

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

The Skagit Valley & Whidbey NMRA Clinic

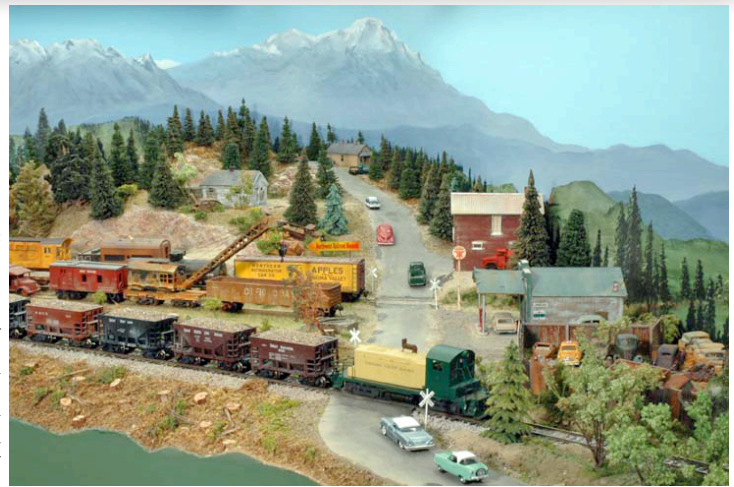
Wednesday, November 14, 2012

Location: Summer Hill meeting room in Oak Harbor.

Time: 7:00 PM

The Tabooma County Railway: Choosing a Private Roadname - Developing a Plausible History

The *Tabooma County Railway* has a history - more than just three incarnations in basements/bonus rooms over the past 24 years. It has grown from a desire, way back in the mid-70's, to create my own model railroad empire with a unique identity to an evolving, but "complete" idea in the form of a layout with a purpose and life of it's own.

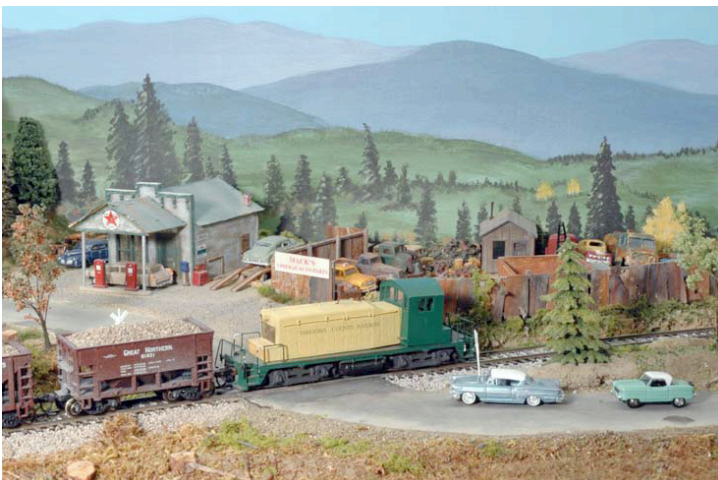


This clinic will explore the concept of creating your own railroad, including:

- Why a mythical railroad?
- Geographical setting
- Time period
- Choosing a name for the railroad
- Relationship to real railroads
- Freight customers
- Passenger service
- Acknowledging others



The clinic will be "photo-rich" and will include some anecdotes, how-to's, and some lessons learned. There will also be some highlights of this September's National Narrow Gauge Convention if time allows.



The Skagit Valley & Whidbey NMRA Clinic						
Model Railroad Calendar for November 2012						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
						17th Annual Anacortes & Fidalgo MRR Club Open House
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
						The 33rd Annual BEMRRC Swap Meet
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
			Clinic at Summer Hill at 7:00 in Oak Harbor			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
				Thanksgiving Holiday		Jack Tingstad's Annual Community Open House
25	26	27	28	29	30	Dec 1
On the Cloud City & Western Railroad						Swamp Creek and Western Open House

Further information about November events:

November 3rd & 4th: The Anacortes & Fidalgo Model Railroad Club will have its 17th Annual Open House from 10AM to 4PM each day. They are located in the basement at the north end of the building at 419 "Q" Ave in Anacortes.

