

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

# The Skagit Valley & Whidbey NMRA Clinic

## Wednesday, November 11, 2009

Location: Summer Hill Community in Oak Harbor [second floor Community Room] - see map on page 4

Time: 7:00PM [6:45 to 'shop' at the Roger Ferris' Mart]

Business:

1. Introductions and items 'for the good of the order.'
2. "Show & Tell" and the **Sales Table** <---- lots of stuff this time - come early for this one!!!!
3. Roger Ferris presents a "Make-'n-Take" clinic.

### Clinic Presentation:



Roger Ferris

Roger Ferris & Bobj Berger will be with us on the 11th to present one of the acclaimed "Make-'n-Take" sessions which the Seattle Clinic has been presenting to their members to teach basic modeling skills for all scales over the past year. At one meeting they were presented with styrene materials and instructions and, coached by CJ Riley, Bobj Berger and Roger Ferris, they fabricated a complete structure in less than two hours! Then they took it home, for some as their first scratch built project.

So, bring a square, a steel straight edge, a cutting pad, a sharp X-Acto knife with #11 blade and a 6" or longer mill file. Roger will supply the rest, even if you "forget" these items, he will have the Seattle Clinic "Tool Chest" for you to borrow from. Everyone participates!

P.S. Come early because Roger Ferris will also be bringing a *Mart of Estate Sale* items for your consideration. This is an enormous amount of model railroad 'stuff' which Roger takes to different venues to sell for widow/widowers who find themselves with all that 'railroad junk' to get rid of....



# The SV&W Model Railroading Calendar for November 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b>	2	3	4	5	6	<b>Sat and Sun 7</b> <b>Anacortes &amp; Fidalgo MRC Open House</b> (see note below)
<b>8</b>  <b>A&amp;FMRC Open House</b>	9	10	11  <b>Clinic: Roger Ferris "Make &amp; Take" at 7:00</b>	12	13	<b>14</b>  BSME Open House @ Alger 11-4pm <a href="http://bsme.org">bsme.org</a>  Boeing Empl. Swap Meet Kent Commons 9:30-4 <a href="http://bemrrc.com">bemrrc.com</a>
<b>15</b>	16	17	18	19	20	<b>Sat and Sun 21</b>  World's Greatest Hobby Show @ Puyallup Fairgr. 10 - 5pm <a href="http://www.wghshow.com">www.wghshow.com</a>
<b>22</b>  WGHS @ Puyallup 10 - 4pm	23	24	25	26	27	<b>Sat and Sun 28</b>  <b>Jack Tingstad's Annual Public Open House 10 - 4pm</b>
<b>29</b> Jack is at 508 Broadway in Coupeville Please bring an item for the Food Bank Contact Jack if you want to help run trains	30	<b>Future stuff:</b> - The 4th Division will put on the PNR Regional Convention next summer and could use some volunteers - e-mail Stu Rogers at <a href="mailto:sturogers@comcast.net">sturogers@comcast.net</a>  - The 4th Division puts on the annual Pacific Science Center Train Show in January and could use some volunteers to help put it on. Contact Frank Dekker at <a href="mailto:rekkedrails@juno.com">rekkedrails@juno.com</a> or Jeff Moorman at <a href="mailto:kb7rr@arrl.net">kb7rr@arrl.net</a> .  - Feb 6 & 7th is the 19th Annual Train Show & Swap Meet in Monroe!!				

The Anacortes & Fidalgo Model Railroad Club is located at 419 "Q" Ave in the north part of Anacortes. It is a wonderful HO scale layout with many scratch built items - a replica of the BNSF Railroad Swing bridge across the Swinomish channel and a scratch built Mi-Jack Intermodal crane just to mention two. The Open House is Saturday and Sunday, the 7th and 8th from 10am - 4pm. It is located in the basement of the building, enter on the north end of the building - there will be signs around somewhere - enjoy!

Also, Art Fournier, an A&FMRC member, will have a Model Railroad Open House. Hours will be 10:00am to 4:00pm on Saturday November 7, 2009. Address is 8853 Stevenson Road (at the Summit Park Storage). Gate will be open to allow entry into storage lot. Signs will be to the left. Directions from Anacortes would be: Head east on Hwy 20 toward Burlington, turn right at Frontier Ford car lot, turn left at first intersection, storage lot will be on left. Art's e-mail is: [a4near@hotmail.com](mailto:a4near@hotmail.com)



If you are interested in a free, yes I did say free, online model railroad magazine just log on to <http://model-railroad-hobbyist.com/>. This is the fourth issue of the Joe Fugate created magazine and has actually been getting bigger and bigger with each issue and the quality is pretty good - I mean, its FREE, so what is there to complain about??? (Hey, John Mann, checkout the roundhouse article!)



