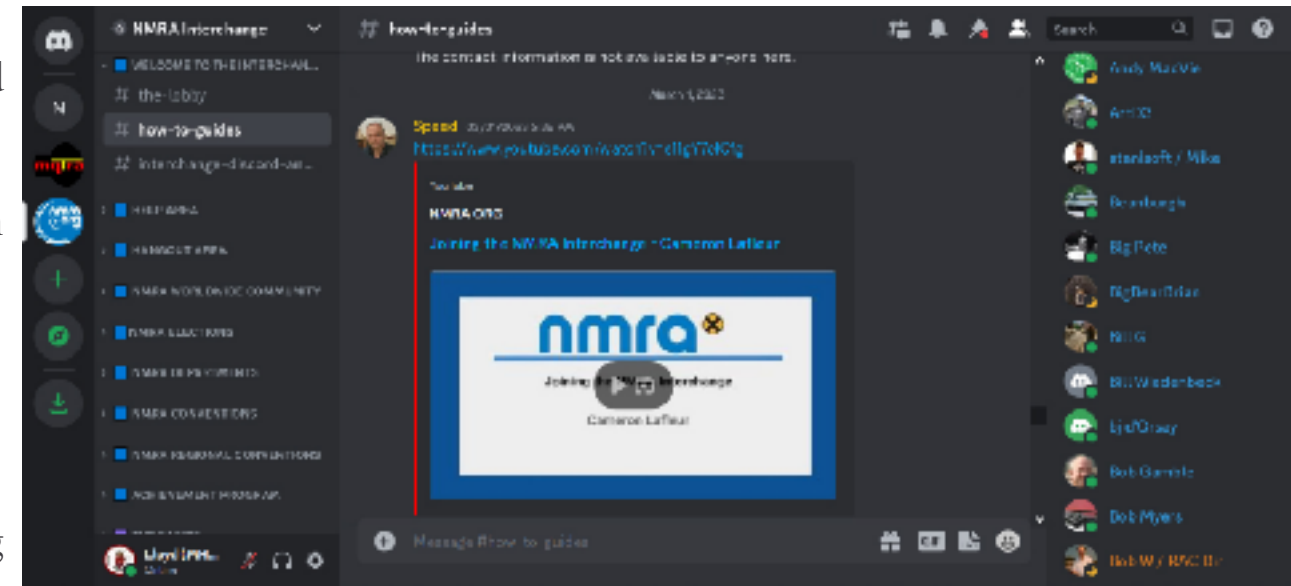
4. Click on [Member Info](#) in the top right corner and scroll down to get your exact Member ID. You'll need that later.

5. Read through the page and then follow the "Interchange Server Invite" link at the bottom. This is a special link just for you and will look something like <https://discord.gg/xxxxxxx>

6. You will be taken to **Discord** (the platform that hosts the NMRA Interchange) where you will be prompted to sign in, if you already have an account there, or prompted to register, if not. If you need instructions for creating an account or logging into Discord, they can be found [here](#).

7. Once you accept the NMRA Interchange Invite, and you are logged in, you will land in #the-lobby with a message on what to do next.

8. We suggest that you read and agree to the #rules first. Just click on #rules and then click on "thumbs up". Then click on #the-lobby again to do the most important step.



THE SECTION IN BLUE IS ALL ABOUT THE NMRA AND THEY ALL OPEN UP TO SUB SECTIONS.

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9. Discord and the NMRA need to check with each other, in order to verify that you are a current NMRA member with an email on file. You start the process with the /onboard command. Now, this is very sensitive to the type of device you are using, so just type the first few letters /onb at the bottom where you see a + sign in a circle. It will complete the command for you in a pop-up just above that. Click on the /onboard command.

