

**Upcoming
events**

**January 15
Meet at the Barber's**

**February 19
Meet at the Barber's**

**March 18
Meet at the Barber's**

**April 15
Meet at the Barber's**

**May
Date and place
yet to be set**

Backyard Railroaders

Issue # 12

December 2011



*Merry
Christmas
& Happy New Year*

2011 CHRISTMAS PARTY

The 2011 Christmas Party was held on December the 4th. For once the weather cooperated with only rain instead of the usual snow storm. Everyone was tested on their drawing skills as we played a couple of Pictionary type games. The gift exchange game was fun, but not everyone was able to secure the gift they wanted. We had a great French Canadian meal and everyone had a great time, as you can see in the photo below.



Oops we forgot to take pictures



We at least had photos of before the party.





**Ontario Northland Christmas Train
Photos taken on December 7th
At North Bay
The train also visited Temagami, Englehart,
Iroquois Falls, Cochrane & Hurst**

PLANS/PROJECTS FOR 2012

The holiday season is upon us and in a few short weeks it will be over, and then the long haul to spring.

I'm no longer a fan of winter and use the time to plan things for spring and summer.

Most of our railroad was planned over the winter months (some while sitting in the warmth of Florida). Starting to plan now gives you the opportunity to think about your plan and revise it thus hopefully eliminating mistakes.

Once the plan is finalized some supplies might be required, and now is a good time to acquire them so your not held up in the spring. It also allows you to spread the cost over a few months.

I use the winter as a time to make any repairs to engines,

rolling stock, buildings, etc. Again if parts are required you have a chance to get them before the season.

One of the advantages of belonging to a club it that there are members to ask for help, be it solutions to a problem, help with construction, also members sometimes change their railroads by moving or enlarging the diameter of their curves and have surplus track available for sale. If anyone needs or has track, please advise me and we can provide this to members either by e-mail or in the newsletter.

I know I have some 4', 5' & 8' diameter curves that I won't be using. These sizes are good for small engines like "Shay's" for feeder lines to the main railway. They look good winding their way through the plants or rocks on tight curves. Large equipment either doesn't look

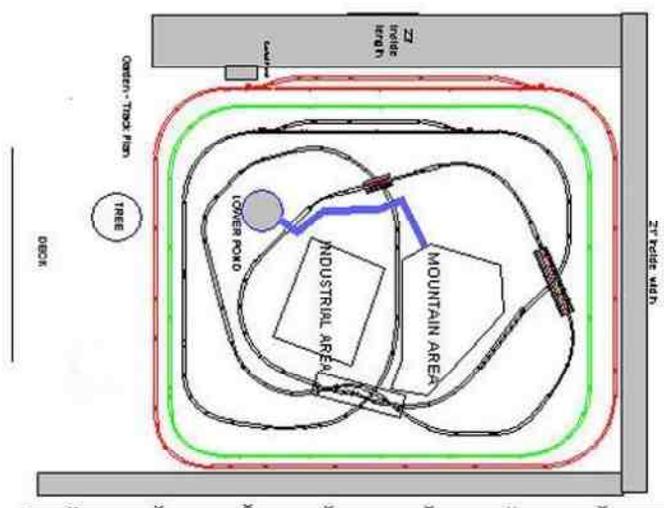
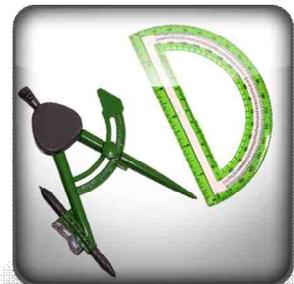
good on or can't negotiate these tight curves.

I hope most of you are able to plan a project for 2012 no matter how small, I think it helps getting through the winter.

If you need help with planning, building or require materials, just ask. Most of us are ready to assist.

We're getting a little older every year and slowing down (or having trouble getting down and up), but like work parties and seeing a plan come into reality.

Good luck with your 2012 Plans and Projects.



Christmas Humour & Stories

Twas the Night Before Christmas

(This is about CPR Smith's Falls train crews, Christmas 1991)

"Twas the night before Christmas, on the Smiths Falls Division.

The trains they were running without supervision for T.T O'Driscoll was snug in his bed and visions of golf clubs danced in his head.

Monty was working on big Christmas miles, When there came to the station with a clatter and clang Three Forty-Two Hundreds that shuddered and banged.

A train for the Ramp, and Conductor Mc.Goo

The hogger, "Big Diesel", the trainman, "Tatoo",

And soon there would follow, ol' "Yippy" Blair

With "Killer" just baking, and wee Jake Leclair

With "Problem" and "J.J." and Miron to come.

There had to be Dead Heads on VIA for some.

But, "S.P." is coming and behind him was Hart

On big shining ALCO's even Poll couldn't start.

As the thoughts of a deadhead drifted away

There's a smile from Ray Perry and his mate "P.A."

Then it was "Hammer" his hogger Steve Hull

Owne was braking, his stories weren't dull.

Yes, freight it was moving, this pre-Christmas night

And most of us thought, it just wasn't right

Yet this our job, and they are so few

So, Merry Christmas my mates, our Contract is due!

Did Santa Give You That Present?

On Christmas morning a cop on horseback is sitting at a traffic light, and next to him is a kid on his shiny new bike.

The cop says to the kid, "Nice bike you got there. Did Santa bring that to you?"

The kid says, "Yeah."

The cop says, "Well, next year tell Santa to put a tail-light on that bike."

The cop then proceeds to issue the kid a \$20.00 bicycle safety violation ticket.

The kid takes the ticket and before he rides off says, "By the way, that's a nice horse you got there, Did Santa bring that to you?"

Humoring the kid, the cop says, "Yeah, he sure did."

The kid says, "Well, next year tell Santa to put the stupidity in the horse's brain instead of on his back."

The strange Christmas scene

In a small southern town there was a "Nativity Scene" that showed great skill and talent had gone into creating it. One small feature bothered me.

The three wise men were wearing firemen's helmets.

Totally unable to come up with a reason or explanation, I left. At a "Quik Stop" on the edge of town, I asked the lady behind the counter about the helmets. She exploded into a rage, yelling at me, "You stupid Yankees never do read the Bible!" I assured her that I did, but simply couldn't

recall anything about firemen in the Bible.

She jerked her Bible from behind the counter and ruffled through some pages, and finally jabbed her finger at a passage. Sticking it in my face she said "See, it says right here, 'The Three Wise Men came from afar.'"

Some Musical Christmas Advice

Make out your Chopin Liszt early before Debussy season, when you have time to check out Verdi good bargains are, can still get gifts Faure good price, not have to Handel large crowds and time to give Bach things you decide you don't want.

Enter the Pearly Gates

Three men die in a car accident Christmas Eve. They all find themselves at the pearly gates waiting to enter Heaven. On entering they must present something related or associated with Christmas.

The first man searches his pockets, and finds some Mistletoe, so he is allowed in.

The second man presents a cracker, so he is also allowed in.

The third man pulls out a pair of stockings.

Confused at this last gesture, St. Peter asks, "How do these represent Christmas?"

Answer..."They're Carol's"

Sorry folks—Merry Christmas



2012 DUES
THE DUES ARE CURRENTLY \$30.
PER FAMILY
PLEASE FORWARD TO JIM BARBER
WITH THIS SHEET

2012 DUES \$ _____

NAME _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTAL
CODE _____

PHONE # _____

E-MAIL _____

NAME OF RAILROAD _____

SEND TO Jim Barber
115 Carlson Drive Newmarket L3Y 3G9
I will forward cheques to Earl Graves

THANKS