



BULLETIN BOARD

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ABOVE: A CN passenger train stops at the Coyoti Flats station next to a couple of classic grain elevators on David Ross's layout in 150 Mile House. Take a closer look at this, and one other Cariboo layout, starting on page 6.

Photo by David Ross

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From the Editor's Desk

This issue contains two articles describing a pair of Cariboo region layouts that I am sure most 7th Division members are not aware of. One provides a look at David Ross's Coyote Line layout that started life as a collection of Free-mo modules and grew into a very nice home layout. The other describes Roy Zschiedrich's nicely scenicked Bear Creek Railway that is built around well-modelled forestry industries. Have a look at these two Cariboo layouts starting on page 6. I would like to thank Russ Watson for recommending that I get in touch with these two members to get their stories.

In addition, we have John Martin's regular Superintendent's column, news on the 2021 VTEX, an update on the upcoming RMMBC meet that starts May 1st, the return of Mike Barone's Modeller's Help Desk, and a note on this year's PNR Convention.

If you enjoy the two layout articles in this issue, please consider providing your fellow modellers with a look at your layout via a Bulletin Board article. If you are willing to give this a try contact me at r.england@computer.org. I will do my best to help you make that happen.

Enjoy the issue!



Superintendent's Message

By John Martin, 7th Division Superintendent

This month's message is simple:

Please register for RMMBC!

Each year I'm impressed by the number of people who attend the Railway Modellers Meet of BC. They are sending a clear message that RMMBC is a highly regarded event, extremely worthy of their time and attention.

On the other side of the coin, I'm surprised by folks right here at home who decide to give the "meet" a pass. Take a look at the featured guest speaker, the schedule and lineup of clinics, the layout tours, and the "Meet the Modeller" sessions - there is truly something for everyone. It starts May 1st.

Visit railwaymodellermeeetofbc.ca or google RMMBC – and sign up.

It's a virtual event, thanks to the pandemic, and it's dead easy to join in. It's also free – which should appeal to every railway modeller!

RMMBC is our major offering to you, as an NMRA member. Don't miss out on the opportunity to enjoy it.

-oOOOOo-

Each year, the 7th Division recognizes a few of those who have contributed exceptionally to the model railway community. Our three awards and past winners may be viewed at 7divpnr.ca under the "awards" tab. You probably know someone out there who should be nominated. Please submit a suggestion to the Award Coordinator or any member of the Executive (see listing on the last page).

Watch for the 2021 awards presentations on May 1st at 11:00 AM during the first session of the Railway Modellers Meet of BC.



Remember the Maytag Repairman?

Ken Rutherford is just as lonely.

Ken (7th Division Director-At-Large) is our Returning Officer and is standing by to deal with a flood of incoming nominations for Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent.

Volunteers are needed, so please consider helping out. Ken would like to hear from you...

Nominations and volunteers are requested for the positions of 7th Division Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent. Successful candidates will serve a 2-year term on the Board of Directors in 2022 & 2023.

Please submit nominations to Returning Officer Ken Rutherford at kj.rutherford@shaw.ca or to 3560 Frank St., Port Alberni, BC V9Y 8A1.

There are still a few people out there who have never served on a committee or as an executive. It's not a lot of work and it can actually be enjoyable. We most definitely need at least one new candidate this year. Please email or telephone the Superintendent if you want to know more about what's involved.



Vancouver Train Expo – 2021 Update

by Tom Lundgren, Leader, Vancouver Train Expo

In pre-pandemic years, registration for this year's Vancouver Train Expo (VTEX) would be open by the time this edition of the 7th Division Bulletin Board arrives in your mailbox. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact activities in adverse and uncertain ways. Even if the vaccination program is effective and rolls out in a timely way, it is not clear if social distancing and mask wearing will still be required. Large public gatherings may remain prohibited or, simply, ill advised.

That leaves us, as the event organizers, to decide if we believe the plan will work, if the emergence of new variants will be benign, if the restrictions on gatherings will be lifted, if the exhibitors will attend, and finally if the general public will attend in sufficient numbers to cover the costs of staging the event. Additionally, there are timing considerations because the venue usually insists that we sign a contract and start paying (non-refundable) advances by mid-May.