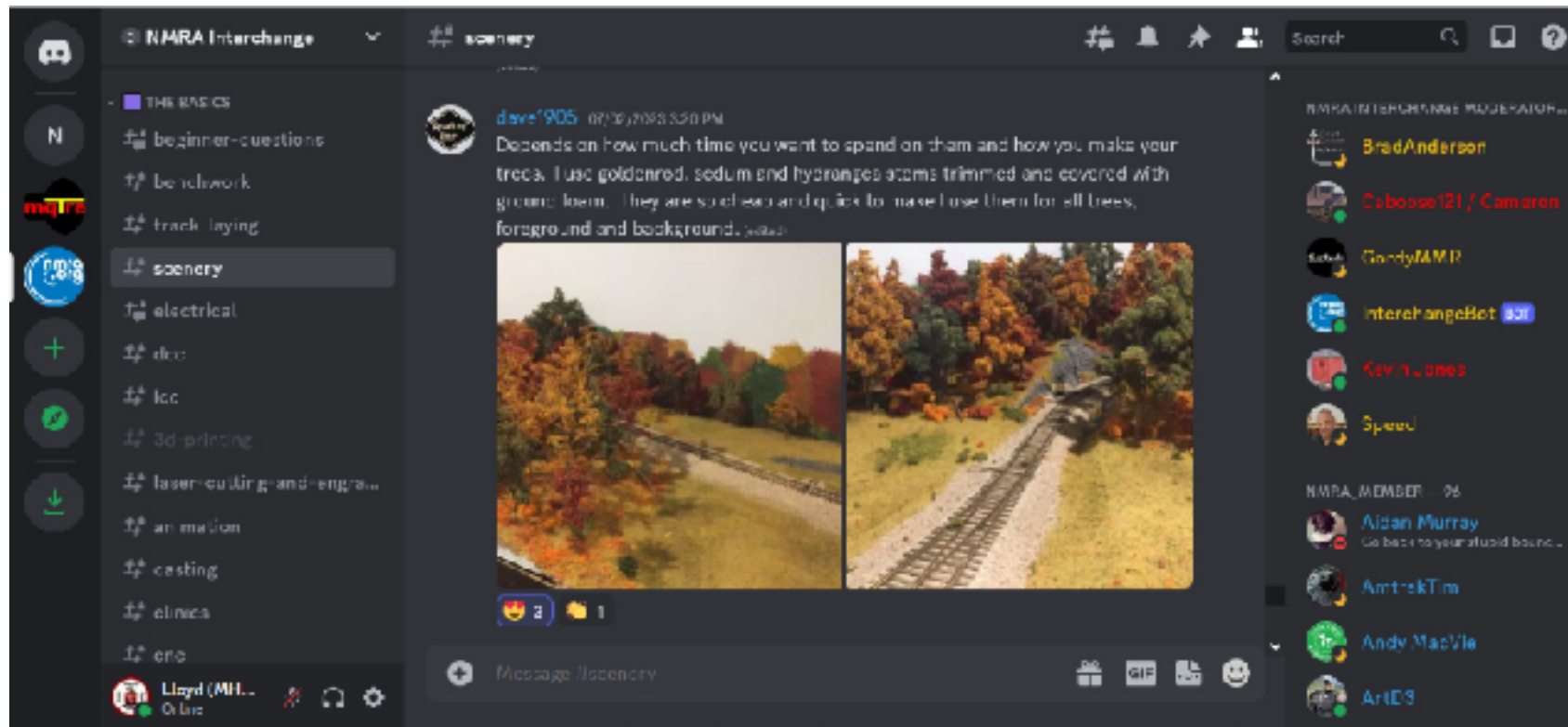
Add your membership number (6 characters followed by a space and then two more characters) just as you noted in step 4.

Example: /onboard input: 123456 0A

10. Discord and the NMRA's computers will have a chat, then you will receive an email containing a /clearance command. That is your entry ticket. Copy and paste the whole line into #the-lobby (at the + sign again). Example: /clearance input: 654321

11. You're in! You will not have to do any of this again. If anything derails, you'll get a message telling you what to do next, and we also have Moderators in the Interchange standing by to help.

12. If all went well, you'll now see more than 350 channels (those # things). We suggest you start by going to #introduce-yourself and then scroll up to #the-workbench to see what others have done and shared! Then find your Region and Division and say "hello" there. Then start participating and enjoying it!



THIS SECTION IS ALL ABOUT MODEL RAILROADING WITH LOTS OF CATEGORIES AND SUBCATEGORIES, SUCH AS CP, CN, 1900'S ETC.

May Display Table

By Grant Knowles MMR

We deliberately kept the May Display Table theme at a high-level allowing participants to interpret it how they wish. Thus, in support of this month's feature clinic, the display table theme was identified as "Infrastructure to facilitate passenger movement (structures / rolling stock)".

First up we have a pair of brass CPR wooden cars – RPO and combine – brought in by Malcom. These highly detailed HO scale cars were designed by Kirlin and manufactured in the early 2000's. These cars were used on branch lines around the Ottawa area. Malcom explained he was fortunate enough to pick one of these cars up on eBay during the Covid time frame when things were selling at lower than normal prices.

I chose to interpret the Display Table Theme quite literally and brought out both rolling stock and structures which handled the movement of passengers.

