

# The Skagit Valley & Whidbey NMRA Clinic



## Wednesday, September 11, 2013

Meeting at 7:00 at the Summer Hill [165 SW 6th Avenue, Oak Harbor] 2nd floor meeting room.

### Tesoro Crude Oil Rail Operations by Bob Gilbert

Be sure to come to the September 11 clinic to hear Bob Gilbert, Terminal Manager of Logistics at the Tesoro Refinery in Anacortes, give a presentation on the new, expanded rail facility at the refinery. Bob retired in 2010 as the Superintendent of Operations and Maintenance, but in early 2012 agreed to return to the facility to help with training employees, and then was asked to help out on a “construction project that had just started” - and that evolved into bigger and better things, up to his present position.

Bob will describe the construction and operation of the new facility, including safety, environmental, and training issues. Briefly, the facility handles 100 car “unit” tank car trains at a time, and each train holds about 68,000 barrels of crude oil. There are 8 trains in rotation between Anacortes and Epping, North Dakota, 1300 miles each way. But for more fun facts, you’ll have to show up at the clinic!



[See page 8 for more photos]

The Skagit Valley & Whidbey NMRA Clinic						
Model Railroad Calendar for September 2013						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Victoria's Annual Model Railway Show			Clinic 7:00 @ Summer Hill			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					Oct. 5/6
						Lynden Train Show

### ***Further information about events:***

For those up North, this might make a very nice weekend mini-vacation: Victoria's Annual Model Railway Show 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM New Location: Juan de Fuca Recreation Centre (West Shore Parks & Recreation) 1767 Island Highway, Colwood, B.C. Adults \$6; Family \$12; Youth 11-16 \$3; Children under 8 FREE when accompanied by an adult Vendor tables: \$ 35.00 Info:- Ted Alexis, 250-595-4070, m\_talexis@shaw.ca

October 5/6 is the **29TH Annual Lynden International Model Railroad and Circus Builders Show** up in Lynden, hence the name Lynden . . . . See [www.lyndentrainshow.com/](http://www.lyndentrainshow.com/) for more information.

### ***Some other useful information:***

Floquil Paints replacements:

Most of you have probably heard by now that Floquil paints will no longer be produced. There are several websites/articles that list equivalent colors for the discontinued Floquil. An excellent one is [www.microscale.com/ResourceCntr\\_Floquil.html](http://www.microscale.com/ResourceCntr_Floquil.html) which has a very thorough chart with paints from many manufacturers.

From Al Carter: As an addition to the May Clinic on Backdrops, there is an excellent article in the May 2012 MRH (Model Railroad Hobbyist) on-line magazine dealing with using sheet styrene to cove the corners on a backdrop, by Charlie Comstock.

I would like to also add that our very own - if I may be so bold as to claim him - Dr. Nick Muff is a regular columnist for the MRH. You can check out this FREE magazine by going to: [model-railroad-hobbyist.com/](http://model-railroad-hobbyist.com/)

Don't like all that wiring on the layout, maybe R/C control is closer than we think. Check out the videos at this website for Deltang in the UK: [www.deltang.co.uk/video.htm](http://www.deltang.co.uk/video.htm)



# June's Clinic:

By Al Carter / Photos by Al Frasch

For the June 2013 *Skagit Valley & Whidbey Clinic*, the meeting was held at the home of Dick Haines, just north of Oak Harbor. Twenty eight folks showed up to see Dick's wonderful layout and enjoy his hospitality, not to mention a lot of great socializing among attendees.

Dick's layout is unique in a couple of ways. First, it is in his attic, but this isn't your normal attic. When Dick had his house built, he had the attic insulated and constructed with no supporting beams or other obstructions, and it has a nice, tall ceiling too – no stooping over, as in most attics! But, as with most attics, access is somewhat limited, via a pull-down stairway/ladder.

The second unique feature of Dick's layout is his day-to-night



A view from the other end of Dick Haines layout

transmitted signals down to a television in his “crew lounge” area (the floor below the railroad), so those that were not actually upstairs could still see the action. It worked very well.

After a lot of folks had departed, Steve Jaffray hit upon the idea of adding a small LED flashlight to the top of the camera/flat car, and a train was run around the layout in darkness, with the flashlight illuminating the way. And the loco was being controlled by a DCC throttle from the second floor (the floor below the layout). Of course, one person was needed in the layout room “just in case” and occasionally, a pair of fingers could be seen reaching down from the “sky” to throw a switch.

If you were unable to attend the meeting at Dick's and see his lighting effects first hand, you can read about it in the May-June issue of the *Narrow Gauge and Short Line Gazette*.



