

HOTRAK Newsletter

News, Updates and fun facts



Club Survey

The results are finally in, read on to find out what the club is saying about different issues

Thanks to the 57% of members who participated in the survey. If there was one common theme to be extracted from the survey, it is that our club members have diverse opinions! Members' comments were quite varied and it made drawing conclusions for the benefit of all difficult.

The 29 items in the survey were analyzed in terms of like/dislike and comments. The top three topics in terms of respondent comments are below. They are also the same topics in which the ratio of "Likes to Dislikes" were more equally distributed as opposed to the remaining 26 items that vastly favoured the "Likes". 17 items had 20 or more 👍, 14 items had 0 or 1 👎 while RTC (2 items) generated 18 dislikes vs 23 likes.

It seems that overall, the membership is quite happy with most aspects of our club, but a few issues still remain.

1

VOLUNTEERING

10 comments

More volunteers needed at set-ups

2

RTC

9 comments

Diverse comments, RTC improvements ongoing

3

FINE BOX

7 comments

No consensus, all types of responses

Youtube sites

(Click on links)



CNLVN

Chris Lyon



Boulder Creek RR

Luke Towan



Marklin of Sweden

Model landscape & scenery tutorials



Club news

Keepin' in the know about club stuff

Read on to find out about new ideas being considered and other tidbits of info:

- 📌 Dilip's great enthusiasm for layout design paid off having completed the layout design training. Look out for his layouts next season.
- 📌 A new club newsletter was launched. Check it out on the HOTRAK [communications](#) tab.
- 📌 The club's brochure has a modern fresh look. Check it out at "[About HOTRAK](#)".
- 📌 Paul Anderson is leading an effort to replace our trailer connectors with Anderson power poles. They will be much easier to connect and disconnect. They are in use with the Mud Creek module. Check it out!
- 📌 Paul, Pat and Mark are working on a plan to bring power adjusted legs to the club modules. No more bending over or getting on your hands and knees, hurray! Check the legs out in action on any of Paul's modules. Stay tuned for more information.
- 📌 A motion to make the ops group smaller was defeated, so no changes on that front.
- 📌 Another initiative in the works is the concept of module kits. Do you want to build a module but don't know how or are intimidated by the process? Module kits may be the answer for you.

 - We will start you out with a small module and the club will either put a kit (the frame, foam and legs) together for you to assemble or build it for you. We will even take care of the module approval for you.
 - After this we can pair you with experts to work on track laying, wiring and scenery.
 - Stay tuned for more information.

Answer:

Canadian Tire and Canadian Pacific partnered to create a 60' container. Check out the story in the Canadian Pacific Magazine Vol 16, page 12 when it comes back on-line.



Building model trees

5 choice methods and 1 unique way

Save some \$, build your own. The most common approaches are to use:

- 📌 Dried plant material (Supertrees or plants)
<http://www.sceneryexpress.com/SuperTree-Material/products/1007/>
- 📌 Wire or plastic armatures (DIY or bought)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0FNQTxX_jt4
- 📌 Natural branches added to a trunk
<http://www.bragdonent.com/smpic/nforest.htm>
- 📌 Furnace filter and BBQ skewer
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kdl4Pa81zHY>

- 📌 Twisted wire and string
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rCUEjFQsHUE>

- 📌 Pine cones (not common but unique) <http://www.building-your-model-railroad.com/model-trees.html>

End of season survey:

- 📌 Mark will be releasing a year end on-line survey after the March operating session. This survey asks questions aimed at providing data which allows the Executive to develop strategic plans and ensure that our club continues to evolve in positive and beneficial ways.
- However we need your support. The more data points we get, the clearer we can interpret the results and bring meaningful change. Our last survey had 57% participation. Let's strive for 100%. This is your opportunity to influence the club's direction.
- Expect the results to be presented at the AGM so changes can be set in motion for the next operating season.

FEBRUARY LAYOUT SUMMARY:

Wondering how this operating session went? Check out these #s.

- 11 hours of set-up and disassembly, 17 hours operating trains
- 77 trains were run (48-Locals, 15-Through, 14-Passenger)
- Local 8 CAMI Auto racks ran 8 times; Local 1 ran 7 times
- 27 different people ran a train, 11 only ran a single train
- One prolific Engineer ran 9 trains, two Engineers ran 8 trains
- 3 Newcomers ran 10 trains, thanks to the Mentors