Recent VTEX events were very successful overall, and most importantly, particularly in 2019, generated enough revenue to provide honoraria to exhibitors as well as increasing our cash reserves to the point where the next event can almost be staged without seeking loans.

Given the uncertainty and financial risk created by the pandemic, the Organizing Committee has decided not to proceed with Vancouver Train Expo 2021. We regret not being able to hold the event in 2020 and again in 2021. We hope you will agree that it is wiser to keep our financial resources intact so we can stage an entertaining and financially successful event in 2022.

We look forward to better times ahead and thank you for your understanding.

The 2021 Railway Modellers Meet of BC Starts Soon!

by Marc Simpson, RMMBC Promotion

The 2021 Railway Modellers' Meet of BC Starts Soon!

Registration for the 2021 Railway Modellers Meet of BC (RMMBC) is now open. The fun starts Saturday, May 1st and continues every Thursday evening in May (6th, 13th, 20th and 27th). In addition to the Keynote Presentation, great clinics, and virtual layout tours, we have the display room: the heart of every Railway Modellers Meet.

Keynote Speaker – Iain Rice

We are very pleased to announce that the Keynote Speaker for the 2021 RMMBC is Iain Rice, one of the best-known model railway authors in Britain (and by extension Canada and the US). He has published over 20 books and well over 400 articles over the last 45 years, and is particularly interested in the history of layout design and in the evolution of fine-scale “Proto” standards. One of his signatures is his use of hand-drawn diagrams and illustrations for his articles.

Iain's keynote presentation starts with the notion that model railway design is about much more than a track plan. Iain will outline his philosophy of integrated design and will share observations on a lifetime of building model railways. Iain's keynote talk will be on Saturday, May 1st 2021 at 10am Pacific Time. Register today to be a part of this great presentation by one of the icons of model railroading!



Clinics

The clinics at RMMBC have something for everyone. Everything from scenery to layout design, railway signals to decaling and weathering are part of the clinic lineup. The first clinic, on Vancouver Island Colliery Railways by well-known author Robert Turner, will follow Iain Rice's presentation on Saturday May 1st. Then every Thursday evening (May 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th) two clinic streams will be presented to offer the widest choices for registrants. Check the schedule page at www.railwaymodellersmeetofbc.ca to see the full clinic lineup and when each clinic will be happening.



ABOVE: A superbly weathered Australian diesel locomotive modelled by Ian Millard. Ian will be presenting a clinic Thursday May 6th on his methods for weathering without using an airbrush.

Photo by Ian Millard

Virtual Layout Tours

The layout tour program is always a popular part of every Railway Modellers Meet of BC (RMMBC) event. While we can't have in person tours this year, we are doing the next best thing: having the owners of the layouts give a guided virtual tour of their layout. We've got some great model railways on tap, six in all, including several that have never been on the RMMBC tour circuit previously. Take advantage of this opportunity to see some great model railways. Check the Layout Tour page at www.railwaymodellersmeetofbc.ca to see the full layout tour lineup and when each tour will be happening.

RIGHT: An Esquimalt & Nanaimo RDC descending the Malahat grade emerges from the E&N's only tunnel. Steve Stark's E&N will be the subject of a layout tour on Thursday May 13th.

Photo by Steve Stark



Display and “Meet the Modeller”

The virtual display room will be open throughout the meet and you are invited to send in photos and information about any project or modelling activity you want to show to the community. Email photographs of your project to the Display Coordinator along with the information in the model entry form. Your photos will be incorporated into the display and Meet the Modeller.

In addition, we are hosting a virtual "Meet the Modeller" session, but with a couple of new twists. One of the features of an in-person meet is the ability to drop into the display hall from time to time and have a look at models and have a chat with other modellers. We wanted to capture a little more of that feeling this year, rather than reviewing all of the models during a single marathon session. Check the Display and Meet the Modeller page at www.railwaymodellersmeetofbc.ca for more details.