For those of you up north: on November 9 - 12, Trains 2012, the Annual 7th Division's Fall Meet will take place in Burnaby, BC at the Cameron Recreation Center. See www.bctrains.org for more information.

November 10th: The 33rd Annual Boeing Employees Model Railroad Club "Model RR & Railroadiana Swap Meet" From 9:30AM to 4:00PM at Kent Commons (4th & James in downtown Kent) \$7 admission. Further info at www.bemrrc.com

In December:

December 1: Edmonds Amtrak Station & Swamp Creek Model Railroad Association Holiday Open House. 8:00AM to 3:00PM. 210 Railroad Ave (1/2 block south of Edmonds Ferry Terminal). Info:- www.scwrra.org

December 15/16: The Great Train Expo is scheduled for the 15th and 16th at the Puyallup Fair Grounds More info at greattrainexpo.com

Last Month's Clinic:

October's Clinic was a smorgasbord of information and techniques! Below are some pictures and short descriptions of what transpired:



Iver Johnson showed his kit building skills with this wonderful steam donkey.

Rich Blake showed some very interesting rusting techniques and important information about available turnout controls and switchstands.*



Steve Jaffray showed how to work with Micro-Mark's Rivet detail decals and, later, how to use a material called Silkspan to make surfaces look much more prototypical.



Phil Gonzales reminded us that the trucks and wheels are part of the model and need to be maintained/tuned.



Dick Haines displayed a method of making quick trees from fiber material.



Susan Gonzales showed how a product called Bruce's Acrylic Filler could be used to modify existing things..... like cows!

* Rich Blake has posted his Powerpoint presentations on the Yahoo! group for the Skagit Valley & Whidbey NMRA Group. The one on Rusting is at: [groups.yahoo.com/group/sv_and_w/files/Rich B /rusting.pdf](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sv_and_w/files/Rich%20B/rusting.pdf)
The one on Switch Stands and Turnout Control is at: [groups.yahoo.com/group/sv_and_w/files/Rich B /turnout_control.pdf](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sv_and_w/files/Rich%20B/turnout_control.pdf) These may also be accessed by members of the Yahoo! Group from the Yahoo! Page in the Files section and Rich B. [see information below to become a member of the Yahoo! Group]

The Miscellaneous Information Page

The Skagit Valley & Whidbey NMRA Group has its own Yahoo! Online Group!

As mentioned at the last couple clinics concerning social media information sharing, Rich Blake has created a Yahoo Groups page for our use. It is the Skagit Valley & 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. The moderator (Rich or one of the Als) will also have to accept you as a member. This is a private group that is not open to the public, it is designed for club use only. We can post any questions or information for each other on this group as well as photos and files. If you have railroading stuff to sell then this could be a medium for advertising as well. For real-time information it is hard to beat and all messages are archived and searchable. The cost? Free!

The Link: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sv_and_w (note those underscores)

To get ahold of the list moderator i.e. Rich Blake: sv_and_w-owner@yahoogroups.com

At last check, there were 19 members of the group, so consider joining today!!



Like to operate your and other's layouts? Consider joining the Operations Special Interest Group or OPSIG! This is an international group loosely affiliated with the NMRA that promotes what many believe to be the future of the hobby - operations. It is easy to join and includes a quarterly publication - The Dispatcher's Office. Still only \$20/yr with print DO or \$7 with electronic version. See www.opsig.org for more information.

The National Association of Railroad Passengers, NARP, is an advocacy group promoting the wise use of passenger trains in the mix of travel options available to Americans. They have an informative White Paper concerning long distance trains called "Long Distance Trains: Multipurpose Mobility Machine" which is an interesting read and is available on their website at:

<http://www.narprail.org/resources/white-papers/2083-longdistancepaper>



Read the *Grab Iron*, our Division's online Newsletter

Fourth Division, Pacific Northwest Region, NMRA website: <http://www.4dpnr.org/index.htm>

Anyone can access this page and all sub-topics (except Members Only, which is primarily just BOD meeting minutes, etc). Of particular interest is the Timetable: <http://www.4dpnr.org/Timetable.htm> and the Grab Iron: <http://www.4dpnr.org/Grab-Iron.htm>. You can subscribe to the Grab Iron by sending in an e-mail and you will receive a reply allowing you to choose which categories to scribe to: http://4dpnr.org/grabiron/?page_id=118 - easiest: just to subscribe to all. Best of all, it's free!



