

Railway Modellers Meet of BC – 2021

The Seventh Division presented the Railway Modellers' Meet of BC on May 1st to 27th this year. We had approximately 330 registrations as of April 28th, and generated \$1841 in surplus from donations. We passed the bulk of the surplus, \$1341, to the project to digitize the Ferrier Collection.

Once again, due to COVID, it was a virtual meet, and once again we learned more. The response to the virtual format was overwhelmingly positive - so much so, that while we are planning an in-person meet in 2022, the meet will have two virtual prologue sessions on Thursday evenings leading up to the actual event. This will provide those unable to travel an opportunity to enjoy some of the excellent content that we are able to attract to the meet.

We experimented this year with multiple streams, not only to provide a choice of content, but also to give an opportunity to share more content without exhausting the committee with two months of presentations. The response to the choice was almost universally positive, although the few detractors were strident in their criticism.

The second experiment was with Meet the Modeller, which we split over multiple evenings, rather than occupying a single long slot. This change was also very well received, and we are looking at ways we can apply this idea to the in-person format.

We also experimented with two new forms of presentation - virtual layout tours, and manufacturer presentations. The layout tours were very well received, and some commenters indicated they felt it was a better format than in-person. The manufacturer presentations were also popular, though many attendees prioritized the other stream as they felt that presentation would be more ephemeral.

Planning for the Railway Modellers' Meet 2022 is already well under way. The in-person component will take place on May 27-29, 2022 at SFU. The two prologue sessions have not yet been finalized, but will likely be the Thursdays prior to the meet.

Rene Gourley
Chairman RMMBC