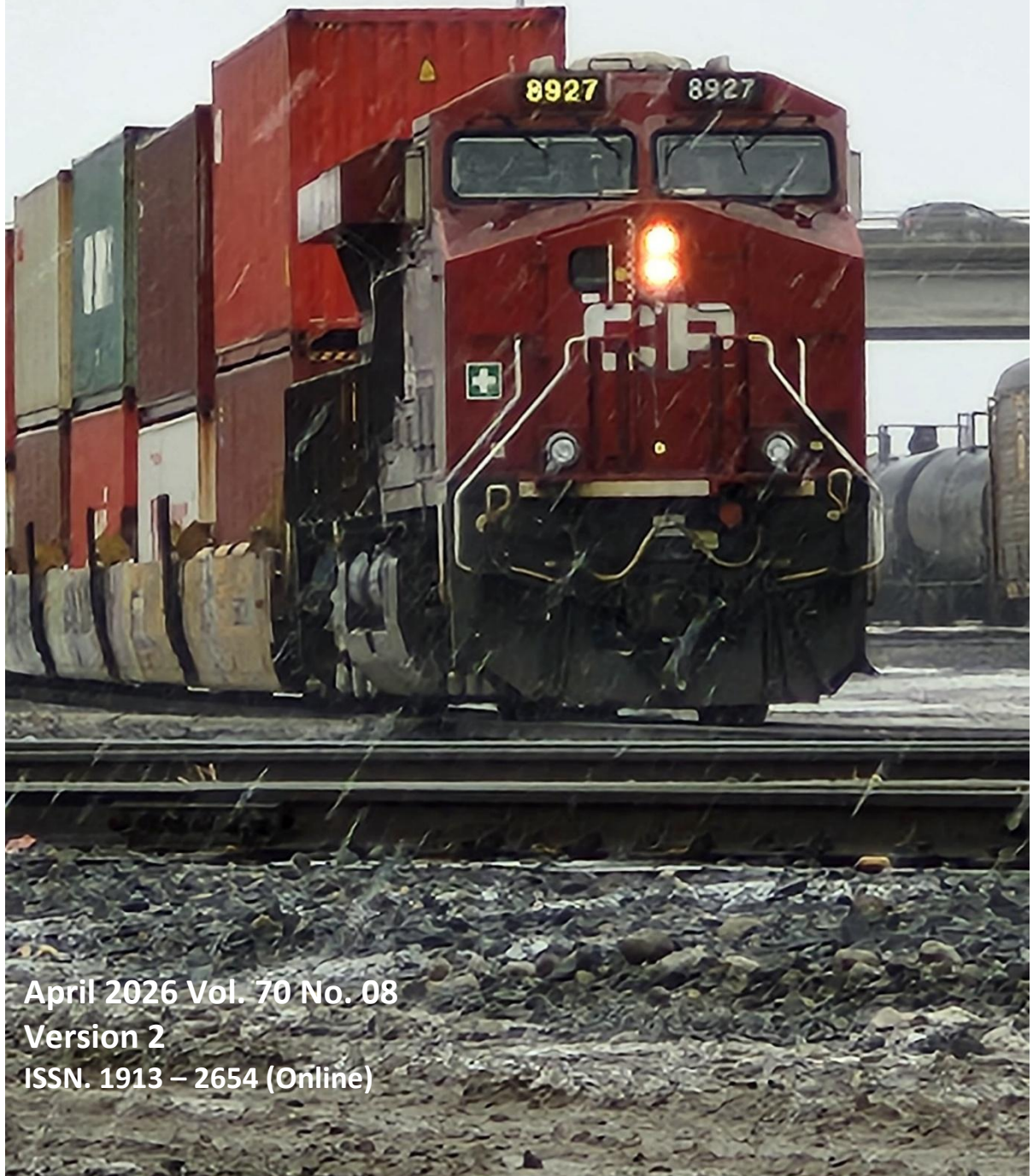


The Lantern

Official Publication of the Winnipeg Model Railroad Club
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NMRA



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THE LANTERN

*Official publication of the Winnipeg Model
Railroad Club (WMRC) established April 1955*

The Lantern is the Newsletter of the Winnipeg Model Railroad Club Inc and is provided electronically to members prior to the monthly club meetings from September through May. Our address is WMRC, 20 Keelegate Pl, Winnipeg MB, R2N 3V7.

The Lantern is published monthly from September to May (nine [9] times per year). The Club's official Room is located at Charleswood Legion, 6003 Roblin Blvd in the Tank Room, (basement), with meetings on the second Friday of each month, September to April beginning at 19:30 hrs unless otherwise posted. Guests are always welcome.

