

# THE LANTERN

Official Publication of the  
Winnipeg Model Railroad Club  
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# THE LANTERN

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The Lantern is the Newsletter of the Winnipeg Model Railroad Club Inc and is provided electronically to members of the WMRC who have paid yearly dues of \$50. Our address is WMRC Treasurer, 209-1085 Court Ave, Winnipeg MB, R2P2H8

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 – A photo by Felix Lesiuk of the Prairie Dog Central at the Inkster Station, an entry in our monthly model contest.

## FROM THE EDITOR

I wish I had been able to visit Larry Skoglund's layout in Morris but I had decided to close up the cottage that weekend. It sounds like it was a great experience for everybody who visited the layout. Paul and Murray have provided a write up on the trip which I included in the Lantern. I see that Larry has sold his farm and as a result, the layout has to be dismantled. What a shame, I guess we all will have to deal with at some point.

I hope you have found time to do some modelling for the monthly model display and you have also started work on the models for the Spring Show. I have spent the last few weeks, building a kit from Custom Finishing Models. I've never worked with a pewter before. It has been a learning experience, say the least. My goal is that from a distance of several feet it appears acceptable.

- Bob Harrison

## **Material for the Lantern**

This is your Club's news letter. 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](mailto:batefamily@shaw.ca)

Vice President - Marvin Fetch –  
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Gateway Western Superintendent- Gino Kost [gkost@shaw.ca](mailto:gkost@shaw.ca)

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## **Club E-mail - [wmrc.trainclub@gmail.com](mailto:wmrc.trainclub@gmail.com)**

## **President's Message**

Last month's meeting in Morris was a very enjoyable one for those who attended, with a minimum of business and a maximum of railroad. This month, Paul Ulrich will show us images of destruction and mayhem on the railroads. Sounds like fun. Come out and join us at the Charleswood Legion on November 14 and have a good time.

We're starting to think seriously about some layout tours for this year, and still need some volunteers to host visitors and show off their work, whether incomplete or complete (and what model railroad is ever complete?). Please approach a member of the Executive to volunteer. It's also a good source of incentive to work on your railroad, and there are months to go before the event(s). You won't get criticism but you might get some good ideas.

The Executive has approved a plan to create a website for the WMRC, to complement our blog and Facebook page. The club should reap some benefits from this, but there will be also be costs,

of course, and we will ask for a vote of approval for these at the November 14 meeting. Hope to see you there.

-John Bate

#### **Vice President's Report**

Nothing to report. The club has lined high quality toques for sale at \$25.00 each. There will be a 50/50 draw at the Nov. general meeting.

- Marvin Fetch

#### **Meeting of October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

##### **WMRC General Meeting**

Larry Skoglund's Barn Layout - Morris Manitoba

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm.

There were 16 members present.

There were no guests present however new member Larry Skoglund was present and was welcomed to the club.

**President-John Bate.** John was absent therefore Vice President Marvin Fetch filled in for him. Marvin advised the members present on the success of the Manitoba Train & Hobby Show and that there were approximately 2200 attendees, all of whom appeared to be enjoying themselves. Marvin noted that we did extremely well at our sales table. Gino wasn't available today and will report on the sales table at the next meeting. Marvin mentioned that the number of attendees was down compared to 2024 possibly due to the excellent summer weather both show days and possibly due to the absence of the Mega Train. Marvin stated that there is no way to know for sure what the cause was. As a result of the smaller attendance the WMRC portion of the profit will also be reduced and fall short of the budgeted amount.

Marvin mentioned that the Tank Room at the Legion is not available for December 12<sup>th</sup> therefore our December meeting will be moved back to December 5<sup>th</sup>. Marvin also brought up

the return of the club member open houses and advised members that if they are interested in having visitors come by and view their layout, please let the club executive know by email or in person at a meeting. Dates are not set yet for member open houses.

Marvin also advised the members that a preliminary version of a new brochure was created and about 50 were handed out at the recent show. Further enhancements are still in the works.

**Vice President-Marvin Fetch.** Marvin mentioned the WMRC toques which are available for purchase, however he advised the members that he forgot to bring them to the meeting.

**Treasurer Report-Khirad Dhabar.** Khirad mentioned the financial report as published in the Lantern and asked for a motion to approve the financial report as published. Gary Stempnick made a motion to approve the financial report and David McNeil seconded the motion. The motion to approve the financial report was carried.

**Program Director-Ian Plett.** Ian advised the members that the layout we are visiting today is owned by Larry Skoglund and thanked Larry for sharing his layout with the members present. Ian talked about all the animations that we will see on this layout, which use Arduinos.

