

**Report of the Vancouver, Burnaby, New Westminster, Richmond Sub Division 2020
Prepared for the 7th Division PNR NMRA Annual General Meeting of 12 November 2020**

This year has been a challenging one for organizing model railway events. The classic railway term for an issue that prevents service on a stretch of railway where the track has disappeared is a “Washout” – which I think is an appropriate term for this most unusual year.

Planning had been proceeding nicely for RMMBC 2020, which was to be held on the Memorial Day weekend in May 2020. Then the COVID Pandemic appeared. Fortunately, the committee was able to pivot and arrange to share a series of pairs of clinics online on Thursday Evenings in May/June. Planning is underway for a similar event in 2021.

Please note it is hoped that that future occurrences of this face-to-face event will be moved to the US Memorial Day weekend in order to ensure continued accommodations at the SFU Burnaby Mountain campus.

This year plans for sub-division “Mini Meet” activities have been cancelled until it is again safe for us to meet in community. These events are usually held at the British Columbia Society of Model Engineers [BCSME] clubhouse located in Confederation Park in North Burnaby. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the executive and members of BCSME for their kind and continued hospitality.

Perhaps there is some possibility of arranging community events virtually over the internet. We might ZOOM together – but there are some logistical issues to be thought through before arranging and hosting “hands on – participation” type clinics.

Personally, I have enjoyed weekly virtual gatherings of a Local Unknown Group. We are a group of six to eight who meet online to chat about projects and plans we have about constructing, maintaining, and solo operations on our layouts throughout this year. In addition, we share conversation, fellowship, and stories both tall and true.

In closing, I would remind everybody that this pandemic is not forever. Many teams of scientists and researchers around the world are working and collaborating in the development of vaccines, and treatments to mitigate the effects of COVID-19.

Once this pandemic has passed – hopefully in the not too distant future - the organizing committees of both the Vancouver Train Expo [VTEX] and the Railway Modellers Meet of BC [RMMBC] will be looking to welcome new people to help arrange and participate in these annual events. Keeping in mind the old adage “Many hands make light work”, I would encourage members to be prepared to step forward to help organize and host these events.

There is probably lots of opportunity to work at home on our model railway creations or kit construction on the kitchen table or sorting a photo collection. I am working on some ideas for online layout tours. My wife Sharon and I are finding that we are more than busy in these historic Pandemic times.

There is lots of new on-line internet content to share, including the activities of the NMRA-PNR 4th division, featuring some very interesting layout tours which are available live on some Saturday Mornings. These are also made available on YouTube. Additionally, there are the NMRA-X events live on Facebook (archived on YouTube). which present clinics and layout tours from around the world, and the Operations SIG has regular layout tours and discussions.

In closing, while we wait - I would share the wonderful quotation from Dr. Bonnie Henry – “Be Kind, Be Calm, Be Safe”.

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Respectfully Submitted by John Green

A Ferroequinologist who hopes to get back to modelling his "Coquihalla Valley Railway".