Submissions to The Lantern are preferred via e-mail in a plain text or MS Word format preferably in "Arial font". Images are preferred in 'jpg', 'tiff', 'eps' (Post Script), or 'png' formats. Image resolution should be a minimum of 130 dots per inch. Contact the editor with any questions. Deadline for submissions including executive reports is two weeks before the next meeting - NO EXCEPTIONS. Opinions expressed in the Lantern are those of the authors and not necessarily the policy of the Winnipeg Model Railroad Club Inc. Note: The Lantern editor reserves the right to edit, reject, or ask that any submission be revised for any reason. ADVERTISING: The Lantern will accept advertising on a yearly basis for nine (9) issues. Changes in advertising must be submitted no less than three (3) weeks before meeting day to be included in that issue and following issues until changed. For info on rates on a less than yearly basis, contact the Editor. Rates: 1/16 page - \$10; 1/8 page - \$20; 1/4 page - \$40; 1/3 page - \$50; 1/2 page - \$75; 2/3 page - \$90; Full page - \$135.

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ON THE COVER

You may have noticed the Lantern cover has been refreshed with the club logos thanks to Paul Ullrich. The cover photo is by Cliff Davidson of CP 8927 (ES44AC) entered in the monthly photo contest.

FROM THE EDITOR

Another year is quickly coming to a close, and this marks our final regular meeting of the season. At this meeting, we will be holding elections for next year's executive. We did receive a few nominations last month, although I neglected to have them seconded—so please consider putting your name forward and getting involved.

Our spring show is just one week after the meeting, and volunteers are always needed to

help make it a success. I encourage everyone to lend a hand where they can.

I know many of you, like myself, are busy preparing entries for the Annual Model and Photo Contest...

In May, we will be hosting our annual business meeting at the Canad Inn Polo Park starting at 5:00pm.

Please keep submitting a description your models in the month display to me at Rwharrison@shaw.ca.
- Bob Harrison

Material for the Lantern

This is your Club's newsletter. Why not let others know what you have been up to. A short writeup describing what you have built or done on your layout may inspire others. Pictures are always welcome, either model or prototypical. You never know - they may end up on the cover of the Rolling Stone, oops, sorry, Lantern.

Winnipeg Model Railroad Club Mission Statement

1. The Winnipeg Model Railroad Club, (WMRC), is a non-profit model railroad club that offers fellowship, education and fun to anyone interested in the wonderful hobby of model railroading whether they are a beginner or expert. We strive to promote the hobby through our monthly meetings, our public shows and other activities throughout the year.

2. The Purpose of the Club shall be the uniting of its members to promote interest in the hobby of scale model railroading; to increase the knowledge of its members; and to foster and promote construction and operation of all phases of scale model railroading. None of the activities shall be carried on for the profit of any individual member.

WMRC Code of Conduct

The function of the Winnipeg Model Railroad Club, (WMRC), is to promote fellowship within

the hobby of model railroading. Anyone who has an interest in model railroading is welcome. The Club will refrain from publicly criticizing any individuals, group, organization or business.

EXECUTIVE

President - John Bate - batefamily@shaw.ca
Vice President - Marvin Fetch – mfetch@shaw.ca
Secretary - Brent Karr - dogwny@hotmail.ca
Treasurer – Khirad Dhabhar - quarkhirad@gmail.com

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Librarian – David McNeil dmcneil@mymts.net
Social media - Paul Ullrich pullrich@mts.net
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Photo Contests Chair - Larry Leavens
Manitoba Hobby Expo Laison - Gino Kost gkost@shaw.ca
Gateway Western Superintendent- Gino Kost gkost@shaw.ca
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Club E-mail - wmrc.trainclub@gmail.com

Club Website - wmrctrainclub.ca

President's Message

The final regular meeting of the year is upon us. Come out and join the fun on April 10 at the Charleswood Legion. The May wind-up will follow. Look for details in your inbox.

It's been a transformative year, as we try to enhance the club's image and presence in the community. We have new logos, a new website, and The Lantern might soon look a bit different, too. We have a nice new layout for small model railroaders to operate, thanks to the efforts of Brent, Gino and Larry. We've been approached to put on a small display at no less than three events: Railway Days in the VIA station on May 3, a Geekopolis showing on April 28, and a Gentle Folk festival east of Winnipeg in August. People are becoming aware of us. We can't do all of those things, but we'll make it a priority to do something for Railway Days. And of course, there's our own Open House and Spring Show. We're always looking for people to get involved and energize the club, so don't hesitate to step up and volunteer.

-John Bate

Vice President's Report

There will be a 50/50 draw as usual. Bring money.

- Marvin Fetch

W.M.R.C. General Meeting Minutes March 13, 2026 Charleswood Legion, 6003 Roblin Blvd, Winnipeg, R3R 1X1

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm. There were 32 members and 3 guests present. Guests were Robert Tisdale, Wayne Hillsden and Eric Dawson.

President's Report - John Bate

John asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 13th, 2026 general meeting. Dwayne Miller made the motion and Christopher Robinson seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

John congratulated Marvin Fetch on receiving the NMRA Golden Spike Award through their Achievement Program. Congratulations to Marvin.

John brought up the members' layout tour program which will occur on May 2nd. John advised everyone that Graham Leathers, Rob Sarna and John Bate have all volunteered to open their homes to members for layout tours. John also mentioned that all three tours will be in the southeast part of the city. Carpooling was suggested by John and will be discussed at the next general meeting.

John reminded members to pick up their NMRA membership envelope, name tag and/or WMRC membership card if they haven't already done so. John asked again if anyone knows the whereabouts of the WMRC banner. No one was aware of the banner location.

