

The 4th Division of the Pacific Northwest Region of the  
National Model Railroad Association Presents

# The Skagit Valley & Whidbey NMRA Clinic

## Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Location: Summer Hill meeting room in Oak Harbor.

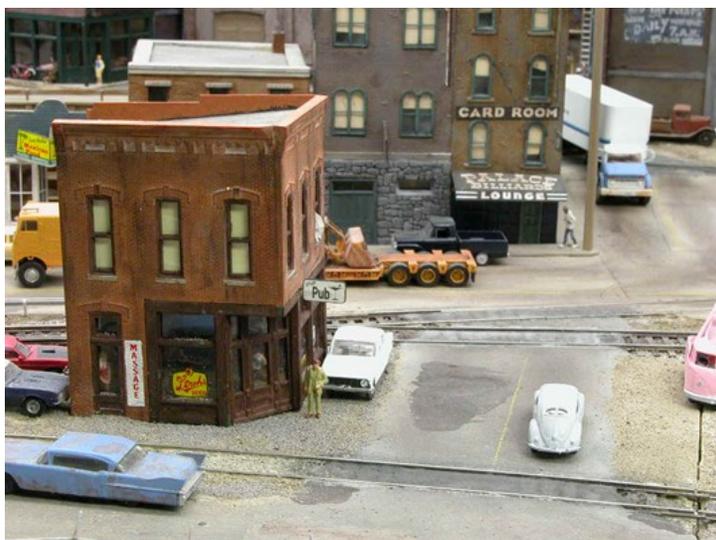
Time: 7:00 PM

## Realistic Roads & Streets



Al Carter will present a clinic on making realistic roads and streets, including street trackage, that is applicable to all scales - yes, even N-scale! Items to be covered include:

1. Comparing concrete to asphalt streets and roads.
2. Modeling materials and tools used to convincingly model streets and roads.
3. Street trackage, including carving your own cobblestones.
4. Weathering the roadway, and adding details, like centerline striping, pothole repairs, etc.
5. What NOT to do!



The Skagit Valley & Whidbey NMRA Clinic						
Model Railroad Calendar for February 2013						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
						<b>Monroe Train Show</b>
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
			<b>Clinic at Summer Hill @ 7:00 Roads!!</b>			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		March 2nd
						Olympia Model Railroad Layout Tour

**Further information about February events:**

The biggest model train event of the year is of course: Feb 2-3, Monroe, WA  
 The **United Northwest 22nd Model Railroad Show and Swap Meet** to benefit Snohomish County 4-H Foundation, Evergreen State Fairgrounds 14405 179th Avenue SE Monroe, WA 98272 The 2013 Show will be in the same area but in different buildings. Hours: Sat. 9AM - 5PM Sun. 9AM - 4PM. Admission (100% Goes to Charity): Adults (18+): \$8.00 Juniors(10-18): \$6.00 Seniors (65+): \$6.00 Kids (9 & under): FREE! w/paid adult Admission Valid for Both Days! Free Parking! For more info see <http://www.unwclub.org/unwshow.html>.

**Pacific Model Loggers Congress** at Camp 18 in Elsie Oregon is happening on March 2nd.

<http://www.pacificmodelloggerscongress.com/>

Something to plan towards for logging interested modelers. Also they have a good variety of logging model contest categories that is fun to build something for. At the very least it is a good excuse to drive out to the WA/OR coast during the avoiding and traffic.

**CLINIC IDEAS NEEDED**

Please help make the 2013/2014 clinic season the best ever! We have some terrific volunteer speakers that we hope you will enjoy, but we really need ideas about what you want to see for clinics. Whether it is a skill building “make n’ take” or a topic that we haven’t presented before, model or prototype, please send me an email at: [fishnutzoo@frontier.com](mailto:fishnutzoo@frontier.com) or call me at (360) 679-6819 or my cell phone at (360) 550-7410. I promise to present every idea that is given to me. Thanks for your help!

Susan Gonzales  
 Clinic Organizer

off season,  
 the crowds

## Last Month's Clinic:

Stolen from Al Carter's Grab Iron writeup - hey, no sense in reinventing the wheel.....

Al Carter, Photos by Al Frasch

There were over 30 people gathered at the Summer Hill Retirement Facility in Oak Harbor on January 9<sup>th</sup> for the first Skagit/Whidbey Clinic of 2013. The topic of the evening was locomotive tune-ups by John Mann.