I'm very proud of the Jefferson Station. The C&S railroad had built this handsome station in the South Park (Colorado) town of Jefferson. Builders In Scale came out with this excellent kit a number of years ago which is comprised of laser cut scribed siding and countless detail parts. I had assembled the kit as per the excellent instructions and added interior details and lights. I chose to replace the kit's paper shingles with individual shingles that I cut from cigar wrappers. The station will be permanently installed on the layout later this fall.

I recently picked up two new structure kits from LeavilleDesigns.com for the Central City Section House and the Ticket Office. Both buildings (which still exist) are landmark structures of the town and until now, kits were not commercially available. The Leaville Designs kits do not disappoint, the laser etched brick detail is phenomenal along with the custom 3d printed chimneys, shingles and decals. The kits went together effortlessly resulting in an exact replication of the prototype. I'm currently in the process of installing these in their new home in my version of Central City.



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Shifting over to rolling stock, here is what I brought out on this front.

Rail Bus #1

Though the Colorado & Southern narrow gauge never had a rail bus on their roster, I decided my version of the C&S required one and I chose to scratch build it based on the

Scott Hall designs of the 1920's. The bus is built from brass, styrene and a whole slew of detail parts. A can motor (mounted in the freight compartment) powers the Flea Units in the rear truck via a diagonal drive shaft. The railbus is DCC/Sound equipped with functional headlight/market lights.

Tourist Car #150

The Colorado Central experienced a growth in tourist traffic on their Clear Creek branch prompting the conversion of some flat cars into Tourist Cars by adding seats and a roof. This is a Clear Creek kit (essentially a box of styrene strips) to which I added seats and people. This car often trails behind the Rail Bus as they tour the layout.

Combine #20

This combination car was kit bashed from an E&B Valley coach kit and sports Grandt Line trucks & CDS Lettering. #20 plied the Colorado & Southern rails in the mountains west of Denver until the mid 30's when the railroad ceased operations. I had the pleasure of riding in #20 back in 1988 (in it's original condition) which is now on display in Central City.

Business Car 911

This C&S narrow gauge car is a Shapeways 3D printed model.

Prepping the model included carefully removing the internal bracing (for casting purposes) and building a floor complete with under floor details. Interior walls were



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created along with inclusion of kitchen fixtures and furniture. Commercial castings were used wherever available. Things like grab irons, truss rods, steps and brake wheels were added. I chose to use Blackstone trucks and Kadee couplers. Microscope slides were used for the windows, model is covered with Floquil paints and Microscale decals.



Coach #70

I had acquired a couple of Blackstone coaches a while back as these are excellent models both from appearance and operational perspective. I figured they looked close enough to the C&S coaches that with a few simple changes they would be more than acceptable. My original plan was to take the cars apart and spray the C&S green but as luck would have it, the models were so well made that you could not remove the clear window glazing! So, spray painting was no longer an option. I resorted to carefully brush painting the cars which actually turned out pretty good. I also painted the roofs with Floquil Weathered Black so they would match the rest of the fleet. I used CDS lettering (applied to MicroScale decal film) to letter the cars then applied a coat of flat finish.

I would like to remind our members that in addition to providing this Display Table write up in the Mail Car, I also post numerous photos from the meet on the respective meet web page so be sure to drift over there too. For example you will find the March Meet photos at: sld-nmra.ca/around-the-division/sld-meets/past-sld-meets/may-27th-2023-meet/

So that's the May Display Table Review. Thank you to all who brought out their models today.



**CAPITAL REGION
MODEL RAILWAY TOUR**

2023

VISITES DE CHEMINS DE FER MINIATURES

DE LA CAPITALE

A SELF GUIDED TOUR OF SOME OF THE AREA'S BEST MODEL RAILWAYS
UNE VISITE AUTO-GUÏÉE DE CERTAINS DES MEILLEURS CHEMINS DE FER MINIATURES



\$10 <16 FREE

**SATURDAY
OCTOBER**

**21
2023**

**SAMEDI
OCTOBRE**



10\$ <16 GRATUIT

WWW.CAPITALTRAINS.CA

RAILFAIR KINGSTON

**Saturday October 21st
2023**

10:00AM – 3:30PM

Royal Canadian Legion

Branch 560

734 Montreal St.

railfair.ca

Meet Schedule

Check the [webpage](#) for more details.

Date	Location
Sept 30, 2023	Emmanuel United Church 691 Smyth Road, Ottawa
Nov 25, 2023	
Jan 27, 2024	
Mar 30, 2024	
May 25, 2024	

<https://sld-nmra.ca/around-the-division/sld-meets/>

Doors open at 9:00 AM. Admission \$7.00