## Operation Sessions:



So far two layouts in the Skagit Valley & Whidbey Clinic area offer operating sessions on their layouts. It is hoped that other layouts will "come on line" in the next year or so, thus broadening the possibilities for operations - once you have begun operations in a realistic manner, just watching trains run around in circles no longer is enough. Here is a couple pictures from recent operations on Jack Tingstad's and my (Al Frasch) layouts - consider joining us in the future and getting your layout into operations.



## The Last Clinic:



A record number of model railroaders - 36 - turned out to hear Dick Billings of **Fine-N-Scale Products** in Anacortes and a member of the Bellingham

Society of Model Engineers (BSME) give a wonderful presentation about how he came to be in the model railroad manufacturing business, what goes into making resin products and even did a resin pour of wrapped flatcar loads as he talked - which were then given to those in attendance - thanks Dick!! Previously, our "Diorama Shepherd," David Laws gave a quick hands on presentation on how to start the modeling of a river bed out of foam board and bluefoam.



**Door Prizes were donated by the good people at Performance R/C Hobbies in Burlington 360-755-9464**

An aerial photograph of a large, L-shaped building with a dark grey roof. The building is surrounded by parking lots with several cars and some greenery. Three colored arrows are overlaid on the image: a red arrow pointing from the left towards the top-right corner of the building; a green arrow pointing from the left towards the bottom-right corner of the building; and a blue arrow pointing from the left towards the bottom-left corner of the building.

1. The staff member will have no way of knowing the caller is a bona fide member of our group and
2. We do not want our group to become a nuisance to the night staff by calling them down to open the door if we can avoid it. Hence, please be prompt.



## Some pictures from local layouts (and layouts to be)

The *Eastern Sierra Pacific*, by Phil & Susan Gonzales, is moving right along up in their garage in Oak Harbor. It is possible that there may even be an operation session or two before the season is up!! Rumor has it that Susan has caught the dreaded Operations Bug.... Stay tuned for more of their excellent work. Photo by Jim Tartas.



From over the other side of the pond, like Seattle, Bob McLean, (a regular at local operation sessions) has been hard at work on his double decked, 5'X10' layout - just needs a lot of trees and other scenery now!  
Photo by Bob McLean

Now if you don't want me to start putting in lots of pictures of my railroad again, you need to send in pictures of what you are up to!! Also, if you are participating in the "288 Challenge," why not let us see what you are doing so we can see your progress - we promise not to copy!!

The economy which has reduced the need for railroad equipment has caused the major railroads to furlough much of their equipment until the economy improves enough to warrant their returning to the active roster. The seven Class I roads currently (as of September) have about 4850 locomotives out - which represents a string of locomotives approximately **65 miles long**, or enough to go from Burlington to Seattle. Just the three railroads, UP, BNSF and NS, have about 125,000 freight cars idled - enough strung together to go from the **Canadian border to the Mexican border**. So, the next time you see a model railroad with what looks like an abundance of rolling stock just 'hanging around,' this just might be representing a prototypical downturn in the economy of the layout.....



## The Life of a Diesel Locomotive

I recently purchased an Atlas model of a BNSF GP 9 #1633 which was in the correct livery for the May 1998 era in which I model. I got to thinkin' - I wonder how this locomotive came to be on the BNSF roster and where did it go after it was deemed to be not needed. Fortunately, the internet has several wonderful sites for researching railroad equipment and finding photos of most such equipment. My favorite site for pictures is [www.rrpicturearchives.net](http://www.rrpicturearchives.net). They have pictures arranged by railroad, locomotive and freight car type. An astounding number of photos available with a simple search.

Below is the photo history of BNSF 1633:

GP9 BNSF 1633 was built in July 1954 as Serial #19624, Frame #5354-16 by EMD as CBQ 285 (sister loco to CBQ 280 shown here).



It then became BN 1970 before taking on BNSF colors after the merger between BN and Santa Fe.



After retirement from BNSF, it became TTLX 1633 by 1/05, TXR 102 by 5/06



and TXNW 116 by 5/07.

All Photos from [www.rrpicturearchives.net](http://www.rrpicturearchives.net)

# The “288 Challenge” Information

## Skagit Valley and Whidbey NMRA Group – Diorama Building Contest.

At our penultimate meeting at Jack Tingstad’s home in May it was suggested by David Laws that we organize a diorama building contest as part of our 2009/2010 program.

To further this idea, at the September meeting each member will be given a piece of two inch thick Styrofoam 12” X 24” [288 sq.in.] on which to build his/her diorama. If you need to build a smaller diorama as a “pop-out” on your own pike then make the “pop-out” part of the 24” X 12” diorama.