Register Now!

Register today for the 2021 RMMBC which starts May 1st, 2021 with Iain Rice's Keynote Presentation. Meet attendance is free! The Meet continues every Thursday evening during the month of May (May 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th). The registration page is www.railwaymodellersmeetofbc.ca/node/2374 – register today to be part of the fun!



Cariboo Layouts

Coyoti Line Railway

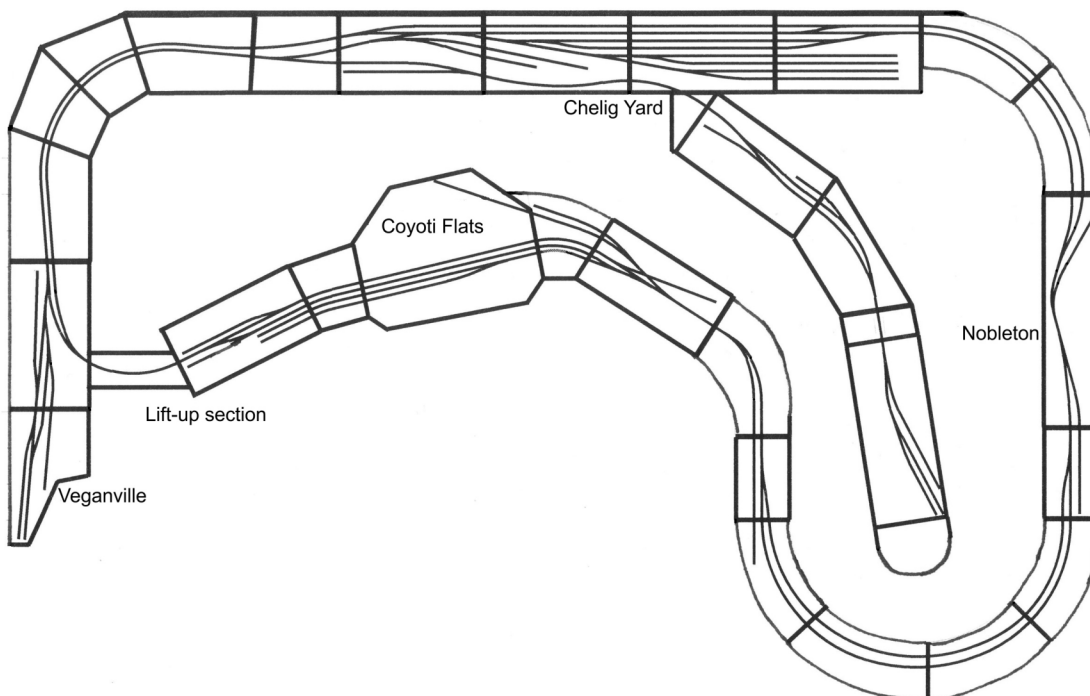
Text and photos (except where noted) by David Ross

My name is David Ross and I am a retired Social Worker living in 150 Mile House – sort of a suburb of Williams Lake, about a 20 minute drive away. My last work was in Quesnel where I became involved with other modellers and for a while with the Quesnel Model Railway Club. Several of us got interested in the Free-mo concept and consequently built many modules and participated in Free-mo meets in Big Valley, Alberta, and Chilliwack, etc., as the Cariboo Free-mo Group.

I have built several layouts over the years but my current (and last?) layout is interesting in that it is basically a Free-mo set-up with about 100' of mainline track. It evolved as I decided to reduce the number of modules I would take to meets and leave some set up at home. It was becoming too much of a chore to take down and set up again at home (one module had five sections) so now I have only a few modules I take on the road (whenever that will be again?) and the rest became part of the home layout. At about the same time our Cariboo Free-mo Group dissolved as a couple of the fellows decided to take their interests in different directions. None of us wanted to throw out the time and money invested in all our modules so I volunteered to keep as many as I could. So I inherited a yard, the reverse loop and several other very nice modules.

