

The Skagit Valley & Whidbey NMRA Clinic

Wednesday, October 9, 2013

Meeting at 7:00 at Summer Hill [165 SW 6th Avenue, Oak Harbor] 2nd floor meeting room.

Come See a Four Mini-Clinic Clinicfest!!

1. John White will give a short presentation on **Dry Print Lettering for Rolling Stock and Buildings**. Dry print lettering is a great way to decal locos, coaches, freight cars and buildings, particularly on a freelanced layout. It is easy to do but there are a few simple tricks to help the process along. All John's over 130 pieces of rolling stock have been dry print lettered – some with extensive lettering and samples will be shown.



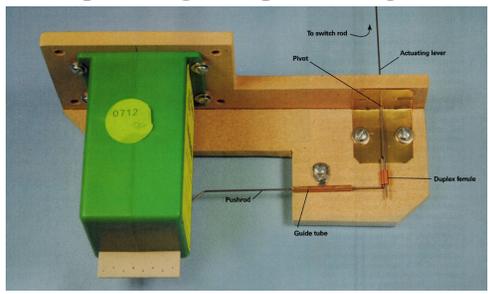
2. Cliff Aaker will give a presentation on **Making Hemlock Trees**.

3. Rich Blake will show how he does **Scratchbuilding with Common Materials**: In this clinic you will see some ideas for using everyday things to make items for your models and scenery. It's fun to use your imagination to design and create things. It also saves you a lot of money from buying kits and ready made scenic doo-dads. We will explore uses of materials from wine bottle tins to chewed up dog toys.



4. Rich Thom with **"Having Fun in a Cramped Space"** talks about some problems encountered when he tried to cram too much operation--and too much track--in a small room: lots and lots of no. 4 turnouts; wye turnouts; tracks too close to layout edges; 4.5% grades etc. Lack of planning also placed L-girders directly beneath a series of turnouts, so when he decided to use Tortoises to

throw them rather than oversize ground throws, he had to make a number of simple brackets to extend the "reach" of the switch motors. They are simple and versatile and can be used in any situation where one needs to locate a switch motor some distance away from what it is moving.



The Skagit Valley & Whidbey NMRA Clinic						
Model Railroad Calendar for October 2013						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
						Lynden Train Show Sat and Sun
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
			Clinic 7:00 @ Summer Hill			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
						RAILS BY THE BAY Monroe 9AM-5PM
27	28	Next Month:	Open house: November 2 and 3 at the Anacortes Club			
			November: Nov. 16-17 The Great Train Expo at the Puyallup Fairgrounds			

Further information about events:

October 5/6 is the **29TH Annual Lynden International Model Railroad and Circus Builders Show** up in Lynden, hence the name Lynden See www.lyndentrainshow.com/ for more information.

October 26: The 2013 Edition of **RAILS BY THE BAY, A Pacific Northwest Railroad Prototype Modelers Meet** At the Monroe Fairgrounds, Bldg. 501. "All scales, eras, and prototypes welcomed! Bring your models and dioramas to the Puget Sound event in October! Non-competitive, no intimidation, just share your work with other modelers and learn new ideas and techniques." See <http://www.northwestrpm.com> for more information. Admission is \$15, \$12 if you bring at least one model for display!

November 2/3: The Anacortes & Fidalgo Model Railroad Club will have its 18th Annual Open House from 10AM to 4PM each day. They are located in the basement at the north end of the building at 419 "Q" Ave in Anacortes - look for helpful signs on the sidewalk.

November 16/17: from their website:
The Great Train Expo is America's favorite traveling train show serving more states than any other show. Our shows feature operating model railroads, train dealers, collectors, hands-on exhibits, demonstrations, workshops, and much more! Many shows feature a riding train for kids. There is a play are for smaller engineers. It is a great way to spend the day whether you're an avid modeler or just looking for a fun and interesting day out with the family. See <http://www.greattrainexpo.com/> for more information.

