

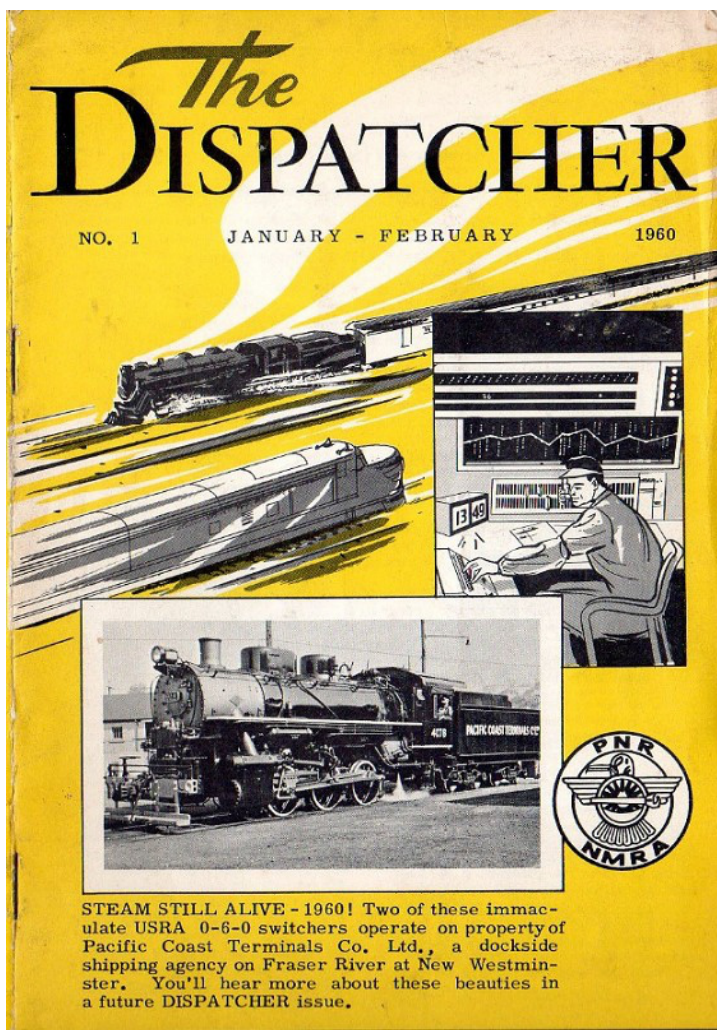


# BULLETIN BOARD

Official Publication of the 7th Division, Pacific Northwest Region, NMRA Canada

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ABOVE: The Dispatcher was the PNR 7th Division's first publication and predecessor to the Bulletin Board. The first edition, cover shown here, came out 62 years ago this month. If you are interested, you can browse the first edition of The Dispatcher on the [division website](#).

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## From the Editor's Desk

The image on the cover is of personal significance to me. I grew up in a family that had several relatives who were involved with model trains. My father was a model railroader, and my mother's uncle, Art Sutcliffe, had an O scale layout that filled the basement of his house. I used to love visiting it when I was a child. One day in my mid-teens, long after Uncle Art's layout had been demolished, I got to thinking about it and remembered that I had seen an article about it in one of my father's model railroad magazines. I went downstairs to his pile of old magazines and started looking through them. I looked through all the Model Railroaders and other commercial magazines, quickly at first and then much more carefully. By the time I found the article on the Richardsville, Marilyn Creek and Lake Linda RR in the small pile of Dispatchers, I was hooked on railway modelling. I still am!

The Dispatcher contained two examples of a type of article I haven't seen much of lately. I think of them as gossip columns, similar to Jack Wasserman's column long ago in the Vancouver Sun. They contained a myriad of short to very short bits about the goings-on in the Division, in the hobby or on the writer's workbench. It is not something I have the right sort of personality to write myself, but we may well have someone who could make it work. If this interests you, send me an email at [r.England@computer.org](mailto:r.England@computer.org). Let's make it happen!

Enjoy the issue!



