

TRAX

February 2007

The Sudbury Model Railroaders Newsletter

Hot Cinders in My Shorts

Viewpoint from the Editor

I am going to start this month by re-stating a thank-you to Al Stacey for serving as editor of TRAX for the past five years. As I experienced first hand in January, there is a large amount of effort required to assemble the newsletter and prepare it for mailing. I sent the January issue to all SNRC and SMRC club members so that resulted in a large number to get ready for mailing, however only a total of 11 will be mailed in February so that should make the task a bit easier. E-mail subscriptions currently total 8, and I expect that to continue to increase. The e-mail version is much easier to send.

The trend towards e-mail based newsletters is gaining popularity as the cost and effort required to send traditional mail increases. CARM has recently offered an e-mail only newsletter subscription for "The Canadian" at a reduced annual membership fee. The Northern Frontier Region of the NMRA is currently reviewing a similar strategy as recent Canada Post requirements will result in either a 200% increase in the postage cost, or a \$1000 annual cost to properly sort and bundle the "Flimsy" newsletter for mailing. I encourage all members with Internet access and an e-mail address to switch to the electronic version of the TRAX newsletter. If you have Internet access and require an e-mail address I can provide you with a free web-based or POP3 e-mail account on the sudburymodelrailroading.com domain. Just give me a call.

Over the next couple of issues I will attempt to add some structure to the newsletter content. I have chosen to keep Al's title for the editorial column and include it at the beginning of the newsletter as is commonly done. The remainder of the newsletter will contain club news and meeting schedules followed by some model railroad related content.

This issue includes a couple topics written by myself, but I encourage newsletter readers to send in articles to be published.

Enjoy this issue.

Trevor Ross
Editor – TRAX Newsletter

Club Car

Local Club News

Sudbury Northern Railroad Club (SNRC) News

February 2007 Meeting

Garth Harris has volunteered to host the February 2007 meeting of the Sudbury Northern Railroad Club (SNRC) on Tuesday February 13, 2007, at 7:30 p.m. To reach Garth's house at 4436 Noel Crescent in Val Therese drive north on Hwy 69 North through Val Caron, past Dominion Drive and, just before the highway curves sharply to the right (east) on Shirley, right on Dee and onto Noel Crescent. Garth's phone number is 969-8158 if you get lost.

January 2007 Meeting

There was no meeting in January 2007.

Meeting Schedule 2007

All meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. unless noted otherwise.

<u>Month</u>	<u>Host</u>	<u>Date</u>
February	Garth Harris	Feb. 13, 2007
March	Trevor Ross	March 13, 2007
April	Richard Gattoni	April 10, 2007
May	Mike Svos	May 8, 2007
June	Richard Lefebvre	June 12, 2007
July, August	Summer Break	
September	no meeting scheduled	
October	no meeting scheduled	
November	no meeting scheduled	
December	no meeting scheduled	

Volunteers are needed to host the upcoming meetings this fall. If you are interested in hosting a meeting then please contact Mike Svos (566-5593).

SNRC meeting co-ordinator: Mike Svos (566-5593)
SNRC treasurer: Garth Harris (969-8678)

Sudbury Modular Railroad Club (SMRC) News

2007 Barrie Train Show

Members of the SMRC have been busy working on the newest N-Scale modules in preparation for the 2007 Barrie Train Show. The show takes place the weekend of February 17, and 18, 2007 at the Barrie Event Center (Hwy. 400 and Essa Rd.) If you are interested in helping out, contact Trevor Ross at 983-9602 or trevor@tjrcadd.com

Upcoming Meetings

There are currently no upcoming SMRC meetings scheduled. There will most likely be a meeting called before the Barrie Train Show.

Sudbury Model Railroad Club

January Meetings

January meetings of the Sudbury Model Railroad Club were held at the home of Mike Svos. Members in attendance worked on various parts of Mike's layout. Items tackled included the addition of rock cuts and various scenery additions, installation of control panels to control power to the yard tracks, wiring of Tortoise switch machines, and installation of Digitrax DS64 stationary decoders to control staging yard turnouts. If you are interested in learning about these and other model railroad skills come out to the next meeting.

Meeting Schedule

Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month and start at 7:30 p.m.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Host</u>
February 17, 18, 2007	Barrie Train Show
March 27, 2007	Mike Svos or Trevor Ross
April 24, 2007	TBD

If you are interested in coming out to the meetings please contact Trevor Ross at 983-9602 or trevor@tjrcadd.com so that we have an idea of how many people will be attending.

A Virtual Layout Tour

Last issue I wrote a paragraph about the Orillia and district layout tour. A layout tour is an excellent way to help promote the model railroad hobby to others in our community. There are many home layouts in the Sudbury area that would generate great interest if they were part of a home layout tour. Local layout owners may find me discussing the possibility of a future home layout tour in the Sudbury area with them.

