

Addendum 4

Area Representative Reports – Subdivisions

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**Nation Model Railroad Association
PNR 7th Division**

Mid Island Sub-division report 2015

The mid Island has approx. 17 members in an area covering from Mill Bay to Qualicum. There have been no formal gatherings of the members in the last two years due to my health. I hope to start holding meetings again in 2016.

The 31st annual model railroad show in Nanaimo was again a success. Just over 800 people attended the show and most vendors I talked with have very good days. Once again operating layouts were provided by the North Island Model Railroaders (HO scale), The Esquimalt Forces club (N scale) and Richard Slingerland and Ken Peacock joint effort (On30). Sterling Stump also had an HO scale switching layout that he allowed children to operate and earn their engineering ticket. This year due to declining entries there was no model popular vote contest. From the show profits we have once again donated \$500 to the 7th Division. Next year's show is scheduled for April 24.

While there are no formal clubs in the mid island area there is a round robin group and many high quality layouts (not all NMRA). Currently in Port Alberni a group of modelers are resurrecting an O scale Porto 48 layout in the train station. Half of the layout, structures, locomotives and some of the cars were salvaged from Ed Warren's layout. The layout will depict the Port Alberni E&N yard in 1952.

Respectfully submitted
Ken Rutherford

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7th Division, PNR, NMRA Fraser Valley Report

November 2015

The Abbotsford Model Railway Club continues to expand and develop its layout in Abbotsford farm country. I have been unable to arrange a visit to view the layout, but hope to in the new year. The AMRC can be contacted at abbotsfordmodelrailwayclub@hotmail.com.

The Chilliwack Model Railway Club continues to develop its N-scale modular layout based on NMRA standards. They have most recently added a multi-track yard, constructed by Steven Savich. They attend as many events as they are able.

Coldslap Free-mo, also based in Chilliwack, continues to develop its modular layout fully compliant with the North American Free-mo standards. In June 2015 they hosted the Third Annual BC Free-mo Meet, to which all Free-mo modellers were invited. The event was held at Heritage Park in Chilliwack, and attracted 23 participants who brought 39 modules from as far away as Calgary, Quesnel, and Idaho. All enjoyed the two-day weekend run.

In August, Coldslap Free-mo organised the multi-participant Free-mo layout at the NMRA National Train Show. They were joined by participants from California, Oregon, Idaho, and Minnesota, to build and operate a dog-bone style layout with about 400 feet of mainline track. The combined layout won First Prize for modular layouts, while other participants were granted awards for their individual efforts.

Coldslap Free-mo has just returned from the October Mount Cheam Lions Hobby and Train Show, at which they were honoured with the Best of Show award.

Anyone with an interest in pursuing the Free-mo concept is welcome to visit www.coldslapfreemo.org/welcome and/or to contact the group. The group will be pleased to mentor anyone with a strong interest in Free-mo. They have recently begun a foray into signalling in accordance with the California MSS signal system, and plan to have all modules operational very soon.

I invite all model railroaders in the Fraser Valley area to send me news, photos and updates on their activities; digital submissions only please. I am always looking for something interesting for this report. I can be contacted at sebelley@shaw.ca.

Larry Sebelley
7th Division
Fraser Valley Representative

Vancouver, Richmond, Burnaby, New Westminster Subdivision

Last year I regretfully report the last runs on two significant model railway layouts located within the Sub-Division. This year I am pleased to advise that like the “Mythical Phoenix” reconstruction and replacement activities have started. Colin Dover is investing lots of time and effort on his new BC Hydro Central park Line HO scale layout. Building upon the benchwork from the former Vancouver Waterfront Layout, Colin has tracks down for the GN, CPR, CNR staging through to the interchange yard in new Westminster, and sub roadbed at the End of line at Nanaimo Street. This is to be a simpler model railway with less maintenance and requiring a smaller operations crew.

Meantime components of Steve Stark’s former Esquimalt and Nanaimo, have been relocated to their new home, where planning and renovations are underway for a new and improved version of his N scale “Esquimalt and Nanaimo”

Scott Calvert and the Vanrail organizing committee arranged a most successful fifth bi-annual Vanrail model railway operations event. This year, thirty seven guests each enjoyed operations three of the seven available host layouts. New layouts to the VANRAIL 2015 event included Scott Calvert’s second edition of the CPR Boundary Sub Division, and John Green’s Coquihalla Valley Railway. These layouts were on the self guided layout tours at Trains 2014, and are participating in ongoing operations including this year’s Vancouver Train Expo

Vanrail 2015 marked the last runs of Brian Pates Klondike Mines and CPR Revelstoke division model railways. Parts of these wonderful layouts are being moved for permanent display in museums in Dawson City in the Yukon, and the Revelstoke Railway Museum.

This year the Vancouver Train Expo [VTE] Friday evening operating sessions provided opportunities for guests who are not involved in show set up, to participate in Model railroad operations. As well as the two new layouts mentioned above, other layouts included Mark Dance’s “Columbia Western” N-Scale layout, and Mike Chandler’s freelance HO Scale “Western Midland Railroad” .

In full size railroading, I was surprised and delighted to read that Amtrak Cascades services to Canada completed twenty years of this month. The Washington State Department of Transportation and Amtrak celebrated with a ceremony at Pacific Central Station in Vancouver, B.C in late October.

Progress continues along the guideway for the new Evergreen extension of the Skytrain system on North Road, and along the CPR right of way between Port Moody and Coquitlam. Friends have told me that Skytrain test cars have been seen on the new guideway between Lougheed Station and the Burquitlam station at the top of North Road Hill. This new line is scheduled to be operational in 2016.

From a news release” “ *Construction for the Evergreen Line includes a two-kilometre bored tunnel with tunnel portals located in Port Moody and Coquitlam. The tunnel is being constructed under Clarke Road using a 10-metre diameter tunnel boring machine (TBM). The TBM will make one pass, creating a single tunnel that will then be divided by a wall to separate the trains travelling in opposite directions.*” This work is ongoing.

More Skytrain Evergreen extension news is available online at

[SKYTRAIN EVERGREEN EXTENSION NEWS](#)

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Local Activities are happening within several Local Unknown Groups who are helping constructing, maintaining, and operating on each others layouts throughout the year. In addition there are social occasions just to meet and share conversation, fellowship and stories.

While there have been no organized sub divisional activity or meeting in 2015. I would solicit ideas and reasons for arranging such a meeting, as I consider there is benefit in gathering perhaps on an irregular basis. We have been offered a possible meeting location at BCSME. If I do not hear from the sub division members, then I fear nothing will happen.

In closing I would like to shout out a BIG THANKS the members Vancouver Train Expo Committee who this year have taken the big step of moving the show from Cameron Recreation Centre which was the venue of the home of the annual TRAINS show for over thirty years, to the PNE while doubling the available display space. Congratulations to the committee members and volunteers for organizing and hosting another very enjoyable weekend. I know from many years of experience that these show/meets do not just happen, they always require a lot of energy, time, and commitment by those involved to “Make it Happen” for other modelers and members of the public to enjoy.

I am sure that the organizing committee would welcome new people to help arrange this annual event. Keeping in mid the old adage “Many hands make light work”, I would encourage members to step forward and help to organize this show.

Respectfully Submitted

John Green