Jack Tingstad gazes approvingly at Dick Haines' latest improvements to his layout

lighting system. He has developed a method to

transition from “daylight” to dusk to nighttime operations and he has really done a convincing job in this regard. “Nighttime” features include lots of building interior illumination, plus several vehicles with illuminated head and tail lights. And, of course, those headlights on locomotives are a must!

Dick had rigged up a small camera on a flat car that



Vehicles with their headlights on at night on Dick Haines layout

# The Miscellaneous Information Page

## Remember: The S V & W NMRA Group's Yahoo! Online Group!

The Skagit Valley & Whidbey Model Railroading group or sv\_and\_w is still accepting members. 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. We can post any questions or information for each other on this group as well as photos and files. The cost? Free!

The Link: [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sv\\_and\\_w](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sv_and_w) (note those underscores)

To get a hold of the list moderator i.e. Rich Blake: [sv\\_and\\_w-owner@yahooogroups.com](mailto:sv_and_w-owner@yahooogroups.com)

At last check at the end of the summer, we are up to 22 members of the group, so consider joining today!!

## Read the *Grab Iron*

Fourth Division, Pacific Northwest Region, NMRA website: <http://www.4dprn.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.4dprn.org/Timetable.htm> and the Grab Iron: <http://www.4dprn.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 subscribe to: [http://4dprn.org/grabiron/?page\\_id=118](http://4dprn.org/grabiron/?page_id=118) - easiest: just to subscribe to all. Best of all, it's free!

## *Pre-Clinic Dinner*

We will once again get together for a Pre-Clinic dinner at the San Remo Mediterranean Grill in Oak Harbor [421 NE Midway Blvd] at about 5:15. They have an area reserved for the Skagit Valley & Whidbey Clinic. If you like Italian food, pizza or even Greek - come and enjoy the informal get together!

## *Another "local" is published!*

A friend of the SV&W Clinic, Gary Jordan of Mukilteo will have an article on his *Gilpin Tram* layout in the Sept/Oct *Narrow Gauge Gazette*!! Way to go!!

## *Update on the Mt. Rainier Scenic Railroad trip:*

The *Rails to Ales* trip is on **September 28th, 2013**. It starts at 9 am. The ride and beer plus brats takes approx 4 hrs. Which means we can leave later in the r... the shops first and see the work in progress.



...to the fleet of trains then Phil and Susan slightly... home when they... We will... Mt. Vernon, along with a... with Everett Freeway Park and... from South Whidbey.

The fare is \$75 for both the bu... Mt. Rainier Scenic RR activities. Those of you still interested in the Mt. Rainier trip can email or phone either Rich Blake [[slugsmasher@oakharbor.net](mailto:slugsmasher@oakharbor.net)] or Susan [[fishnutztoo@frontier.com](mailto:fishnutztoo@frontier.com)] to sign up.

## Tool Of The Month Show-n-Tell

"Tool Of The Month" is an ongoing segment at the Skagit Valley & Whidbey Clinic. Please consider bringing along something to show and describe: a tool that you'd like to share with the clinic members that is cheap, maybe kind of unique, and makes things easier in your modeling. Please limit your presentation to no more than 1 to 2 minutes, and also, please provide us with a source for your tool. Likewise, feel free to bring a recent project to 'show off' to the group!!

**Good news from Tom Hawkins:** "Thought you might be interested in my health situation..... My left leg is mending nicely and I am walking around. The doctor is very pleased however, as the leg has gotten better I have developed some severe pains in my right shoulder and my left upper arm. Had a MRI and the Dr. said I had damaged the right rotator cuff [*Way too much baseball pitching?....ed.*] and that it will take surgery to repair it. She also is scheduling another MRI for the left arm and shoulder to find out what is wrong there. Seems I did a number on both sides in the fall, they just did not show up right away. The long and short of it all is that I am going to be out of commission for some time. Needless to say I am not doing anything on the layout, but I am getting a lot of reading done." Feel free to drop Tom a note at [tomhawk1@frontier.com](mailto:tomhawk1@frontier.com)



## Videos of the Month

From Rich B: Here is another classic logging film set in the Northeast this time in Maine. I have watched it a couple times and am still amazed at the risks and hard work these guys lived through. There is no real railroading action, this film is all about timbering and driving logs down the river to the mills. However, there is some scenes of a Lombard steam tractor which is of interest to steam loggers for sure. The sections on the river drive are rather interesting and vividly illustrate how dangerous and difficult this type of log movement was. Also the heavy Nor'easter accent of the narrator and his colorful

description of many of the scenes really makes for an entertaining film.