**Library-David McNeil.** David announced that there would be no library today due to our out-of-town meeting location.

**Social Media-Paul Ullrich.** Paul indicated that his is compiling the blog stats in a more realistic way by going to each individual post to see how many actual views they received. The views for the last 12 posts are as follows:

- 20 views WMRC to meet in Morris
- 36 views Jason Shron coming to Frog and Diamond

- 60 views 11 reasons to go to Manitoba Train and Hobby Show
- 46 views 16 reasons to go to Manitoba Train and Hobby Show
- 50 views 60 reasons to go to Manitoba Train and Hobby Show
- 68 views Manitoba Train and Hobby Expo a week away
- 183 views WinNtrak returns to Manitoba Train and Hobby Show
- 72 views Fred Headon at September meeting
- 294 views T-Trak returns to Manitoba Train and Hobby Show
- 348 views Giraffe Car Man returns to Manitoba Train and Hobby Show
- 351 views. No. 1 Northern Division returns to Manitoba Train and Hobby Show
- 391 views Manitoba Train and Hobby Show is eight weeks away 1919 views in total

*Facebook stats:*

- 1,900 followers
- 8,420 views in last 28 days
- 717 views for WMRC goes to Morris
- 768 views for Jason Shron at Frog and Diamond
- 958 views for Manitoba Train and Hobby Expo is tomorrow
- 756 views for 60 reasons to go to Manitoba Train and Hobby Expo
- 660 views for 16 reasons to go to Manitoba Train and Hobby Expo
- 476 views for 11 reasons to go to Manitoba Train and Hobby Expo

**Gateway Northern-Gino Kost.** Gino was not present for the meeting.

**Manitoba Train & Hobby Show-Gino Kost.** Gino wasn't present so Marvin filled in and talked about the show being good with 2200 attendees which was down from 2900 last year. Ken

Crockett asked if the absence of radio advertising this year may have had an effect on attendance. It was noted by Murray that the cost for radio advertising appears to exceed the number of people that it attracted to the show.

**Monthly Model Contest- Gary Stempnick** There was no monthly model contest today.

**Photo Contest & Annual Photo Contest-Larry Leavens.** Larry was not present at the meeting and there was no photo contest due to the meeting being at a member's layout.

**Annual Model Contest-Murray Brown.** Murray advised members to see the latest issue of the Lantern for details on the special event at the April show.

**Canteen-Mark McLennan**-There was no canteen this month again due to our location.

**Old Business**-There was no old business.

**New Business**-It was noted that an old member Don Gordon passed away. Also, mention was made requesting more tables at the train show. It was mentioned by Marvin that there were a lot of last-minute donations that showed up and didn't help the clutter problem on the WMRC sales table and availability of more tables could be a problem.

Next meetings: November 14 and December 5, back at the Legion as usual

The meeting was adjourned at 1:14pm.

The 50/50 was won by our newest member Larry Skoglund

Submitted by Brent Karr, Secretary

**November Program by Paul Ullrich**

When WMRC social media director was given a photo album from a widow of a Pettibone crane operator for CP, he knew that it would make a fascinating presentation. The album contains never seen before photos of salvage work of

numerous train wrecks, plus the crane operations of moving CP unit 29, which was damaged by fire, restored and is now displayed in front of CPKC headquarters in Calgary.



#### **Spring Show**

All former participants, and WMRC people actively involved with the Spring Show, have been contacted to advise that the 2026 dates will be April 18th & 19th. The next contact with people will be in early January to determine table/chair needs, as well as layout unique requirements.

A new way of presenting the Photo Contest entrants will be discussed in upcoming months with the Executive, Larry Leavens and Bob Harrison. Also, a new operating layout will be at the Show. Consideration is being given to have an alternative to the Switching Timesaver Game for younger folks to try.

– Murray Brown

#### **Public Relations Report**

Nothing new to report at this time.

#### **Annual Photo Contest**

This years Photo Special event is Bridge, Trestle or Culvert.

– Larry Leavens

#### **Annual Model Contest**

As announced at the September 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting, the 2026 Special Event will be a **Winter Railroad Scene**.

Inquiries have come in regarding the Special Event; the dimensions are 8 x 10 inches. There are probably at least two grain elevators being entered in the Structure category.

It can be as simple as a caboose.



Or a locomotive crossing a bridge.



Do you have a locomotive hanging around?



A winter scene with a snow plow. How apt!



Get elaborate and have snow and ice!



At the same meeting I introduced members to two products that would be great for your winter scene model entry.