John's co-clinician, Tom Hawkins, wasn't able to attend, so John ably filled up the allotted time, talking about basic tune-up procedures on both diesel and steam locos. John emphasized the need to not over-lubricate loco's, as it results in a build up of gunk and crud. John recommends products from Hob-E-Lube as lubricants. For cleaning loco wheels, John's method is to use a hemostat to hold a folded piece of paper towel soaked in 91% alcohol (the 70% type contains too much water), and running it over the wheels. Another tip: for adding weight to your locomotive (and rail cars, for that matter), check out the Pinewood Derby displays, as they often have products for weighing race cars, in many sizes and shapes, including tungsten paste (moldable).

A couple of new folks showed up, including Al Jones from Samish Island (recently transplanted from Connecticut), Eric Erickson of Anacortes, who gave a clinic last spring on logging railroads, and Tom Buckingham from Camano Island. Years ago, before his move to Camano Island, Tom used to attend the Eastside Clinic. Welcome, guys!

Jay and Sally Huff dug deep into their closet and found a whimsical model of an Auto Train diesel (U-Boat, I think) that Jay had, ah, modified way back in the mid-70's by adding oversized "slicks", as well as a high performance engine and exhaust. This was a "back at you" barb directed (way back then in the early days of the Whidbey Island Model RR Club) at Al Carter, who, being a diesel fanatic, had painted a small 0-6-0 steam engine, pink. Touche, Jay!



# The Miscellaneous Information Page

## Remember: The S V & W NMRA Group has its own Yahoo! Online Group!

As mentioned at the last couple clinics concerning social media information sharing, Rich Blake has created a Yahoo Groups page for our use. It is the Skagit Valley & Whidbey Model Railroading group or sv\_and\_w. The links below will take you directly to the group. In order to post you must have a Yahoo! account which is simple to set up. The moderator (Rich or one of the AIs) will also have to accept you as a member. This is a private group that is not open to the public, it is designed for club use only. We can post any questions or information for each other on this group as well as photos and files. If you have railroading stuff to sell then this could be a medium for advertising as well. For real-time information it is hard to beat and all messages are archived and searchable. The cost? Free!

The Link: [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sv\\_and\\_w](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sv_and_w) (note those underscores)

To get ahold of the list moderator i.e. Rich Blake: [sv\\_and\\_w-owner@yahoogroups.com](mailto:sv_and_w-owner@yahoogroups.com)

At last check at the end of January, we are still at 19 members of the group, so consider joining today!!

## 10th Annual Olympia Model Railroad Layout Tour

From Scott Buckley in Olympia: "Be sure to mark your calendars for Saturday, March 2nd, as this is the date of the 10th Annual Olympia Model Railroad Layout Tour. There will be at least eight layouts on the tour. Various scale and gauge combinations will be represented, including N, HO, On30 and 3/8n20. Some of the layouts have been featured in national publications, and some have been on national convention tours. Most of the layouts are in various stages of construction, which will give visitors an opportunity to see each builder's construction methods. As with previous years, a few of the layouts will be open early, while a few will stay open later; which will give visitors the opportunity to see as many layouts as possible.

"We hope that you will take the opportunity to visit our layouts. As I say every year, there aren't many chances to see these many layouts at one time without spending the money to attend a convention. Additional information will be provided in late January. In the meantime, please contact me if you have any questions. [sbuckley54@comcast.net](mailto:sbuckley54@comcast.net)"

## Read the *Grab Iron*, our Division's online Newsletter

Fourth Division, Pacific Northwest Region, NMRA website: <http://www.4dpnr.org/index.htm>

Anyone can access this page and all sub-topics (except Members Only, which is primarily just BOD meeting minutes, etc). Of particular interest is the Timetable: <http://www.4dpnr.org/Timetable.htm> and the Grab Iron: <http://www.4dpnr.org/Grab-Iron.htm>. You can subscribe to the Grab Iron by sending in an e-mail and you will receive a reply allowing you to choose which categories to subscribe to: [http://4dpnr.org/grabiron/?page\\_id=118](http://4dpnr.org/grabiron/?page_id=118) - easiest: just to subscribe to all. Best of all, it's free!

## Tool Of The Month/Show-n-Tell

"Tool Of The Month" is an ongoing segment at the Skagit Valley & Whidbey Clinic. Please consider bringing along something to show and describe: a tool that you'd like to share with the clinic members that is cheap, maybe kind of unique, and makes things easier in your modeling. Please limit your presentation to no more than 1 to 2 minutes, and also, please provide us with a source for your tool. Likewise, feel free to bring a recent project to 'show off' to the group!!



