

STEAM RAIL NEWS

Rocky Mountain Rail Society

www.rmrs.ca

May/June 2008

Railfan Weekend - August 1 - 3, 2008

The August long weekend will be a very busy time for the RMRS in Big Valley.

On Sunday August 3rd, all members and friends of the society are invited to help celebrate our 10th successful operating season with a very unique, family friendly evening event in Big Valley. Starting at 5:30pm, a roast beef dinner (complete with live musical entertainment) will be served at the tent set up next to the station. Locomotive 6060, the guest of honor, will make her appearance under full steam at 7:00pm. She will remain at the station for the rest of the evening, open for cab visits and photos. In addition, arrangements have been made with the Canadian Northern and Big Valley Historical Societies to make the station, grain elevator, and museums available for tours. The RMRS speeder will also be on the rails with a crew offering rides within the yard limits. Dinner tickets are available for only \$5.00 for RMRS members or \$10.00 for non members (an RSVP is required prior to July 28th). For those who wish to stay overnight, a limited number of camping spots are available within the village. More

camping is offered at the Mackenzie Crossing or Stettler campgrounds. We also hope to negotiate a special hotel room rate in Stettler.

For more information or to RSVP, please contact **Don Totten (403) 256-1986** or **John Pinter (403) 271-2169**. We hope to see you all there!

The RMRS is also proud to participate in Alberta Prairie's Railfan Special on Holiday Monday, August 4th, 2008. This trip is tailored to the railway enthusiast. Steam locomotive 41 will pull the train to Big Valley (as well as perform a photo run-by at the station) and 6060 will serve as power for the return trip to Stettler. During the stop-over, passengers will be treated to a number of special railfan activities. Several locomotives and pieces of rolling stock will be on display (including 6060, 41, and our snowplow) and open for tours. In addition, our speeder will be available for rides and the RMRS boxcar

display booth will be set up.

Members who attend the prior evening's event on August 3rd are welcome to stay and either partake in Monday's stop-over festivities, purchase a ticket to ride the train, or volunteer to help to run the event. We will need 10-15 volunteers on Monday in order to man our display booth, operate the speeder, act as equipment attendants, and serve as goodwill ambassadors on behalf of the society. Also, please let us know if you are interested in helping out with the Sunday evening's activities as well. Please contact:

Kevin Quigley (403)990-5931,
kquigley@qienow.com if you are able to lend a hand.

All in all, this promises to be an exciting weekend for railfans young and old!





AN EVENING WITH

6060

Sunday, August 3, 2008 - Big Valley, Alberta

5:30pm – Sunset Rain or Shine

All RMRS Members and Friends are invited to celebrate our 10th successful operating season in East-Central Alberta

- Locomotive 6060 will be under steam and on display at the Big Valley station, open for cab visits
- Great photo op of 6060's approach to the station
- Tour through Big Valley's Grain Elevator, Train Station, and Museums, all open especially for this event
- Complementary Speeder Rides
- Roast Beef Dinner available for only \$5.00 for RMRS members and \$10.00 for non-members (RSVP required prior to July 28th)
- Live Entertainment
- Overnight camping available (call to confirm your space)

For more information or to RSVP, please call either Don Totten (403)256-1986 or John Pinter (403)271-2169, or email kquigley5931@gmail.com

Steel Rail Blues - photos



The last of the rail to leave Ogden



Unloading the last of the rail





Steel Rail Blues 2008

Wow what an effort. RMRS members moved 58 tons of steel from the CPR Ogden Shops to Stettler. This rail will be used for a siding to be built at Warden so that RMRS heritage railway cars can be stored and maintained at that location.

Volunteers from the society began work in March sorting out the pile of rails that were originally used in the yard at the Ogden Shops. The rail is mostly 80 and 85 lbs. The collection includes a few switches and the related parts. There is still some pieces at Ogden to be picked up in the summer but otherwise the bulk of the stuff is in Stettler.

To make this project possible we had the support of a number of individuals and companies these include

the following.

Bates Transport which supplied the trailers.

First Pick Stettler which supplied a 40 ton crane to off load the rail at Stettler.