To accommodate all the modules, out came a wall in my basement and a major renovation of the train room and rec room took place. Most of this work took place in 2018 and 2019, so I have been able to run trains for over a year now. Russ Watson and Adrian Noble helped me with the renovation, wiring, and set up of the DCC system. I used the XTrkCad program to design the set-up as well as the connecting sections which were needed between some modules to fit it into the “L” shape space available (approximately 30' long x 20' wide with the narrowest spot about 10' wide). I also added backdrops where I could along the walls and exterior edge of the modules. Operation is all from the inside of the loop. One lift-up section lets one into the layout (of course if young one can always crawl under). I set the modules at the 50" height which makes it easier to work under (still no longer easy!)

The end result is basically a switching layout with 17 industrial spurs, a yard, and a branch line. It is set in an imaginary town called Coyoti Flats which is located in Alberta close to the foothills. The lift up section is both the east and west end of the town, so during operations one can't “cheat” by going over the section. However it



LEFT: The Coyoti Line layout plan with a few locations marked. This is fitted into my basement. The entry to the layout is via the hinged lift-up section on the left.

can be used as a lead for either the east or west switching operations. I have figured out the JMRI program enough to give me switching lists for operation. However, I have also discovered one gets more coherent switch lists if there are more towns so I have broken the one town of Coyoti flats into six towns. Currently there are 62 cars entered in the program.

I have only had a couple of operating sessions with others (Rider Cheyne and Paul Aier) then COVID closed us down. But I continue creating switch lists and do the ‘work’ myself – keeps one busy during COVID! As well, I have continued to work on scenery and building buildings and details for the sidings.

The era I model is about 100 years long. Because we can run trains of any era on Free-mo I have rolling stock and locos from steam to modern. I would like to add a couple of storage tracks so I could better break the operation into the two eras of steam and modern, and create switch lists appropriate for each era.



LEFT: A CN passenger train stops at the Coyoti Flats station. This shows the grain elevators, water tower, and the main road through downtown Coyoti Flats.



**ABOVE: This shows the main part of the layout room, with a bit of Chelig yard to the left, the branch line in the middle, and main line curving around to reach Coyoti Flats just to the right.
Photo by Russ Watson**



ABOVE: The stockyard at Coyoti Flats,



LEFT: Vegan Packers at Veganville. This was scratch built by Keith Watkins and detailed by me.

RIGHT: The Arrowhead Ale Brewery at Nobleton. This started as a kit for a 2" deep backdrop building. I enlarged it to full size and added details.



LEFT: Russell's Road House. Another scratch built structure by Keith Watkin of Quesnel. CN freight passing by.

Cariboo Layouts

The Bear Creek Railway

Text and photos (except where noted) by Roy Zschiedrich

This freelance layout started with no plan, the benchwork was remodelled three times before track was laid, and then the track was reworked three times. No plan you say!

Hi, my name is Roy Zschiedrich. I have enjoyed trains ever since I can remember. I am now retired after 46 years in the forest industry. I live in a small rural community called Kersley located on Highway 97 (and the BC Rail) about 20 minutes south of Quesnel.

My layout in my basement is approximately a 10x16 foot rectangle with two operating pits in the middle. The main makes a double loop around the layout to increase the run distance. Let's follow a train counter-clockwise along the main to give you an idea how it's laid out.

Our train starts at Royston, the main town on the railway, currently modelled with black silhouettes on the backdrop but someday to have low-relief buildings added. Leaving Royston yard we proceed past Weldwood Lumber Co. then into a more rural area where we cross Bear Creek trestle and take a look at Whisky Falls tumbling down the cliff. At the end of the trestle we pass Hill Lake and a spur that heads up Red Creek Valley and over Red Creek Bridge to a steam logging operation and the Weldwood log yard. Another spur heads to Charmin Pulp and Paper. Our train continues on the main past the pulp mill and crosses over the yard entrance. It then heads off to the (unmodelled) town of Wyattville behind Green Mountain. When the train reappears from the tunnel it travels through a rural area heading for the (unmodelled) town of Roselund via a rock shed and tunnel. The train appears once again from a tunnel on its way back into Royston yard.

