

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



The Skagit Valley & Whidbey NMRA Clinic

Wednesday, September 9th

The SV&W Model Railroading Clinic will meet at the Summer Hill location [165 SW 6th Ave] in Oak Harbor Wednesday, September 9th at 7:00pm for a clinic presented by the NMRA's PNR 4th Division Superintendent Russ Segner.

The DuPont Dynamite Narrow Gauge Railway

The DuPont Company established a dynamite factory on Puget Sound near Fort Lewis in 1906. This factory produced blasting materials well into the 70's and supplied logging, mining and construction projects all up and down the west coast and Alaska.

It was served by a three foot narrow gauge railway with extensive trackage throughout the 1000 acre site. Originally, the rail cars were moved by horses and a variety of "fireless cookers" and finally by this 12 tonner. Good photos and maps exist to help someone wanting to model this neat little railroad.



The line was abandoned in the 70's when Weyerhaeuser bought the plant site. Several pieces of equipment have been saved and two pieces of rolling stock restored. The 12 tonner operates for public events.

From the DuPont Museum website (<http://www.dupontmuseum.com/Train.aspx>):

The 36" gauge railway was selected by the DuPont Company to provide reliable transportation within its plant area and to the wharf on Puget Sound. Narrow gauge railways were a known reliable means of transportation, and most importantly, would provide the quality of ride required of the transport of explosives. It was much safer to transport explosives by rail or ships versus trucks or wagons going over pot-holed trails or roads. Trains from the DuPont Plant snaked their way down their steep north canyon wall of Sequelitchew Creek. The grade was steep, as the drop in elevation down to Puget Sound is approximately 300 ft.

The DuPont Plant and its fleets of trains supplied some of the largest construction projects in history including the Grand Coulee Grand, the Alaska Highway (Alcan Highway) and the Panama Canal. The plant helped meet the demands of WWI with a black powder facility and a nitrostarch factory. During WWII, the plant manufactured millions of pounds of explosives for forces in the Pacific. All of this product was transported by narrow-gauge trains down to ships at the DuPont Wharf.

Once again, we will be meeting at San Remo Mediterranean Grill in Oak Harbor [421 NE Midway Blvd] for a pre-clinic dinner starting at 5:15 if you are interested. They have very good pizza, pasta and Spumoni!

On the calendar:

If you are reading this before August 24th, you still have a chance to head down to Portland for the NMRA National Convention (nmra2015.sbcrailway.ca). Also, the National Train Show is that Friday - Sunday, August 28 through the 30th at the Portland Expo Center (NTS Website: www.nationaltrainshow.org)

From the PNR Timetable:**Sep 5-7, Snoqualmie, WA Antique Steam Train Makes Special Holiday Run.** Trains depart every 90 minutes beginning at 11:30 am from the Snoqualmie Depot at 38625 SE King Street and at Noon from the North Bend Depot at 205 E. McClellan Street. Roundtrip fares: \$12 children ages 2-12, \$20 adult ages 13-61, and \$18 senior ages 62 and up! Visitors to the museum experience the excitement of a working railroad while learning about the important role railroads played in shaping the character of the Pacific Northwest. Exhibits and interpretive signage are visible around the Snoqualmie Depot. Train Shed Tour Packages are also available with advanced reservation; contact the Museum Bookstore 425.888.3030 ext. 7202 for Train Shed Tour Package reservations. The depot and bookstore are open to the public 10:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m. daily. Info:- www.trainmuseum.org

Oct 3-4, Lynden, WA And, since we are basically down to only two model train shows in the Puget Sound region (the other being the Monroe Show in late Winter) , you might want to plan to attend the Lynden Lions Club 31st Annual International Model Train Show. Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4. Admission: Adults \$7; Family (up to 6 people) \$22; Seniors \$6; 6-12 \$5; under 6, free with an adult. Info:- www.lyndentrainshow.com

Our “sister” clinic, the Mount Vernon Model Railroad Clinic, meets every fourth Tuesday at the Mount Vernon Senior Center at 1401 Cleveland Street. Contact Al Carter (360-399-1226 / tabooma@msn.com) for further information.

“We have a Yahoo Groups page for our use and sharing of information. It is the Skagit Valley and 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. This is a private group that is not open to the public, it is designed for club use only. The Link: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sv_and_w (note those underscores)
If you have general railroading questions or would like to share railroading discussion with immediate locals or are even looking to sell some railroad stuff then this is the place to post information.”

Swap Table

Feel free to bring items to sell, trade or give away to any clinic meeting. Items need to be in the side room by 6:45 and, if for sale or trade, clearly marked as to the price and owner.

Planned Clinics for 2015/2016
as of August 2015

September 9, 2015

**The DuPont Dynamite Narrow Gauge Railway
Russ Segner**

October 14, 2015

Mini Clinics – various presentors
(if you have a miniclinic you would like to give, let Rich Blake or Susan Gonzales know!)

November 11, 2015

AP Clinic – NMRA round table

December 9, 2015

TBD
Dick Haines

January 13, 2016

Mystery Make 'n Take & Ice Cream!
Susan Gonzales

February 10, 2016

Contest/SHOW and tell – FLAT CAR LOADS
Jack Tingstad in charge!

March 9, 2016

Fences as scenery
Al Frasch

April 13, 2016

Tom Hawkins Open House

May 11, 2016

"The Lost Art of Railroad Hand Signals"
Ray Wheeler

Note: if you wish this newsletter to have anything to publish each month, it is up to you to send material to include — text and/or pictures — otherwise you may get an overdose of my layout pictures!

Flatcar Load Contest!

From Jack Tingstad, the contest coordinator extraordinaire!



Well, here it is, another season of model railroading operations and model building. As you no doubt recall, this season we are have a “contest” to help you do some imagining and building of unique flat car loads. Several categories of fun stuff have been



suggested. We could have one for scratch built flat cars with scratch built loads; and another for commercial flat cars and their scratch built loads. We’ll need to have a “most humorous” category for you jokers to vie for, I’m sure. We’ll talk about more possible categories at the September Clinic.

The loads could have some small commercial parts like NBW castings, chain, angle iron, or wood bracing etc., but no huge components like Chooch load parts (sorry Mike, we love your products, but not this time!).

So this is just a brief reminder to start thinking about your entry. To get started with ideas here are a few possibilities: Slabs of marble, ship propellers, junk railroad cars or engines, buses, lumber/logs, alien space ship, dinosaur in cage, pre-fab track sections, military vehicles, pipes, cable reels, and on and on. You could Google flat car loads or go to mrhmag.com and search “flat car loads.” There are dozens of articles in past issues to give you ideas.



Even one on building a truss rod flat car. So now is the time to ponder this most important activity of the next few months. We know we’re not like school kids and put it off until the night before “it’s due.” So get to it. The judging will most likely be in February.