On-Site Equipment rentals that supplied a Telehandler (what a machine)

Cat Rentals which supplied a Telehandler.

Bill Stettler of the CPR.

Last but not least the members who made it happen both in Calgary and in Stettler. What a team.

Don Totten

Supertrain 2008

Supertrain was held in April this year which is a change from years gone by. It was also held at the Soccer Centre in Calgary. This greatly expanded the size of the event. There were wonderful displays of model railroading, photos, you name it. Rocky Mountain Rail Society and Alberta Prairie Steam Tours shared the biggest booth in RMRS history at Supertrain. It was an unqualified success for the society. Supertrain has been a great fund raiser for the society and this year was no exception. This year also saw a number of new members join the society. To all our new members welcome. We had tremendous support from our volunteers this year from the set up to the tear down everything went smoothly. I would like to say a personal thank you to the Calgary Modellers who organize this event each year. They continue to do a great job setting up this event. In closing I would like to thank all members who supported this great event. The organizing committee looks forward to next year. Have good one.



The RMRS booth at the Supertrain Show

Don Totten





6060 Update

There are finally some signs that spring is beginning to make its appearance in the Stettler area. The grass is green, farmers are out working the land, and most importantly, the sound of steam whistles can again be heard across the prairies of east-central Alberta

Through-out the months of May and June, volunteers have been out nearly every weekend (and often through-out the week as well) re-assembling locomotive 6060 in preparation for the season's inaugural runs in late June. All of the stay bolt work has been completed and the exposed areas of the boiler received two coats of a special heat and rust resistant paint. Extensive prep work was performed on the boiler shell to guarantee proper adhesion and ensure that the newly replaced flexible staybolt cups and caps will not deteriorate in the future. The locomotive passed her internal inspection and hydrostatic tests with flying colours. With the squeeze complete, crews were able to re-apply the insulation and jacketing (which resembles a giant jigsaw puzzle) and install/reconnect all the parts that had to be removed to allow access to the boiler.

All of the "regular" pre-season maintenance has to be attended to as well. This includes tasks like cleaning out the smoke box, fire

box, and tender (all very dirty jobs), calibrating the safety valves and gauges, renewing the water glass, repacking valves, inspecting the draw bars, and performing a thorough greasing and oiling of every moving part. All-in-all, this represents a considerable amount of work.

Dave Emmington was able to come down from the Burnaby, BC to lend a hand by rewiring the headlight and number boards. Steam Locomotive expert Stan Chappell visited from Edmonton in order to inspect the spring rigging (which will require some work later in the season). Larry Potter must also be commended on his efforts with the recently completed blower valve relocation project. The new extension rod is incredibly well designed and functions better than anyone's expectations. Larry also found the time to fabricate and reinstall a control lever for the burner damper (a feature missing from the locomotive for many years). This should make it much easier for the fireman to adjust and maintain a spot-fire.

On June 14, the tender was re-connected and the 6060 was pulled out of the shop for the first time this season. She was successfully steamed up the following day. Even without her conical

nose attached, she was quite a sight and attracted some local attention. With only some running gear inspections/adjustments left to do (as well as a good wipe-down / cleaning), the 6060 will be more than ready to put on a show for her first passenger run of the 2008 season on June 28th.

A tremendous **THANK-YOU** to RMRS volunteers; Carter Bilik, Zac Brewer, Dave Emmington, Dave Higgins, Harry Home, Bob Leinweber, Neil O'Dell, John Pinter, Dennis Pringle, Larry Potter, Kevin Quigley, Don Totten, and Al Watch who helped prepare 6060 for her summer operations. This task would not be possible without your efforts!

Kevin Quigley





RMRS Volunteers about to install the 200 lb+ pin that connects the engine and the tender

6060 sees daylight for the first time in 9 months as she is pulled out of the West Stettler shops



RMRS Volunteers who completed the final preparations for steam-up





Riding CPR's 2816 Empress

Back in April a few RMRS members helped out Bill Stettler get the CPR's 2816 Empress Steam Engine and coaches ready for it's annual shake down run by volunteering to wash the engine and coaches. In return we got to ride the train on it's shake down run to Carseland and back on May 3. Needless to say the engine is hand washed using buckets of water then dried. The coaches are washed using brushes and then rinsing with the fire hose which made for some sore muscles later.



