



Gordon Varney

MASTER MODEL RAILROADER #126 GORDON VARNEY

Gordon Varney, 59, a PNR member, lives in Burnaby, British Columbia, and is MMR #126. He and his wife, Elenore, have three sons. Gordon is retired, but had been associated with the lumber industry from his youth, working in logging and sawmilling after he left school.

He moved into lumber sales and then to the maritime industry for 35 years, ending his career in managing as a marine superintendent for a stevedore company.

Gordon began model railroading with an American Flyer set under the Christmas tree. But it wasn't until the late forties that he became interested in scale modeling with the purchase of a Mantua shifter kit and an Athearn metal sided car. While raising a family the interest lagged, but it was revived in 1965 with the national convention in Vancouver, British Columbia. He has built several HO operational layouts since.

In 1976, he got hit with the narrow gauge bug and finally ended up in O scale and naturally "3 foot between the rails." He models with two friends, Tom Beaton and Cyril Meadows, in a round robin group called the Tie and Timber Short Lines, specializing in logging layouts. Gordon is the group's track layer and scale lumber cutter.

Gordon's layout is a highly detailed and authentic logging railroad. It has a scratchbuilt sawmill and engine facilities at Beaton's Landing, a log dump at Ellie Lake, and a switchback-type main line which meanders out to the woods

operation at Cyril's Meadow, where a fully rigged spar tree with a hayrack loading boom is located. His many scratchbuilt models of motive power, cars, and structures have received many awards at all levels of contests including a regional best of show and a first place at a national contest.

Gordon has been an active PNR member, serving on two regional convention committees, divisional standing committee, divisional AP chairman since 1978, contest judge, and Division 7 superintendent. He has given many clinics at the divisional level, producing and supplying kits using home-sawed lumber for several wooden structures such as a small trestle, tunnel portal, and loading dock. These kits are available in four scales and were sold to PNR members at a nominal fee with proceeds going to Division 7.

Gordon holds certificates in Motive Power, Cars, Structures, Scenery, Civil, Electrical, and Volunteer. He supports the AP and feels his participation in the program has improved his modeling skills. He urges others to participate in the AP and accept the judges' remarks as constructive criticism which can only result in better model building. He states that all should remember that the experts were beginners once. The NMRA has given him a chance to meet and enjoy comradeship with the many friends he has made over the years in the organization. Gordon says, "Model railroading is a grand experience."

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