

Publicity – by Dick Sutcliffe

The first event of 2016 was Western Rails on March 20th. We had the new panels setup on an 8' table, along with the TV/VCR. Membership applications were on the table as well.

The next event was the annual Mid Island Train show on April 24. We were located right opposite the entrance, on two 8' tables. The Vancouver Island panels were not available, but fortunately I had taken the Lower Mainland ones. Along the back edge of the table, my 15' folding HO test track was connected to a Digitrax Zephyr which could be exchanged for a Troller power pack. There were several sound equipped locos on the track, both mine and ones brought by the non NMRA helpers that came with me. I also loaned an LED/DVD display running a new NMRA/WGH disc. Tom Carr put in some time at the table. We signed up 6 new members, 3 RailPass, 3 full.

On May 29 I headed over to Victoria, with Tom & Francine Carr, and John Martin. Again we had a table, adjacent to the entrance. We moved the chairs out to the front of the table, rather than being half hidden behind the panels. This made it much easier to greet the visitors, but was awkward as were too low if in the chair. The thought to purchase of two folding bar chairs led Tom to find some reasonably priced ones at IKEA. They have worked very well at the PNR Meet, and Mt Cheam Lions Show. I designed and had printed 7th div. panels for the chair backs. I don't have an exact record of how many new members were recruited.

The month of June saw the PNR Annual convention held in Salmon Arm June 15-19, with a public show on the 18th & 19th. Russ Watson assisted with our booth on both days. The location was not great, in the lobby of the arena, but we were able to recruit two 7th div members, two 6th div members, and renew one 7th div member.

October 15 & 16 we setup the booth at the Mt Cheam Lions Train & Hobby Show, in Chilliwack. Help was provided by Tom Lindgren, Dan Rowsell, Lou (I didn't get his surname) from the Fremo club, Russ Watson and John Martin. Great to have so much help - I got to run on the MMRS layout more than I expected. We recruited one full membership and 2 RailPasses.

After each event I have been emailing the contact information of new members to Stephen Wood (NMRA Canada Registrar), John Martin (7th div Superintendent) and Brian Clogg (7th div membership coordinator), so rapid contact can be made with them.

I believe we have a reasonably effective publicity program in place, considering the wide spread area of the 7th division.

I have been carrying this portfolio for over 30 years and I would like a break. It is time for some new ideas and new faces.

Dick Sutcliffe