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## Superintendent's Message

By Victor Gilbert, 7th Division Superintendent

### Introducing Myself

To the many of you out there who do not know me or have only met me casually, let me introduce myself. My name is Victor Gilbert, and I've just been elected Superintendent of the 7th Division.

Like many in the model railroading hobby, I have been interested in trains and railroads since I was a kid. I love big equipment! The 8500 "Big Blow" Turbines and "Big Boys" locomotives of the UP in the late 1950s and early 1960s are what I would love to run if I had the space. I've realized a big layout isn't in the cards right now, so I have created a smaller track plan in my home that keeps me interested. It allows me to run some trains and indulge in a recently developed fondness for switching and operations.

My other hobby is computers and electronics. In recent years I have become interested in Arduinos and the Raspberry Pi. I have started integrating them into my layout. I have created a speedometer for calibrating and speed matching my locomotives, a fast clock for operating sessions, and a lighting controller for RGBW LEDs that adjusts the light on the layout based on time of day (tied to the fast clock, of course).

Let me explain why I joined the NMRA.

We have been told that we should join the NMRA because:

- they have put standards in place to make equipment from different manufacturers compatible, and
- it will make you a better modeller.

Those things are certainly true, but that wasn't what first attracted me.

Until I joined the 7th Division, I was unaware of how much "socializing" played a part in the organization. Even though I had been in Vancouver for almost twenty years, I did not know any model railroaders in the area until I attended my first Railway Modellers' Meet of British Columbia (RMMBC) event in 2017. I greatly enjoyed the Ops sessions and the clinics and meeting other people with similar interests.

During the clinics, attendees were reminded that the 7th Division (and the NMRA) put on the event. We were also informed of the NMRA policy that anyone attending more than three NMRA events should become a member of the organization.

Well, I wanted to continue going to operating sessions and RMMBC, so I joined.

How did I end up becoming Superintendent?

Initially, I offered to help as part of the RMMBC Committee. I felt it was only fair for me to pitch-in and contribute a little to organizing something I was enjoying as a participant, and it turned out to be a rewarding experience.

I was subsequently approached at a Modellers Meet to consider becoming the Assistant Super. At first, I was reluctant to say yes – it was all too easy to think, “Others are already doing a good job, I won’t make a difference”. I gave it more thought and realized that I could make a significant contribution simply by volunteering a little of my time. I agreed to give it a try, knowing I could step away if I didn’t like it.

My tenure as Assistant Superintendent began December 1, 2019, and as we all know, public health issues went south very early in 2020. Despite that, I found that being part of the Board of Directors gave me a new insight into the group and I genuinely enjoyed working with my fellow board members. Unfortunately, because of COVID 19, I still know relatively few of the Division’s members, but I hope that will improve soon.

All that brings me to my message. We need your help.

This year, we could not find a candidate to be the next Assistant Superintendent. Because of the restrictions imposed by the coronavirus, we have had few personal interactions. Without an in-person meet for RMMBC and with no Vancouver Train Expo (VTEX), we have had little opportunity to meet and get to know one another, and therefore discuss the possibility of inviting a person like you to become the Assistant Superintendent.

Your involvement could easily be similar to mine. You could be getting even more out of your membership while contributing just a little towards keeping our group running.

Let me assure you, you will make a difference. Simply showing up lets others know their own time has not been wasted. You will meet other like-minded model railroaders and make new friends along the way.

If you are willing to help just a little, please give me a call. If you are even remotely considering the idea of giving back to the organization by volunteering a few hours of your time, let me know. And if you are approached in person and asked to do something, say “yes” and give it a try. Better yet, don’t wait to be asked – offer to contribute. We need some help, and I can absolutely guarantee you’ll enjoy doing it.

I look forward to meeting and talking with you in the future.

## **Adding Value to Your Membership**

Stay tuned through the coming year as we endeavour to bring even more benefits to your membership in the NMRA.

