



Canadian Flyer

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April, 2015

Operating and collecting toy trains

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ladies and Gentlemen,

If you did not attend the March meeting, you missed out on a lot of trains and a great deal of fun! Very large attendance and a lot of auction items with some very good prices -- in Canadian \$.

It was great that Gary and Bruce made the drive up from Seattle. As always thank you to all who provide the food and drinks, when you look at the food line you know your efforts are really appreciated.

I would also like to thank Kyle for doing a presentation on using our new CTTA web site. It was an informative and very useful talk. Thanks Kyle. Do not forget that Kyle would love pictures of your trains for the web site.

Gary showed us a Lionel 700K pre-war steam Hudson locomotive that he assembled for Frank. Wow!

We heard both the Monroe Train Show and Nanaimo Train Show were well attended and a success. The Cameron Show was smaller than usual. We did hear that the FALL "Cameron" train show is moving to the PNE Forum in November 2015. This should be a great improvement. See the flyer in this newsletter.

Tom and I went to the Cal-Stewart Show near San Jose and had a great time. The show had about 130 tables of trains and lots of people. We also visited Sunset Models / 3rd Rail and had a tour. As a result our club is having some scale BC Rail Budd Cars made, 3 rail or 2 rail. If you are interested, see the picture in this newsletter and contact Mark ASAP as we will be placing the order soon. Cost is \$550. US for powered, \$400. US for unpowered; plus shipping. We need a minimum order of 10 but I have already sold about 40 Budd Cars.

See you at the end of the month. MARK

2015 CANADIAN CLUB MEETS

all meets at Charles Rummel Community Centre, 3630 Lozells Ave.
Burnaby B.C. [doors at 11am, meeting 12:30]

UPCOMING MEET DATES:

APR 26, 2015

MAY 31, 2015

JUNE 28, 2015



March door winners:

Vies & Sir Handy Booboo go for cars;
John, Fred, and Chuck like Coke;
Jim takes credit.



Thanks to Clark Gray for this slice of life!



Bing Loco and friends



Tom Modica suggests:

www.notch6.com

a net site that once a month podcasts interviews with various train gurus.

Legacy Spec's

The US Standard railroad gauge (distance between rails) is 4 ft - 8.5 inches. That's an exceedingly odd number.

Why was that gauge used?

Because that's the way they built them in England, and the US railways were built by English ex-pats.

Why did the English build them like that?

Because the first rail lines were built by the same people who built the pre-railroad tramways, using that gauge.

Why did the tramway builders use that gauge then?

Because the tramway builders used the same jigs and tools as they used for building wagons, which used that wheel spacing.

So why did wagons use that odd wheel spacing?

Well, with any other spacing the wagons would have broken on some of the old, long distance roads, because that's the spacing of the old wheel ruts?

So who built those old rutted roads?

The first long distance roads in Europe were built by Imperial Rome for their legions. The roads have been used ever since.

And the ruts?

The initial ruts, that everyone else had to match, were first used by Roman war chariots, all built to that wheel spacing.

So that's our answer? The US standard railroad gauge of 4' - 8.5" derives from the spec's for a Roman war chariot.

Spec's and Bureaucracies live forever. So the next time you are handed a specification and wonder what horse's ass came up with it, you may be exactly right. Because the Imperial Roman war chariots were made to be just wide enough to fit around the back ends of two war horses.

Now for the twist to our story...

When we see a space shuttle on the launching pad, there are two big booster rockets attached to the sides of the main fuel tank. These Solid Rocket Boosters (SRB's) are made by Thiokol at a factory in Utah. The engineers who designed the SRB's might have preferred to make them a bit fatter, but the SRB's had to be shipped by train from the factory to the launch site. The rail line to the factory runs through a tunnel in the mountains. The SRB's had to fit through the tunnel, which is slightly wider than the railway track, and the railway track is about as wide as two horses' behinds. **So a major design feature of perhaps the world's most advanced transportation system was determined by the width of a horse's arse!**

[Thanks to George Plant for this one!]



The Island Layout Group
in one of their happier moments!

but seriously,
great pictures from a little while ago.

with thanks to Mike Woodley for the pix.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Apr 18 & 19 Calgary, AB
Supertrain

Info: www.supertrain.ca ----->

Apr 26, 2015 Nanaimo, BC Info: kj.rutherford@shaw.ca
31st Vancouver Island Spring Model Railroad Show 2015

May 24, Victoria, BC Info: Ted Alexis 250 595-4070
Victoria Model Show 2015 1767 Island Highway, Colwood.

