

**CARM Toronto Chapter - What are you working on?**

**February 3, 2019**

Hello everyone:

It's winter time in Canada and our members are busy modelling and have sent their next submissions for the "What are you working on?" letter which is absolutely wonderful, thank you! We would still like to hear from even more of you so please do send through a note and photo to share with all of us when you have the time. Okay, enough introduction, grab your favorite tea, coffee, or hot chocolate and enjoy reading about what some of our fellow chapter members have been doing over the last couple of months, everything from electronics, to track work, to decoders, to modelling, and even to resurrecting the hobby! Some members are including web links to their work so if you have time, click on the links to see more of their work, get inspired, and give them some support too!

1. **Ian Jameson – Getting into an electronic mode:** Ian has been updating his layout with flashing lights and sounds. He writes: *"I seem to be in an electronic mode with*



*making things that have flashing lights and sound. The fire truck is great with the three sets of flashing lights and the European wailing siren. My Commissioners waste station will have flashing lights on the building and on the loader and the garbage truck. The burning building has flashing lights simulating a fire burning in the building.”*  
(Photo by Ian Jameson)

- 2. Ian Jameson - Part two! – Ian’s layout gets featured on the “Meet the Gaffer” video Vlog:** Ian’s brother-in-law is an electrician and Gaffer in the film and video industry and does a video blog on lights and lighting equipment for their industry. He did a short 17-minute segment on Ian’s LED lighting to include in his next posting featuring Ian’s layout and his wiring and LED lighting. See it here <https://youtu.be/rr632QouJG4>

- 3. Hal Huhn - Maerklin three tracks layout resurrection!** Hal and I got to meet for the very first time at the Toronto Chapter AGM but many of you already know him as he has been a CARM member for many years. Hal wrote to say *“I have neglected my Maerklin three tracks layout for approximately 2 years. I am cleaning all the tracks. My mountain had to be lifted. I removed all the rolling stock and doing all the trial with two locomotives shown in my pictures.”*



(Photo by Hal Huhn)

- 4. Hal Huhn – Part two! – European layouts:** Hal goes on to say *“For the annual meeting I would like to suggest that we include more people with layouts other than North American.”* We brought this up at the Toronto Chapter AGM and we agreed to do just that! If you are a person with a British or Continental layout, or you know someone who has one, let us know, send us pictures, and let’s get some layout visits going and some *“What are you working on?”* posts going!



(Photo by Hal Huhn of his layout)

5. **Richard Morrison – Clinic Inspiration!** We visited Richard's wonderful layout a few years ago and I thought at the time "this is perfect what more can he do?" Well, Richard writes *Thanks to a clinic called "Full operations on a small room size layout" presented by David Capron at this year's NMRA Convention in Kansas City, I looked around my layout room and found several spots where my benchwork could be widened without making the aisle too narrow while keeping the rear track within reach.*



*By simply adding an eight-inch wide strip along one stretch, I have been able to expand the original six-track double-ended yard to 10 tracks. Now I am working on a new project: "Fixing short circuits in a double-ended yard."*

Richard always inspires me with his work and I was very pleased to see a picture of his Union Pacific Engine in this year's CARM Calendar – see April 2019.

(Photo by Richard Morrison)

6. **Andrew Malette – Trackwork:** Andrew has been working on a new addition to his layout that we saw previously in another letter and he has sent us the following update: *"I have finished the track work but not the wiring for the wye at Park Head. I cut the rail for the lift out."*



