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





Wednesday, March 9, 2011

Location: Summer Hill in Oak Harbor [email me if you need directions].

Time: 7:00 PM [earlier to browse the Swap Table]

Agenda: 1. Welcome and introductions as needed.

2. Clinic Presentation: Rich Thom and Narrow Gauge Steam!!!



TWO OF AMERICA'S FINEST (NARROW GAUGE STEAM RAILROADS, THAT IS)

In this program, club member Rich Thom takes you on a video tour of two of America's favorite--and arguably finest--surviving narrow gauge steam railroads, central Pennsylvania's East Broad Top Railroad and, in southern Colorado and northern New Mexico, the Cumbres & Toltec

Two of EBT's Four Mikes line up for the Noon Whistle Blow

Scenic Railroad, the longest surviving remnant of D&RGW's once vast narrow gauge system. Although the same gauge, they're worlds apart in

character. You'll see these railroads as they were 14 years ago, and although both survive, they offer today nothing like the activity captured in this program. On the EBT, *all four of their then-operable Mikados* are in action for one of their last Fall Spectaculars. (Today only one EBT steam loco is serviceable.) On the C&TS, you'll be on Cumbres Pass for the *very last run of the last surviving D&RGW steam rotary snowplow*, ALCO-built (1923) plow OY, as it clears the winter's snow on the 4-percent grade out of Chama east to Cumbres and beyond. Three of the railroad's hefty Class K-36 Mikes are needed to push the plow up the hill. You'll get an inside look at plow OY, as well as ride in the cab of the lead K-36 as it clears deep snow around Tanglefoot Curve. **Stereo audio for the**

steam enthusiast, and many details to inspire modelers, are featured in the program.

Plowing Cumbres 1909 (left); almost nine decades later, the scene is recreated to open the line in May 1997 for the summer operating season (right)





	The	Skagit Valle	y & Whidbe	ey NMRA Cl	linic	
	Model Railroad Calendar for March 2011					
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	Clinic at Summer Hill Steam RRs D&S and EBT Video	10	11	WSMRR/ BSME Open House in Alger 11am-4pm info: www.bsme.org
13	14	15	16	17	18	Olympia area Open House - see information on the Misc. Info Page.
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



Last Month's Clinic:

Max Maginness, MMR, came to Oak Harbor to

present a
talk about
the
railroads of
the South
Island of
New
Zealand
and to show
how the

information he has discovered has directly been reflected in his model railroad. We were taken around the South Island, stopping at historical sites and heritage railways along the way. Also, he showed pictures of the prototypes and how he is modeling the same location - great modeling work! Thank you Max!



Skagit Valley & Whidbey NMRA Group

Dilapidated Building Competition Rules

Introduction

The purpose of this competition is to build a dilapidated building according to the specifications below. The entries will be judged by Jack Hamilton, MMR and NMRA Western Director, at our June meeting in 2011.

Baseboard

- Material of your choice.
- Maximum base board size 20" x 15". Minimum size 10" x 7.5".

Building

- The building must be framed and clad in wood and should be scratch built. No kits.
- Building size, type and shape to your choice. There are no height restrictions.
- The building can be 3 sided as part of a back scene. No restrictions on depth of building.
- The building can be abandoned or occupied.
- No outhouses however High Tech, except for the humorous award.
- Roofing and foundation materials can be your choice.
- Windows, doors, chimneys etc can be Grandt Line or similar, Wood Framed, Metal or Plastic.
- The building must show signs of age and distress and also should show evidence of structural damage, failure or collapse.

Scenery and additions

- The judge will be asked to judge the building itself [see prize list].
- Vehicles, animals and people are to your choice.
- Trackage, rolling stock, etc are not a requirement and have no value in judging.
- Scenery to choice but the emphasis of the judge will be on the building.

Prize Categories

- Best building in each scale [G, 0, H0, N, Z.]
- Most humorous irrespective of scale.
- Best diorama irrespective of scale
- Peoples choice irrespective of scale [Building Only].
- Three Honorable Mentions.

Prizes

- All category winners will receive an Illuminated Scroll with their name and prize category, and a Gift Certificate at Performance R/C Hobbies.
- Competitors can enter buildings in more than one scale or category but only one entry in each scale or category.
- If a competitor receives more than one award he/she will receive only the illuminated scroll for the second award. The Gift Certificate will go to the Runner Up.
- In the event of disputes the Competition Shepherd's and Judges decisions are final!