Be forewarned that this film is 27 minutes in length so get in the mood before tackling it. Like I said, I watched it twice and everybody knows how short my attention span is.

<http://youtu.be/cIKCjQdxt00>

From Dick Haines: Remotely piloted quadcopter and a four-unit BNSF consist in Calif. Warning: don't try this yourself....

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bLb\\_99f\\_JSE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bLb_99f_JSE)

Each month I would like to list a few YouTube or other Train related video finds - so if you have some contributions, please let me know and I will list them here!

*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.*

## August's Get Together at John Marshall's:

A big thank you to John and Felicia Marshall of Coupeville for hosting a wonderful evening of garden railroad running - at least until the rain began to fall a bit heavier - and camaraderie!

John has been busy on the spur out to the greenhouse and beyond, adding many buildings and a logging/lumber scene. He now has a workbench and staging area in the greenhouse! For those who didn't want to get wet, there was also John's indoor G-scale loop in the upstairs room.





# Local Layout Progress

## Things Rich Blake Did Last Summer:

Completed a 1/48 Wiseman craftsman kit of a Dolbeer steam donkey. The kit comprised of some resin castings for the boiler and stack, a bunch of white metal castings and some laser cut wood for the skids. This was a fairly difficult build and I had to make the valvegear mostly from scratch by using photos of the dolbeer donkey located in Else Oregon at the Camp 18 Restaurant. This is a very nice model once completed and is suitable for foreground display or a contest. See this and many more O and HO scale craftsman/detail items at Keith Wiseman's site:

[www.locopainter.com](http://www.locopainter.com)

Some info on the prototype Dolbeer Donkey engine:

The year 1881 is generally declared the beginning of technological change in the logging industry. Up until then, men, oxen and horses carried the load. In that year, in Eureka, California, John Dolbeer applied for a patent for the steam donkey engine. Early loggers gave it that humble name because the original model looked too puny to be rated in horsepower.

Operating an early Dolbeer donkey required the services of three men, a boy and a horse. One man, the "choker-setter," attached the line to a log; an engineer or "donkey puncher," tended the steam engine; and a "spool tender" guided the whirring line over the spool with a short stick. (An occasional neophyte tried using his foot instead of a stick; when he was back from the hospital, he would use his new wooden leg instead.) The boy, called a whistle punk, manned a communicating wire running from the choker setter's position out among the logs to a steam whistle on the donkey engine. When the choker setter had secured the line running from the spool, the whistle punk tugged his whistle wire as a signal to the engineer that the log was ready to be hauled in. As soon as one log was in, or "yarded," it was detached from the line; then the horse hauled the line back from the donkey engine to the waiting choker setter and the next log.

Dolbeer's donkey was actually patented in 1882. It evolved through even more labor-saving changes including a "haulback line" through a pulley attached to a stump that eventually put the horse out of business. By the turn of the century, donkeys were mounted on barges to herd raft of logs and "bull donkeys" lowered entire trains of log cars down steep inclines, all with the help of iron and then steel wire cable that replaced the original ropes.

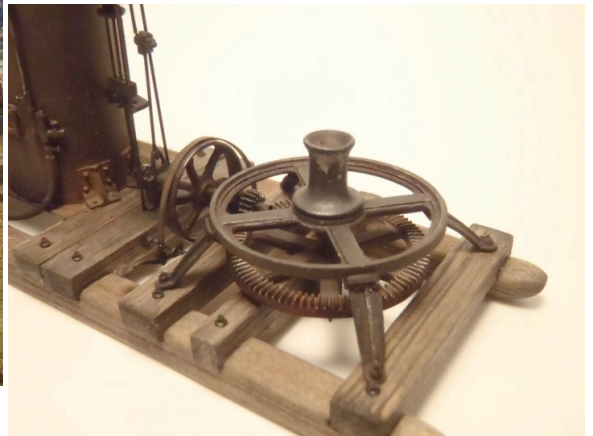
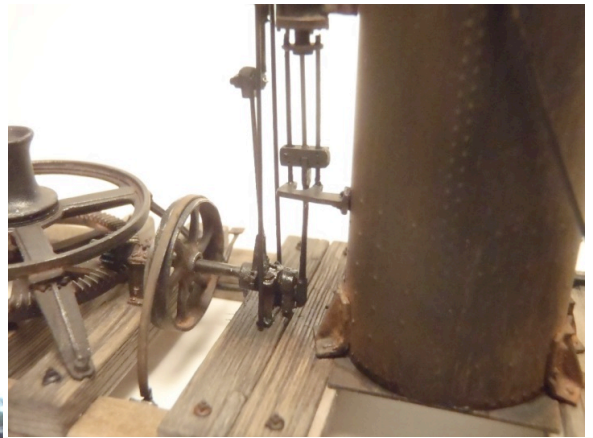
Just completed a 1/43.5 (close enough for O scale) kit of a 1925 model TT Ford tipper truck. This is a white metal kit by "The Model Company" out of New Zealand. I believe the kit is out of production but similar kits are available from International Hobbies.

