



The Interchange

Our 48th Year
Ottawa Valley Associated Railroaders — OVAR

May 2008

Issue 425

2008 CONVENTION:

THE BYTOWN BOBBER — April 25–27, 2008



Bob Farquar and Peter Nesbitt judge a display module. No word was received by the INTERCHANGE as to whether the model passed Peter's white glove test!

by Grant Knowles,
2008 NFR Convention Chairman

Wow, what a convention! I sure feel sorry for any one who did not attend.

Over 140 people from across the province took part in the 32 hours of clinics, the 19 exceptional layouts, the prototype tour, the banquet, the model contests, the KitBusters Workshop, the raffle and silent auction.

Ottawa has one of the greatest, most extensive collection of railroad enthusiasts in the province which allowed us to deliver such an exceptional event. THE BYTOWN BOBBER convention committee extends



their heartfelt thanks to all who have helped out with all aspects of the convention.

The infamous SLD KitBusters Workshop was very popular with the out of town folks who brought in their current projects looking for assistance in resolving construction challenges. Perhaps this forum will be adopted by fellow clubs. The Back Drop Painting work shop was also very popular along with the DCC clinics. In fact all the clinics and events were very well attended. I had many people comment at the end of day Sunday on how tired they were from participating in all of the activities!

Once again a number of the local individuals placed well in the model contests taking home not only a number of first place awards, but **David Steer** also won "best-in-show" for his On2 Beyer Garrett.

Ian Wilson provided us with a whimsical

review of railroading fiascos at the Saturday Evening Banquet which included a very entertaining skit by our own **Angus Palmer** and **Mike Hamer** duet.

The other key attraction on the weekend, was the tour of local layouts. Once again, the local community provided a diverse collection of railroads and modeling style for our visitors to enjoy.

Over the next few weeks, we will be posting further details on the convention along with photos on the Bytown Bobber convention web site:

www.bytownbobber.org

On the inside:

Aztec Annihilator

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plus much more

Greetings from the editor

by Ian Cranstone, Interchange Editor

I haven't yet seen the movie *THE PERFECT STORM*, but it probably aptly describes the circumstances around this issue.

Getting the *INTERCHANGE* out in a timely fashion is always a challenge: promised material doesn't appear when expected, unexpected material (always necessary to get every issue together) doesn't appear as expected, and of course the ever-present challenge of shoehorning in the time necessary to actually physically put an issue together around all the other day-to-day things that must be done.

This month, however, some special challenges arose. Other projects took far too much of my time during this past month, contributing to my unfortunately all-too-normal disorganized state — which in this case means that the display report notes from April have been mislaid. My plan now is to find them before the June issue, so that they can run with the May report.

To add to all of this, my wife went in for

surgery, causing further scrambling on my part — especially as she developed some complications. And then my internet modem got flaky — if you're reading this at the May meeting, it means that I managed to find a way to get this issue to the printer in time somehow.

Two reminders:

Eric Halpin suggested in March that the *INTERCHANGE* print a listing of services offered by members, and the plan was to run this list in this issue (May). However, due to extraordinary production difficulties experienced this month, this listing has been delayed until next month. That means one last chance to submit your name for our services listing!

Last chance to submit nominees for the 2008 Herb McEwen award is tonight — get those forms to Barry Innes.

TIMETABLE

Upcoming events of particular interest to OVAR members

May 16-18: HAMILTON – CRHA/ CARM National Convention:

www.caorm.org/Pages/convention.html

May 31: DELSON – St. Lawrence Division Meet, NMRA. Exporail, 110 St-Pierre. 9:30 a.m. Info:

www3.sympatico.ca/gd.knowles/sld/sld_meets.htm

June 5: CORNWALL – Moccasin Model Railroad Club, St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church Hall, 1509 Second St. W. 7:30 p.m. Info: Chris Patrick, e-mail: cpatrick1@cogeco.ca

June 6: MORRISBURG – Morrisburg Model Railroad Club, McIntosh Country Inn. 7:30 p.m. Info: Steve Skerry stvskserry@personainternet.com