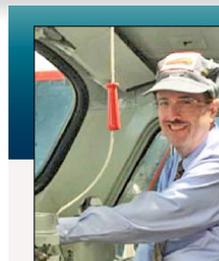
## Blown Glass Steam Engine

If you haven't seen this, it is worth the time for you 'steamers' out there. [see at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=73txXT21aZU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=73txXT21aZU) ]

This Model of Stephenson's Steam Engine was made in 2008 by master glassblower Michal Zahradnik. The crankshaft is glass. The piston is glass. The counterweight that makes the wheel spin evenly is glass. Imagine that everything is made out of glass. There are no sealants used. All is accomplished by a perfectly snug fit. The gap between the piston and its compartment is so small, that the water that condensates from the steam seals it shut!

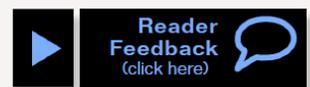
## Read How Nick Muff's Layout Is Coming Along

Nick Muff shows in the January issue of the online, and FREE, Model Railroad Hobbyist how he has been constructing the new part of his layout up in Sedro-Woolley. Go to <http://model-railroad-hobbyist.com/> where you can download the magazine to your desktop, read it online or even download it to your ipad or other device. All the old issues are available there also.



### Mainline south, continued

Doing roadbed, backdrop, and lighting



Getting Real column: Adventures in prototype modeling  
by Nick Muff

**Rich Blake showed some stuff for advanced weathering at the last clinic.** Some of the materials were favorites of the car and airplane modelers. The information about them is listed below:

Here are links to the stuff he mentioned at the meeting for advanced weathering materials:

AK-Interactive series paints/pigments/washes @ <http://www.ak-interactive-usa.com>

MIG oil paints and pigments @ <http://stores.ebay.com/Dragon-Hobby>

Another item probably underutilized by RR modelers is Vallejo Acrylic Paints. Best acrylics of all, dry fast, non-toxic. Comes in eye dropper bottles instead of typical mini-jars which end up with the lids stuck on them. He says that he would put the hobby acrylic paints in this order in terms of quality:

1 Vallejo

2 Tamiya

3 Poly Scale

4 Testors

5 the rest, don't bother

Vallejo paint selection: @ <http://www.dragonmodelsusa.com/dmlusa/prodlist.asp?tlcode=VAL>

The rest of the paints can be obtained from Performance R/C Hobbies in Burlington.

As an aside, Al Carter adds: "... there is a fine scale modeler named Karl Osolinski that posts on one of the forums that I frequent, and he does use craft paints and gets incredible results. He dilutes them 3:1 with blue windshield washer fluid and brushes the paint mixture on (say, a Jordan vehicle). Incredible results - looks airbrushed!" Okay, who just decides to use windshield washer fluid?!? If you try this, let us know how it works.

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## Stillaguamish Valley Pioneer Museum

It was mentioned at the last clinic that there was a museum in Arlington that had some railroad related items that might be worth visiting. Iver Johnson sent the internet address:

<http://www.stillymuseum.org/>



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## The SV&W Loaning Library

Susan has been busy updating our list of books that members are willing to loan out. All you have to do is contact the owner before a monthly clinic, they would then bring it, loan it and presto, you have access to a greater number of titles than any of us could afford! The current list is available just by sending a note to Susan Gonzales or Rich Blake. [The January Newsletter has it attached to the newsletter distribution email.]

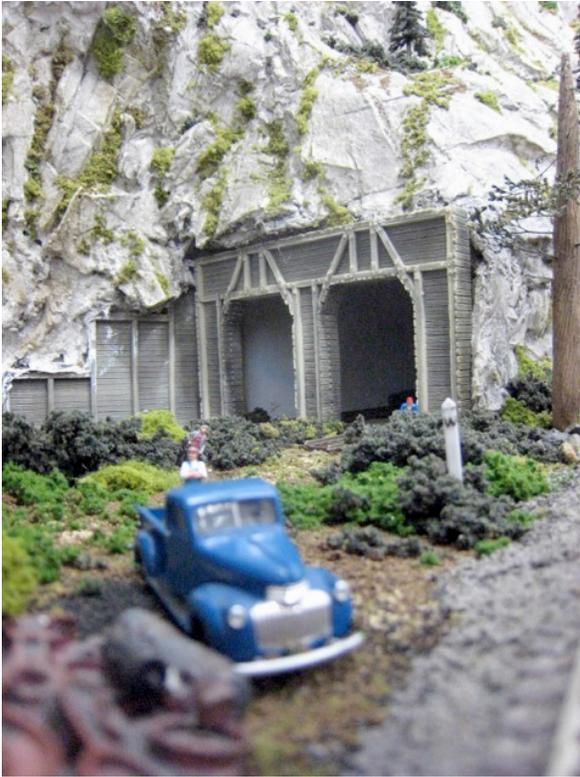
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## Pre-Clinic Dinner Get-Together: Pizza +!

