

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

The Skagit Valley & Whidbey NMRA Clinic

Wednesday, October 14th

The SV&W Model Railroading Clinic will meet at the Summer Hill location [165 SW 6th Ave] in Oak Harbor Wednesday, October 14th at 7:00pm for a clinic presented by four of our own clinic members!

Mini-Clinics

It's October and time for our annual Mini Clinic event! This is a chance for our members to contribute their knowledge on a smaller scale



than a full clinic. We have a stellar line up this year:



Beginning with Tom Hawkins presenting his version of bottle brush trees from scratch - like the commercial ones in the picture, only better.

Next up is our Grand Poobah, Rich Blake , who will demonstrate his method of using oil paints used by military modelers for weathering rolling stock and equipment.

Phil Gonzales will share his secret for creating a realistic metal texture to oil storage tanks.

For the grand finale, master model painter, Dave Clark will demonstrate masking for spray painting techniques.

It will be a fun and entertaining evening, see you all there!



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:

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

Nov. 14 - 15, Puyallup: Great Train Show at the Fairgrounds in Puyallup, 10am-4pm. See trainshow.com for details.

Our “sister” clinic, the Mount Vernon Model Railroad Clinic, meets every fourth Tuesday at the Mount Vernon Senior Center at 1401 Cleveland Street. Plans are not finalized for clinics for the rest of the season, but some topics you’ll be seeing are:

Scenery – Ground Covering (Mike O’Brien, XTrains.com)

Homosote Roadbed (Steve Cox, Cascade Rail Supply)

Installing a 1:1 scale locomotive cab in your basement (Nick Muff, MMR)

Scenery – Tree Making (Mike O’Brien, XTrains.com)

Detailing Steam Locomotives – Ted Becker

Mount Vernon Terminal Railway – George Stephenson

Contact Al Carter (360-399-1226 / tabooma@msn.com) for further information.

From Susan Gonzales: If you are interested in the trip to Snoqualmie’s **Northwest Railway Museum** to visit the shop where the steam engine 924 is being restored, please let me know as soon as possible. We have about 10 interested people right now and the tours are for 15 maximum. This is a carpool or drive yourself event on Saturday, October 24th. I have not made reservations yet. We can schedule this for a spring event if it doesn't work out for October. Also, I will be passing around a sign up sheet for a spring trip to Dr. Muff's lay out in Sedro Woolley. If you would like to attend but won't be at the meeting, please send me an email. My email address is:
fishnutztoo@frontier.com.

“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 September 2015

~~September 9, 2015~~ ————— ~~The DuPont Dynamite Narrow Gauge Railway~~
~~Russ Segner~~

October 14, 2015 Mini Clinics – various presenters

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 Fransch

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.

Judging will be in the following categories:

Scratch built flat and scratch built load

Commercial flat and scratch built load

Super detailed commercial flat with super detailed commercial load

Humorous scratch built load.

Within these categories you could have long loads, MOW permanent loads, excursion cars with loads, circus calliope or other Big Top stuff, or whatever your imagination comes up with that would fit into one of the categories. There will be prize money for "winners" in each of the four categories.



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.

Layout Progress

Remember to send pictures and write-ups about how your layout progress is coming along so that all can be inspired by your work. Below is a picture from Dick Haines (from his *Big Stump-Little Lump Lumber & Ore Rwy*) that is reflective of what we need. Send your "stuff" to me at afirsch@whidbey.com to be included here. You don't have to be a clinic attendee - just an interested participant in this wonderful hobby.



And for something a little different. In September, I attended the bi-annual VanRails operation weekend up in Vancouver, B.C. I had the pleasure of operating on John Green's layout when a train ahead of me had a little de-rail in a fairly long tunnel. John quickly was called and, seeing the situation, left the layout room and went out his front door. No, he didn't run screaming down the sidewalk yelling about what a bunch of idiots we were; he actually fixed the problem by opening a window and reaching into the tunnel. Now, that is a new way to allow for tunnel re-rails! Just glad it wasn't raining!