Steve Jaffray

Competition Shepherd

The Miscellaneous Information Page

The Olympia Open House & Operations Group (OO&OG) will be hosting the **Eighth Annual Olympia Layout Tour** on Saturday, March 19th, 2011. At this time eight layouts have committed to be on the tour, with a possibility of two more. Various scale and gauge combinations will be represented, including N, HO, On30 and 3/8n20. Jim Younkins' N scale *Mud Bay & Southern* and Greg Wright's 3/8n20 *Consolidated Republic Mining Railroad* have been featured in national publications. Many of these layouts are under construction, which will give visitors a opportunity to see each builder's construction methods.

As with previous years, a few of the layouts will be open early, while a few will stay open later, which will give visitors the opportunity to see as many layouts as possible.

We hope that you will take the opportunity to visit our layouts. There aren't many chances to see these many layouts at one time without spending the money to attend a convention.

Additional information, including how to request a tour map please contact Scott Buckley at <u>sbuckley@nwrain.com</u> or 360-352-5567 if you have any questions.

Got Clinic Program Ideas?

It is not too early to begin thinking about next season's clinic line-up. If there is something either model or prototype that you want to know about - or want to present information about - write the ideas down and be prepared to present the ideas at our April meeting. Remember, this is your clinic!

<u>Swap Table</u>

The Swap Table continues!! If you have anything to sell/trade/give away just bring it to the Summer Hill meeting room by about 6:45. Please make sure that any price is clearly labeled and the owner's name is shown.

Frontier Discount Cards

Okay, still time to (re)apply for your Frontier Building Supply Discount Card for 2011!! Please email me [Al Frasch] or John White with your name and NMRA number and we will have your spiffy new discount cards ready for you at the next Clinic.

Remember, you must be a current NMRA member to qualify. See nmra.org for membership information.

A Book Suggestion

After the clinic, if you want to find out more about Narrow Gauge railroads around the world, I have just the book for you: Karl Zimmermann's *Little Trains to Faraway Places (Railroads Past and Present)*. Karl and Rich Thom have traveled together to many locations around the world - including the snow removal on the *Cumbres & Toltec* [as seen in the clinic presentation] and the book is dedicated to Rich, among others. He is included in many of the chapters - even saving a train once - really! you will have to read the book to find out the story!!



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 this page in the future editions as space permits.

For those who haven't seen this yet, an institution in the Local Hobby Store category is on its final days. The store is in the north part of Seattle called Lake City, in the basement of the American Eagles store. This from Bob Colley:



The Time has Come:We are Going out of Business

The building has been sold, and our lease is up this

April. After 64 years (the last 15 with owners Bob and Jane), North End Train Center will close its doors Saturday, April 9th. I am 73 years young and maybe it's time to pack it in so that I can ride trains instead of selling them, plus we have been unable to find a suitable alternative location. To dispose of inventory and fixtures, in order to vacate the premises by the end of April, here is my plan:

The week starting Monday, January 31, all inventory will go on sale at 5% off. The following week, all inventory will be 10% off. Each week following there will be an additional 5% off until we reach 50% off the first week of April. As of January 31st all sales are final; this means no returns, no exchanges and checks will no longer be

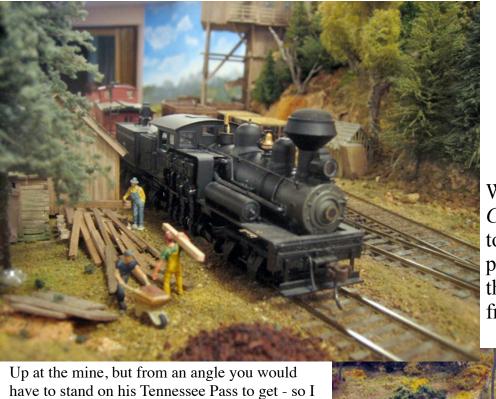
January 31 – February 5	5% off	April 9 th .	
February 7 – February 12 10% off		Consignment, magazines, special orders, repairs, fixtures and items	
February 14 – February 19	15% off	already on sale will not be included in the sale. New special orders	
February 21 – February 26 20% off		must be in stock at the warehouse and paid in advance. We will no	
February 28 – March 5	25% off	longer take orders from Walthers online or their monthly flyer. As always, we reserve the right to add, change or delete any of these rule	
March 7 – March 12	30% off	at anytime we wish.	
March 14 – March 19	35% off	It's been a privilege to serve everyone for the last 15 years. I've made a	
March 21 – March 26	40% off	lot of friends, learned a lot about trains, and when I'm in the south of	
March 28 – April 2	45% off	France sipping wine and playing Petanque, I will think of you.	
April 4 – April 9	50% off	-Bob Colley	

Some fun with statistics

Just in case you didn't think that the railroad industry is still going strong, here are some facts that I was able to find on the Association of American Railroads website. And bear with me, this is the mathematics teacher part of me coming out:

Railroads last year hauled about 1.8 trillion ton-miles of commodities at about 3ϕ per ton-mile, which works out to about \$54 billion in revenue! The average was 64 tons/carload, 3500 tons/train, and an average haul of 900 miles - all this works out to over 3 million ton/miles per train and revenue of \$95,000 per train. Whoa, that is about 568,000 trains each year or more than one train origination per minute across the country - a lot of trains!!