June 17: OTTAWA – Bytown Railway Society, Canada Science & Technology Museum, 1867 St. Laurent Blvd. 7:30 p.m.: www.bytownrailwaysociety.ca

August 16-17: DELSON – A Great Passion for Small Trains, Exporail, the Canadian Railway Museum, 110 St-Pierre. Info:

www.exporail.org/musee/animation/info_crm.htm

INTERCHANGE YARD

Classified advertising in *THE INTERCHANGE Yard* is free to all OVAR members. Non-OVAR members: \$1.00 per line, minimum \$5.00. Cheques/money orders should be made payable to **OVAR**. Ads must include the advertiser's name and telephone number. Send to Ian Cranstone at address on last page.

LARGE INDOOR ESTATE SALE on May 24 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at 6 Trevor Crescent, Nepean. This is mainly HO locomotives, freight cars, passenger cars, track, road vehicles and structures but with many items (such as tools, electronic components, paints and scenic material), that will be of use in any scale. For further information contact Dave Venables (brmna@ca.inter.net) or visit <http://home.ca.inter.net/~brmna/sales.htm> to see an advanced list of some of the items that will be on sale.

LOOKIN' BACK

10 YEARS AGO

C. Robert Craig Memorial Library president Ken Healy reports that the City Archives building has been sold, and that the Craig Library will be on the move by the end of the year.

Labour unrest on the SBLK continues, with the union to protest any accelerated attempt by management to replace steam with diesels.

Tom Patterson writes on creating CN station signs with his computer.

Member Yogi Sepp and Chairman John Licharson debate the role of the NMRA within OVAR in the pages of the *Interchange*.

20 YEARS AGO

A giant LGB car is added to OVAR's roster of interchange cars, thanks to Fred Mills, Tom Hood and David Steer.

Hal Carstens is our guest.

From the *INTERCHANGE* editor, John Griffiths: "If anyone has a problem with anything in the *INTERCHANGE*, take it up with the author."

Ben Franklin wins the 1987 Module-of-the-year Award at Ottawa Valley N Trak.

30 YEARS AGO

Boomer (Brian Ludlow) wonders whether we should ever again have the display review after the bar break.

Jim Jarrett is the recipient of this year's Herb McEwen Award.

Tonight is Election Night and all are reminded that the head table still gets to eat first.

Bombardier-MLW has become a major international supplier of diesel locomotive power.

40 YEARS AGO

Derek Moon, finishing the year as Chairman, reminds us to "vote as you like, but vote."

Keith Smith's Brierwood and Churchill Railway — Route of the Curves, markets the Sunset Express — an all-tavern-car commuter between Ottawa and Kingston.

OVAR features the only bar in Ontario that stays open during elections.

Check out OVAR's Web Site

www.ovar.ca

PRODUCT REVIEW

The 'Aztec Annihilator' track cleaning car

by Eric Halpin

As everyone knows, satisfactory and consistent locomotive operation is contingent primarily on clean track. This is, of course, based on the assumption that appropriate care went into the laying of the track in the first place and solid power supply is available to all sections of the layout.

As I soon found out on the Algoma and Rideau, regular track cleaning was going to become a bit of a chore. I must say the train room is kept very clean anyway but the track still gets a bit dirty from various causes. As more and more of the layout had scenery applied, cleaning the track without damaging trees, vegetation, structures and so on was going to be a task requiring patience and care.

I was using both the 'Bright Boy' eraser method supplemented with a dampened rag and methyl hydrate. It worked, but was tedious especially on some of the harder to reach areas. I had a bit of 'CRC 2-26' which is reported to be an excellent cleaner. I suspect I used too much of it as I found the electrical continuity was diminished in spots.

At the Springfield, Mass. Show I saw the brass 10,000 gal. tanker track-cleaning car sold by Tony's Trains for about \$125. I actually found a used one at a vendors booth for \$75 but by this time I was out of money! So I passed on these brass tankers but a solution still had to be found.

