

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



The Skagit Valley & Whidbey NMRA Clinic



Special February/March Issue

The SV&W Model Railroading Clinic will meet at the Summer Hill location [165 SW 6th Ave] in Oak Harbor Wednesday, February 11th and March 11th at 7:00pm

February Clinic

Logging Speeder Evolution of the Pacific Northwest

By Rich Blake

One of the most important and often overlooked vehicles to Northwest logging operations was the speeder. During the days when there were more rails than roads in the backwoods, the speeder



became one of the most versatile rail vehicles throughout most logging operations to get people and equipment to remote areas along the lines. Speeders functioned not only as a Maintenance of Way (MOW) vehicle but also as an ambulance, school bus, crew transport, fire watch, grocery getter and light locomotive from the early steam days well into the modern era.



Rich will review some of the common features on speeders and how they were deployed in western logging operations along with some interesting local historical information on speeder manufacturers in the Pacific Northwest.

March Clinic

Viva Vapor! Steam with a Latin Beat II

by Rich Thom

For anyone who can remember back that far, at February 2009's SV&W clinic Rich highlighted two well-known narrow gauge steam railroads in Argentina and Ecuador, both with fleets of Baldwin-built locos. On March 11th, Rich digs into his collection to take you to Brazil, Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, and new locations in Argentina for more real working steam (absolutely no tourist lines!) on several gauges. As usual, many scenes provide inspiration for modeling. Most of the railroads were visited 1973-1976—well after “real steam” ceased in America, but when it was still plentiful “down south.”

The program:

Bananas! Here bananas--not people-- travelled first class.

Dispelling the Myth: Colorado's narrow gauge lines had more steam than anywhere else.

Not Worth the Trouble to Go There: There was no really big steam down there.

At the Very End of the World: The biggest little 2-10-2's anywhere.

Just Like Right Out of the Box: Bachmann slept here!



Narrow gauge Brazilian-style. Ballast? We don't need no stinkin' ballast. A spotless 2-8-0 (Baldwin 1893) with the daily passenger accommodation.

Once again, we will be meeting at San Remo Mediterranean Grill in Oak Harbor [421 NE Midway Blvd] for a pre-clinic dinner starting at 5:15 if you are interested. They have very good pizza, pasta and Spumoni!

On the calendar:

February 28 - March 1, 2015: United NorthWest Model Railroad Club is proud to announce its **24th Annual Model Train Show and Marketplace** to benefit Snohomish County 4-H Foundation . The 2015 Show will be in the same buildings as the 2014 show in the Evergreen State Fairgrounds in Monroe, WA.



This spring: **The 30th Annual Sn3 Symposium**, April 16-18, 2015, Bellevue, Washington Information at: <http://sn3symposium-2015.com/>

And, of course: Aug 23-29, Portland, OR NMRA 2015 National Convention "Portland Daylight Express" Info:- www.nmra2015portland.org



Our "sister" clinic, the Mount Vernon Model Railroad Clinic, meets every fourth Tuesday at the Mount Vernon Senior Center at 1401 Cleveland Street. Next up **February 24, 2015** will be: **Weathering Structures with Bragdon Weathering Powders** will be presented by Bob Stafford, showing how he used Bragdon Powders to weather structures and roads on his HO scale model railroad. What brushes he used and how he applied the powders will be included. While the **March Clinic** will be SV&W Clinic's own Rich Thom with: **Slim Rails to (Almost) Anywhere**. Was there anything elsewhere in the world even close to any of Colorado's magnificent narrow-gauge railroads (insert your favorite here)? Contact Al Carter (360-399-1226 / tabooma@msn.com) or Roger Johnson, 360-770-5594/skagitrailbird@gmail.com for further information.

"We have a Yahoo Groups page for our use and sharing of information. It is the Skagit Valley and 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. This is a private group that is not open to the public, it is designed for the SV&W Clinic AND the Mt. Vernon Clinic only.

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

If you have general railroading questions or would like to share railroading discussion with immediate locals or are even looking to sell some railroad stuff then this is the place to post information."

Swap Table

Feel free to bring items to sell, trade or give away to any clinic meeting. Items need to be in the side room by 6:45 and, if for sale or trade, clearly marked as to the price and owner.