John mentioned that in the absence of the current WMRC banner the club will update our image and get two tablecloths made up for shows, along with some other show related items. John asked for a motion to add a Capital Assets purchase line for \$600.00. A motion was made by Khirad Dhabhar and seconded by Alan Graham to approve the addition of a Capital Assets purchase line for \$600.00 to the budget. Marcel Blair asked if the club room fund would cover this expense and John said that it would be best to add another line to the budget. The motion was approved by the members present.

John mentioned the media people from Geekopolis that attended the fall show and filmed various parts of the show and that there would be an episode on Bell FibeTV covering this event. There will also be a presentation on April 28th at the Park Theatre. There was a question regarding if we wanted a table at the April 28th event.

John advised everyone that the Legion wants to clean out the storage room and wants our items out for next week. John stated that if you have anything in the storage room to please get it out tonight.

Brent read the email that the club received from the Gentle Folk and their event on August 28th-30th, 2026 and mentioned that they are asking if

we have any interest in having a train display on the Saturday of the event. John asked any members interested in attending this event to please let someone on the executive know.

Vice President's Report - Marvin Fetch

Marvin mentioned that he would be doing the 50/50 draw again tonight and that he wanted our money. Marvin also mentioned that he has picked up 34 prizes for the AGM.

Treasurer's Report - Khirad Dhabhar

Khirad mentioned that the financial report was printed in the Lantern and the club balance is about \$20,000.00. There was a motion made by Paul Ullrich to approve the budget as printed in the Lantern and the motion was seconded by David Latour. The motion to approve the budget was carried.

Program Director - Ian Plett

Ian mentioned that Luca Matyas would be doing a presentation on the restoration of Engine #3 with Prairie Dog Central and that Eric Dawson would be doing a presentation on T Track tonight.

Lantern - Bob Harrison

John welcomed Larry Leavens back to the club meetings and after a discussion with Bob it was agreed that Bob would finish out the club year covering the Lantern. Bob mentioned that the wrong year was published on the spring show dates. Bob also asked Murray about the Lantern being on the web site and Murray advised everyone that the Lantern would be added to the website a month after publication. Bob indicated that he would post Version 2 of this month's issue with the corrections.

Bob also asked that instead of using the term Display for the monthly Model and Photo events, that we transition to the term "random draw". This change will be made immediately.

Social Media - Paul Ullrich

Paul presented the social media stats as follows.

Facebook:

- Tonight's meeting: 1,640 views
- Murray's Auto With You model: 2,027 views
- Fred Shannon's obituary: 7,102 views
- Peg Rail Joiners clinic: 3,315 views
- WMRC virtual store: 661 views
- WinNtrak at Garden City: 8,035 views
- 25,713 views in the last 28 days
- 10,023 viewers who viewed it for more than a minute
- 1,977 followers

Blog:

- Tonight's meeting: 29 views
- Murray's Auto With You model: 52 views
- Fred Shannon's obituary: 80 views
- Peg Rail Joiners clinic: 54 views
- WMRC virtual store: 52 views
- WinNtrak at Garden City: 57 views

840,035 all time views

Library - David McNiel

David was unable to make it this evening. John mentioned a collection of old slides that were donated from the estate of former member Manfred Jager.

Website - Murray Brown

Murray presented WMRC Web Site stats for November 2025-March 12,2026 as follows.

- 338 individual visitors
- 290 from Canada
- 44 from U.S.A.
- Site was visited 528 times
- People viewed 1412 pages 64% go to Home Page, 24% of them go to Newsletters, 14% return to Home Page

Most onward clicks: **Facebook, Blog**

Murray also mentioned that Rob Tisdale attended tonight's meeting as a result of learning about the WMRC on the website.

Spring Show - Murray Brown

Murray advised the group that the floor plan for the spring show was finalized and that model entries must be in place on Saturday morning by 8:45am as judging starts at 9:00am. The three people that have volunteered to judge models are Marvin Fetch, Luca Matyas and Barrie Creran.

Murray also asked for volunteers for Saturday and Sunday for the various tasks that need to be attended to. He mentioned that there is a signup sheet at the front and to please sign up and help out.

Eric Dawson with T Track asked if they could also volunteer and was advised that yes, they certainly could.

Monthly Model Display - Gary Stempneck

Gary mentioned that our number of models was down this month. Tonight's random winner for the model display was Rod Foell.

Bob thanks everyone for emailing in their model descriptions for the Monthly Model Display.

John mentioned the Thomas the Tank Engine layout that was at the meeting tonight and will be present at club shows. This layout is for children model railroaders to operate during the show's hours.

Monthly Photo Display - Bob Harrison

Bob mentioned that there were 33 entrants in tonight's photo display. The random winner of tonight's photo display was Felix Lesiuk.

Annual Model Contest - Murray Brown

Murray encouraged members to enter something in the Annual Model Contest and he is looking for a strong showing by club members at the spring show.

Annual Photo Contest - Bart Hasselfield

Bart advised members that all the information for entering the Annual Photo Contest is on the WMRC website including the rules and entry forms and to please print each page of the

entries separately and to hand in the appropriate of the entry form to Bart at the April 10th meeting. Information and details will also be included in the Lantern.