The hard work paid off May 3rd arrived with every thing looking good and the day was beautiful for the shake down run. When Tracy and I arrived at the Ogden yard, we were unaware ahead of time that

CPR had made the day into a corporate family fun day at the East Alyth yard. The train left Ogden went through Alyth to turn around, then to East Alyth where the train was then on display for the kids and their families. CPR also honoured the Children's Wish Foundation, with a BBQ and lots games and such for the kids, as well, they got to ride on the train to Carseland. After the BBQ at 1300 hrs we pulled out of East Alyth yards and headed to Carseland. Tracy & I stayed in the baggage car pretty much the whole trip as you had the best view and picture taking opportunities with the doors being open. After turning around at Carseland, we headed back to Alyth Yards, unloaded most of the passengers, then after about a hours wait, the train was backed down the line into it's home in the Ogden Yards. The day was a little longer than we were expecting but we wouldn't miss the chance to do it again.

Thanks go to Bill Stettler and crew for a fine job in maintaining the 2816 Empress.

Glenn Astren





Casino 2008 - Volunteers Needed

Our Casino dates for this year are **December 26 and 27, 2008** at the Elbow River Casino, our usual location.

These dates may conflict with holidays but unfortunately we have to take what we are given so I'll be calling around for volunteers again in the fall. We'll need 25 again so please mark those dates on your calendars. Casinos provide the major portion of our funding for the operation and maintenance of 6060.

Thank you.

John Pinter, RMRS Casino Chairman

Phone **403-271-2169**, email 2pinter1@telus.net

Letter to the Editors

What a pleasant surprise to read Robert Swanson's poem (That Whistle in the Night) in the Jan/Feb 2008 S.R.N. Another tribute to a prominent engineer, a visionary and a true railway enthusiast. In spite of his active profession, he still found time for his railway interest. His accomplishments were many.

His affinity for the 6060 is well known. He also conducted the repair and return of Royal Hudson 2860. He spent a small fortune perfecting his diesel "whistle", acceptable to all railroads in Canada and the U.S.A. His achievements still live on. The restoration of the O.A.A. British locomotive Dunrobin, together with the Shay finding a working home at Fort Steele.

Bob and I had been colleagues for many years and I



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Bruce Christianson, 1924 - 2008

With great sadness, Bruce Christianson, age 83 of Rimbey, Alberta passed away on March 21, 2008 at the Rimbey Hospital. He was an active member with the RMRS as well as being involved with the Royal Canadian Legion and The Rimbey Masonic Lodge. He especially enjoyed being an active member of the Rimbey Seniors Curling Club. Memorial contributions can be made in Bruce's name towards the new Rimbey Hospital. The Rocky Mountain Rail Society would like to extend our deepest sympathies to all his family and friends.

miss his friendship.

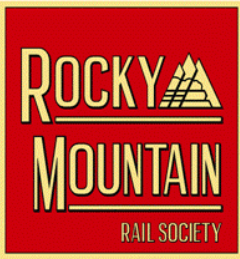
I never knew his poetic aptitude! Belated congratulations Bob.

Thomas Vardy

Chase, B.C.

Editor: Thank you very much for the little insight into the history of the author Robert Swanson.





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Newsletter

Sorry for the delay in getting the newsletter out this month. We've had a busy couple of months. Tracy and I got married in May and we are in the process of moving to Saskatchewan. We also had to hold off as long as possible before going to press in order to get all the information that was needed to go into this issue. As always, Tracy and I are looking for articles, interesting photos and stories to put in the newsletter. Please submit them to us via:

Email: gdstren@hotmail.com or mail them to P.O. Box 591, Redvers, SK, S0C 2H0

Deadline for the next newsletter is **August 10, 2008**

Thanks, Glenn & Tracy Astren

Monthly Meetings

All members are invited to Board of Directors meetings every 2nd Tuesday of each month. Contact **W.E. (Bill) Williams**, President, for location @ **403-803-6805**



Harry Home and the 6060