Available at Frog & Hobbies, our sponsor model railroad store, is Woodland Scenics SOFT FLAKE SNOW™.



And from Hobby Sense you can get Vallejo DIORAMA FX SNOW Ground Texture.



At upcoming meetings I'll be introducing everyone to other products and a few tips and tricks .... Like how to make icicles!

**New Spring Show Model Contest #1** Northern Division Free-Mo, WinNtrak, Manitoba T-Trak, and Godfrey South have been contacted to advise of the new Module Contest. All were asked to "spread the word" to their members; WMRC Membership and Module Contest Entry Forms were attached for their dissemination.

— Murray Brown

#### **Monthly Model and Photo Display**

For the November meeting, remember to bring a model to the meeting to show to other members and be entered in a random draw. Please include a short write-up on what you did so it can be included in the next Lantern.

Contestants send their photos by email to [photo.wmrc@gmail.com](mailto:photo.wmrc@gmail.com). Deadline is 4PM on Friday of our monthly meeting. Any October entries will be included in the November display. Winners are picked in a random draw and awarded a small cash prize.

#### **The Gateway Western Railway**

The Gateway is still closed. However, arrangements can be made with one of the executives of the Museum to enter the building and run trains or work on the layout.

If you are interested in running trains or working on the layout please let me know and I will put you in touch with the appropriate people.

Gino Kost

### **Manitoba Train and Hobby Expo (MTHE)**

Gino's would like to again thank the volunteers that participated in the MTHE in 2025.

- Gino Kost

**It was worth the trip to near Morris, Manitoba**  
by Paul Ullrich



*Long time WMRC members Gary Stempnick and Marcel Blair watch the Arduino controlled drawbridge rise on Larry Skoglund's layout, located on a farm outside of Morris Manitoba.*

For the first time in two years, the WMRC held their monthly meeting outside of Winnipeg. On October 18 they went to a farm outside of Morris, Manitoba to visit Larry Skoglund's spectacular HO layout. Larry's layout was in a large outbuilding attached to his barn, and it was packed with magnificent scenery and many Arduino controlled features.

Buttons were placed along the layout which controlled the drawbridge, lighting and sound effects, which included thunder and lightning coming from a menacing cloud over a town. The layout also sported an alpine ski resort, complete with a downhill run and an operating ski lift.

The drawbridge traversed a model of a harbour which featured boats that ran on HO tracks. A magnetic controlled bus rolled down a highway and stopped automatically when the drawbridge was open.

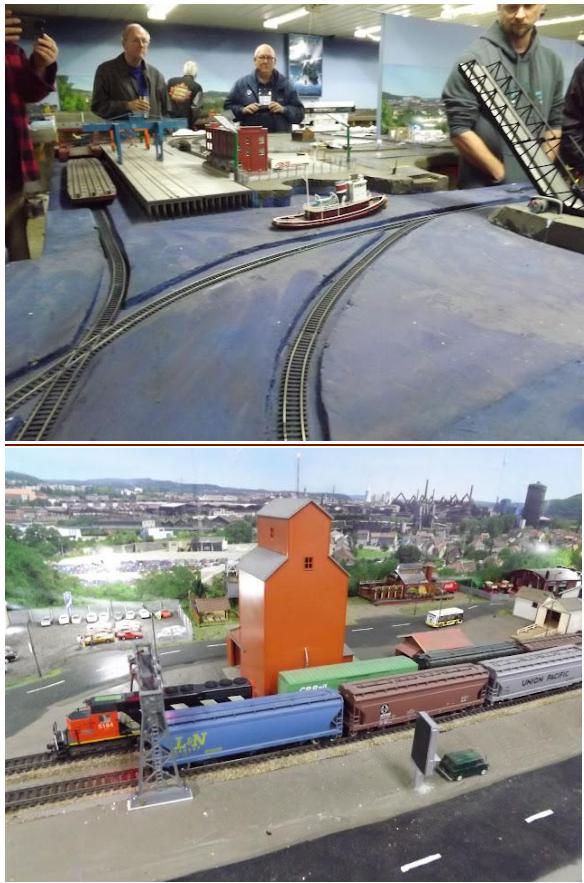
Sadly, this would be the last time this layout was to be displayed, for Larry had just sold his farm and now has to dismantle his layout. It was well worth the trip to go and see it!



*Larry's layout features an alpine ski resort with a downhill run and an operating ski lift.*



*A huge thundercloud threatens this prairie railroad town. Press a button below the layout and you can hear the thunder and see the lightning!*



Larry's layout featured a system of tracks recessed under his harbour where boats equipped with HO motors and wheels could sail around it.



