

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

The Skagit Valley & Whidbey NMRA Clinic

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Location: Summer Hill Retirement community, second floor

Time: 7:00PM

Business:

1. Introductions and items 'for the good of the order.'
2. Judging of the "288 Challenge" by PNR President Jack Hamilton
3. "Make 'n Take" trees by Susan and Phil Gonzales

When you can't see the forest for the trees, maybe it's
because you have
great looking trees!

Please join us at the March meeting where you will learn to make the best looking pine trees ever. If you are planning on attending, please bring the following tools to the meeting:

- ☐ No. 11 hobby knife
- ☐ Pin vise with a No. 65 drill bit
- ☐ wire brush or a zona saw (for making bark)
- ☐ tweezers
- ☐ small paintbrush for painting tree trunk

All other supplies will be provided.

Donations to offset the cost of supplies would be appreciated. [See instructions on page 7 if you want to see what you will be doing.]

Come ready to make a mess and have fun! You will be taking home a tree to be proud of!



The Skagit Valley & Whidbey NMRA Clinic

March 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 Clinic at SummerHill 7:00 pm TREES by the Gonzales'		11	12
14 BSME Open House 12:30 - 4:30 www.bsme.org	15	16	17	18	19	20 Lions MR Swap Meet Olympia - Thurston Cty Fairgr'ds 10-3pm home.comcast.net/~capitolcitylions/
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 7th Annual Olympia Layout Tour 10 layouts 10:30-5pm Contact Scott Buckley sbuckley@nwrain.com
28	29	30	31			

“288 Challenge”

The 2010 12” X 24” Diorama Building Contest

The time has finally arrived for you all to present your anonymous masterpieces on March 10th, 2010 for judging by the eagle eyes of Jack Hamilton, MMR and President of the Pacific Northwest Region of NMRA. All awards will be presented by Jack as follows.:

- First Prize: A Beautiful Scrolled Certificate crafted by our in-house publisher Al Frasch and a Gift Certificate at Performance R/C Hobbies.
- Runner Up: A Scrolled Certificate and Gift Certificate at Performance R/C Hobbies.
- Three Honorable Mentions: Three certificates will be awarded, each one an Al Frasch original.
- Most Humorous: Another AF Certificate.
- Most creative use of space: AF Certificate.
- Peoples Choice Award.: A ballot will be available at the meeting for each attendee to vote his/her own favorite. The prize will be a Scrolled AF Certificate and a Gift Certificate at Performance R/C Hobbies.

NOTE: if you forgot the “rules” see page 6.

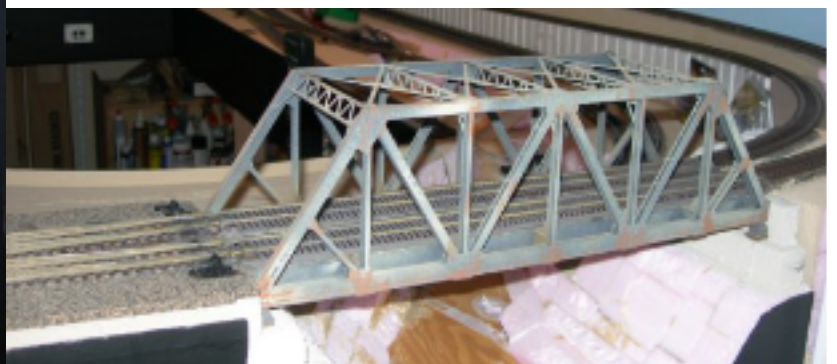
Local Layout Progress Reports

Norm Myers in Oak Harbor

Well, Norm Myers in Oak Harbor has been busy on the SP&S themed layout in a layout room which literally is a walled area within a large living room. This will be a terrific layout with many operating opportunities someday for 3 to 4 operators



at a time, with freight and passenger trains running over a almost floor level valley [as can be seen by these pictures] and around the room. A lift out section [with the bridge below right] goes across the doorway to allow an all around train run.