Canteen - Mark McLellan

Mark mentioned that he still has some items available including the usual assortment of chips, cookies, donuts, soft drinks and coffee. Everything is \$1.00. Mark also mentioned that he has some square steel pieces available to members for free if they are interested.

Executive Nominations - Bob Harrison

Bob brought up nominations for WMRC executive for 2026-27 and asked if anyone was interested in running for the club Executive. Bob also mentioned that some of the Executive have been in their position for several years.

Marvin nominated John Bate for President. John nominated Marvin Fetch for Vice President.

Miscellaneous

Marvin mentioned the old brochure that came with the slides previously mentioned and talked a little about the history of the Winnipeg Modular Railroad group that operated from somewhere in the 1980's to approximately 2005. Marvin also indicated that he was a member of this club for some time.

Bob mentioned the Gateway Western and Gary advised the group that the museum's application was not submitted to the government when it was supposed to be and that they have now received it and have fast tracked it. Bob mentioned that there is no heat in the building and Gary said that he was comfortable in there wearing his jacket, toque and boots. Christopher mentioned that you must be a member of the Gateway Western or accompanied by a member to visit the layout.

Old Business

Gino mentioned that WMRC is not very involved in the fall show as it's now under new management. Gino is looking for volunteers to

work at the fall show and would like to see some new faces getting involved. Gino indicated that the fall show is October 3rd & 4th, 2026

New Business

There was no new business at tonight's meeting.

Next meeting dates:

- April 10th
- April 18th & 19th Spring Show
- May 2nd Member Layout tours
- May 8th Annual General Meeting

Motion to adjourn was made by Christopher Robinson.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58pm

The winner of the 50/50 draw was Rob Sarna.

by Brent Karr, Secretary

April Program

We will be having a presentation by Neil Berrington on the Principles of Model Railroad Module Design and Functionality. The talk will cover:

- Brief introduction into my modelling interests
- A discussion on different types of layouts-fixed, transportable (including a discussion on my own home layout), portable ("exhibition"), communal modular and highly portable
- A brief discussion on types of modular layouts – Free-mo, T-Trak
- A discussion on how I design and produce my modules with Corel Draw and modern technology.

He will bring some completed T-Trak modules to look at.

- Ian Plett Program Director

Spring Show



The Spring show is on April 18th & 19th. Over 150 TV, radio, and print media outlets within an "oval" surrounding Russell to Selkirk to Dryden to Grand Forks ND, to Altona, and Virden have been contacted to provide Public Service

Announcements. **John Bate** will be sending out over 1,500 e-mails to earlier guests letting them know about this year's Show.

You can also spread the word. Let **your** friends and relatives know on your Facebook, Instagram, X, and Threads accounts that you'll be there so that they can visit!

Many thanks in advance to **John Bate, Marvin Fetch, Brent Karr, Khirad Dhabhar, Mark McLellan, Rod Fuell, Larry Leavens, and Bart Hasselfield** for helping at the Show! Meeting guests at the entrance, showing people how to use the TimeSaver Puzzle Game, cooking hot dogs and packaging snacks, and operating the Thomas the Train layout created by **Brent Karr, Gino Kost, and Larry Leavens** are all essential roles to provide a professional and fondly remembered venue for our throngs of guests. Thank You, gentlemen!

And let's not forget the ladies who will be providing culinary help in the Club Café! **Arlene Fetch** and **Karen Bate** will be graciously helping the Club while Mark will be absent for a few hours on Saturday.

All of the Forms required for the Model (2 forms), Module (3 forms) and Photography Contest (1 form) are available online at <https://www.wmrcclub.ca/forms>.

– Murray Brown

Annual Photo Contest

The deadline for entries is our April meeting – 10 April 2026. This year's Photo Special event is "Bridge, Trestle or Culvert". Please protect your

photos with a good envelope and ensure that the form has been filled out and that all items are accounted for. Hand your entries to contest chair **Bart Hasselfield**. Entry form which includes contest rules can be found online at: www.wmrctrainclub.ca/forms

PLEASE DO NOT PRINT YOUR FORM "DOUBLE-SIDED".

- Bart Hasselfield

Annual Model Contest

The 2026 Special Event will be a Winter Railroad Scene; maximum size to be 8 x 10 inches. All Models and Entry Forms can be delivered to the Spring Show on Friday evening until 8:00 p.m. or on Saturday morning until 8:45 a.m.

Models cannot be picked up until after 4:00 p.m. on Sunday.

Entry Forms are available as PDF online-fillable documents ... and there is also a Tips and Tricks document, too!
<https://www.wmrctrainclub.ca/forms>.

Thanks are extended to the model judges: **Barrie Creran**, and Manitoba T-Trak's **Eric Dawson**. This is my first year as the Model Contest Chair and I thank **Marvin Fetch** for his many words of encouragement and wise counsel.
– Murray Brown

WMRC Website



The Club's website continues to have more visitors. Be sure to click the "Breaking News" item on the Home Page to be current and see what's coming up!
– Murray Brown

The Gateway Western Railway

The Gateway is still closed. But if you are interested in reviving the layout, contact one of the executive members of the Museum and

make arrangements to run trains. Also, progress is being made on getting approvals to begin construction to have the museum open again.