Until we manage to organize such an event, I would like to introduce you to some of the local layouts in the form of a Virtual Layout Tour. Recent visitors to www.sudburymodelrailroading.com will have noticed a section showcasing local layouts. Over the next year I hope to include many more local layouts on the site. As new layouts are added, I am also going to present those layouts in the TRAX newsletter. This month I have started with my own.

The Bonin Basement Railroad

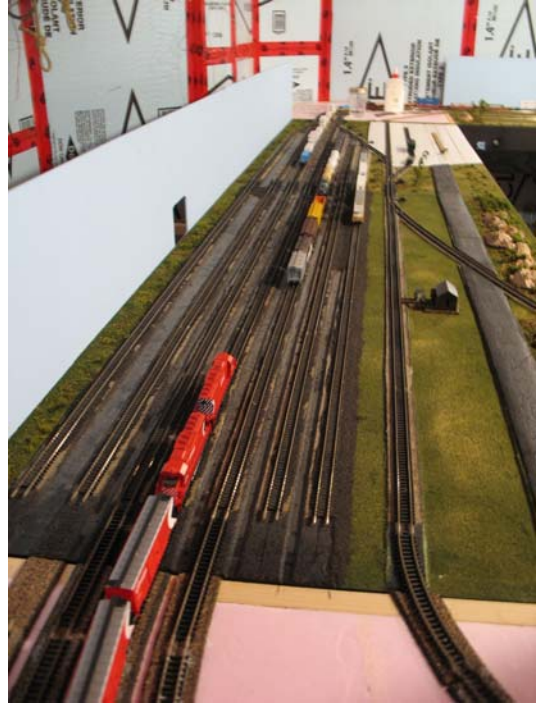
The Bonin Basement Railroad (BBR) is comprised of a number of Ntrak modules which rest on permanent benchwork. The modules fit into place facing outward (front of the module against the wall) in the 12' X 11' train room and create a loop similar to those set up at shows. The Ntrak modules contain 2 main lines plus 2 branch lines serving various industries along the line. The layout is controlled 100% by Digitrax DCC with radio throttles. Two additional corner modules are currently under construction and future completion of a swing gate section will allow entrance into the room without crawling under the duckunder. The following page contains some photos of the modules in place on the permanent benchwork. The modules will be part of the Modular Club's N-Scale layout at the 2007 Sudbury Train and Hobby Show.



The East Crossover module (front) and the East Yard module (rear) along the left wall of the train room. The permanent corner in the far corner of the room contains all the yard tracks and continues the yard around the corner.



The East Yard module close up.



The Central Yard module (front) and the West Yard module (rear) along the rear wall of the train room.



The Zeke Grain module (rear) and the West Crossover module along the right wall of the train room.



Close up of the Zeke Grain module.

Real Life Loop-Backs

The N-Scale modular group was recently discussing the addition of a set of loop-back modules. This would allow modular setup in one long run (instead of the traditional loop) by looping the tracks back onto themselves at each end of the layout to allow continuous running of trains.

Many people would say that this was an un-prototypical track arrangement (and running around in circles is?), so a recent discussion on the Free-moN Yahoo discussion group caught my attention. The topic of the discussion was “real life balloon tracks” and included some references to prototypical locations with loop-back tracks. Here is a ground level and aerial photo showing the loop-back track at UP’s West Colton Yard:



Local Train Orders

List of Upcoming Local Events

Here is a master list of upcoming events:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
Feb. 13, 2007	SNRC Meeting
February 17, 18, 2007	Barrie Train Show
March 13, 2007	SNRC Meeting
March 27, 2007	Sudbury Model Railroad Club Meeting
April 10, 2007	SNRC Meeting
April 24, 2007	Sudbury Model Railroad Club Meeting
May 8, 2007	SNRC Meeting
May 2007	Midland Train Show
June 12, 2007	SNRC Meeting
August 2007	Muskoka Train Show
November 3, 4, 2007	Sudbury Train and Hobby Show

For details of the events listed above visit the Events page at

<http://www.sudburymodelrailroading.com/events.html>

The Dispatcher's Office

The Fine Print and Administrative Items

Newsletter Subscriptions

The TRAX newsletter is available in electronic and hard copy mailed versions.

The hard copy mailed version costs \$10 per year (included in SNRC dues).

To subscribe contact Trevor Ross at 983-9602.

The electronic version is **free**. To subscribe e-mail

trax@sudbuymodelrailroading.com

Newsletter Content

I am actively looking for content for upcoming newsletters. If you are interested in contributing any model railroad related articles, news, or information please forward them to me at trevor@tjrcadd.com or give me a call (983-9602).

Website

You can find additional local model railroad news, events, and information online at www.sudburymodelrailroading.com

Take a youngster train watching today!