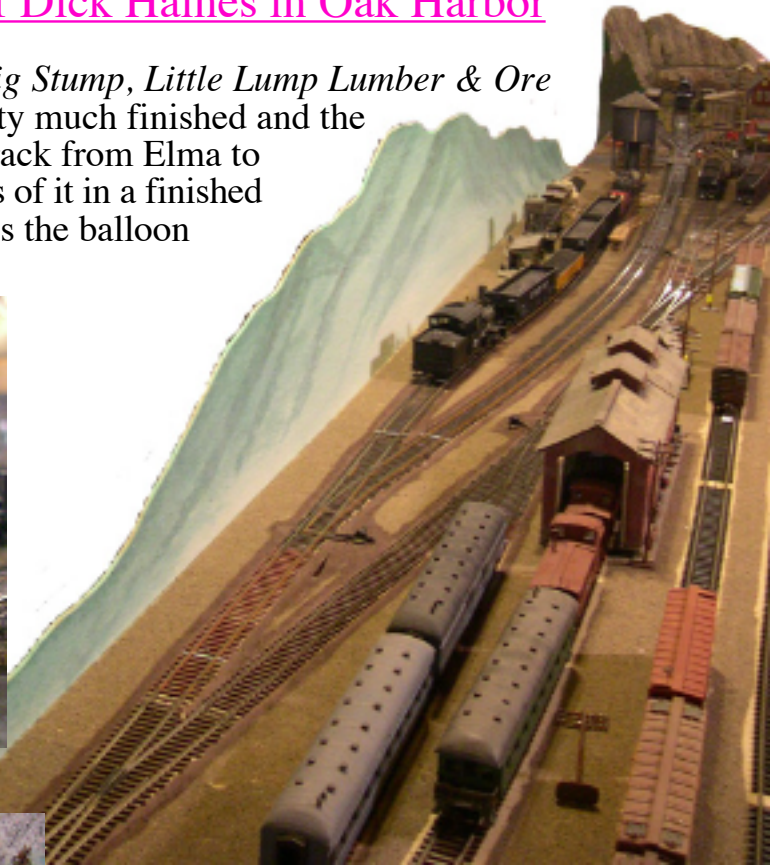


Scenes from the layout of Dick Haines in Oak Harbor

Dick has been busy up in the attic on the *Big Stump, Little Lump Lumber & Ore Railway* with the main yard at Hoquim pretty much finished and the mountain by Montesano on the 'rise.' The track from Elma to Tacoma is coming along quite well with parts of it in a finished state. About the only benchwork to be built is the balloon track in the Tacoma yard.



[above] Coaling Tower Hoquim Yard



[above] Hoquim Yard



[left] Logging spur between Gate, WA and Tacoma

[below] Engine house in Hoquim Yard



[left] Trackside at Hoquim Yard



Changes on the *Pilchuck Division of the BNSF*

The *Pilchuck Division of the BNSF* has acquired funding from the home office in Ft. Worth to reconfigure the North Bellingham Yard to better serve the customers of the Whatcom County area.



This \$14, 500, 000 project incorporates more space for arrival and departure tracks, a new locomotive wye and service to the Georgia Pacific plant's Equipment Warehouse on the Port of Bellingham property.

A construction window of three weeks was provided to the contractors to get the job done and I have the pleasure to announce that the work has been completed on time and under budget.



Photos by Al Frasch

Final Reminder: this is it!! Judging this Month!!!

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

If you are having any problems/questions, David Laws and/or John White would be happy to answer them at davidmlaws@hotmail.com or johngeww@comcast.net.

Pine Tree Instructions

In addition to the tools listed above, you will need the following:

1/2" balsa sticks

Caspia (found at Michael's in the dried flowers section)

Design Master Moss Green #721 spray paint

Raw Umber acrylic paint (or whatever tree trunk color you prefer)

Pins or small nails to "plant" your trees

Eileen's tacky or fast dry glue

1. Lay Caspia outside or in well-ventilated area spread out on newspaper or cardboard. Spray ends of Caspia with Design Master Moss Green 721. This will create the branches for your trees. Spray heavily while turning Caspia over and upside down to thoroughly saturate. Let dry for several days. (I try to do all mine in one day so it's always ready to make trees). It takes alot of paint to cover.

2. Cut balsa sticks to size. Anywhere from 3" to 12" works well. Decide how tall you want your trees. Random sizes look the best. Begin shaping the trunk by rounding and tapering one end to a nice point with the No. 11 hobby knife. When you have the shape you want, use the wire brush or zona saw to scrape "bark" detail into your trunk. Drill hole in the bottom of trunk and insert pin or nail for planting. Paint raw umber wash on trunk, (or trunk color of your preference) and set in foam block to dry. (I usually do 10-15 trunks at a time because it makes a big mess, then I can just sweep it all up when I am done).

3. Break green painted Caspia branches into smaller pieces for branches. Start small at the top and increase branch size as you go down. Dip the drill bit in glue prior to drilling the hole in the trunk. This will leave a tiny dot of glue to make it easier to see the hole. Place the chosen branch in the hole. Drill the next in the same way and rotate around the trunk.

4. The brown parts of the Caspia can be used for "dead" branches on the lower end of the tree. Sometimes, I randomly place them in among the green branches.

Optional:

5. After the branches have dried, you may want to use hairspray and green foam to add "needles" to your branches.

6. When dry, plant your "hero" tree where everyone can admire it!

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 a requirement for attendance.

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