Also featured was a hydro dam with lighting and sound effects made to simulate rushing water.

There was also plenty of rail action to see on Larry's layout. Note the use of photographic backdrops which blended seamlessly on his layout.

### Larry Skoglund Open House by Murray Brown

On October 18<sup>th</sup>, 17 members drove to Larry Skoglund's home just outside of Morris to hold the Club's October meeting and to view his model train "barn" layout.



After the meeting in the renovated barn, everyone viewed the layouts. One is a huge modern day HO layout, the other a large working Märklin scene with a steam locomotive and three passenger cars.

For Members who haven't already done so, be sure to look at the Club's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/WinnipegModelRailroadClub> and the Blog site <https://winnipegmodelrailroadclub.blogspot.com/> (the latter using a desktop or laptop; Smartphones won't show the Blog correctly). Social Media Manager Paul Ullrich has done an incredible job of authoring and including photos!

The original barn was renovated to become a workshop and a 32 x 16-foot building was added to provide space for the layout, many years in the making.



It even included a Ford dealership for Marvin Fetch, complete with a working rotating display in the showroom and a flashing Ford sign!



There are some 72 Arduino items, configured and installed by Sean Conway.



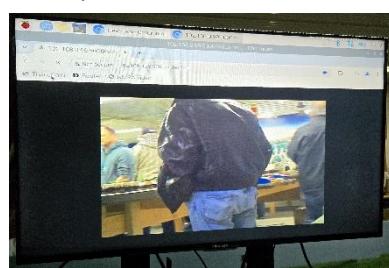
A totally unique TV using a locomotive with a miniature video camera was described by Sean.

It contains a keyboard, a router, a Raspberry Pi micro-computer, and a large screen TV.



Sean's condensed description is, "In your home you have an ordinary router, with a Raspberry Pi connected to it. The Pi is my computer instead of a laptop. It is connected to the router giving a wireless network in this room.

My train has a micro video camera and a tiny computer on it that is looking for a wireless network. So, it connects to this



wireless network and streams video. This Raspberry Pi looks for that video, picks it up, and puts it on the TV using an ordinary Chrome browser with no special software.

"I proved that I could build the entire network self-contained without having to buy a commercial product and I love the challenge when you say, "How can you do that?" It's like "How do I figure out how to do that?"

In the next months, Larry will be moving to Morris, and revamping the entire area into a much smaller home basement area. It will be interesting to see how Larry and Sean build the new layout(s).

## Winnipeg Model Railroad Club Membership Form

Please PRINT clearly

Modified September 13, 2024

Name

New  Renewal  Former

dd/mm/yy

Current NMRA member

Member#

Expiry Date

Same as last year

OR

Family members <input type="text"/>
Spouse <input type="checkbox"/> Child under 18 <input type="checkbox"/>
Child birth date (dd/mm/yy) <input type="text"/>
Address <input type="text"/>
City, Province <input type="text"/>
Postal Code <input type="text"/>
Phone <input type="text"/>
Email <input type="text"/>

Scale(s):

G   
HO

O   
N

S   
Z

Other

### Membership category:

<input type="checkbox"/> Regular member	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Family member - Spouse or minor child of a Regular member	\$5
<input type="checkbox"/> Junior member - 18 years of age or less	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> Honorary member - Approved by vote of the membership	\$0
<input type="checkbox"/> Life Member of the NMRA	\$0
<input type="checkbox"/> I would like to receive a <b>printed</b> NMRA Magazine by mail	\$60 added to the above

### Notes:

Renewals **MUST** be received no later than the end of the **October** meeting.

Please make sure we have your correct email address

### Options:

- 1) Bring this form, and payment (cash or cheque), to the Sept or Oct WMRC meeting.
- 2) Pay by Interac eTransfer to [wmrc.trainclub@gmail.com](mailto:wmrc.trainclub@gmail.com) and email the form to that address.
- 3) Mail the form and a cheque to: WMRC Treasurer, 209-1085 Court Ave, Winnipeg MB, R2P 2H8  
Make cheques payable to Winnipeg Model Railroad Club.

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# **ORDER BOARD**

## **2025**

A meeting of the CP, CN TH&B and VIA Historical Societies and Associations  
Holiday Hotel & Conference Centre  
3063 South Service Road, Burlington, Ontario

November 14, WRMC Club meeting

December 5, WRMC Club meeting

## **2026**

April 25 and 26, 2026 Supertrain, Calgary

July 27 to August 2, 2026 2026 NMRA NATIONAL CONVENTION – CHATTANOOGA, TN