To that end, we are planning to have free online clinics three times a year. Our first one is scheduled for February 22, 2022, at 7 pm featuring “Old-Style Billboards”. The clinic will be presented by Dave Ackmann from the Gateway Division of the NMRA. We will follow up with a clinic during the summer and another in the fall. Please let us know if you have a topic you’d like to see presented.

Our annual RMMBC is scheduled for May 27 through 29, 2022. Check out the [RMMBC website](#) for details. As a lead-in to the meet we’ll offer some online content in early May.

If you have not yet attended an RMMBC event, you are missing out. The venue at Simon Fraser University is fantastic, and the RMMBC committee has a plan for an even better meet this year. I strongly urge you to give this a try – there’s something for everyone and you most definitely don’t need to be an “elite” modeller to attend.



We are here to help. If you need a solution or an idea for your layout, ask the Modeller's Help Desk, listed on the "About Us" page of the [7th Division website](#).

Want to volunteer or have an idea for the Division? Reach out to your Sub-Division coordinator. They are listed on the [7th Division website](#) on the "About Us" page, or contact me at [victor@sugarwood.info](mailto:victor@sugarwood.info).

WE NEED YOU TO STAY INVOLVED.

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## PNR 2024 Convention – Save the Date

By Lori Sebelley, 2024 Convention Chair

The 7th Division's turn in the rotation to host a PNR Convention will be in the year 2024, with the date being May 22 – 26. As there will be no RMMBC held in 2024 because of the effort required to put on the Convention, it was decided this weekend would be an appropriate time to hold the PNR Convention.

The Convention will be held at the Sheraton Hotel Guildford, Surrey, BC. This hotel was chosen as it is close to shopping, restaurants, transit, freeway and the border. The hotel will provide hotel guest rooms, clinic rooms, a display/contest/evaluation room, a non-rail room, banquet facilities, and a couple of extra rooms should we require them. The nice part is that, with the exception of the hotel guest rooms, all the others are on the same floor for easy access.



We plan to have all the typical PNR Convention activities: clinics, contest/displays, Achievement Program evaluation, operation sessions, layout tours, prototype tours, banquet, prizes and non-rail activities. Along with these, other possible events might include Operations or other Special Interest Groups, cottage industries, a "Modelling with the Masters" hands-on clinic, and other surprises.

So please plan to save the date and be there. Further details will be posted in the Bulletin Board as they develop.

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## 2022 PNR Convention – Coming Soon!

This year's PNR regional convention will be held 11–14 May 2022 in Eugene, Oregon. Registration is now open and the convention hotel is taking reservations. It looks like there will be a lot on offer!

Check the [convention website](#) for more information.





# Save the Date for Railway Modellers Meet of BC 2022

by Marc Simpson, RMMBC Promotion

Make sure you keep the last weekend of May 2022 open. We'll be having the in-person portion of the Railway Modellers Meet of British Columbia (RMMBC) May 27th to 29th, 2022. This is the Memorial Day weekend for our American neighbours and it is a beautiful time of year in the Greater Vancouver area. Why not spend a weekend attending what has become the premier event in BC for railway modelling?

Model and Prototype Clinics, Operating Sessions, Layout Tours, Model Displays and camaraderie will be part of this year's event. Everyone is looking forward to an in-person meet in 2022. But there is even more...

We are planning an "Online Prologue" as part of the overall RMMBC. We will have a series of presentations and clinics prior to the in-person part of the RMMBC. This will build on the previous virtual RMMBC events that have proven to be very popular with attendees. We'll have more on the Online Prologue in the coming months. This will be an opportunity for those unable to attend in-person to take part virtually in the RMMBC experience.

There is much more still to come about RMMBC 2022; we'll have regular updates on all the activities that will be part of the 2022 event. Save the date, you'll be glad you did! We'll see you at the meet!



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## CPHA/GNRHS 2022 Convention in Nelson

Although it is not an NMRA event, the upcoming Canadian Pacific Historical Association (CPHA) and Great Northern Railway Historical Society (GNRHS) joint convention will be of considerable interest to many 7th Division members. It will be held 17–21 September 2022 in Nelson, BC. Convention attendees must be a member of one of the two sponsoring organizations (it's easy to join!).