When I inquired from several OVAR members about track cleaning, I was a bit surprised and impressed at how diligently and thoroughly they cleaned track prior to any operating session.

Through an ad in MR I found the 'Aztec' track cleaning company which makes several cleaning car models in different scales. I choose what they say is the 'best track cleaning car ever made'; one that 'if it doesn't clean your track nothing will'. The model selected is called the 'Annihilator'. It is actually a Roundhouse 40', 1240 cu ft capacity gondola car with a built date of 1938. It is painted a pale gray and lettered for a maintenance work car. It is equipped with KDs but I changed out the plastic wheels for metal.

Basically the gondola car has a 1/2 fluid ounce tank sitting inside the car body with two slightly offset rollers underneath the car. The offset helps turn the rollers due to the friction as the car is pulled along the tracks. On top of the fill tank, there is a fill

valve for the tank and a regulating valve to dampen the front roller. The rear roller runs dry to mop up any loosened grime. The tank itself has a clear plastic lid to allow you to see when it requires a refill. I used methyl hydrate as the cleaning medium. A small bar magnet is also located behind the rear roller to pick up any metallic debris. The car is more than double the NMRA scale weight but it is a cleaning car and that extra weight facilitates the process.

So does it work? Well, I guess my track wasn't very dirty because I ran it for over an hour on all sections many times and while it did pick up dirt on both rollers, not as much as I would have thought. I must presume it did a reasonable job and it sure is more fun than running a Bright Boy or whatever around manually. In summary, this car

cleans in a multi-step process and I think it will do a better job than the brass models.

This cleaner costs about \$125 and can be ordered directly from Aztec Manufacturing Co in Nevada (775) 883-3327. Email: aztec-mfg@usa.net, web site:

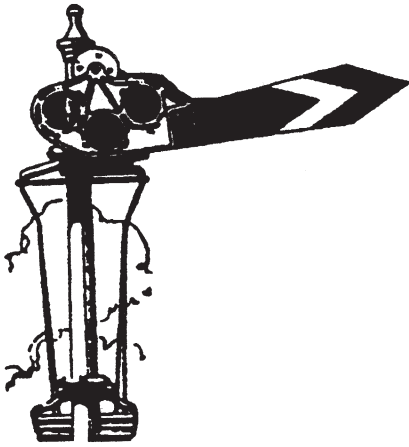
aztectrains.com

If you know of an event that may be of interest to OVAR members contact THE INTERCHANGE with the details — see page 2 for your guide to model railroad happenings

The RAILHEADS

by Reg Webb





Railroading in China

presented by

Bob Meldrum

Display

McEwen Cars and/or
anything else that goes at the end of a train

Tuesday, June 10

St. Anthony Soccer Club Hall
523 St. Anthony Street, Ottawa
(just off Preston Street at the Queensway)

**Doors open at 5:30 p.m.
Dinner served at 6:30 p.m.**

Admission: \$20.00

Includes dinner, facilities, program expense, taxes and gratuities.
Free parking.

Please note:

If you cannot attend the meeting after saying you would, please call Fred Mills at (613) 723-1911. Thank you.



OVAR Directory

2007-2008

Chair/Special Projects:

Gary Baillargeon 613-774-2380

Vice Chair: Normand Levert 613-834-6798

Secretary: Mike Shore 613-829-8867

Treasurer: Ralph Dipple 613-823-5856

Membership: Bernie Goodman 613-720-5650

Program: Normand Levert 613-834-6798

Dinner: Fred Mills 613-723-1911

Archives: Dave Knowles 613-722-4473

Webmaster: Steve Watson 613-592-3609

Video Library: Paul Anderson 613-445-3573

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Submission of Articles:

THE INTERCHANGE welcomes your submissions that may be of interest to club members. Please send them to one of the departments listed above. Material submitted can be handwritten, typewritten, on floppy diskette, or sent via e-mail.

Copy Deadline:

June May 20

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