September's Clinic:

By Al Carter / Photos by Al Frasch

The first Skagit/Whidbey clinic of the 2013/14 season found a group of about 30 attendees ready to get back to model railroading, after the wonderful summer we all experienced. I know I didn't get much done in the train room over the summer, but I have been surveying my backyard with respect to installing a garden railroad. Nice summers will do that to you, you know...

Clinic Chairman Rich Blake introduced several new members: Elizabeth Marshall of Oak Harbor (1:48 scale), and three HO modelers from Anacortes: Dick Schussler, Frank Thompson, and Bob Easton, all of whom live at Chandler's Square, and came down to the clinic with Bob Fulk, resident manager at the facility.

Al Carter spoke briefly about the upcoming PNR Convention in June of 2014, to be hosted by the Fourth Division. Al also mentioned the special "Marshall's Shipping" contest at the 2013 PNR Convention in Boise, that he, Ted Becker and Jack Tingstad attended. Al and Ted both entered this contest, in which entrants started with a Marshall's Shipping structure from Railroadkits.com and altered it to create a different business. Al made his into an "out of business" small engine repair company, and Ted made a boat building company that had expanded its product (the boat), but not the doorway to the building, so the boat was built but could not be removed from the building. Ted won the Most Humorous Award with his structure – Congratulations!

Al Frasch showed off some N scale mailboxes and fire hydrants he had built through Shapeways.com, a company that produces 3D-printed products in various scales. Go to their website and check it out – this is an up and coming technology that is here now and rapidly expanding.

Our guest speaker/clinician for the evening was Bob Gilbert, Manager of Railroad Operations for the Tesoro Refinery in Anacortes. Bob regaled the attendees with some background regarding moving the Bakken crude oil from North Dakota to Anacortes, then Bob showed a number of photos of the actual construction of the facility.

Typically, railroads prefer to use a balloon (or loop) track arrangement to bring in the trains for unloading, but due to the available "footprint" of land available at the Tesoro plant, this new facility was constructed as a long and narrow plant.

Once the environmental concerns had been addressed (and there were a lot), construction started. This is more than just some flat tracks laid out on the ground. There is a vast network of underground piping, and a huge rubber membrane, plus various concrete vaults and retaining walls in place to both move the crude oil, and to ensure protection for the ground if there were a leak.

The rail yard was built on top of all of this, and laid out as four separate unloading tracks. The track is CWR (Continuous Welded Rail), 136 lb/3 ft, and there is over 29,000 feet of track in the rail yard, laid on concrete ties



(John White was beaming at this news). The only non-concrete ties on site were used under turnouts, which were pre-fabricated on site and slid into place (They looked like Atlas Code 100 to me). The unloading "pad" is all concrete and measures 110'x1600'. There are two more tracks alongside the unloading pad that are used to reassemble the 100 car trains for their return journey across the country.

About the trains: BNSF runs 8 trains in continuous "loop" service between Anacortes and North Dakota, and each train is 100 cars long, with 4 locomotives, 2 on each



end in a "push-pull" arrangement. In a somewhat unusual arrangement, though, Savage Rail, Inc, an on-site contractor, takes over control of the unit train at the gate, and handles the actual switching – the train is broken into 4 segments, 25 cars each, for the afore-mentioned unloading tracks. A train can be unloaded in about 12 hours.

More fun facts: Each train has 2 "buffer cars", one at each end, and each train is 1 ¼ mile long, and each car carries 680 barrels per car (so my math tells me that each train hauls 68,000 barrels of oil). These tank cars were built new for this rail service, and are double hull and have double shelf couplers.

The company "UTLX" is contracted for on-site repairs, as any defective or damaged rail cars must be repaired before being allowed to leave the facility. Bob regaled us with his humor and description of some of the challenges that were faced. Truly a great clinic!

The Miscellaneous

Remember: The S V & W NMRA Group's Yahoo! Online Group!