Also, the railroads can haul 480 ton-miles per gallon, while trucks are in the 240 range. No wonder the freight railroads are having a renaissance in the early part of the 21st century. Could this be the reason that Warren Buffet thought it a good move to buy BNSF, lock, stock and locomotive!?!



<u>Local</u> Modeling

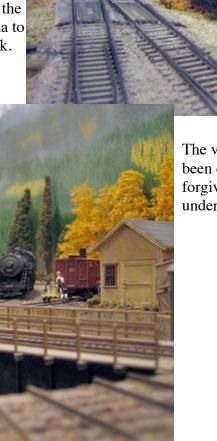
While visiting Jack Tingstad's Cloud City & Western, Rich Blake took out the ol' camera and stuck it places where the eyes can't get to thus these pictures of Jack's work from a different view than normal.

guess we will have to be satisfied with this.

You can see many more on his website at

http://www.steammachine.com/ slugsmasher/images/mrr/ccw/ ccw.html in case you might be interested.

> Looking from the tunnel at Salida to the Team Track.



The very serious train wreck from last month has been cleared at the Cloud City turntable and all is forgiven by the management - Jack is such an understanding sort!

From Dick Haines on work on his B.S.L.L.L.&O Rwy:

"I've been installing a 6 sq ft. area just outside the tunnel portals at Porter. This . . . file shows the river bed and cast plaster rocks lining it along with a Campbell RR bridge modified for vehicle traffic beside the two mainlines. I have just begun aging the rocks, etc. The asphalt road is visible in dark gray (cut out of 1/8" masonite so the roadway is flat and smooth)."



This shows how one can take one of those railroad bridge kits and modify them to become roadways - they would not even have to be the same scale as the layout. An HO bridge might make a fine one-lane bridge on an O-scale layout. Or maybe a N-scale railroad bridge as a pedestrian bridge in O?

It seems the economy is on the rise in the Ferndale area on my *Pilchuck Division of the BNSF* with the Intalco plant reopening - well, more work for the North Bellingham Yard crew.



Remember, we need pictures of how your layout is progressing - the inquiring public wants to know. Send any "stuff" my way and we'll get you in print - gee, is it still print when it is sent via email??

Skagit Valley & Whidbey NMRA Clinic Schedule 2010/2011

Notes: All regular meetings are held at the Summer Hill Community in Oak Harbor from September through June on the dates shown starting at 7:00 pm or as otherwise announced.

NMRA Membership is encouraged, but not a requirement for attendance.

Date	Coordinator	Subject	Presenter
Sept. 8, 2010		Milwaukee Road Electrification	Noel Holly
Oct. 13, 2010		Concrete Ties in North America	John White
Nov. 10, 2010	John White	Make and Take & Estate Sales	Roger Ferris, MMR Bobj Berger, CJ Riley
Dec. 8, 2010	John White	Wassail and Other Delights on the SVER	John White
Jan. 12, 2011	John White	"How to Build a Dilapidated Building"	Steve Jaffray
Feb. 9, 2011	John White	New Zealand Railways	Max Maginness, MMR
Mar. 9, 2011		"East Broad Top" & "Cumbres & Toltec"	Video Rich Thom
Apr. 13, 2011		Water Effects	Dick Haines
May 11, 2011	[tentative date]	South Whidbey Logging Railroad [The Glendale narrow gauge railroad]	Craig Williams
June 8, 2011		Judging of Scratch Built Competition Presentation by Jack Hamilton	Jack Hamilton, MMR

Volunteers or Press Ganged

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NMRA Liaison and Reportage	Gordon Garnhart
Keeper of the Purse [alias the Bucket]	Jack Tingstad
Layout Design Aficionado	Tom Hawkins
The DCC Man	John Mann
Newsletters and Announcement Flyers	Al Frasch
Casino Operators and Door Prizes	John Mann & Dan Gould
Refreshments	Phil & Susan Gonzales
Keeper of the Rolls[alias the Membership Roster]	Rich Thom
Librarian	Susan Gonzales
Clean-up Artists	Vera & Gordon Jones

Competition Shepherd Steve Jaffray Meeting Co-ordinator John White