Pre - Clinic Dinner Get-Together: Pizza + !

We will again be getting together at the

San Remo Mediterranean Grill in Oak Harbor [421 NE Midway Blvd] at about 5:15.

They have pizza, pastas, Greek specialties, seafood and salads!

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.

Local Layout Progress

Rich Blake has been a busy modeler with all that time on his hands - which is coming to an end as you read this. One project has been the modification of an On30 Climax locomotive. More pictures at <https://plus.google.com/photos/108634077734350655600/albums/5801197265200925793?authkey=CKm65Krmg6HUeA>

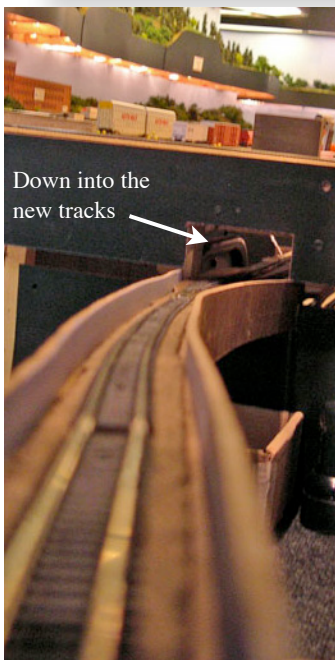


<https://plus.google.com/photos/108634077734350655600/albums/5801197265200925793?authkey=CKm65Krmg6HUeA>

Hopefully a future clinic might be in order on this topic.



Also, he has been at work on his On30 module for the On30 Modular Group, including this loco shed. More at <https://plus.google.com/photos/108634077734350655600/albums/5701843671240770449?authkey=CKf3tpblya3D2AE>



There is a saying in designing a layout for operations that you should figure out how much staging you think you need, add 1 and then double that amount. Well, it seems the *Pilchuck Division's* designer was not paying attention and the available staging has been really tight. So, an additional three 16 foot staging tracks have been added between the Seattle/Vancouver staging and the Spokane staging levels. Shoehorning these tracks in required a 6% grade off the main - talk about a place you don't want runaways! Takes 5 locos to brake a train of 20 cars down the hill!



Even More Local Layout Progress

Check out this cool picture of Dick Haines' Aberdeen Yard just after sundown on the B.S.L.L.L. & O. Rwy.



Model this Prototype: Now this is an interesting way to put tracks through an intersection and still have a fountain! Maybe even get the underside of the light rail vehicles washed as they travel through? From Oslo, Norway.



Skagit Valley & Whidbey NMRA Clinic Schedule

2012/2013

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

NMRA Membership is encouraged

See www.nmra.org

DATE	SUBJECT
Aug 8 th	Annual Potluck BBQ at John Marshall's
Sept 19th	Logging and Live Steam by Eric Erickson
Oct 10th	Mini Clinics
Nov 14th	The Tabooma County Railway: Choosing a Private Roadname - Developing a Plausible History by Al Carter
Dec 5th	TBD
Jan 9th	Locomotive Tune-ups (both steam and diesel) by John Mann and Tom Hawkins
Feb 13th	Streets & Highways, Including Street Trackage by Al Carter
Mar 13th	Track Construction Methods in the Real World by John White
Apr 10th	DCC Sound Systems Hands-On Test Track by Bill Harper/John Mann
May 8th	Backdrop Clinic by Al Carter and Jack Tingstad
Jun 12th	Open House at Dick Haines

Volunteers or Press Ganged

NMRA Liaison and Reportage	Gordon Garnhart
Keeper of the Purse [aka the Bucket]	Iver Johnson
Layout Design Aficionado	Tom Hawkins
The DCC & Audio Visual Main Mann	John Mann
Newsletters and Announcement Flyers	Al Frasch
Refreshments	Phil Gonzales
Keeper of the Rolls[aka the Membership Roster]	Al Carter
Clean-up Artists	- open -
The Tin Can Gaffers	Curt and Iver Johnson
Competition Shepherd	- open -
Program Organizer	Susan Gonzales
Clinic Chair	Rich Blake