don't forget to check the website for updates
www.canadiantoytrains.org

British Columbia Railway (BC Rail) Sunset / 3rd Rail RDC-1 Passenger Budd Car

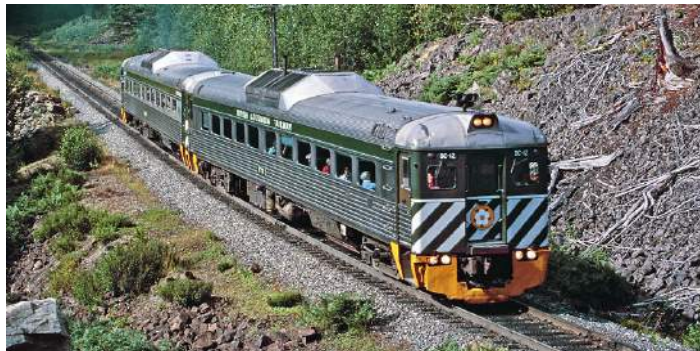
Sunset Models is manufacturing a prototypical scale length RDC-1 passenger Budd car in the British Columbia Railway two tone green colors for the Canadian Toy Train Association. This very limited production "O" gauge Budd car comes in two numbers in both 2 and 3 rail. Delivery is scheduled for summer 2015 with a run of about 20 units.

- ABS Body
- In Truck Canon Motor Drive
- 3R ERR Cruise, TMCC, New Sounds
- 2R - QSI "Titan" DC/DCC with Sound
- Interior Detail with Figures
- LED Overhead Lighting
- Powered \$ 550.00 US
- Dummy \$ 400.00 US

Shipping costs to a US address will be \$ 30.00 US.
Shipping costs to a Canadian address will be \$ 50.00 US.

All cars will be shipped directly from Sunset Models.

Questions: email mlhorne@shaw.ca telephone 604-560-4028



If you are interested please email Mark Horne at mlhorne@shaw.ca

A firm commitment will be requested after I send out actual artwork.

The payment required when the Budd cars are ready, probably 3 - 6 months.



SUPERTRAIN

Exhibitors' List
can be viewed at:
<http://www.supertrain.ca/Exhibitors-All-2015.html>

Thanks to Bc Johnson
of Calgary
for this information

WANTED
AF or Hornby "O" Gauge
3 rail Wye Track.

david cook
thetinman76@gmail.com
or call 604 970 5598

trains 2015 has a new name and a new venue
A Model Railway Exhibition

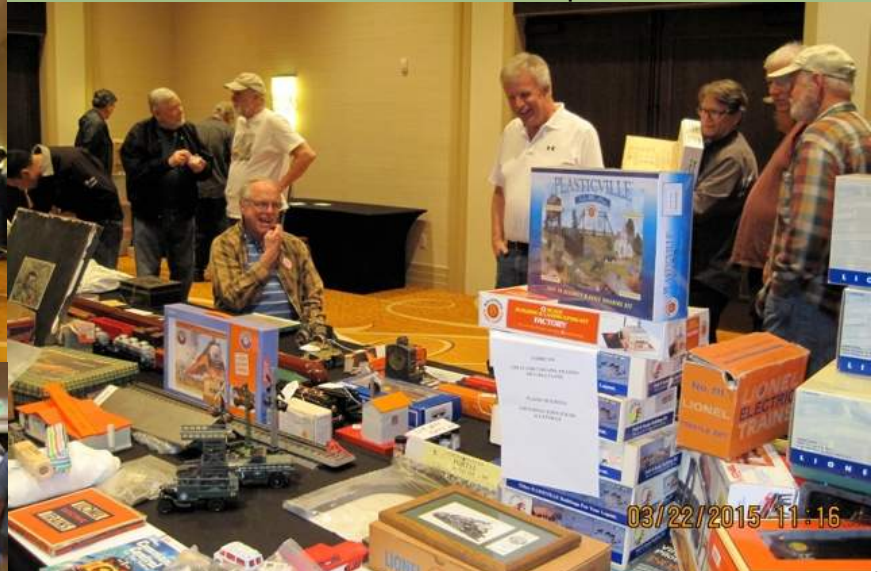


The
VANCOUVER TRAIN EXPO
will be held at the
PNE FORUM
November 7 & 8, 2015

This year's show will be held at the Pacific National Exhibition Forum on the weekend of November 6-8. All the familiar meet activities: operating sessions, layout tours, clinics, and banquet will be part of the weekend, along with a new and expanded train show in the 44,000-square-foot Forum. More details to be released. See: <http://vancouvertrainexpo.ca/> for updates.

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EDITOR'S CORNER: THANKS TO PETER TOFIELD FOR THE MEET PIX, CLARK GRAY FOR THE CARTOON, MIKE WOODLEY FOR ISLAND LAYOUT PIX, GEORGE PLANT FOR "LEGACY SPECS", TOM MODICA FOR CAL-STEWART PIX, AND DAVID COOK & GAIL FERRIER FOR THE LATEST REPORT FROM THE EAST (ONLINE).