We will again be getting together at the  
San Remo Mediterranean Grill in Oak Harbor [421 NE Midway Blvd] at about 5:15.  
They have pizza, pastas, Greek specialities, seafood and salads!

*If you have any information, good websites, things for sale of a model railroad nature or whatever, send me a note and I will add it to this page in the future editions as space permits.*

## Local Layout Progress



If you have been following the adventures of **Jim Tartas** and the making of mountains, you will see that he has now come nearly to the end. They are tinted, weathered and covered with trees and other vegetation. Looks good!



**Rich Blake** sent some photos of his scratch built O scale oil tank for his On30 Bay Logging Co. Modules - which can be seen at the Monroe Show if you are reading this before February 2nd. He used a Redbull can, some wine bottle cap tin and a toilet paper roll to make the tank. Rivets were punched with a dulled straight pin along a machinist's scale. The dome is a cut up fuel tank from a 1/24<sup>th</sup> scale dragster. The piping is 12 gauge electrical wire with pin striping tape used to create the joints. Guitar string is used for the counterweight lead and an N-scale brake wheel was used for the outlet valve. Strip wood and plenty of NBWs [that's Nuts, Bolts & Washers to the non-scratch builders out there] make up the rest of the structure. Also the dome pressure relief pipe is a header tube from an auto model and the cap is the top of a capacitor that he gutted and cut in half. You never know what can be used for model building. He will be doing a clinic on scratchbuilding for next season - maybe a hands on clinic.



## Prototype Stuff



From <http://www.dogcaught.com/>, A Railroad Blog with excellent pictures from around the Northwest!

This from the “There is a Prototype for Everything” file, a local in central Montana with more locomotives than freight cars! So, the next time I send someone out on the Pilchuck Division with several locomotives and only one or two cars, don’t look at me funny, that is just prototypical railroading.....

This is from an excellent website called *dogcaught: a railroad blog* where one can see pictures that a gentleman from the Portland area, Steve Eshom, takes around the Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana area. Check in once in a while - he does some great railroad photography. It is at: [www.dogcaught.com/](http://www.dogcaught.com/)

And now for something completely different.....



### And, don't forget:

The “**Magic of Scale Model Railroading**” exhibit at the California State Railroad Museum (CSRM) is in the midst of fundraising. An anonymous donor has pledged \$250,000 in matching funds and, as of late January, donations of \$50,000 were still needed to achieve the match. The exhibit is expected to cost between \$500,000 and \$750,000. The “**Magic of Scale Model Railroading**” exhibit will be seen annually by 600,000 visitors to CSRM. If you would like to contribute, email [nmrahq@aol.com](mailto:nmrahq@aol.com) or phone 424-892-2846 or send a letter with your pledge to NMRA Headquarters  
4121 Cromwell Rd.  
Chattanooga TN 37421  
Please make sure to specify your pledge is for the exhibit.

Here is a further info link from the museum itself:  
<http://m.csrnf.org/events-exhibits/whats-new/railroad-museum-announces-exhibit-partnership-with-national-model-railroad-association>

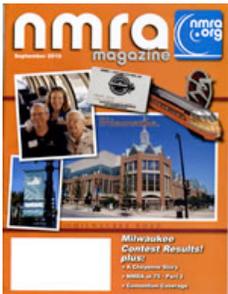
# If you are not already a member, please consider joining the NMRA

**What is the NMRA?** The NMRA is the National Model Railroad Association, Inc. It is a non-profit educational association whose purpose is both to promote the hobby of model railroading, and to help set standards within the industry. But the NMRA is far more personal than that. The NMRA is people - people across the globe, people in your area, and people just down the street who love model railroading and want to help others get that same enjoyment out of the hobby. Members at all levels of the NMRA are eager to share their knowledge and friendship.

**Division** There are over 150 NMRA Divisions - groups of NMRA members in local communities. Most hold regular meetings featuring interesting and informative presentations on subjects ranging from "how-to" clinics to prototype railroad slide presentations. Many also have a regular newsletter for members.

**Regions** There are 17 NMRA Regions across the globe and each Region is made up of many Divisions. Regions usually hold annual or semi-annual conventions which can include presentations and clinics, as well as tours to model layouts, prototype tours, and even banquets and swap meets. All Regions have a member newsletter.