- Gino Kost

Manitoba Hobby Expo

The Manitoba Hobby Expo dates are October 3 and October 4, 2026. The times for **EACH** day are 9:00am to 5:00pm.

We need volunteers to sell the benefits of joining the WMRC, show the kids of all ages how to have fun with the TimeSaver and Thomas the Train, and help sell items collected over the years at the sales table.

Remember this is one of your only fundraises of the year.

-Gino Kost

Monthly Model Display

Remember to bring a model to the meeting to show to other members your modelling skills and be entered in a random draw. Please include a short write-up on what you did including any tips so it can be included in the next Lantern.

Five individuals entered the March 2026 model contest. The lucky winner of the random draw was Rod Foell. The following models were entered in the monthly display.

- **CN Caboose by Murray Brown**



This Juneco Scale Models caboose was originally built by club member Marvin Fetch.

Couplers were replaced with Kadee Scale Head items, and the air hoses and angle cocks are Kadee #438 pieces. Trucks were replaced with period correct (1958) Kadee HGC Bettendorf trucks, and the wheels and brake shoes were weathered with Vallejo Rust and Orange Rust. Period correct (1958) green Maple Leaf decals, side decals, and end decals were from MicroScale Decals. The uncoupler rod stanchions were self-designed and 3D printed, and the uncoupler levers were hand formed from steel wire and treated with Vallejo Corrosion. The entire caboose was weathered with Tamiya X-21 Flat Base, followed with Vallejo Burnt Umber and NATO Black.

- **Minn Kota Energy (MKEX) Alco S3 #515 By Rob Sarna**



The model started out as a Life-Like Proto 2000 Alco S3 unit. The model originally came painted as Canadian Pacific #6515 in the Tuscan and Gray Scheme. The cab and long hood were stripped of paint using 99% isopropyl alcohol. The four lift rings on the long hood were scratch built from brass wire to replace the missing ones. Both the cab and long hood were primed and painted with Tamiya paints (primer and yellow colours). Decals are Microscale black stencil lettering. Tamiya and Vallejo clear sealed the decals.

The handrails, grab irons, and other details were painted using black and yellow Tamiya paints. The walkway paint was kept as is to give the completed model a simple, but visible, industrial look. The model's open framed motor had to be

rebuilt before the Soundtraxx Tsunami2 1100 decoder and a single ESU "sugar cube" speaker were installed. To fit the new electronics and LED headlights the top frame cap had to be left off and a speaker shelf fabricated out of sheet styrene and attached to the frame using one of the frame plate screws.

- **Butler Bins by Bob Harrison**



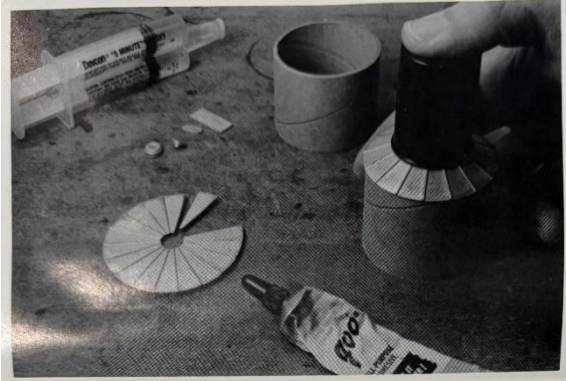
The Butler Bins were built from a Columbia Valley Models Kit No. 8704. Butler grain bins, pioneered by Butler Manufacturing in the early 20th century, are historic, durable, corrugated steel storage structures. Renowned for quality, these, often repurposed, bins were a staple in agricultural storage before the division was purchased by CTB Inc. in 1997. They are now popular for restoration, repurposing into cabins/sheds, and as vintage models.



From the parts shown above the bins were assembled as follows:

I. Building both roofs first.

- The 16 roof pieces were assembled flat into a pie.
- Using the fine wire supplied, the ladder rungs were cut and glued to the notched pieces on the roof.
- Glued the hatch door to the roof section to the right of the ladder.



III. Glue on the roof and foundation to bin.

IV. Weathering.

- To make the bins look older a very thin wash of DecoArt acrylic silver morning paint as applied to dull them. The Bins were then aged by weathering them with rust and black weathering powder with downward strokes, allowing the chalk to run into the corrugations.

II. Siding

- Cut out the paper wrappers and glued them to the bin bodies with rubber cement. (A water-based glue will change the size of the paper.)
- Cut 29 pieces of siding per bin, each 3 scale feet wide.
- Starting at the bottom and using rubber cement with the contact method, glue the pieces of siding on.
- Applied the next row just like the first, overlapping the previous row one corrugation. Don't forget the "Butler" sign on the top row!
- Glue the side door in place. The door, ladder, and roof hatch were placed for the farmer's or elevator's convenience. The "Butler" sign was placed for high visibility.