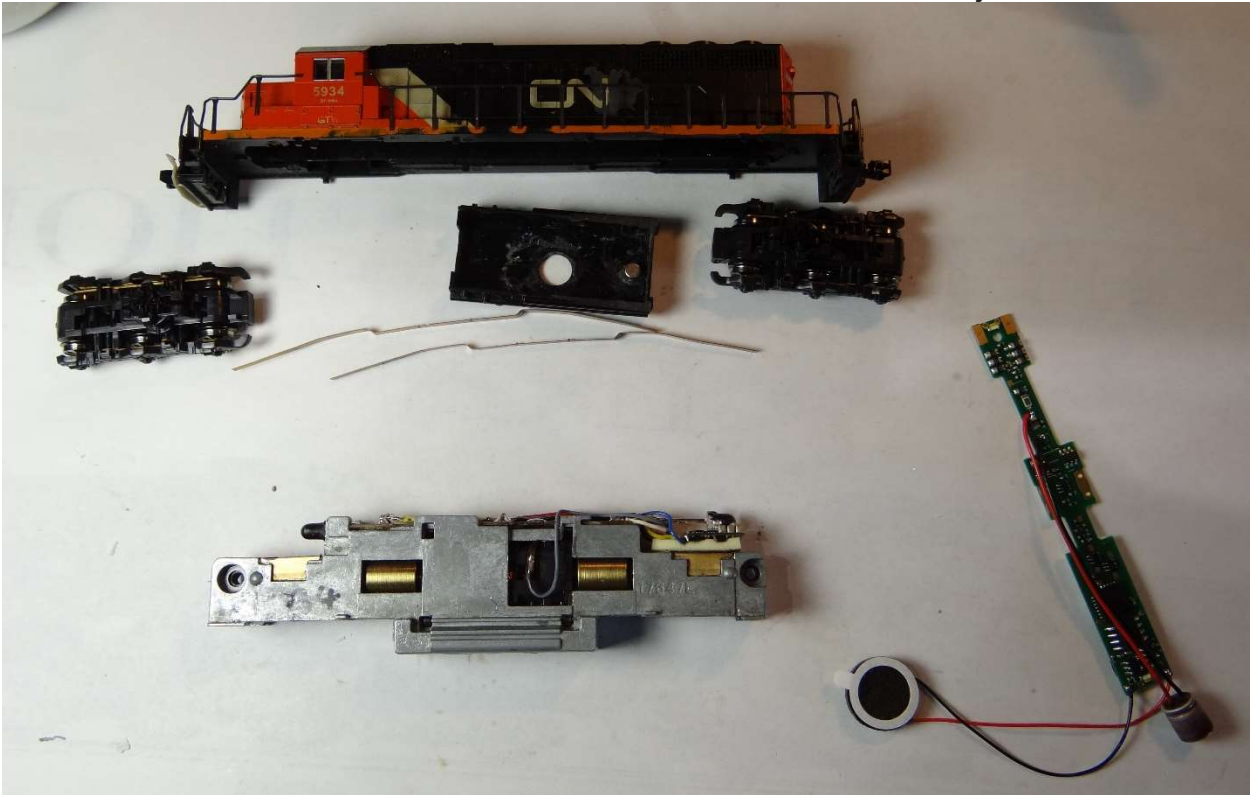
I marveled at the cut he did in the liftout (see the photo below) and his trackwork and he commented that: *"I use a Fastracks fixture to make my number 6 turnouts but I had to scratch build a curved number 8 at Wiarton. It took a bit of adjusting to get it right."*



(Photos by Andrew Malette)

- Andrew Malette – New layout blog:** Andrew has started to write and photograph his work on his new layout and sends this recent update: *"My layout is progressing along fairly well. I have taken time to start a blog about its building. If you are interested in following it, here is the address."* <https://cnrparkhead.home.blog/>  
I laughed when I saw Andrew's first blog page title: Owen Sound, Park Head and Wiarton in S Scale. What possibly could go wrong?

8. **Willie Waithe – Installing N Scale Sound Decoders:** I am fortunate to work to be able to work on Willie new CN Weston Subdivision layout as often as my personal work will let me, and I really like the new sound decoders on the engines. It's a lot of fun to run and hear them on the layout. Willes writes: *“Among other things (Ship It programs, turntable track installation, decoder programming), I am installing sound decoders in three of four N scale locomotives. Bill O'Shea had already done one.*