The Skagit Valley & Whidbey Model Railroading group or sv_and_w is still accepting members. 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. 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. The cost? Free!

The Link: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sv_and_w (note those underscores)

To get a hold of the list moderator i.e. Rich Blake: sv_and_w-owner@yahoogroups.com

At last check at the end of the summer, we are up to 22 members of the group, so consider joining today!!

4th Division Communication

From Al Lowe, our 4D webmaster:

"We publicize local MR news in two ways: via the Digital Grab Iron (which used to be printed but is now online) and via the 4D email mail list.

To join the Digital Grab Iron:

Go to <http://4dpnr.org/grabiron/>

Click "Subscribe" at the top of the page.

Choose your areas of interest.

Whenever someone posts something about those areas, you'll get an email with a link to that story.

To join the email list:

Go to <http://4dpnr.org/>

Scroll down a little to two yellow boxes with "Subscribe" in big letters.

Enter your email address.

The left box is for 4D discussions.

The right box is for PNR regional discussions.

In each case, you will receive an email to confirm that you really do want to join. (We do this to keep others from signing you up without you knowing about it!)

Follow the instructions in each email to confirm.

Information Page

Pre-Clinic Dinner

We will once again get together for a Pre-Clinic dinner at the San Remo Mediterranean Grill in Oak Harbor [421 NE Midway Blvd] at about 5:15. They have an area reserved for the Skagit Valley & Whidbey Clinic. If you like Italian food, pizza or even Greek - come and enjoy the informal get together!

Another "local" is published!

A friend of the SV&W Clinic, Gary Jordan of Mukilteo has an article on his *Gilpin Tram* layout in the Sept/Oct **Narrow Gauge Gazette!!** Way to go!!

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!!

For all your hobby needs, don't forget our only remaining Local Hobby Shop - in our neck of the woods anyway - see Suzy at Performance R/C Hobbies in Burlington.

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Mon. - Thur. 10-6 Fri. 10-5 Sat. 10-3

Videos of the Month

A great video showing hump yard operations and train yard ops during the 1950s. Lot of fine details and operations that are rarely seen in model railroading.

http://youtu.be/_dhQq3oxpgQ



With the announcement that the Union Pacific will be restoring the 4014 Big Boy locomotive that is at Pomona, some videos to get an idea of what they are about to take on:

At Pomona: www.youtube.com/watch?v=TWpPeugUI44

A Pentrex video using UP promotional recordings from the late '50s, it runs for about 60 minutes: [/www.youtube.com/watch?v=S1txJ6u2b3c](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S1txJ6u2b3c)

Three UP videos from Pomona on what they have started to do already::

#1: <http://t.co/NJeY6W2wsV>

#2: <http://t.co/pa7ob7gVWC>

#3: <http://t.co/ku0VHeFOrx>

Each month I would like to list a few YouTube or other Train related video finds - so if you have some contributions, please let me know and I will list them here!

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 these pages in the future editions as space permits.

Found this in the *Model Railroad Hobbyist* online, FREE, magazine that seems to be oh so true:

Model Railroad Rules To Live By

1. The object of this hobby is to have fun.
2. Buy some freight and passenger cars to go with your gross of engines.
3. Never ever tell a fellow modeler your scale is better than his.
4. At some point stop planning and start building the layout.
5. Never put perfection in front of running the trains.
6. Pay close attention to the track work it can kill the fun.
7. Meet and bring your favorite engine, and have your friends bring their favorite engines.
8. Have a plan, and an era, so you don't buy a lot of stuff you don't need.
9. Listen to the critics, and weigh their suggestions, and then do what you think is best.
10. Never argue with a rivet counter, you will lose.
11. Good running engines and dependable rolling stock are required to really have fun.
12. You don't have to agree, with your fellow modelers, to be friends
13. Have a spare of all tools, for when you lose the first one.
14. Keep the lubrication supplies handy and use them sometimes.
15. Clean the track before the trains stop running.
16. Know your economics, time, and space resources and plan accordingly.
17. In this hobby "do overs" are a fact of life.
18. If you are a perfectionist, lighten up and cut the other people some slack.
19. If you are not a perfectionist, lighten up and cut them some slack.
20. Never ever forget rule one.