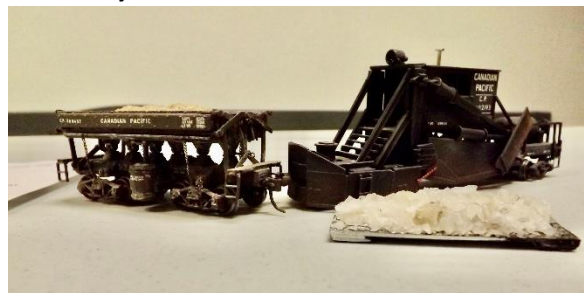
Review

<https://share.google/1pfP7dZozfJRNxfA8>

Summary

<https://share.google/fUZPvSeQIepow3rXe>

- **CPR Jordan Spreader with CPR side-dump car by Fred Headon**



a) CPR Dump Car

- Model Engineering Works kit,
- Re-built from "parts given to me",
- Metal wheels added,
- Painted with Scalecoat Black,
- Side lettering scavenged from assorted Black Cat Decal sets,

- End Road name and numbers – N-scale Black Cat decals (never again),
- Interior dry-brushed to expose steel.

b) CPR Jordan Spreader

- Walthers kit, extensively re-worked,
- Re-worked from “parts given to me”,
- Metal wheels added,
- Painted with Scalecoat Black,
- Lettering - assorted Black Cat Decal sets,
- Weathering with Pan Pastels.

- **General Store by Rob Foell**



The model represents a general store of the 1920's to present day. Life-like model, kit #1351 was painted with acrylic paints.

Monthly Photo Contest

Remember to send your photos to photo.wmrc@gmail.com by 4PM on Friday of our monthly meeting. Winners are picked in a random draw and awarded a small cash prize. By entering in the monthly display, you give the WMRC the right to use the photos in the Lantern and on social media as the Club sees fit.

Six individuals entered a total of 33 photos. The lucky winner of the random draw of the entries was Felix Lesiuk.

Some pictures from the Monthly Photo Display



Darrell Brownlee



Darrell Brownlee



Darrell Brownlee



Darrell Brownlee



Dwayne Miller



Darrell Brownlee



Dwayne Miller



Dwayne Miller



Bob Harrison



Bob Harrison



Graham Leathers



Felix Lesiuk



Graham Leathers



Felix Lesiuk



Graham Leathers



Ian Plett



Ian Plett



Mark McLellan



Mark McLellan

Thomas the Train Layout by Paul Ullrich

Welcome to our newest attraction at our spring train show and open house - our Thomas the Tank Engine layout. The layout was designed so kids can operate it at the show.

Every year at our show we hold a draw for an HO Thomas set. Now you can see what can be done with it. And kids can operate it at the show!



The 40" X 60" layout was constructed on braced 1/2' plywood with banquet table legs. All structures are lighted with 12-volt bulbs mounted on styrene tube pedestals and powered by a 12-volt one amp power supply. Two inch styrofoam was used to construct the land contours.

Sculptamold was used for the final contours. The roads were made with 1/4" foam core. They were painted yellow, then masked down the

centre line and painted grey. Scenery was made with various shades of ground foam and ballast.

The project was spearheaded by secretary Brent Karr with help from Larry Leavens and Gino Kost. Special thanks go to Joanne Stempnick, who donated the banquet table legs, and to Sandra Mulholland, the wife of a past president, the late Ed Mulholland, who donated some of the structures from his layout.

My Downsized Layout by Paul Ullrich

It took me two weeks to tear down my old layout. It was just too big and cumbersome for me to maintain anymore, and it had too many design flaws which made operating a chore. I was also just plain tired of it.

The sections were bolted together for easy disassembly, and tearing out the wiring was a lot easier than installing it. The real challenge was that it was fully landscaped. Every piece of track was ballasted with aquarium gravel and glue, and every piece had to have the ballast removed and cleaned by hand. Gravel was everywhere. The floor crunched when you walked in the basement. The structures were extraordinarily filthy, and that wasn't from weathering.

I didn't want to have another layout in the laundry room. The layout dominated the laundry room, leaving no place for storage. Anything we wanted to store ended up in the rec room. It seemed only logical to use the laundry room for storage and the rec room for my layout.

I also wanted a layout that could be easily taken down. We were inevitably going to downsize and move to a smaller place and I wanted my layout to come with me.

While I was attending the 2011 TLR convention in Dubuque, Iowa, I bought a Lionel train set at a shoe store which also doubled as a hobby shop. I bought it solely for the engine and the transformer, and it was cheaper to buy this entire set than purchase these two items separately.

The set came with a figure 8 of Fast track, Lionel's newest innovation. Each section came with plastic ballast and snapped together. I was fascinated by this track. The sections fit together so firmly that I could pick up the figure 8 (which was over eight feet long and three feet wide) and place it against the wall for storage. It also had superior conductivity. There was no voltage drop whatsoever. Best of all, my trains ran great on it. With this track I could build a layout without using a single screw to fasten it to the layout's surface.

This figure 8 became my temporary layout until I could figure out what my next layout would be. On the east wall of the basement, I already had my back shop where I tinkered with my trains. Most of my trains were on display on shelves on the walls of the laundry room. I took down the shelving and put it up on the walls over my back shop.