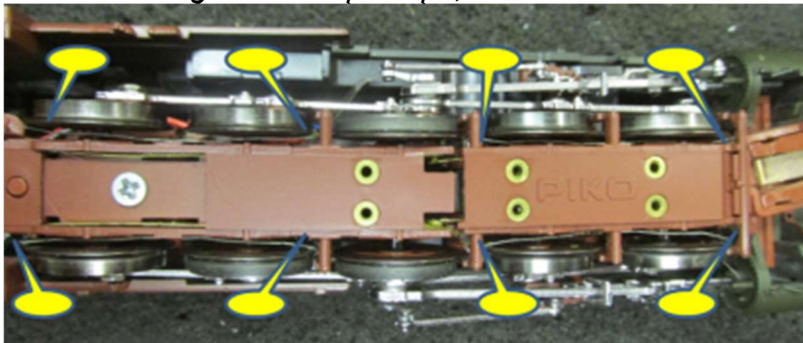


*So far, I have succeeded with one GP-38-2 without damage to the locomotive and am now tackling two SD-40s. This involves some grinding of the frame and soldering the motor leads. At some point, it feels like neurosurgery given the size of the components.”*

(Photo by Willie Waithe)

9. **Mike Walton – Celebrating over 200 Operating Sessions!** On January 5<sup>th</sup> 2019, Mike Walton celebrated the completion of over 200 operating sessions with his Dragonfest session. It's a wonderful report, and only a very small portion of the report is here. Mike again annotates his reports wonderfully with images and writes:

*Piko BR 95 95009 2-10-2 Tank hesitates. On the bench smoothly but this is on straight track. The engine has 8 pickups, see below*

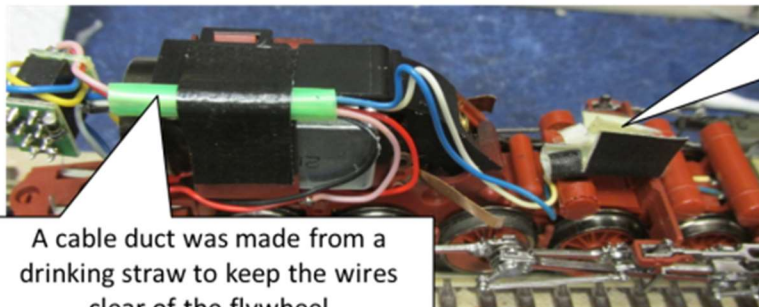


*I cleaned the pick-ups but the engine was still hesitating but it didn't seem quite so bad.*

*During Dragonfest the locomotive had an altercation with the floor as was damaged badly so I decided to remove the body to investigate further*



Site of potential foul between flywheel and wire to DCC adaptor



A cable duct was made from a drinking straw to keep the wires clear of the flywheel

The wires were held in place with a harness holder made from adhesive tape. The adhesive had gone gummy and the tape no longer retained its shape

*On test, the problem persisted, but again it seemed to have less hesitation, so I returned my focus to the pick-ups. While the all the pickups to the wheels had been tested and found to be working fine, there are other pickups to create problems, to explain.*

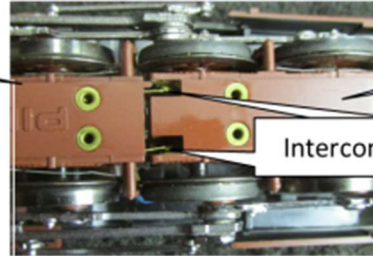
While the locomotive looks like a 2-10-2 tank, it is a cleverly disguised 2-4-6-2 Garratt, the chassis is hinged to allow the engine to negotiate sharp curves. There are pick-ups between the two chassis, see below.

Front Chassis (2-4-0)

Rear Chassis  
(0-6-2)

There was quite a bit of grease around the contacts.  
A fine paint brush with and lighter fluid was used to  
remove the grease.  
The contacts were then given a dab of electro lube

Interconnecting pickups



Voila, both the engine and carriages run flawlessly around the network.



