

TRAX

March 2007

The Sudbury Model Railroaders Newsletter

Hot Cinders in My Shorts

Viewpoint from the Editor

It's been a busy month. As you'll read later in this issue, the Sudbury Modular Railroad Club attended the Barrie Train Show Feb. 17 and 18. In preparation for the show I spent a good deal of time at the beginning of the month (with the help of Richard and Dave) completing last minute scenery additions, and constructing a set of racks to transport the modules in. It was worth the effort, as we received many compliments on our layout, and were invited to yet another show (Lindsay) next year. It's all part of our effort to draw a few more layouts to this years Sudbury Train and Hobby Show – and I think we are making progress!

I also recently volunteered to act as the Superintendant for the Ontario Northland Division (OND) of the Niagara Frontier Region (NFR) of the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA). Our division has been listed as “inactive” for a number of years, so I thought it was time someone reported on what was going on in the division. In this role I am going to try and promote the NMRA a bit, introduce as many new people as I can to the hobby, and keep all division members (and non NMRA members) informed of activities and events in the division and region.

The content of the newsletter tends to be heavily populated with subject matter that I am familiar with. This is your newsletter, so I encourage all readers to submit articles, information, or news for me to include in the newsletter. I have a number of article ideas, but that list will dry up eventually.

There are still Sudbury Northern Railroad Club meeting dates without hosts for October, November, and December. Volunteers are needed to fill these meeting dates. I encourage you to host a future meeting, especially if you have not hosted a meeting before.

Enjoy this issue.

Trevor Ross
Editor – TRAX Newsletter

Club Car

Local Club News

Sudbury Northern Railroad Club (SNRC) News

March 2007 Meeting

Trevor Ross has volunteered to host the March 2007 meeting of the Sudbury Northern Railroad Club (SNRC) on Tuesday March 13, 2007, at 7:30 p.m. To reach Trevor's house at 550 Bonin St. in Azilda, drive west on RR35 to Azilda, past the Tim Hortons and turn right at the second set of lights (Monte Principale – at the large Sudbury Downs sign). Continue down Monte Principale for about a mile and then turn right on Bonin St. Trevor's house is the fourth on the left. Trevor's phone number is 983-9602 if you get lost. Enter through the garage and head downstairs.

February 2007 Meeting

The SNRC thanks Garth Harris for hosting the February 2007 meeting.

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>
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	Wayne Cowen	September 11, 2007
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

Upcoming events

Members of the SMRC will be busy working on upgrading N-Scale modules in preparation for the 2007 Midland Train Show on May 26 and 27, 2007. The SMRC may also be setting up a modular layout at Pioneer Manor on May 12 and 13, 2007 (mothers day weekend). 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 sometime in March or April.

Sudbury Model Railroad Club

Upcoming Meetings

The March meeting of the Sudbury Model Railroad Club will be hosted by Trevor Ross. Members in attendance will be working on upgrading N Scale modules in preparation for upcoming shows. Tasks include module construction, laying track, wiring, and scenery upgrades. Trevor's modules will also be available for running trains. 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>
March 27, 2007	Trevor Ross
April 24, 2007	Mike Svos or Trevor Ross

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.

Junior Model Railroaders

Most articles about someone's model railroad starts out with a story about how they got started in model railroading after receiving a train set for Christmas or some other occasion. My experience was a bit different. My grandfather had a set of OO scale Tri-ang Hornby trains, but they were never set up in any layout. He kept them packed away in boxes, but constantly talked about how one day we were going to get them out and construct the world's best model train layout. That's how I became interested in model trains.

Those trains never came out of the boxes, so it was not until I graduated from University, got married, and had a place of my own that I truly got started in model railroading. The young generation is the future of our hobby, so I believe that we should be introducing young people to the hobby as early as possible to gain their interest. It's getting difficult to compete with television, gaming consoles, and the like; but everyone loves model trains. I introduced my older son, Zachary, to model trains by the age of two. At first he just watched the trains go and was constantly complaining if every piece of rolling stock was not moving. By the age of three he was able to run his own train without trying to race at maximum speed all the time. Zachary just turned six, and he can run trains in a prototypical manner without any intervention from dad. He can often be found in the train room switching cars in the yard and assembling trains while dad is working on one project or another in the workshop.

Zachary accompanied the SMRC to the Barrie Train show. As usual, he was tasked with removing all the rolling stock from the storage boxes and placing them on the tracks in preparation for the show. Once the layout was up and running he spent the majority of the weekend at the controls of one train or another. At one point there was a group of visitors watching him assembling a train in the yard. I was in the center of the layout behind the backdrop acting as his brakeman, changing turnouts and uncoupling cars when required.

Zachary was standing outside the layout, operating the train with a wireless throttle. I was busy communicating with Zachary to let him know when cars were uncoupled, or how much distance was remaining until cars were coupled. (when standing on the ground, the trains are at Zachary's eye level) After a bit of this I could see that the visitors were starting to wonder who I was talking to, and who was actually running the train. No one noticed the kid in front of them.

It wasn't until Zachary scolded me for doing something incorrectly that one lady noticed that he was the one controlling the train. She was very surprised that someone as young as Zachary was capable of running the trains in that fashion. (I was somewhat amused by the whole incident) Younger visitors are always fascinated by the running trains, and if one does happen to ask about driving a train I make sure to get them a throttle. No hesitation.

A few years ago my grandfather passed away, and while sorting through his things we found his trains. I brought them back to our house, but they remained in the boxes in our storage area. One day last year Zachary asked if he could take the trains out and look at them. I thought "why not" and said "sure". When I came home from work the next day, the boxes were out and a loop of track had been assembled on the floor. With a bit of help from dad, the power pack was hooked up and trains were running. Over the next week Zachary expanded his railroad empire.

Which leads us to the second instalment of our virtual layout tour. Here are a few photos of Zachary's railroad empire. It changes daily, but includes a couple loops of track, a staging yard, station, tunnel, up and over bridge, and various added details such as people, roads, cars, trees, etc.



Zachary with the first iteration of his layout.



Staging Area.



The current iteration. Zachary added the up and over section of track, and added roads and other scenic enhancements. He has just finished a plaster covered Styrofoam mountain with tunnel to replace the paper one shown in the photo.

Barrie Train Show

Members of the Sudbury Modular Railroad Club attended the Barrie train show on February 17 and 18, 2007. Members in attendance included Richard, Dave, Brian, Peter, Trevor, and Zachary. Garth and Ian attended during the day on Saturday.

The SMRC N Scale modular layout was well received at the show. Recent scenery additions have created a set of modules that look very good. Many visitors were surprised to see how realistic the N Scale trains looked as they ran through the scenery. (rather than the toy like appearance of many modular layouts) The trains also ran flawlessly with minimal mechanical problems.

We had a very good location at the train show – right inside the main entrance. Our layout was the first one seen by many visitors and left a good impression right away. Brian also brought the small portable N Scale layout to the show. This layout impressed many visitors. It is an excellent example of the amount of layout you can fit in a 4'x2.5' space – perfect for anyone wanting to get into the hobby, but lacking space for a layout.

Here are a few photos from the show. Come out and join us at the next show.



The Sudbury Crew
Peter, Brian, Trevor, Richard, Dave
Zachary



The Entire Layout



Dave Setting Out Boxcars



Brian Manning the Portable Layout

Local Train Orders

List of Upcoming Local Events

Here is a master list of upcoming events:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
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
September 11, 2007	SNRC Meeting
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@sudburymodelrailroading.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!