I mapped out an area four feet wide and twelve feet long along the west wall of the basement. This was an area where we stored empty boxes, of which we had a copious supply. These empty boxes served as a reminder that one day we will take downsizing seriously, and that there would be no excuse that we didn't have any boxes to pack our things.

But they were unsightly, and the perfect solution for me was to build my layout over there just to cover up the boxes. They would still be there to serve as a nagging reminder to use them one day, but we wouldn't have to look at them every time I went downstairs to the freezer to fetch some ice cream.

I have many operating accessories, but not all of them were going to fit into this space, so I culled them until I had some space for the track. They all sold swiftly at Mega train. I used hollow core doors with banquet table legs for my benchwork, as I've used them many times before to build my many portable layouts that I take to train shows.

The average door is 32" x 80" and most bifold doors are 16" wide. Put them together and you have 48", a perfect fit for my space. I cut another bifold door to fill in the space. I installed banquet table legs on all three of them, making three small tables to put my trains on. I now had a space that was three feet by nine feet.

I took my figure eight to the next level and got four switches and some extra track to enclose the figure eight into an oval. This was a tried, tested and true track plan that I used for two of my portable layouts. It creates two reversing loops and gives me more straights on which to put my accessories.

All the switches are manually operated. I chose manual switches because the layout is small enough for me to operate them. I also didn't have any room for the remote controls for the remote switches on the layout.

One of my accessories is a coal ramp, which is almost three feet long, and it wasn't going to fit anywhere on my figure eight oval layout. I bought another switch and installed it on an outside track by the wall. I took a 2" thick piece of styrofoam to support the ramp, using a filing cabinet as a base. I cut the foam to a three foot length and cut to match the width of the filing cabinet.

I also had a coal loader that didn't fit anywhere on the layout. I bought another switch and installed it on the other outside track against the wall on the other end of the layout. With these two pieces I now had a twelve foot straightaway.

I also planned the landscaping for easy take down and set up. I bought a 6' x 8' piece of green indoor/outdoor carpeting from Giant Tiger, cut it in sections to fit the three tables and glued it into place. Most of my wiring was on top of the layout. I covered most of it with lichen and two different shades of clump foliage. I was able to stuff some of the wiring under the hollow track. I made a road and a parking lot out of a piece of Homasote suspended ceiling tile that I cut into

an L-shape, which also covered some of the wiring.

I recycled trees from my old layout which I made from branches of an old Christmas tree that my church had thrown out that I rescued from the dumpster. I had sprayed each branch with hair spray and stuck each one into a plastic bag full of ground foam. The trunks were made of braided wire, so all I had to do to install them on the layout was to drill a hole and stick them in.

I also had four trees from my good friend Ron Einarson that he made from wire and dried Sedum. Ron had wisely made a wire base for the trees, so I installed them the same way. It was a nice tribute to an old friend, and every time I see them on the layout I'm reminded of him.

I had a backdrop for a portable layout that I made 25 years earlier that was being stored up in the rafters of my garage. There were almost enough pieces to serve as a background for my new layout. I made another piece for the three foot extension that I made for the coal ramp, which I fashioned out of a piece of blue styrofoam, whose colour nearly matched the colour that I painted the sky in the backdrop.

I had originally painted the background by applying acrylic paints with a sponge, and I wanted to keep that simple look. After all, these are toy trains. I made the hills that I painted a bit larger using the same sponge technique. I used corner braces to install them on the layout.

I placed a beautiful hand painted tunnel, that I have had since I was a kid, on the layout. It's not realistic, but it's my layout, my rules, and I enjoy watching the trains go through it.

The only things on the layout that are screwed down are the controls and the backdrop. The controls are placed on the edge of the layout in a long row in front of the track. Each one is labelled. The transformer is located on the far corner of the layout. I used a piece of landscape for the curtain concealing the boxes underneath

the layout. For neatness sake, I used only red push pins to fasten it to the layout.

The layout is low enough for me to operate sitting on a comfortable office chair with swivel casters. If I don't feel like getting up, I can just roll down to the long row of remote controls and operate them without getting up.

For the first time in decades my trains, my layout and my back shop are in one room. The lighting is also a lot better in the rec room. And if the time comes when we move, I can take the layout down in just a couple of hours.

And when we're ready to move, all I need to do is to find a room with a 12-foot-long wall to put my layout!



WMRC Merchandise

The Winnipeg Model Railroad Club has several Gear items available for sale. The inventory changes so always check our website <https://www.wmrctrainclub.ca/store> for updates. Current gear includes WMRC ball caps and toques, and 70th Anniversary T-shirts. Fill in the details of what you want using Order Now and the Gear Store Manager will arrange to receive your payment in cash or by cheque at the next meeting. If you require these items beforehand, please include a note to that effect and you and the Gear Store Manager can make alternate arrangements.