Back in the box for another year  
(All photos by Mike Walton)

10. **James Razor – Maintenance of way made fun and easy:** I've been working on a CN maintenance of way series for Willie's CN Weston Subdivision layout for a while now and I have finally finished the series, including a four car ballast set, a four car track gang set, and a miscellaneous vehicle set. The trains are small but representative of a track gang photo I found years ago on the Tracksidetreasure web site of a larger track gang group in Kingston, a ballast train I see around Union Station often, and various CN vehicle photos I have researched throughout the internet ...and of course some *imagining!* The track gang consists of:
- Ballast spreader on a flat car (Showcase Miniatures kit)
  - Tie cart with an older Kershaw tie crane and second tie cart on a flat car (Railway Express Miniatures kit)
  - Crew speeder, generator, washroom on tie cart, and supply tie cart on a flat car (Railway Express Miniatures kit, and ???)



- d. New Knox Kershaw tie crane with tie cart on a flat car with scorpion ramp. (Showcase Miniatures kit and Railway Express Miniatures kit and scratch build scorpion)



The four car rail sets are all on painted CN flat cars with custom individual CN MoW decals and car numbers along with tie-down chains and weathered – they are meant to be an older tired track gang set. The scorpion is representative of a scorpion ramp - there are a lot of versions - rather than a pull off ramp - and it keeps it on the flat car in an interesting shape so it looks like the track gang is either getting ready to unload or it was just loaded up and ready to go to the next section or go home.

The four car MoW trains are meant to be moved around with the oldest engine in the collection and always kept together – no switching for them. They are not long enough to be difficult for everyone to get around them but they are present enough to occasionally make switching interesting if they are in your area - the rest of the time they are meant to just sit in the rail yard and be good rail yard eye candy for rail fans! These two sets would represent the most common MoW sets for a CN railway layout and they go well with the CN MoW vehicles already completed and on the layout. (All photos by James Rasor)

11. Ian McIntosh's: **2019 Ontario and Other Train and Model Train Events Shows, Open Houses and Meets:** <http://home.eol.ca/~ianmc/2019ONshows.htm>

If you are looking for more train related events in the up and coming months Ian edits and runs the wonderful Model Train and Train Events web page listed above. This website is a great place for planning your next train event for yourself, friends, or family.

*Event Count so far: 24 plus 42 frequent events, clubs and ongoing activities.*

*Last Update: Saturday December 29, 2018.*

*Recent Changes (approximately within the last month):*

*January 12-13*

*March 3, 16, 23*

*November 16-17*

It's a very comprehensive "resource" page that lists the upcoming model train and railway events by each month for the coming year. Look at the activity count shown above to date. This is a great all-in-one-place resource for anyone to help make future plans on things you may be missing out on that I recommend very highly!

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That's our winter addition of what some of our CARM chapter members are currently working on.

We would like to hear from everyone about what *CARM Toronto chapter members* have been working on so please do send me a photo and a quick description about what you are currently working on and we'll get it in the next email letter of the **CARM Toronto Chapter - What are you working on?**

1. **Send me a photo** of your:
  - present model railway project,
  - or your most recent prized purchase,
  - or your layout,
  - or your current scratch building project,
  - or your favourite rolling stock,
  - or your latest operating session,
  - or your research sketches,
  - or your custom track build,
  - or your first decoder install,

- or your latest weathering,
  - or the most recent disaster that happened,
  - or your landscape project,
  - or your lighting project,
  - or the area you just pulled apart to start all over again!
  - or any model railway related item that you have been working on.
  - It doesn't have to be perfect, professional, etc., etc., etc., just something you had fun with and want to share in this hobby we share together.
2. **Include a brief description**, 75 to 100 words maximum, or less if you want, that's okay too!
  3. **Don't have a camera?** That's okay; just send me a 75 to 100 word description of what you are working on. You do not always need a picture, but we do want to hear from you!
  4. **Send it to me at:** [CARMtoronto.jamesrasor@gmail.com](mailto:CARMtoronto.jamesrasor@gmail.com) .

I will then take the information, put it together with the other submissions and issue it in the next email letter along with the other members' news every few months.

Let us know what **you** are working on, have fun, and ***stay in touch!***

Yours truly,

James Rasor, Secretary

**CARM Zone 2 - Toronto Chapter**

For more information on the *Canadian Association of Railway Modellers* go to <http://www.caorm.org/>