This model took longer than expected as there was a lot of drilling, bending and filing of parts. I used super thin ACC to "spot weld" parts and then used slow cure ACC as filler material to strengthen the bond. An alternative method for this type of kit is to use low temp solder which would be stronger yet.

Bed stakes are scratch built and the load is from my junk box. Painted model with Tamiya acrylics and then used combinations of MIG Productions oil paints and pigment powders to achieve weathering effects. #2 pencil used to create highlight effects on metal edges. Note front wheels turned slightly to add visual interest – thanks to Al Carter for this tip on vehicles.

This model fits nicely on my On30 camp module and adds a lot of character to the scene.

All photos by Rich Blake



## Clinic Organizer's Corner, aka, from Susan Gonzales:

There are a couple of changes to our Clinic Schedule for the 2013/2014 season. We are changing our mini-clinics from November to October due to a schedule conflict for Al Carter. Those volunteers for the Mini-Clinic which include John White, Cliff Aaker, Rich Blake and Rich Thom should be prepared to go in October. Tom Hawkins will be unable to participate due to his on-going recovery from injuries (see note on p.4).

February's scenery clinic by Tom Hawkins will be left on the schedule but could be cancelled if Tom's recovery isn't as fast as he would like. Jack Tingstad has volunteered to do his portion of the Backdrop clinic from last season at this time however, if it is not a full clinic, we could maybe do a movie night in addition.

### **Mt. Rainier Scenic Railroad Trip:**

Here is our itinerary as it now stands:

Saturday, September 28th, 2013

We have two pick-up/drop-off points.

The first is at 9:15am at the Mount Vernon Park and Ride, 105 E. Kinkaid St., Mt. Vernon (near the Amtrak station).

We will leave there at 9:30am and head to the South Everett Park and Ride at 109th St., Everett (the one between the freeway lanes). Estimated arrival time of 10:00am so those of you planning on being picked up there will need to arrive at 9:45am.

Our next destination will be the Mt. Rainier Scenic Railroad shops where we will receive a 2 hour guided tour of the work they are doing restoring steam engines. Please plan on bringing your own drinks and snacks and a lunch (there are picnic tables at the shop area now) as we will not be making any food stops.

After our tour, we will head to Elbe, WA for our train ride at 3:30pm. There might be an hour or so to wait for our train ride, but plenty to walk around and look at while we wait. There is a gift store there too.

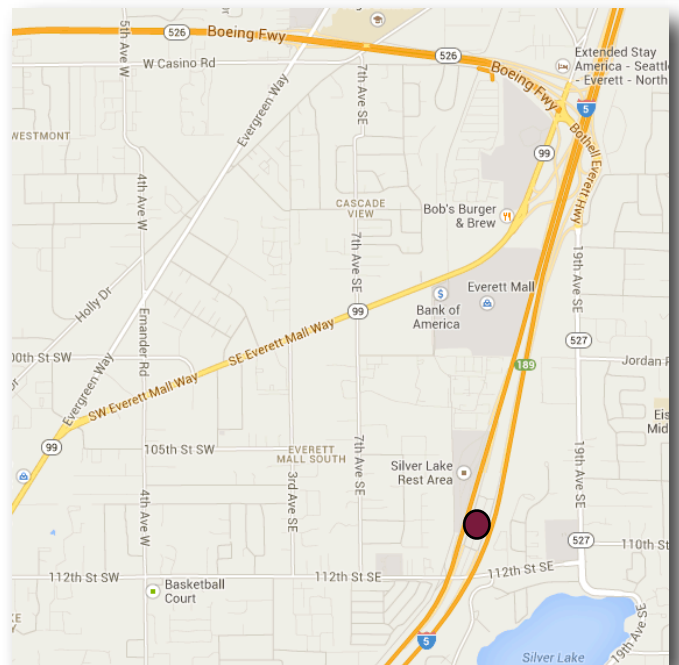
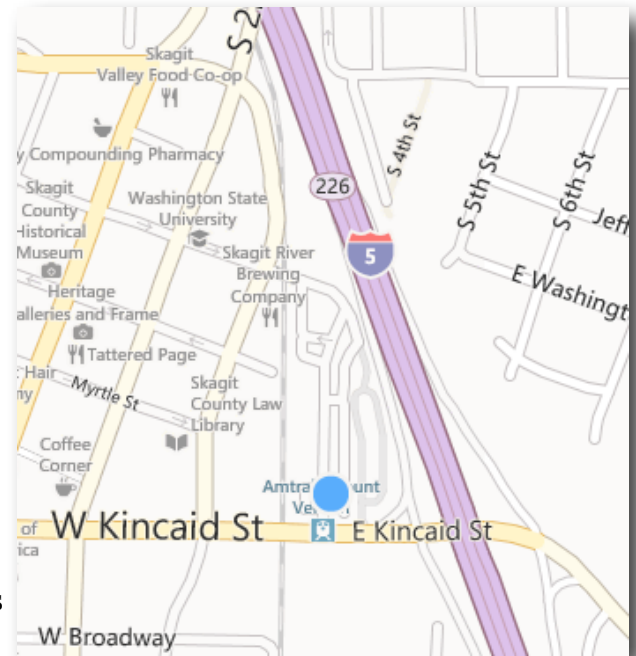
Our train ride starts at 3:30pm and is about 2 and half hours long. The trip has been extended to the shop area in Mineral and includes a tour of the new logging museum and beer plus brats for dinner.