The noted author and historian Robert D. Turner will be the banquet keynote speaker and guide for the K&S circle prototype tour. The program will also include:

- Historic and community tours
- Clinics and presentations
- CPR models and photo displays
- Model railroad layouts
- Opportunities to socialize with like-minded people
- Events for non-rail partners

For more information, check out the [CPHA website](#).



# Increasing the Value of Seventh Division Membership

Text by Randy Nussli, 7th Division Secretary. Photos by Dave Ackmann

As Secretary of the 7th Division, one of my tasks is to contact members who have not renewed their NMRA membership. Interestingly enough, the most common reason mentioned is that the departing member could not see the value incorporated into the cost of their membership and therefore felt that they were better off not having to pay such costs. While I fully get that times are tough these days, and a dollar has to stretch a lot further than in the past, I also wonder if those departing members had fully explored the benefits (or value) associated with 7th Division membership.

For example, did you know that there is a service that any 7th Division modeller can use called Modellers Help Desk? Looking for a research resource on a specific topic? Trying to find out which glue bonds best with specific materials? Wondering how to solder those tiny wires on that locomotive? The Modellers Help Desk can get you pointed in the right direction on these and many other modelling problems, yet there was only one request for assistance during the last year. I wonder how much of the silence on the Help Desk email line was due to unawareness that help was only a click away. Did you also know that there are a total of 27 departmental Annual General Meeting reports that are available to be read on our website? That's right, I said 27! Although some reports indicated little activity due to pandemic issues, there were many reports describing activities (or value) available to the 7th Division membership. Simply put, be sure you check out all the services available to you before deciding to not renew your membership.

That brings me to my point for this article: the 7th Division executive continues to support increasing the value of membership. To that end, the executive is pleased to announce a series of free ZOOM clinics available to 7th Division members. While we do not yet have a hard and fast schedule, our hope is to provide a free clinic approximately every three months.

To support this initiative, we are looking for two or three members who would be interested in finding available, suitable clinics. If you are interested in getting involved then please contact me at [7thdivsec@gmail.com](mailto:7thdivsec@gmail.com).



**ABOVE: Dave Ackmann**

Our first ZOOM clinic will be held on 22 February 2022 starting at 1900 PST. The topic will be building old-style custom billboards for your model railroad. The presenter is Dave Ackmann, who has presented numerous clinics on various topics at NMRA conventions and through the ZOOM platform. Dave is presenting these clinics to NMRA Divisions to help fulfil requirements for his Master Model Railroader award and has guided several other divisions through the billboard building process already.

The clinic describes where to get billboard images and how to build the support structures. It recommends standardizing billboard heights, and describes how to make assembly fixtures out of Ultra High Molecular Weight Polyethylene and a router table. You will also be able to access handouts for this clinic from [Dave's website](#), so even though you might not start this project immediately there will be resources available to refresh your memory when you do. Dave also provides other support materials on his website for this clinic as well as many other clinics that he offers (which can also be viewed online). While the clinic is pre-recorded, Dave will be online and with us during the entire session and will be available to answer questions arising after the presentation.

The 7th Division executive hopes that you recognize the increase in value to your membership through this program of free clinics. We also encourage you to let us know of other topics/clinics that you would be interested in learning about; simply drop an email to any of the board members with your preferences.



**ABOVE: Billboards created using the clinic's methods.**



## Two Books on the Canadian Pacific Railway

by Les Bucher

This issue we will talk about two recently published books on the CPR: one the latest volume in a popular series focussed on photos of CPR's Revelstoke Division, and the other a book of tales about various parts of the CPR, "The World's Greatest Travel System".

### Canadian Pacific Railway on the Revelstoke Division - Volume Five

This book is the latest in a series of books written by 7th Division member Doug Mayer and published as a fundraiser for the Revelstoke Railway Museum. Like the previous volumes, this volume is in the popular Donald Bain/BRMNA style (see the review of Volume Four in the November/December 2020 Bulletin Board), and provides generally one or two photographs per page accompanied by a well-researched description. As before, the photographs are interesting and well-reproduced.