Ball Caps ball caps are solid on the front and mesh on the rear. Available black only. Size is fully adjustable at rear. Material is 65% polyester and 35% cotton. Hand washable. Embroidered in Canada. \$25 CAD each



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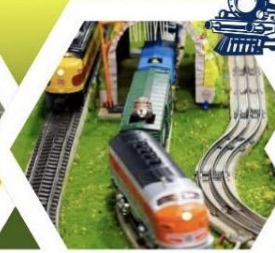
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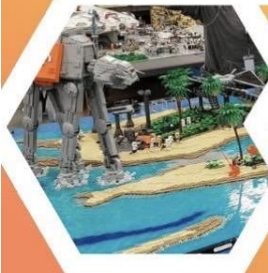
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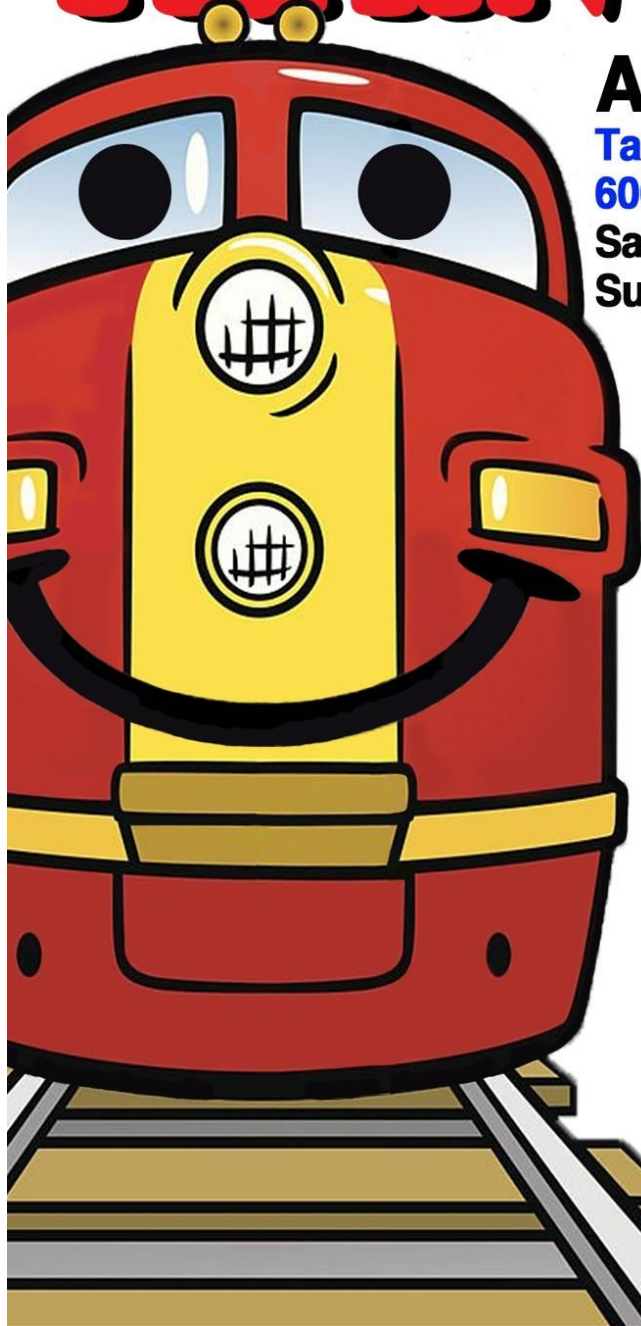
Saturday, October 3, 2026 | 9:00 am-5:00 pm

Sunday, October 4, 2026 | 9:00 am-5:00 pm

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2026

April 10, WRMC Club meeting

WRMC Spring Show, April 18th & 19th

April 25 and 26, 2026 Supertrain, Calgary

May 3, Railway Days from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the VIA Rail lobby, Broadway and Main, Winnipeg.

May 8, WRMC Annual Meeting

Portage Model Railroad Club



Train Day

Saturday, June 6th, 2026

10:00 am to 3:00 pm

At the C. P. R. Station

301 3rd street N.E.

Portage la Prairie, MB

Admission \$5.00 (kids under 12 free)

NMRA UPCOMING NATIONAL AND REGIONAL CONVENTIONS

- April 30-May 3, Extra 2026 North, Rohnert Park, CA (PCR)
- May 1-3, Bayview Junction 2026, W. Hamilton, ON, Canada (NFR)
- May 13-16, RMR Convention, Rapid City, SD (RMR)
- May 14-17, Oregon Rails 2026, Tigard, OR (PNR)
- **May 21-24, Superior Rails, Thunder Bay, ON, Canada (TLR)**
- June 4-7, Whistle-Stop Dayton, Dayton, OH (MCR)
- June 18-20, 2026 Connections, Austin, TX (LSR)
- July 27-August 2, Scenic City Express, Chattanooga, TN, (NMRA National)
- October 8-10, Iron Horse, Ocala, FL (SSR)
- October 15-18, Eyes on the NER, Southbridge, MA (NER)
- October 15-18, Tracks to Tidewater, Virginia Beach, VA (MER)
- October 23-25, BR Annual Convention, Cookham, Berkshire, UK (BR)
- September 9-13, All Aboard for 2026, San Diego, CA (PSR)