CAL STEWART NORTH

Mark chats with Southern friends.

Dr. Martin Folb poses with his record-breaking Lionel prewar set.

photos by Tom Modica

also at Cal Stewart:
Will knows Western Pacific
including very rare red stamped 6464-100.



Canadian National Railway Flat White Pass & Yukon Railway Trailer

April 7, 2015

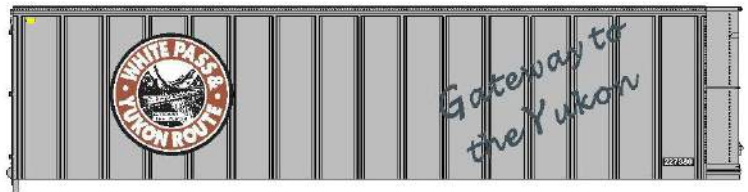
The Canadian Toy Train Association is pleased to announce that Weaver is manufacturing a scale White Pass & Yukon white coloured trailer on a brown Canadian National Railway flat car. This very limited production "O" gauge car comes in three road numbers in both 2 rail and 3 rail.

This is the fourth car in our Canadian series – our first three cars SOLD OUT.

Production is set for May / June 2015.

The Canadian Toy Train Association member cost is \$ 80.00 CDN per car including shipping within the lower mainland and Vancouver Island. This is the same price as last year's car. With the drop in the Canadian dollar this is a real deal for our members.

Questions: email mlhorne@shaw.ca or telephone 604-560-4028



If you wish to order please let me know at the meetings, or complete the following order form, and mail your payment (payable to "Mark Horne") to:

Canadian Toy Train Association, c/o Mark Horne, 16266 – 26th Avenue, Surrey, BC Canada V3Z 6Z3

Name			
Address			
City	State	ZIP	
Email _____			
Quantity	_____ Flat w/ Trailer	_____ 2 Rail	_____ 3 Rail

You know you are a train nut if: 5) you have to time your train purchases so as not to miss the house payments!

David & Gail's Excellent Adventures in Ontario

Sunday 15/3/15 - Kitchener Toy Train Show at Bingeman Centre

We were up again before the "crack of stupid" - that's 5 am to the uninitiated, before the sun which rose at about 7:10 am we were already unloading our van in Kitchener to set up for the show which opened at 10 am.

BEST SALES TO DATE - there seem to be so many more O-Scale enthusiasts here in Ontario...

I am certain the beautiful sunshine and the springlike weather after Ontario's wicked winter, brought attendees out in droves.... the next time we had an opportunity to look at our watches it was already one pm... and the show closed at three. Meanwhile we sold the vast majority of what we had brought that day to 3 customers. 2 of them I believe to be dealers.... and one couple are just avid collectors building a large layout. But did I mind? No I did not! I didn't give away the store and they all went away happy and so did I.

Gail took some photos but we were really so busy we could have used a couple extra pairs of hands during the height of the morning rush to get the best trains and accessories. She did manage to catch me with, Tony, an exhibitor I've met at several shows. before the doors opened. His tables were across the aisle from ours and we often couldn't see that far due to the crowds. We didn't get the official attendance record but there must have been more than 2500 attendees.

John & Brenda Bosworth -- the couple who were building their own layout also brought 5 MARX engines for David to repair for them. They had seen us at a previous show and came looking for our tables when they came into the hall. We are one of the few exhibitors who stock and sell parts for old MARX trains. Gail noticed right away that Brenda was as much a fan of Marx as her husband when she unerringly picked up one of the rarest cars from the 30s I had taken with us that day... it was a CP (Quebec) passenger car, and they didn't even balk at the price.

Mel took away 5 bags full of trains and came back for so much more we wound up giving him one of our rubbermaid totes to carry it all. He is a dealer who operates out of the St Jacobs Farmers' Market - which is so much more than just fresh fruit & veggies - <http://www.stjacobs.com/farmers-market>

In addition to these top 3 buyers, there was a steady stream of folks both young and old picking up little things to complement their collections or layouts. In fact, we were surprised at the number of young people working on their first layouts and wanting to use O-scale and even pre-war tin Marx.

While we know that both Richard Rydal and Carl Diccio are here in Ontario now, we were disappointed that we didn't see them at this show - maybe next time... Anyone visiting this area of Ontario is welcome to visit us here... we miss all our West Coast Pals. We're excited to learn that John Warlimont and crew may visit in June. Perhaps we need to call those other displaced westcoasters and invite them to our place to swap stories of their adventures since moving east.

You can still reach us at our Vancouver cell number 604 970 5598 or email thetinman76@gmail.com Until next time.... David Cook & Gail Ferrier

