

North Shore Report: North Shore to Pemberton and Sunshine Coast-by Graham Stokes

October 2020

Activities This Year

NSMRs have enjoyed meeting in person at 3 model railways since October 2019.

After several of our number participated in the 2019 Vancouver Train Expo on November 9th and 10th, Mike Chandler MMR was kind enough to host us at his Western Midland Railroad on November 20th. We began with a layout visit, noticing the new structures and scenes on Mike's railway, including his beautiful new sawmill scene. But the main event of the evening, at my request, was a "Last Run" for our late model railroading friend George Massey. We began with a mention of some of George's accomplishments and contributions, and also included a few good hearted and humourous tributes to George. Mike made the sign for the front of steam locomotive 493, and George's model railroading friends took turns at the throttle for different sections of the entire Western Midland mainline route.





We set an attendance record at “Trains and Scones” at my HO Hidden Prairie Valley Railway on December 18th. 19 attended. Some brought models for the display counter and relevant inventions and/or ideas to show and discuss. Some brought trains to run on the HPVR. Upstairs, my wife, Leddy’s, Harrods scones added to our enjoyment of train talk and model railroading.

On January 23rd, Michael Batten hosted the North Shore Model Railroaders for an operations session on his N Scale E&N Railway. It was good to see the many improvements on Michael’s railway, all allowing his operators to enjoy prototypical movements on one of our favourite BC railways, the model’s locations and railway infrastructure taking us to Vancouver Island for the evening. Thanks again, Michael, for adding to the fun.

And then along came Covid 19 in the Spring of 2020

But we adjusted, and North Shore Model Railroading carries on. By the way, it was a pleasure to be able to enjoy the RMMBC Virtual Meet on May 21st and 28th. Our thanks to the meet committee who did an excellent job.

In our subdivision, thanks to the online hosting of Tim Horton, we have participated in virtual meets in July, August, and September on Google Meet. It is good to be able to actually see our

members and also see and hear what they have been modelling. Highlights include visual presentations on scratch building of BCR flatcars by Tim himself, updates on brass steam locomotive painting and lighting by Dan MacDougall, and Al Lill's presentation of a 50 year-old CN machinist's tool kit with complete contents. I have also enjoyed hearing of tips on new products, questions and discussion on hobby innovations, and general updates. My thanks again, Tim, for leading these virtual meets.

Members are also taking some of the extra time at home to do some modelling. I hear reports of progress on layouts that had been on hold and are now progressing. There are stories of new structures and branches of model railways. And Tim Horton has also taken a lead in adapting ops to make them covid-safe for a small group of 3.

I am glad to hear from Jake Swaney, of the Sunshine Coast Model Railway Club, that they have successfully moved their club layout to new quarters on one of the main streets of Gibsons and are making progress there.

Looking Ahead

North Shore members will carry on with our virtual meets, usually on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. And when it is safe, we will find ways of meeting and helping one another continue to enjoy our hobby.

Respectfully submitted,

Graham Stokes

North Shore Representative-NMRA PNR 7th Division

604-929-4394