Estimated departure time from Elbe is 6:30pm with our first drop-off in Everett happening at 9:30pm or so. It could be earlier or later depending on traffic. Drop-off in Mt. Vernon is estimated at 10pm or so.

I am only making a best guess on the times. This is the very first group trip I have ever planned so please bear with me.

Also, I thought the cost of the bus included a gratuity for the driver, but it doesn't so if everyone could bring a couple of dollars (provided we get good service, of course) that would cover it. If there are any questions, please feel free to call me (360) 679-6819 (home) or (360) 550-7410 (cell) or email me at: [fishnutztoo@frontier.com](mailto:fishnutztoo@frontier.com).

We have a 50 passenger bus and as of last count could still use more intrepid travelers to fill the seats. There are still a few signed up that need to get payments in to me. I have deposited the checks for those paid up so far. **I need to purchase the tickets for the train ride as a group in order to get the discount so I would like to finalize that by September 1st. If there is anyone who wants to go after I purchase the tickets, they will have to pay the full \$60.00 for the train ride.** Feel free to invite your friends and relatives. This should be a great trip!





# Tesoro Crude Oil Rail Construction





# Skagit Valley and Whidbey NMRA Clinic

## Schedule for 2013/2014

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](http://www.nmra.org)

DATE	TOPIC	PRESENTER(S)
August 14, 2013	Summer BBQ at John Marshall's in Coupeville	
<b>September 11, 2013</b>	<b>Tesoro Crude Rail Operations</b>	<b>Bob Gilbert</b>
October 9, 2013	Mini-Clinics: Decals	John White
	Hemlock trees	Cliff Aaker
	Scratchbuilding with common materials (i.e. free)	Rich Blake
	Tortoise in a tight spot	Rich Thom
November 13, 2013	Hydrocal Structures	Al Carter
December 11, 2013	All Things DCC/Decoder Pro	Ted Becker
January 8, 2014	Be a Rock Star/Make and Take Rocks with a special presentation by Jim Tartas on Bragdon's Geodesic foam/resin method	
February 12, 2014	Scenery Clinic	Tom Hawkins
	Backdrop painting	Jack Tingstad
February 22, 2014	Operating Sessions hosted by: Al Frasch, Jack Tingstad, Phil Gonzales, Dick Haines, Tom Hawkins	
March 12, 2014	Prototype Steam Locomotives	Stathi Pappas
	CMO Mt. Rainier Scenic Railroad	
April 9, 2014	2 Views from Above/Structure Roofs/roof top detail	Al Carter
	Removable Mtns. w/Tunnels Construction Techniques	Norm Myers
May 14, 2014	Vehicle Lighting	Dr. Nick Muff
June 11, 2014	Air Brush Painting 101 (in Phil and Susan's backyard)	Rich Blake

### Volunteers or Press Ganged

NMRA Liaison and Reportage	Al Carter
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]	Jon Wilbert
Clean-up Artists	- open -
The Tin Can Gaffers	Curt and Iver Johnson
Competition Shepherd	- open -
Program Organizer	Susan Gonzales
Clinic Chair	Rich Blake

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