The resulting masterpieces will be judged by Jack Hamilton, MMR., the President of the Pacific North West Region of the NMRA., at the March 10th. meeting in 2010. A six month window in which to think about it , start it, think again and restart it, working to completion by March 2010.

This contest will be known as “The 288 Challenge” and the winners will be awarded a magnificent prize of as yet undetermined value and consist. Notice the word winners as besides a Grand Prize Winner chosen by Jack Hamilton, other prizes will be chosen by a Popular Vote; Funniest; Most Original/Creative; and possibly a Novice prize, if we can define a Novice.!

The name of the participant should be written on the bottom of the foam and should not be visible when judging takes place.

The rules are simple and as follows.

Scene Size:	Foam size to be no larger or smaller than 12” X 24”
End Diaphragms if reqd.:	1/4” thickness maximum.
Back Scene and Fascia if used:	1/4” thickness maximum.
Scale:	Any Scale, your choice.
Gauge:	Any gauge, your choice.

The scene/diorama must contain at a minimum the following:

1. A section of track, any gauge.
2. A structure or part thereof.
3. Scenery, to your choice.
4. A person or persons.
5. A piece of track oriented Rolling Stock e.g., a loco. rail car, coach, tram, MofW. Car, etc.
6. Whatever else fires your imagination to make your diorama a winner.

The Skagit Valley and Whidbey NMRA group will provide one initial piece of foam 12” X 24” for the base. All other materials will be supplied by the participant, who will retain ownership of his/her masterpiece.

David Laws has volunteered to Mastermind this project for our group. You see what happens if you volunteer or suggest something!

John White. Program Coordinator

# Skagit Valley & Whidbey NMRA Group

## Clinic Schedule 2009/2010

Notes. All regular meetings are on the second Wednesday of each month September through June @ 7:00pm. at the Summer Hill Community in Oak Harbor or as otherwise advertised.

**NMRA membership is encouraged but not essential.**

**Private House visits are by invitation**      All other meetings are open to the public.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Co-Ordinator</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Presenter</u>
<del>Sept. 9, 2009</del>	<del>D.Gould-</del> <del>J.White</del>	<del>Prototype GN Electrification</del> <del>Issue of 1ft.x2ft. Foam Bbds for Min.layout</del>	<del>Noel Holley</del> <del>J. White</del>
<del>Oct. 14, 2009</del>	<del>A.Frasch</del>	<del>Fine N Scale Products—A Manufacturers Overview</del>	<del>Dick Billings</del>
<b>Nov. 11, 2009</b>	<b>J.White</b>	<b>‘Make and Take Buildings’-Hands on</b>	<b>Roger Ferris</b>
<b><u>Dec. 9, 2009</u></b>	J.White	Wassail or Was’l’ and other delights	<b>John White</b>
Jan. 13, 2010	R.Thom	“Narrow Gauge on 3 Continents” steam video	<b>Rich Thom</b>
<b><u>Feb. 10, 2010</u></b>	T.Hawkins J.White	Layout Visit FastTracks Turnout Construction Demo	<b>Tom Hawkins</b> <b>White/Frasch</b>
Mar. 10, 2010	Gonzales J.White	‘Make and Take Trees’ Hands on Judging of 1ft. x 2ft. Modules	<b>Phil &amp; Susan Gonzales</b> <b>Jack Hamilton</b>
Apr. 14, 2010	A.Frasch J.White	‘Operational Methods’ Demonstration of unusual tools, jigs & fixtures	<b>Frasch/Tingstad/Thom</b> <b>Group.</b>
May 12, 2010	J.Mann	‘DCC- Beyond Decoders’ Semi-Advanced	<b>John Mann</b>
<b><u>Jun. 9, 2010</u></b>	J.White	Layout Visit to the <i>Eastern Sierra Pacific</i>	<b>P. &amp; S.Gonzales</b>
July ? 2010	W.Harper	Visit to Oak Harbor Club	William Harper

### Volunteers

NMRA Liason & Reportage  
Facilities Co-Ordinator & Door Keeper  
Keeper of the Purse. [alias the bucket]  
Layout Design Aficionado  
Newsletter & Announcement Flyers  
Troubleshooter and Electrical Guru  
Casino Operator and Door Prizes  
Refreshments  
Keeper of the Rolls [alias the membership roster]  
Register of videos and books for loan  
Diorama Shepherd  
Meeting Co-Ordinator

Gordon Garnhart  
Dick Haines  
Jack Tingstad  
Tom Hawkins  
Al Frasch  
John Mann  
Dan Gould & John Mann  
Phil & Susan Gonzales  
Rich Thom  
Susan Gonzales  
David Laws  
John White