The layout is modelled in HO gauge. I run DC and Digitrax DCC, hoping to go all DCC in the future. I run mostly BC Rail equipment and have had two layout tours, in 2005 and 2012, during our two meets here in Quesnel.

My favourite part of railway modelling is doing the scenery. I painted the backdrops and as you look at the layout you can see many scenic details that I love adding. The layout is primarily built for rail fanning. I have never really got into operations, although there are many industries modelled. I can see myself completing the areas where the scenery is less than complete and maybe adding lighting and, possibly, some animation. The sawmill and the yards also need some work.



LEFT: Roy in one of the two layout operating pits with Whisky Falls behind him.

Photo by Rose Zschiedrich

Our local club, the Quesnel Model Railway Club, used to have between 8 and 16 members and had a large layout built in a downtown shopping mall. Unfortunately, the club is now in limbo as the mall closed and we lost our layout space. We have formed a Society and we have Tom Mower, boots to the ground, trying to find a new home using all aspects of the three levels of government, municipal, provincial and federal, to no avail so far.



LEFT: Royston yard on the south end of layout with cattle yards in distance.

RIGHT: North end, Bear Creek trestle, Whisky Falls, Hill Lake, engineers control.



LEFT: Log sort at Weldwood Lumber Co.



LEFT: Weldwood Lumber Co. sawmill. The lumber loads were hand built.



RIGHT: Hobo camp near Hill Lake.



LEFT: Charmin Pulp and Paper in the foreground, steam logging crew train in centre of photo, Whisky Falls at the back.

Air Brushes and Compressors

by Mike Barone

Many modellers are reluctant to try airbrushing, but these simple tools can produce impressive results and even improve the appearance of your trackwork. You can work wonders after a little practise and the internet has a wealth of instructional videos and advice.

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Hi Mike:

An NMRA friend generously gave me an older model Aztec airbrush. It's a basic kit with a brush and several nozzles but no hose or fittings. Is it a good starter set?

Mike's Reply:

I bought an Aztec brush to use with acrylic paints and found it to be fairly good. It's made of engineering plastics, so acrylics don't stick to it. Colour changes are simple, and it's easy to run cleaner through the brush and change paint cups. Changing nozzles for different paints and painting effects is also quick and easy. Nozzles and parts are still available through my local hobby shop.

It's a decent brush and probably a good one to start learning the basics of airbrushing. Try it and see how you like it – it's easy to practise with clear water. For me, the Aztec is a bit light to handle. I prefer my Thayer & Chandler (now part of Badger) brushes, which are relatively heavier.

I do like the replaceable side feed cup for ease of use. (Aztec has bottom feed attachments as well.) I would avoid any brush that has a top feed built-in cup, although these are quite common. When I paint, I use my airbrush at a variety of angles, so I'm concerned about spillage and cleaning a top feeder.

–oOOOOo–

Hi Mike:

Any advice about air compressors? My friend kindly gave me a small 1/10th HP unit.

Mike's Reply:

Any small compressor will probably be adequate and will supply 0.5 cfm and up to 35 psi. Most brushes need 15 to 25 psi, depending on the project. A surge tank is usually necessary (you'll get pulsing paint flow if you run directly off the compressor) and you'll need an air pressure regulator with a gauge. Get one with a moisture trap/filter as well.

Your hobby shop should have everything you need (including valuable free advice) or you can order direct from badgerairbrush.com. (Also check out testors.com and review the instructional videos on both sites.) I found a #50-054 regulator with filter and moisture trap for US\$30 – a great buy. Amazon & eBay are other options of course.

My own compressor is a 2 gal. 120 psi 3 cfm Mastercraft from Canadian Tire with all the gadgets, but it was necessary because it also powers my sand blasting unit. Many people have larger compressors at home for a nail gun or whatever and, with a good regulator (to reduce the pressure adequately) and an adapter fitting for the hose, they will often work even better than a smaller compressor because of the larger storage tank.