This volume has 32 pages of photos covering a variety of topics related to the CPR Revelstoke Division, with particular coverage of Field yard and the nearby Otter Tail Creek bridge, the 1938 Royal Train, and the Twin Butte bridge. A variety of other photos from the steam era right up the present round out the collection.

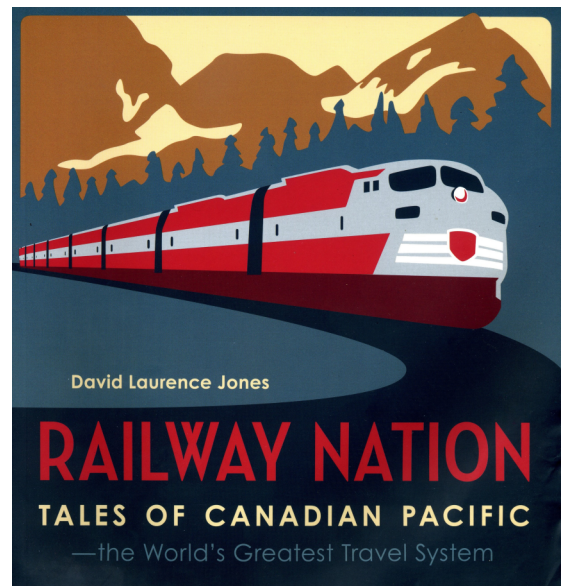
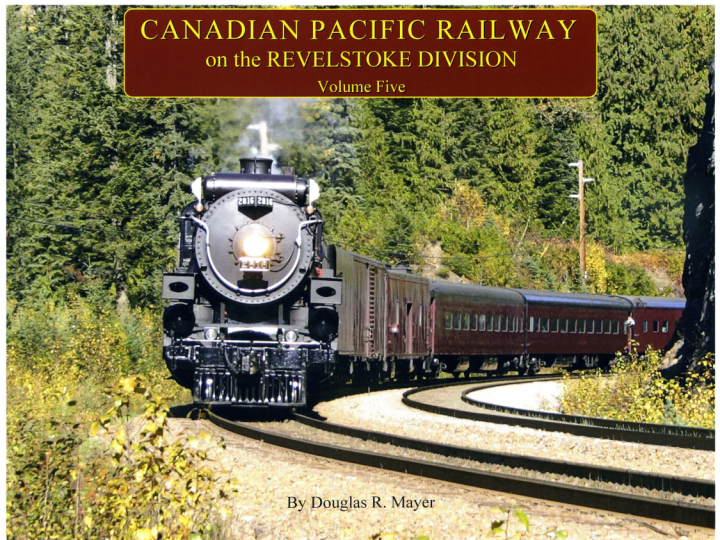
I strongly recommend this volume, as well as the others in the series, for anyone modelling the CPR or interested in CPR history. It can be purchased for \$25 from the Revelstoke Railway Museum gift shop or website at [www.railwaymuseum.com](http://www.railwaymuseum.com), and can occasionally be found at other locations.

### Railway Nation – Tales of Canadian Pacific

This book, written by David Laurence Jones, a former CPR employee in the Corporate Archives and the Internal Communications departments, provides a collection of 68 short anecdotal stories related to the history of the Canadian Pacific group of companies. The stories span the period from the last spike almost up to the present, and cover Canadian Pacific railway, ships, hotels and airline operations, although sometimes only tangentially. Most of the stories are accompanied by one or two photographs.

The stories are written in an easy-to-read, perhaps a bit florid, style. They are clearly aimed at a general audience and generally stay well away from the kind of operational detail that railway modellers might like. However, I did find them to be entertaining.

I would not really recommend this book for someone looking for modelling information, although perhaps one of the photographs could show a relevant detail. It is also not a standard history with thorough coverage of some particular aspect of CPR history. It is perhaps best understood as providing an interesting, light-weight supplement to a more conventional history. For that purpose I would recommend this book. It is available at general bookstores for \$34.95.