If you still don't subscribe to the Model Railroad Hobbyist, check out <http://model-railroad-hobbyist.com/> and remember, it is a free publication, paid for by the advertisers.

Local Layout Progress

Rich Blake went south in August to the *33rd National Narrow Gauge Convention* in Anaheim, California. He reported that it was a lot of fun and they were very busy with the On30 modular setup. Rich along with Mark Clemmons and Jerry Barnes of the PNW On30 Modules group took 10 modules down in a U-haul trailer to participate in the event. All told it was the largest On30 modular layout ever assembled with a record setting 66 modules. The most amazing thing was that it all worked within 4 hours of packing stuff in at 6AM on Wednesday. The layout ran nearly perfectly for the entire convention and they certainly put to rest any doubt about On30 being alive and well. If you want to get involved with the local On30 modular group see Rich Blake or Alan Murray.



Here are some links to photos and video that Rich supplied:

On30 photos: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/blakerich/sets/72157635397712458/>

On30 layout videos (copy links into your browser or go to YouTube and search for user "rblake3")

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yWNaZ6rr5Gs&feature=share&list=UUoZALJiYdhc07CmmH1xtT4g>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t4CgUfPM5RM&feature=share&list=UUoZALJiYdhc07CmmH1xtT4g>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AFfx7kiBjyc&feature=share&list=UUoZALJiYdhc07CmmH1xtT4g>

contest room (not Rich's photos)

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/23101722@N06/sets/72157635335791694/>



It is not too early to start thinking about attending the The NMRA 2015 National Convention in Portland, Oregon, August 23 - 29, 2015. It is right in our backyard and if you have not attended a national convention, you should at least once, especially with it being so close! They have their website up at www.nmra2015portland.org/

Skagit Valley and Whidbey NMRA Clinic

Schedule for 2013/2014

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

DATE	TOPIC	PRESENTOR(S)
August 14, 2013	Summer BBQ at John Marshall's in Coupeville	
September 11, 2013	Tesoro Crude Rail Operations	Bob Gilbert
October 9, 2013	Mini-Clinics: Decals	John White
	Hemlock trees	Cliff Aaker
	Scratchbuilding with common materials (i.e. free)	Rich Blake
	Tortoise in a tight spot	Rich Thom
November 13, 2013	Hydrocal Structures	Al Carter
December 11, 2013	All Things DCC/Decoder Pro	Ted Becker
January 8, 2014	Be a Rock Star/Make and Take Rocks with a special presentation by Jim Tartas on Bragdon's Geodesic foam/resin method	
February 12, 2014	Scenery Clinic	Tom Hawkins
	Backdrop painting	Jack Tingstad
February 22, 2014	Operating Sessions hosted by: Al Frasch, Jack Tingstad, Phil Gonzales, Dick Haines, Tom Hawkins	
March 12, 2014	Prototype Steam Locomotives	Sthathi Pappas
	CMO Mt. Rainier Scenic Railroad	
April 9, 2014	2 Views from Above/Structure Roofs/roof top detail	Al Carter
	Removable Mtns. w/Tunnels Construction Techniques	Norm Myers
May 14, 2014	Vehicle Lighting	Dr. Nick Muff
June 11, 2014	Air Brush Painting 101 (in Phil and Susan's backyard)	Rich Blake

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]	Jon Wilbert
Clean-up Artists	- open -
The Tin Can Gaffers	Curt and Iver Johnson
Competition Shepherd	- open -
Program Organizer	Susan Gonzales
Clinic Chair	Rich Blake



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