Paint fumes are toxic, so consider even a simple cardboard box spray booth vented to the outdoors with a dryer hose. A proper mask is inexpensive and essential.

One site I like is [How To Airbrush - Start Airbrushing Right \(Airbrush Tutorials\) \(airbrushguru.com\)](http://airbrushguru.com).

Take the plunge and enjoy a new skill. Maybe, if you ask, your local Area Representative will organize an

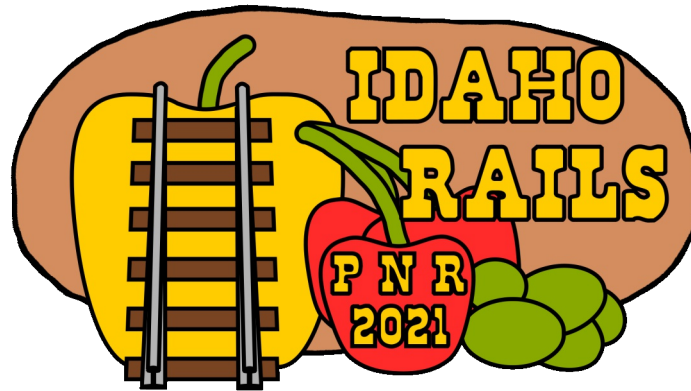
airbrushing clinic that will allow you some hands-on experience and teach you a little about techniques, care, and cleaning. Enjoy your new brush.

–oOOOOo–

Do you have a modelling question you would like answered? Send your questions to Mike at fmikebarone@gmail.com.

2021 Pacific Northwest Region (Virtual) Convention is Coming in August

This year the PNR Regional Convention will be held virtually on the four Saturdays in August. It will be hosted by the 3rd Division using Zoom. Current plans include 24 clinics on a wide variety of topics, mixed with 16 virtual layout tours focussing on a range of layout types and topics. In addition, there will be layout workshops on three of the Saturdays and round-robin discussions each evening. More details will be available on the convention website <https://sites.google.com/view/3rddivisionpacificnorthwestreg> as we get closer to the time.



Don't forget to register for RMMBC!

Online registration is open now. If you missed the first day or couldn't make it, you can still take part in the rest of the meet. Registrations will be accepted right up to May 27th, the last day. It takes only a few seconds to register at the [RMMBC website](#). Don't miss out on the top railway modelling event occurring this year in the 7th Division.

And, remember that the meet is absolutely free!

Notices and Contacts

The Bulletin Board is the official publication of the 7th Division of the Pacific Northwest Region, National Model Railroad Association, Canada. It is distributed electronically to all members in good standing. In exceptional circumstances, such as Internet unavailability or medical conditions, the 7th Division may agree to distribute paper copies to affected members.

The Bulletin Board has five issues per year: January/February, March/April, May/June, September/October, and November/December. Each issue is published around the start of the issue period. Publication means the Bulletin Board is available for download from the 7th Division website. Members will be notified by email when the download is ready.

The PNR 7th Division maintains a list of members that includes postal and e-mail addresses and phone numbers. If you move or change your internet service provider or in any other way cause your contact details to change PLEASE contact the [Membership Coordinator](#) to provide the new information. If you fail to do this we will lose contact with you and you will miss out on 7th Division benefits. Note that the member list is held in strict privacy.

Note that the views and opinions stated in the Bulletin Board do not necessarily reflect those of the NMRA or regions or divisions thereof.

Your comments and opinions on this publication are always welcome. As well, contributions of letters, articles, event news, plans, photographs and art are strongly encouraged and welcomed. All should be sent to the [Bulletin Board Editor](#). A phone call or email to the editor beforehand is advised if you are thinking of submitting something large or complex. The deadline for submission is two weeks prior to publication but this is somewhat flexible according to circumstances.

ADVERTISING in the Bulletin Board is accepted at reasonable rates. Please contact the [Bulletin Board Editor](#) for more details.

The following is a shortened list of division personnel. A complete list that includes additional appointed positions as well as all area representatives is available on the [7th Division website](#).

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