## **Remembering**

The Trail area has unfortunately lost two more 7th Division members, after losing Bob Flegel late last year.

### **Robert Franko**

Robert William Franko was born on 17 March 1947, in Tisdale, Saskatchewan and passed away on 7 September 2021, in Trail, BC. Robert was predeceased by his wife Elaine (2012). He leaves behind many family members, including 7th Division members Tim and Natasha.

Robert was a resident of Fruitvale, just to the east of Trail, where he worked in the grocery business for 31 years. His passion was making the produce stands look appealing to the eyes for the customers. He loved meeting new people and working with the public. In his spare time Robert loved to build woodworking projects, as well as going for hikes, or spending time with family and friends.

Robert was a long-time railway modeller, as well as a member of the Golden City Railway Modellers Club. He especially enjoyed the social aspects of club membership.

Robert will be greatly missed by family and friends.



### **Henry Fleming**

Henry was born on 3 May 1940 in Trail, BC and, after a brief battle with cancer, passed away 14 September 2021 at the Trail Hospital with family and friends by his side.

Henry was born just down the hill from Trail Hospital. Upon graduating from high school, he took technical training and worked as a technician installing microwave towers in North America, Europe, and Asia. At the end of his career, he moved to Castlegar to be a support to his mother, and after her passing he developed a strong network of friends.

Henry was a member of the Golden City Railway Modellers Club. He had a collection of models he loved to run both at home and at the club.

Henry gave generously of his time, and was known for his sense of humour. “He was a good man,” was the comment heard over and over again from friends and neighbours – a fitting tribute.

A Good Man is Not Soon Forgotten.



# Notices and Contacts

The Bulletin Board is the official publication of the 7th Division of the Pacific Northwest Region, National Model Railroad Association, Canada. Bulletin Board contents are protected by copyright and may only be copied or republished with permission.

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. In exceptional circumstances, such as Internet unavailability or medical conditions, the 7th Division may agree to distribute paper copies to affected members.

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 volunteers. A complete list that includes additional appointed positions as well as all area representatives is available on the [7th Division website](#).

<b>Superintendent</b>	John Martin	604-594-9719 (Delta)	<a href="mailto:jmartin@jdmartin.ca">jamartin@jdmartin.ca</a>
<b>Assistant Superintendent</b>	Victor Gilbert	604-708-4161 (Vancouver)	<a href="mailto:victor@sugarwood.info">victor@sugarwood.info</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	Randy Nussli	250-380-6814 (Victoria)	<a href="mailto:7thdivsec@gmail.com">7thdivsec@gmail.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Larry Sebelley	604-858-5717 (Chilliwack)	<a href="mailto:sebelley@shaw.ca">sebelley@shaw.ca</a>
<b>Director at Large</b>	Ken Rutherford	250-724-4698 (Port Alberni)	<a href="mailto:kj.rutherford@shaw.ca">kj.rutherford@shaw.ca</a>
<b>Membership Coordinator and Webmaster</b>	Brian Clogg	604-588-2194 (Surrey)	<a href="mailto:bcclogg@shaw.ca">bcclogg@shaw.ca</a>
<b>Bulletin Board Editor</b>	Rob England	250-629-2006 (Pender Island)	<a href="mailto:r.england@computer.org">r.england@computer.org</a>
<b>Achievement Program Coordinator</b>	Mike Chandler, MMR	604-526-5078 (New Westminster)	<a href="mailto:mikado1@telus.net">mikado1@telus.net</a>
<b>Modeller's Help Desk</b>	Mike Barone	250-367-6134 (Fruitvale)	<a href="mailto:fmikebarone@gmail.com">fmikebarone@gmail.com</a>
<b>Publicity Coordinator</b>	Dick Sutcliffe	604-467-4301 (Maple Ridge)	<a href="mailto:ras1@uniserve.com">ras1@uniserve.com</a>