



Sea to Sky Model Train & Hobby Show 2023

Vendor / Exhibitor Show information:

Show: Saturday March 18 (10-5), Sunday March 19 (10-4)
(Setup: Friday March 17 - 11 am to 7 pm, Saturday March 18 - 8 am to 9:45 am)

The West Coast Railway Association – Railway Museum of British Columbia

The volunteer members of the WCRA/RMBC would like to extend an invitation to you to participate in the Sea to Sky Model Train & Hobby Show 2023. We are looking for model train layouts, model rail / hobby / railway exhibits, and model rail / hobby vendors.

Why the Railway Museum of British Columbia in Squamish in March?

1. The Railway Museum of British Columbia (RMBC) in Squamish is available in March with no museum events until our summer openings and Thomas weekends in May-June. We have the space and volunteers available. The museum owns the table / chairs etc. rental company that we can use for the event, as this is a slow period so everything is available at this time.
2. The RMBC offers additional attractions: A full size train ride and our mini rail train rides around the museum site (\$3 each ride), (subject to weather conditions and equipment being operational), the Royal Hudson on display in the roundhouse, and a rail car with model railway displays and an operating layout.
3. The RMBC has been building a strong social media following and an e-mail list of families interested in activities at the museum. When we announce events, like our North Pole Express train rides, Thomas the Tank engine days, and Dinner trains, they sell out well ahead of time. Our summer Saturdays are always busy. Families are looking for a fun event to attend and we love sharing the model railway hobby with the community. RMBC expects that through our advertising we will have good attendance at the show. We had just under 2000 people through the gates during our Sea to Sky Model Train & Hobby Show 2022.
4. RMBC will be selling tickets for the model rail / hobby show ahead of time, including family packs - on line at discounted prices. Higher priced tickets will be available at the gate.
5. This replaces the past WCRA Western Rails March show that ran for several years in Burnaby. March 18-19 is in the middle of spring break for most schools.

Questions / information:

1. For layout groups / exhibitors that are **not** selling anything; those participating are considered volunteers for the museum and will be able to claim a tax receipt for their expenses to attend for this 2023 train show weekend and the past Oct. 22 train show. This will allow you to get up to half of your expense costs returned at the end of the tax year. See the detailed information sheet on taxes and the tax expenses claim form for details.
2. What if it is difficult for our club to attend the Friday set up date? Large layout groups may arrange to set up earlier in the week before the event, based on availability.

3. For those selling anything please fill in the vendor registration form, the costs are; Vendor: 1 - 8-foot table, 2 chairs and draping between vendor booths \$50. Additional tables at \$45 each.
4. Will there be food on site? Yes, we have hot food and snacks available for purchase. If you are a club layout or exhibitor and not selling anything we will provide you with a free light lunch, to a maximum of 10 people per layout group. You will receive a meal ticket with a time to come for lunch so we can spread it out and keep enough food supplied. You must present your meal tickets for lunch; the lunch room will be in the back of the car shop behind the exhibits. Exit the roundhouse doors at the end of the glass windows behind the Car British Columbia and enter the car shop behind the O Gauge layout; see your map for details.
5. Is there a travel allowance? This event is being put on by the museum with mostly volunteer members as a fundraising event to help keep the railway museum in operation and to raise funds to update exhibits. We may consider honorariums to assist with transportation costs, but only for exhibits from a considerable distance.
6. Where will we be setting up? Can we drive in to unload? We have 2 buildings available for displays.
 - a. The Roundhouse: You cannot drive inside the Roundhouse, but there are entrance doors at either end of the building. A limited # of dollies may be available. We would like to have vendors and smaller layout exhibits set up in the Roundhouse. The Roundhouse has a flat cement floor with sunken railway tracks in the floor.
 - b. The Car Shop: For those requiring drive in unloading, the car shop behind the Roundhouse is available, but it does have tight turns to get in. The car shop will be available for larger layouts, those running live steam and trains running with smoke units. The floor in the car shop is paved with railway tracks in the floor. The doors will be open during operation for fresh air flow. We may have some warming tents.
7. What parking is available? There is a large parking lot for guests, across the road, which will be free. For vendors and exhibitors, we will provide you with a parking pass for the weekend. There will be a very limited number of parking spaces on the RMBC site for those with difficulty walking and with equipment to bring in. If you park on the RMBC site, for visitor safety you must be in the parking lot before 9:30 am and will not be able to leave the site till after 5:15 pm.
8. Saturday night dinner, social; The WCRA is looking at hosting a dinner social for layout groups / exhibitors / vendors, if possible, at a local restaurant on Saturday March 18. More information to follow.
9. Why is this called a model train & hobby show? While our primary focus for this weekend is model trains, most families have an interest in multiple hobbies. We also want to make this worthwhile for our vendors, including many hobby shops, who have a wider spectrum of hobby items available for sale. Similar to other model train and hobby shows in the past, we hope to attract a wider audience.
10. Our hours allow for folks driving a distance from the city an easier starting time at 10 am. We close at 4 pm Sunday to allow for take down and return home at a reasonable hour. Driving time from Vancouver is under an hour.
11. We will do our best to accommodate all applications, but it will depend on space. Please get your applications in early as we will allocate space based on date received.
12. Code of Conduct, acceptable display; This is a family show with young children present. We encourage exhibitors to be mindful of this in your conduct during the weekend and in your language and conversations, as families will be within earshot. Non-hobby related or non-wholesome merchandise or exhibits are not accepted.

13. Security staff will be present through the weekend, with facilities locked up overnight. We do have video monitoring throughout the site and buildings.
14. Covid precautions will be as determined by the province of British Columbia Health orders issued at the time of the show. In the event we are forced to close due to provincial regulations we will offer full refunds.
15. Please note that winter tires are required on the Sea to Sky highway till March 31
16. If you wish to attend, please fill in the application form and e-mail to the;
“Railway Museum of British Columbia; Sea to Sky Model Train & Hobby Show 2023” at trainshow@wcra.org or mail to;
West Coast Railway Association, PO Box 2387, Stn. Main, Squamish BC V8B 0B6
For Vendors, make cheque payable to West Coast Railway Association. You can make an e-transfer payment to finance@wcra.org please contact them to arrange the transfer or mail a cheque be sure to include your club/group/vendor’s name in the e-mail.
When we receive your application, we will send you a confirmation with reservation # that you are registered. (Let us know if you submit an application and do not get a response.)