**National** Every summer the NMRA National Convention brings together its members for a week of clinics, contests, layout tours, prototype excursions, the "National Train Show"<sup>®</sup>, and dozens of other exciting activities. Every year it's held in a different city, so it makes an ideal family vacation.



Being a member of the NMRA entitles you to a multitude of services, all geared toward expanding your enjoyment of the hobby. Every month our large, four-color magazine, *NMRA Magazine*, will update you on NMRA activities on a Divisional, Regional, and National level. It also includes informative modeling or prototype articles.

When the NMRA was founded in 1935, model railroading was in its infancy, without standards that ensured interchangeability. The NMRA was the organization that set those Standards and Recommended Practices which still guide manufacturers and consumers alike. In fact, the NMRA recently set the manufacturing standards that continue to guarantee the compatibility of different brands of DCC equipment.



The Kalmbach Memorial Library just may be the largest railroad reference and research center in the world, containing over 100,000 prototype photos, 6,000 books, and more than 50,000 modeling, prototype and historical society magazines. Every day it answers dozens of members' questions about everything from model to prototype railroading. NMRA members can get answers to questions; printouts of the periodical database; videotapes and tape/slide clinics, and discounts on research services, photo reproductions, surplus books and magazines

The NMRA's Achievement Program, or "AP," is designed to help modelers improve their skills and get more enjoyment out of their hobby. In addition, it gives recognition to those members who have displayed a high degree of skill or service to the hobby. The Achievement Program helps give you the skills that let you build a model railroad you can be proud of.

## So, Why join the NMRA?

- Kalmbach Memorial Library - perhaps one of the finest resources available to anyone interested in railroads or model railroads... members get special discounts and first crack at special releases.
- Fellowship of other modelers
- The Achievement Program - there's no better way to improve your modeling
- Regional and National conventions
- Access to Master Model Railroaders - they come from all over the world to the National convention. MMRs attend most Regional and Divisional functions, too! (MMR list by Number, by Region.)
- Monthly *NMRA Magazine*
- Insurance coverage for club layouts, meets and shows
- NMRA Standards & Recommended Practices
- Heritage & Living Legends Collector Cars
- Participation in photo, slide and model contests with fellow members
- Pike Registry -- Register your model railroad name
- 100% NMRA Club - The extra benefits of having all of your rail club members also members in the NMRA

When you're an NMRA member, you're automatically a member of your Region and Division without paying additional dues.

Click on any of the underlined items to go to the NMRA page for more information on that topic!

Go to [www.NMRA.org](http://www.NMRA.org) on the internet for membership forms!

# Skagit Valley & Whidbey NMRA Clinic Schedule 2012/2013

Notes: All regular meetings are held at the Summer Hill Community in Oak Harbor from September through June on the dates shown starting at 7:00pm or as otherwise announced.

NMRA Membership is encouraged

See [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org)

DATE	SUBJECT
Aug 8 <sup>th</sup>	Annual Potluck BBQ at John Marshall's
Sept 19 <sup>th</sup>	Logging and Live Steam by Eric Erickson
Oct 10 <sup>th</sup>	Mini Clinics
Nov 14 <sup>th</sup>	The Tabooma County Railway: Choosing a Private Roadname— Developing a Plausible History by Al Carter
Dec 5 <sup>th</sup>	Annulled
Jan 9 <sup>th</sup>	Locomotive Tune-ups (both steam and diesel) by John Mann and Tom Hawkins
<b>Feb 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Streets &amp; Highways, Including Street Trackage by Al Carter</b>
Mar 13 <sup>th</sup>	Track Construction Methods in the Real World by John White
Apr 10 <sup>th</sup>	DCC Sound Systems Hands-On Test Track by Bill Harper/John Mann
May 8 <sup>th</sup>	Backdrop Clinic by Al Carter and Jack Tingstad
Jun 12 <sup>th</sup>	Open House at Dick Haines

### Volunteers or Press Ganged

NMRA Liaison and Reportage	Al Carter
Keeper of the Purse [aka the Bucket]	Iver Johnson
Layout Design Aficionado	Tom Hawkins
The DCC & Audio Visual Main Mann	John Mann
Newsletters and Announcement Flyers	Al Frasch
Refreshments	Phil Gonzales
Keeper of the Rolls[aka the Membership Roster]	Al Carter
Clean-up Artists	- open -
The Tin Can Gaffers	Curt and Iver Johnson
Competition Shepherd	- open -
Program Organizer	Susan Gonzales
Clinic Chair	Rich Blake