Planned Clinics for 2014/2015

September 10, 2014 ————— Art Of OPS
————— Rich Blake

October 8, 2014 ————— MINI CLINICS
Bob Erley – Proto48 Turnouts - TBD
~~John White – Decking Flat Cars~~
Rich Blake – Logging Speeders and Railcars - TBD
~~Tom Hawkins – Things Learned in Layout Planning~~

November 12, 2014 ————— ~~Westside Lumber Co. Railfanning 1962~~
————— Nick Muff MMR

December 10, 2014 ————— ~~Make & Take Windswept Trees~~
————— ~~By Susan Gonzales~~

January 14, 2015 ————— ~~BYOB Bring your own building~~
————— ~~Hands-on weathering clinic~~
————— ~~Assorted assistants to be recruited~~

February 11, 2015 Logging Speeders of the Pacific Northwest
Rich Blake

March 11, 2015 Viva Vapor! Steam with a Latin Beat II
Rich Thom

April 8, 2015 Signs On Structures
by Al Carter

May 13, 2015 Using RC servos for Switch Machines
By Ted Becker

Note: if you wish this newsletter to have anything to publish each month, it is up to you to send material to include — text and/or pictures — otherwise you may get an overdose of my layout pictures!

Deadline for the April Newsletter is March 22th.

Phil and Susan Gonzales' Layout

- pictures by Jim Tartas

Phil and Susan Gonzales have a wonderful layout in their garage in Oak Harbor. We haven't seen the progress on the layout for several years - it appears they have been busy. Enjoy the pictures and talk to either Susan or Phil if you want to visit to see the entire layout.



Fig. 1 The harbor at the biggest town on the Eastern Sierra Pacific, Seaside. This is the wrong side of the tracks part of town.



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

Fig. 4
The second model of any kind that Susan built. Valley Citrus by Walthers. You should see what she does with Downtown Deco Kits!



Fig. 5



Fig. 6

Figs. 5-8
The Stan Wheybac Logging company. The sheds (JV Models), Trees, backdrop and most scenery are Susan's work.

The water tanks are by Muir Models. They made the kit after the water tank at Bagby on the Yosemite Valley R.R. I followed the directions for the build. After I finished, I saw photos of the real tank. It was only two stories. With the tanks at the level of the spout.



Fig. 8



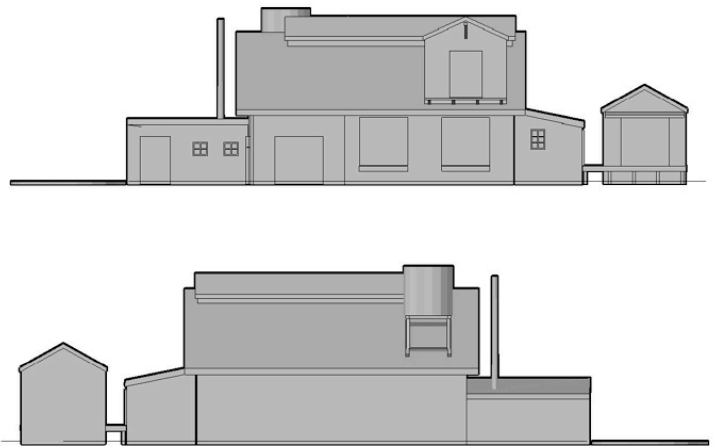
Fig. 7

The actual water tower
at Bigby - looks pretty
much like Phil's model -
well done!!



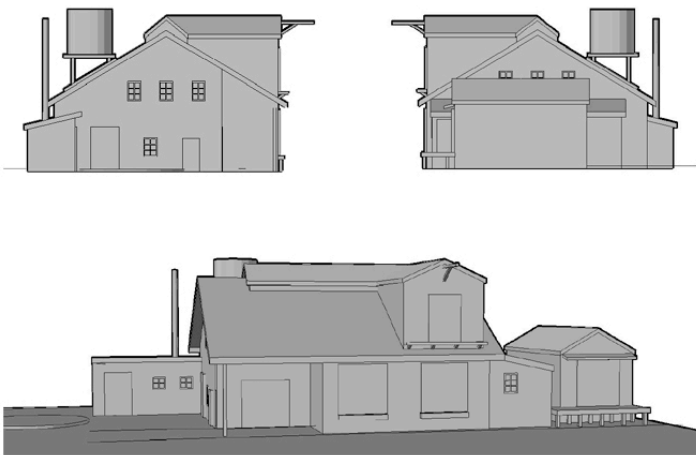
Now for something really cool, using 3D computer programs to design and then build structures for your layout. From Rich Blake:

"3D CAD drawings of my O-scale Cranberry Warehouse to be used on one of my On30 modules. The drawings were made in 1:48 scale and will be used to produce full size prints to use for templates to build the actual structure with basswood. I utilize Autodesk 3dsMAX to create mesh models and export as DWG files for printing. While this is a commercial program, there are several free resources out there to create 3D models that can be used for object design and even

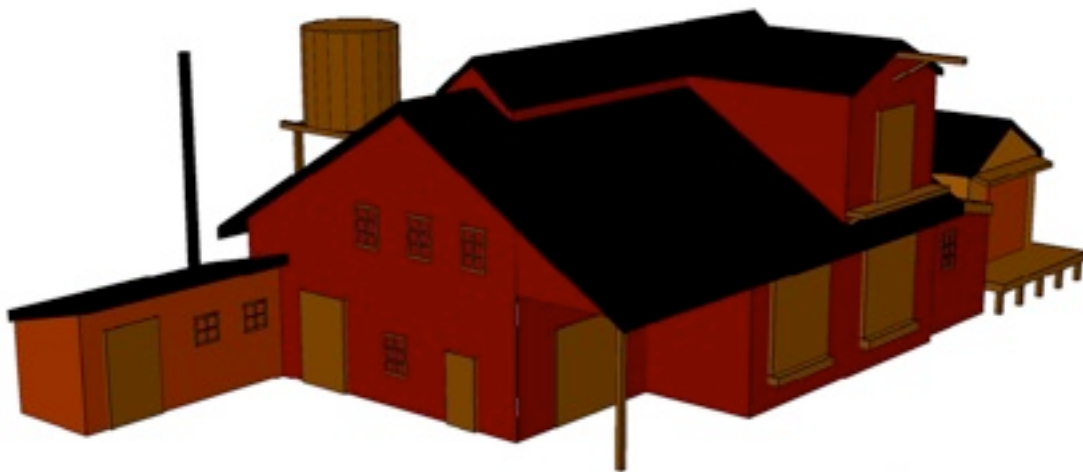


3D printable or laser cut models and parts. Google search these and try if you dare, they are all free:

FreeCAD
Open SCAD
DWG TrueView
SketchUP 8
Blender
DoubleCAD XT5"



Could this be just the precursor of sending this type of file to a 3D Printing company such as Shapeways or even, shall we dream, to our own home 3D printer??? Well done Rich!



Cranberry Warehouse
Proof of Concept
2015 R. Blake

On the Web

An amazing website to look into is **Mario Rapinett's website** - the one that Rich Blake mentioned at the last clinic. http://www.modvid.com.au/html/body_worldwide_miniatures.html However, a



warning! **DO NOT** click on the link unless you have hours to spend just drooling over the amazing modeling you will see. If you click on the link and get yelled at for "wasting" several hours, don't blame me.....

You will get some great ideas for your own modeling! Some local modelers are included: Paul Scoles, Jim Noonan, Brian Ellerby, and Al Carter.

Some examples from the website:



Jon Wilbert's Christmas "Layout"

From Jon: "..... pictures of my HO_{n3} D&RGW Christmas special. It is a small layout build in four shelf-like sections that attached together and sit on the mantle and rock exterior of my fireplace. Like most layouts it is a work in progress as I have time to get to it. Right now, I am working on the scenery and plan to use the Bragdon Enterprises resin mold process (Thanks Jim Tartas for your insights!) to minimize overall weight.

"The backdrops are photos from Backdrop Warehouse of the San Juan Mountains. The train is made up of (mostly) Blackstone

models, including a D&RGW C19 with sound.

"Each side is intended to be a separate 'scene'. Three sides will have wood structures (A station, a water stop, and several online and off line structures) and one side will just have a rock wall (think D&S high line). None are based on actual locations. Once the scenery is complete, hopefully by next fall, I will start on several wood structures that I have acquired. It will be a late-fall / winter setting and eventually I hope to model some amount of snow.

"The key has been in designing a self-supporting shelf structure that allows me



install them in a manner that maintains a tight interlocking to keep the rails aligned and without the use of additional shelf brackets or fasteners installed on the fireplace (A requirement placed on me by executive management). It must also allow the removal of the 4 "shelves" and moving them back to my shop for working and storage. I had to make the shelves thin, because of the existing height and not wanting to make it even higher, so I laminated two pieces of 1/2" plywood leaving exposed ends that overlap. Then using imbedded t-nuts, I use jig handles from Rockler to lock them in place. The long sides are about 7' long and the short sides are about 4' long."

Skagit Valley and Whidbey Clinic January Meeting
Weathering Techniques for Buildings
Article and Photos by Rich Thom

Clinic Chair Rich Blake welcomed 27 members and one new attendee, John Ballay of Coupeville (whom we hope will become one of our regulars) to the January program: **Weathering Techniques for Buildings**. Rich reviewed the calendar of upcoming events in the PNR, and reminded everyone that—as the new year has arrived—it was a good time to renew NMRA memberships. There being no old or new business, things moved directly into the program.

All had been encouraged to bring a building—one that had been weathered, or possibly not—to share. Modelers responded by bringing more than two dozen structures—in all scales from “n” to “F”—so there were plenty of examples to discuss. Space limitations prevent showing all of them in this report.



Figure 1—Some of the Buildings Brought for Discussion

Several members described their buildings, and construction and weathering methods: Rich Blake; Jack Tingstad; Dick Haines; Terry Kandzor; Susan Gonzales; Al Frasch; Tom Hawkins; John Marshall; and John White. Some common techniques used by most include:

- Use real life: photographs; field trip sketches and notes; internet resources
- Weather wood with razor saw or Micromark “stresser” to create grain
- Stain wood with water- or alcohol-based washes made from acrylics, india ink, or leather dyes, or use commercially available stains from Micromark, Builders-in-Scale and others
- Focus on irregularity and repairs: for wood structures built board-by-board, stain boards individually, varying the intensity; put a few new, unpainted boards in an old planked wall; add boarded-up doors and windows, broken trim etc.
- Use chalks for final weathering: Bragdon powders (which contain a binder and need not be fixed in place); Doc O’Brien’s; artists’ chalks from Michael’s
- Or apply dry pigments, available from art supply sources e.g. Dick Blick, just like chalks
- Don’t forget roofs: missing shingles; rusted corrugated iron; moss, leaves, foliage



During his remarks, Jack Tingstad passed around copies of the Judges' Score Sheet for NMRA Model Contests to make the point that weathering can make or break a model earning an achievement award or winning a contest. Of the five qualities of a model that are judged, the fourth, "Finish and Lettering"—which includes weathering and how it was achieved—can earn a maximum of 25 points (out of 125 total possible), more than Detail (20 points), or Scratchbuilding (15 points).

Figure 2—Jack Tingstad's Abandoned Mine. A scratch foreground model built board-by-board; note individually-stained boards



Figure 3—Tom Hawkins' Builder's Supply, another scratch foreground building constructed of pre-stained stripwood



Figure 4—Terry Kandzor describes his scratch yard office/interlocking tower. It features a boarded-up door where a stairway had been, broken trim under the eaves, and other “needs repair” details just like the prototype

Some less common methods:

- Weathering boards: stain or paint as usual, apply turpentine, paint the board before it dries with acrylics, then apply tape and pull it off. When it works (it didn't tonight!) the resulting worn paint appearance is great (Rich Blake)
- Peeling paint: apply Grumbacher “Miskit” Liquid Frisket over first layer of paint in patches where you want the peeled paint effect; apply second coat of paint; then use an artist's gum eraser to rub off the top layer and masking material (Jack Tingstad)
- “Chalk Slag”: when weathering a building with chalks, place a large clean sheet of paper underneath the model to collect the residue; the co-mingling of colors creates a great weathering powder for general use (Dick Haines)
- Water staining (literally!): drip small amounts of water, possibly with pigments added, vertically down sides of buildings, on roofs etc. (Take care with paper-based or wood structures!) (Dick Haines)



Figure 5—Dick Haines' well-weathered city block, a hydrocal kit



Figure 6—The same hydrocal kit, built by Susan Gonzales. Her rendering includes peeled paint exposing bricks underneath and other fine weathering techniques

Finally, for those who like to let natural processes do the work for them, Tom Hawkins reminded everyone that just leaving a building on the layout for a few years is very effective. (We think he wasn't kidding.) Or, John Marshall suggested, build a garden railway. John brought two 1:20.3 buildings from his Coupeville railroad. One, a German plastic model, has been outside for 20 years—and looked it. The second, of wood, is brought indoors over the winter but, protected by wood preservative, is outdoors the rest of the year, and was convincingly weathered, too. Whatever works!

Thanks to all participants, and Event Coordinators Rich Blake and Susan Gonzales, for a great clinic on improving the appearance and realism of our structures.